

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1161450

Details

Other names	LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY GENERALATE CIO, LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY GENERALATE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-04-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	28 Trinity Crescent London SW17 7AE
Phone	02086820928
Email	adminsecretary@lcmsisters.org
Website	https://www.lcmsisters.org/

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION THROUGH THE RELIGIOUS AND OTHER CHARITABLE WORK FOR THE TIME BEING CARRIED ON ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY OR UNDER THE DIRECTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION AS THE TRUSTEES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADER SHALL THINK FIT.

Activities: To apply the trust property either as capital or income for the advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion in any part of the world, by such lawful charitable means in keeping with the aims of the Generalate Community of the Congregation of The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care and welfare facilities/services.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Australia
- Ireland
- Italy
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Tonga
- United States
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£434,863	£401,875	-	-
2023-12-31	£694,418	£582,157	£904,947	1
2022-12-31	£250,510	£333,821	-	-
2021-12-31	£231,143	£270,688	-	-
2020-12-31	£257,296	£288,194	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SISTER ELLEN MASEVE		2023-07-02
SISTER ESTHER MYONG SOON SHIN		2023-07-02
SISTER MONICA WHELAN		2023-07-02
SISTER PATRICIA MARY BELL		2017-07-02

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161450

Accounts

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2024

Charity Registration Number
1161450

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees, and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	32

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	37
Balance sheet	38
Statement of cash flows	39
Principal accounting policies	40
Notes to the accounts	44

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees, and

Trustees	Sister Patricia Mary Bell Sister Esther Myong Soon Shin Sister Monica Whelan Sister Ellen Maseve
Congregational Leader	Sister Patricia Mary Bell
Administrative address	Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO 28 Trinity Crescent Tooting Bec London SW17 7AE
Telephone	020 8682 0928
Charity registration number	1161450
Auditor	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1st Floor, Houblon House 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court Upper Borough Walls Bath BA1 1RG

Trustees' report Year to 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report together with the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO for the year to 31 December 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 40 to 43 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction and mission

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is the administrative centre of the worldwide Congregation of the Little Company of Mary (the "Congregation") (LCM), a Roman Catholic religious congregation which is divided into six Congregational Community/Regions/Province and ministries in eleven countries. The principal mission of the Congregation is to pray and care for the sick, the suffering and the dying.

The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care, and welfare facilities/services, in the countries of Australia, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. Each Congregational Community/Region/Province has a high degree of autonomy and is responsible for its own financial needs. Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the "charity") acts as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities and provides assistance in an advisory capacity to the Congregational Community/Regions/Province in their work of providing health care within the ethos of the Roman Catholic religion. The charity's expenditure is financed principally by an assessment or annual contribution from each of the Community/Regions/Province.

Charitable objects

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion through the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on anywhere in the world by or under the directions of the Congregation as the Trustees with the approval of the Congregational Leader shall think fit.

Activities and achievements

The charity has continued to provide leadership and assistance to the Congregation in implementing the Chapter Statement of the Congregational Chapter 2023. The Congregational Community/Regions/Province have been supported in their mission and overall responsibility for health care services, hospices, aged care facilities and extensive outreach programmes, as well as the diverse ministries of prison ministry, pastoral ministry in hospitals, hospices, homes and parishes, bereavement ministry, health education ministry, counselling, spiritual direction, and refugee ministry.

Since the 19th Congregational Chapter in April 2023, the Congregational Leadership (Trustees), have developed an implementation plan of the Chapter Statement. All processes are in place to support the activities required to address every aspect of the Chapter Statement entrusted to the Congregational Leadership on election at that Chapter.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Some of the significant achievements in relation to the implementation plan are as follows. These achievements are a part of a Creative Pathway developed by the Congregational Leadership.

On 20-25 October 2024, the trustees attended a meeting held at Passionist Retreat Centre, South Korea for Little Company of Mary Sisters 25 years and under Finally Professed. Nineteen Sisters participated. The theme was Sacred Connections-Going Back to the Source. The purpose of our Leadership programme was to learn and gain insight regarding leadership, which would assist in preparing for future leadership roles with various ministries of the Congregation. The time of gathering was to get to know each other and understand each other's cultures. This was a time of learning and bonding in the spirit of Mary Potter.



Interculturality

Members of the Congregation are encouraged to maintain contact with one another and access webinars if they wished.

Spirituality

To continue to promote the LCM spirit and charism as a global expression of compassion through prayer and presence, the following actions have been taken:

- ◆ Reflections written by sisters and Associates are shared monthly through the website.
- ◆ Twice yearly Newsletter includes relevant reflections for the times.
- ◆ Prayer requests are received through the Congregational and various Community/Regions/Province websites. These intentions are held in the prayer of the Sisters.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Spirituality (continued)

- ◆ When requested, and only in accord with the requirements of GDPR, Novena prayers for the needs of individual sick and dying persons are said throughout the Congregation with the person's request and consent.

- ◆ Continuing our cherished tradition of the annual Motto.

Care for our Common Home

At the 2023 Congregational Chapter there was agreement to develop an LCM Congregational Plan so wider representation could be incorporated from the Congregation. A review of the initial Group was completed and our new plan commenced February 2024. The focus is on the Statement that was presented at the recent Chapter and by using the resources of the Laudato Si Action Platform. Regular Zoom meetings are held with the members of the Caring for our Common Home Group. Topics are centred on the Laudato Si's Seven (7) Goals.

A trustee participated in an online 6-months 2023/2024 Laudato Si' Animators Course and received in May 2024 a Certificate of Recognition from Laudato Si' Movement, Catholics for our Common Home as a Laudato Si' Animator.

Threshold of Transformation

Thresholds of Transformation is a multidisciplinary transformative change process that offers an intentional way of exploring personal, communal and systemic transformation. Expressions of interest have been finalised for the programme called Thresholds of Transformation sponsored by the Trustees. There will be twenty-one participants and four circles with Coordinators and Ritual Leaders training commenced November 2024. Each circle set their own commencement date of January 2025. The programme will be held throughout 2025.

Increased promotion of the spirituality, mission, and ministry, including the prayer ministry globally through the use of electronic means

The Congregational website is regularly updated with monthly reflections, thoughts for the month and news and events. New social media pages have been developed by some Community/Regions/Province who are responsible to moderate content in keeping with relevant privacy laws.

The project to refresh and upgrade the Congregational Website was completed and launched in June 2024. The website was also upgraded with the feature for website translation with English, French and Korean.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Promotion of the LCM spirit, through the vowed life

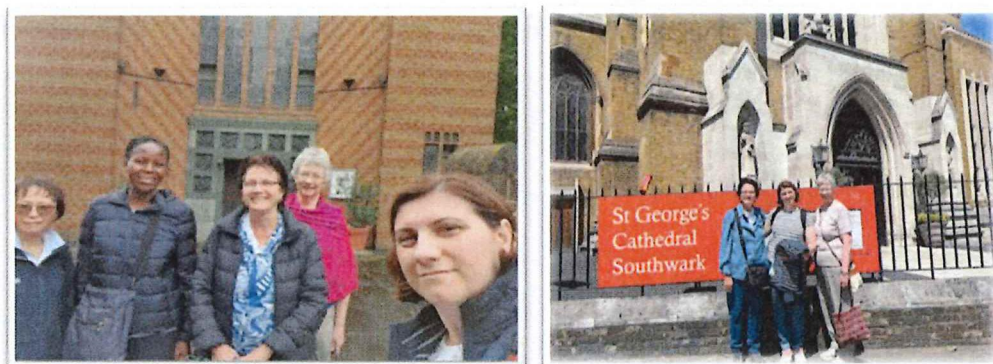
Each Community/Region/Province continues to explore suitable and effective ways in the issue of promotion of the vowed life in their local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation is emphasised. Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the Community/Regions/Province.

A trustee is holding regular Zoom meetings with the members of the Cause for Venerable Mary Potter and Promotion of Her Spirit Special Focus Group. The focus is to promote the spirit of Venerable Mary Potter and the Cause for Beatification and Canonisation. In 2024 this Group developed a new Prayer card with the inclusion of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Mary Potter. These cards have been circulated for printing and distribution with Community/Regions/Province.

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes

The Congregational Leadership continues to facilitate the development of the Associate programmes across the Congregation. Responsibility for this rests in the local Congregational Community/Regions/Province Leadership. Creative ways of maintaining connection with groups across the Congregation have been sustained with the use of new digital technology and when possible, prayer group gatherings. The Region of the Southern Cross website indicates - *Many today are called to be Associates or Affiliates and we give thanks for their fidelity to the call and the generous way in which they live out this call through their daily lives and the various ministries they are involved with, where they give expression to the LCM Charism.*

The Manager of Mary Potter Heritage Centre is also an LCM Associate visited LCM Tooting Bec 28 – 30 June 2024. A short Pilgrimage occurred with the Manager and Trustees visiting significant London landmarks as part of the life of Venerable Mary Potter.



Pilgrimage to significant Churches as part of Ven. Mary Potter's life.

On 29 August - 6 September 2024 a Pilgrimage was held for the Korean LCM Associates and three LCM Korean Sisters. They embarked on a memorable 5-day pilgrimage, retracing the footsteps of Venerable Mary Potter. The pilgrimage took place in London and Nottingham, key locations in Mary Potter's life and spiritual journey.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes (continued)



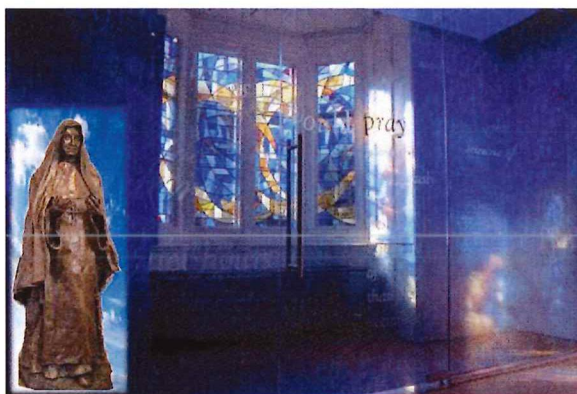
Mary Potter Heritage Centre, Nottingham

Congregational Associate Support Fund

Since January 2023, a fund of £20,000 is held in the Congregational accounts, available on the request of the Congregational Community/Region/Province Leader to support activities to develop, form and promote the LCM Associates and Affiliates. It is for the use of the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. This fund is available thanks to the ongoing generosity of Community/Regions who have been blessed with excess resources. Financial support for the Pilgrimage in September 2024 came from the Congregational Associate fund.

Sustainability of the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, Nottingham

The sustainability of the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, Nottingham continues to be a focus of Congregational Leadership in collaboration with the Community of the Maternal Heart. From 1 February 2025, the activities, assets and liabilities of the Mary Potter Heritage Centre was transferred from The Little Company of Mary Sisters England CIO (Charity Registration Number 1186617) (also known as The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK) to the Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (this charity).



Mary Potter Heritage Centre - prayer room

Activities and achievements (continued)

Stewardship for Mission

The Congregational Mission Fund has been developed and commenced in January 2023. A policy has been developed to support the management of this fund to support the life and mission of the LCM spirit in the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. The support continues for the two Executive positions at St Anne's Hospital, Harare, Zimbabwe.

LCM Congregational Archive - LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project

The LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project is progressing well, focusing on the growth during the first sixty years of the Congregation's existence, up to its entry into modern day Zimbabwe. It will consider the early leaders of these international foundations and the stories of the Sisters who pioneered these initiatives. The project focuses on the direction taken by the Congregation in these localities, away from Mary Potter's direct leadership, exploring the story from a cultural, social and spiritual perspective.

Since Dr Eilish Gregory commenced the history project in September 2022, there have been regular updates and presentation given to the Congregational Leadership. Eilish has prepared a draft book of the LCM story for the review of the Congregational Leadership (Trustees). In the near future, it is proposed that she will submit the book to a publishing firm in 2025.

Stewardship of our Archival Patrimony

The LCM Archives that were held at Tooting Bec are now securely stored at Durham University. The final agreement was signed on 1 July 2024 and the LCM Archives were transferred on 1 October 2024 to Durham University.

Durham is in the stages of finalising the LCM archive online catalogue which will be posted and made public. The platform X (former twitter) will be used by Durham with the link to the catalogue and a hashtag of any topics that will help with promotion. In the near future, the plan is also to spotlight both the acquisition and an exhibition of the collection.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Stewardship of our Archival Patrimony (continued)

The Little Company of Mary were inaugurated as new members into the Chancellor's circle on 9 May 2024 at the Chancellor's Circle Dinner at the Garden Room Conservatory, The Barbican, London. Two trustees attended and accepted the recognition on behalf of the Little Company of Mary. This certificate recognizes LCM for their transformative support to Durham University as an engaged benefactor.



Effective models of governance at Congregational Community/Regions/Province level through ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission

As Regions/Province take the decision to explore new ways of governance appropriate to reality and the future, the Congregational Leadership facilitates this through committees and roles to achieve the transition whilst being guided by the integral principles of inclusivity and relationship. The previous Provinces of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) and the Immaculate Conception (United States of America) were assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in 2018. The previous Province of the Sacred Heart (Ireland and Italy) has been assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in December 2021. The previous Region of the Maternal Heart (UK) was assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to the Community of the Maternal Heart, England in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader in January 2023. The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region of the Immaculate Conception, USA, the Region of the Southern Cross and the Region of the Sacred Heart, as they consider transition to being Communities in direct relationship to the Congregational Leader. Preparatory work is in progress and this will possibly happen within the next 2 years.

Congregational Leadership (Trustees) has developed and enhanced means of electronic communication and meetings with the introduction of Zooms software, providing flexibility and efficiency in the meeting process and giving support to the Congregational Community/Region/Province Leaders and the Sisters in the Congregation.

The CIO has policies in place to fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are reviewed regularly.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational Community/Regions/Province level through ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission (continued)

Key to the success of any governance is maintaining and adapting processes of governance and management in light of civil requirements and to meet the evolving needs of the times. Enhanced technological capacity as a means of communication is essential to function both at Tooting Bec and in our governance approach of working remotely. The digital banking continues to be of great assistance. Monitoring of expenditure weekly by Trustees occurs through the use of the Clear Spend Banking App.

Congregational Leadership is a pastoral relationship and we endeavour to be in frequent contact with, and offer support for, our Congregational Community/Region/Province Leaders, with regular visits to the various countries of the Congregation.

Mission

As noted above, the charity provides leadership and guidance to each of the Congregational Community/Regions/Province in facilitating their work.

◆ ***Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga***

Conversations have begun to ensure that whatever shape the future Region governance takes or the transition of the Region to any other form, any requirements of the Little Company of Mary for the good functioning of Calvary Ministries has been well considered.

The Region Leadership will look into collaboration with the laity and that of Congregational Leadership will be essential as they look at developing a model of governance that reflects "a collegial model of support for the life of the Sisters and their Mission".

The Region of the Southern Cross will in the future become a Congregational Community in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader. A trustee will be the Congregational Collaborator for this Community once established.

The Community Coordinator will be a lay person with delegated authority appointed by the Congregational Leader in consultation with the Sisters. If a suitable lay Community Coordinator is not able to be appointed within 2 years, then consideration of an LCM Sister being appointed is to be factored into the timeline.

On 17-23 March 2024 the Region of the Southern Cross, Australia/New Zealand/Tonga held their Assembly, and a Trustee attended. The focus during this time was: How will we explore – embrace the reality of our future together?

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

♦ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

The concept papers of future governance model were presented at the Assembly. There has been wide consultation with the Sisters in the Region. A Governance Development Committee was established to further progress the development of the Activities and achievements governance concept paper. Regular meetings have been held with wide consultation of the Sisters in the Region. Two Trustees receive all documents and have input into these meetings as required. A proposed structure for the Community of the Southern Cross was finalised in November 2024 and will be presented for Endorsement by the Region at the Gathering in February 2025. The Trustees have reviewed this proposal.



LCM Sisters at the Assembly 2024

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Region Leader to offer support and guidance.

Australia

The Sisters, across all age ranges, continue to carry out volunteer ministries, including assisting the frail aged, sick and the underprivileged in both residential/hospice and community care, wherever the Sisters are present.

Calvary Ministries, a Pontifical Juridical Person, has the responsibility for the Little Company of Mary Health and Aged Care. The members of Calvary Ministries took up their appointment on 1 January 2011. On a regular basis, the Chairs of the Members Council and the Board of Trustees of Calvary Ministries meet in Rome with representatives of the Holy See.

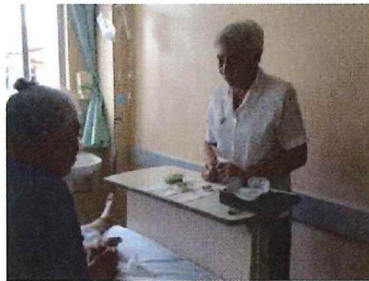
Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

♦ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

Tonga

The LCM spirit continues in Tonga. Sisters are involved in ministry in jails, schools, hospitals and disability services as well as parish support and catechetical work. The ministry is now expressed through offering daily prayers for the sick and dying, holding LCM Affiliates' prayer meetings, visiting prisoners at the Hu'atolitoi Prison, providing



LCM hospital ministry, Tonga

Chaplaincy at Vaiola Hospital, supporting older people in their own homes, working with women and children in crisis, school counselling and teaching Christian faith, joining others in actions around the climate crisis, making pastoral visits and participating in the life of the Parish of Pea.

On 26 September 2024 Little Company of Mary, Tonga celebrated their Golden Jubilee. In 1974 the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary established their mission in Tonga. The Golden Jubilee of this mission was marked on 13 – 15 September with special gatherings, Mass, speeches, a beautiful feast and traditional entertainment. The celebrations were a great expression of the Sisters' life and mission over the past fifty years in Tonga. The Trustees were able to be part of the celebration via livestream.



Entertainment at the Jubilee Luncheon



LCM Sisters and Cardinal at Jubilee Mass

New Zealand

The Sisters continue to focus their financial and personnel resources on subsidised housing for the aged and on community support through volunteering. At Mary Potter Courts, people continue to reside in these houses, living independently, watching out for each other and enjoying access to the Mary Potter Community Centre, Christchurch.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

- ◆ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

New Zealand (continued)



Mary Potter apartments,
accessible rental housing



Mary Potter Community Centre

The Region of the Southern Cross funds:

- ◆ A Palliative Care programme in partnership with the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Timor Leste.
- ◆ A Counsellor Training Certificate programme in Tonga to enhance prevention of, and intervention in, domestic violence and social problems.
- ◆ **The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK**

Maternal Heart continues to provide a safe, loving environment for our Sisters who have spent their lives in ministry to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Many of these Sisters are beyond the statutory retirement age but are contributing invaluable volunteer ministry.

The Congregational Leader has held discussions with the Community Co-ordinator regarding the on-going support relationship as a community. One of the Trustees is a Collaborator for this community from February 2024.

In June 2024 a Trustee made a Pastoral visit to the Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart, UK.

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings with the Community Coordinator to offer support and guidance.

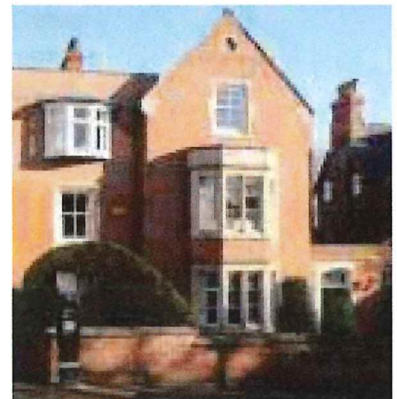
Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK (continued)***

The Mary Potter Heritage Centre is located in Nottingham and is prayerfully supported by the Community of the Maternal Heart. The Centre was launched on Facebook which enables reaching out to a broader audience and this helps to ensure that the Mary Potter legacy continues into the future.

A working group was established to assist with the transition of the Mary Potter Heritage Centre to the management by the Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO to be effective from 1 February 2025. Trustees from both charities were engaged in the process during 2024. Advice and assistance were given from JS2, Stone King and Buzzacott on this transfer.



The Maternal Heart continues to support the clinic activities in Korce, Albania financially and with administrative/evaluative visits when possible.



The Mary Potter Palliative Care Centre, Albania

◆ ***Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy***

The Little Company of Mary retains a significant involvement in the ongoing governance of the Milford Care Centre, Limerick – Hospice and Aged Care Services, as well as Community Palliative Care.



Milford Care Centre, Limerick

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy** (continued)

The Sisters explored partnership with another organisation to provide a property for provision of services to women at risk in Killarney.

The Sisters continue to minister to the ageing in group housing and community and day care services, care for the aged or frail and sick Sisters. Some are involved in bereavement support groups and environmental work, refugees and homeless, social and pastoral work. This ministry happens in hospitals, hospices and prisons and takes the form of counselling and chaplaincy.

The Region continues to welcome home their Irish Sisters who have spent their lives in South Africa and/or Zimbabwe.

The Region of the Sacred Heart will in the future become a Congregational Community in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader. A trustee will be the Congregational Collaborator for this Community once established. The Region is in early consultation discussions with the Trustees regarding the future governance model for this Community.

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Region Leader to offer support and guidance.

The two remaining Sisters in Italy, were welcomed home to Ireland in the latter part of 2024.

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines**

Hospice, aged care and pastoral care continue to be the main ministries of the Sisters. In each aged care and hospice centre, Sisters are actively involved in hospice education for health care professionals.

The Pocheon Nursing Home provides high quality care to the aged.

Sisters are working as chaplains in three general hospitals to extend the Little Company of Mary charism and spirituality of healing ministry.

In February - April 2024 a Trustee made a Pastoral Visit to Province of Assumption, South Korea.

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Province Leader to offer support and guidance.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines (continued)***

Following the report and evaluation of the Baguio Mission, Philippines there will be one more year of discernment about the future of this mission.



◆ ***Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe***

The Sisters manage Murambinda Mission Hospital – a generalist health care service in Buhera District, one of the poorest districts of Zimbabwe.

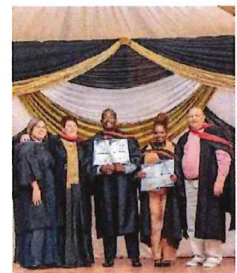
The Sisters continue to provide pastoral care and home visiting in a number of hospitals and local communities where they reside.

Missionvale Care Centre, founded by an LCM Sister, is effectively managed, and used by the people in the township. Included in its activities are education, skills and development, health and wellbeing, youth and community development.

Missionvale news update

Hats off to our graduates!

60 students graduated from our work readiness and new venture creation NQF4 course, while 16 of them also received a certificate for completing an insurance brokerage unit standard. Our very own Sabrina, Lucky and Likhona received certification for facilitator and assessor training. The graduation ceremony was lauded as a true community development celebration by our service provider Contact Staff and Skills Solutions.



Future Entrepreneurs

The Department of Management Practice at Nelson Mandela University, launched a Peri-Urban Training Programme in collaboration with our Impumelelo Training & Development Centre. Once a month Dr Tai Hing and his students engage in valuable entrepreneurship conversations with informal traders and those looking to start a small business. "What is evident in the suburb of Missionvale, is that hope shines bright and the residents are not prepared to sit with outstretched hands to beg – from the hard workers of the Missionvale Care Centre to the highly visible municipal councillor, to the many traders trading in freshly harvested vegetables, seamstresses, and even beauticians." Dr Tai Hing said.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)

Future Entrepreneurs (continued)



SANCCOB Visit

Our Grade 7 class were afforded a lovely opportunity to visit SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) to learn about their work. The children loved watching the penguins and learnt about ocean pollution in fun ways. Our heartfelt thanks to our friends at Ornuu for making this visit possible! Educational outings like these make the text books come alive and create treasured memories for a lifetime.



Men's Shed Launched

We are thrilled to share that we've started a Men's Shed. The concept is simple, men take care of their health & wellbeing while contributing to the welfare of their community. Twice a week they get together to do woodwork in our carpentry space, teaching one another and keeping busy with a positive and meaningful activity.



Hugs, not drugs!

The increase in substance abuse among young people is a major concern for us. We want to see our children thrive and achieve their dreams! That's why our dedicated youth development team has partnered with Gelvandale High School to run a series of drug awareness workshops. Our Social Worker also leads similar initiatives in other schools, focusing on at-risk youth. In communities like ours, these interventions are vital to helping protect and guide our young people toward a brighter future.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)

Inpatient facilities for HIV/AIDS ministry continue in Mashambanzou Waterfalls, Harare and Murambinda in Zimbabwe. These provide essential medical and social services for the local people in impoverished communities.

The Trustees approved the request from the Region Leadership to partner and provide services through the re-opening of St Anne's' Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2020 to care for those affected by Covid-19. The Congregational Leadership supported this through the provision of funds and the coordination of financial support from across the Congregation.

Mary Mother of Hope Health Care Pvt Limited (St Anne's Hospital), Harare is established with board membership and chair appointments. Congregational Leadership continue to give support with funding from the Mission Fund for the two Executive positions, of General Manager and Finance Manager.

The LCM's mission funding has ensured continuity and provides for the funding gaps in supporting the poor living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the high-density suburbs of the Greater Harare.

The Hospital operates on a referral basis to the general public for treatment and management of medical and surgical conditions including paediatric care and obstetrics.

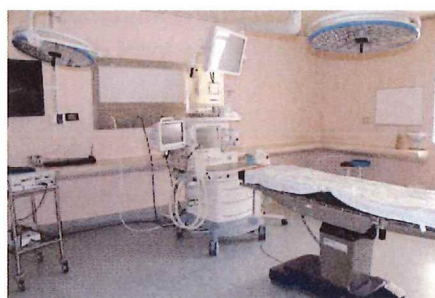
Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

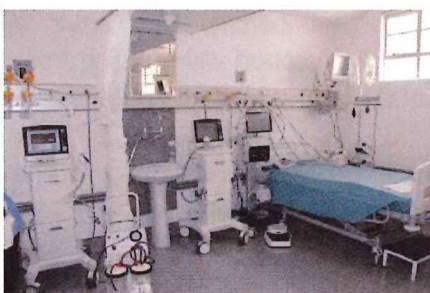
◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)



General Ward



Surgical operations theatre



Critical Care Unit



Paediatric



Maternity



Pharmacy

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Region Leader to offer support and guidance.

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America**

While prayer for the suffering and dying is paramount, Sisters are actively engaged in the works of the healing ministry in Evergreen Park (IL); Torrance (CA) and Jasper (IN) in delivering compassionate care through their presence. This happens in a variety of ways through nurturing Hospice Nurses, Certified Spiritual Directors, Compassionate Hospital Visitors, Caring Home Visits to Shut-Ins, Food Pantry Worker, Advocate for the Poor and Prayerful Support to grieving families.

The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region Leader and the Region will become a Community in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America** (continued)

At the appropriate time, areas will be delegated to the lay people identified by the Sisters and already working with the Sisters in the current structure, these roles would act with delegation from the Congregational Leader and form an essential important part of Community administration and Sister support, enabling the Sisters to live their LCM life fully. This transition will happen within the next two (2) years. A Congregational Collaborator will be appointed once the Community is established.

The Memorial hospital in Jasper Indiana have been sponsored by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary for many years. The Congregational Leadership supported the Region Leadership decision in 2020 as they explored future stewardship and sustainability of the Memorial Hospital, Jasper, Indiana. In February 2024, that hospital and associated medical centres transitioned to stewardship and ownership by the Deaconess Health System, Indiana – another Catholic health care system.



The Region have been in discussion with the Leadership of OSF Little Company of Mary Foundation and permission is sought to establish an endowment for the on-going education for LCM professionals to help and ensure the quality of care for patients in the communities. The Region is in discussion to establish significant legacies they will support into the future. A Trustee is involved with these discussions.



In August/September 2024 a Trustee made a Pastoral Visit to the Region of the Immaculate Conception, USA.

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Region Leader to offer support and guidance.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy

When planning their budget at the beginning of the year, the Trustees agree to set aside a certain amount for the organisations whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity. These organisations are usually known to the Sisters and include the missions of the International Regions and Province of the Little Company of Mary. The donations are decided upon by the Trustees and applications from other organisations are considered on an individual basis.

The donations policy was reviewed and amended in 2019 to increase the amount to be directed to donations with a particular focus on support for refugees, homelessness and eradication of Human Trafficking.

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries

Medaille Trust: *Thank you so much for your recent donation of £1,000 from the Little Company of Mary. We are so grateful for your kindness and generosity in support of our work. Your gift will go straight to work, supporting survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery as they recover from their past and rebuild their future. It will also help us raise awareness about the risks of modern slavery, with the aim of preventing other vulnerable people from falling victim to this horrendous crime. Thank you once again from all of us at Medaille Trust, and on behalf of all the survivors you are helping.*

The Passage: *Thank you so much for your generous donation of £2,000 to The Passage. Your kind contribution will go a long way to helping us provide essential welfare and support to hundreds of people that are using our services every week. In the past six months The Passage has: Supported 524 people to gain financial independence and stability by advising them on how to manage their income and supporting them with access to benefits; Supported 850 people to find and keep a home; Advised and supported 384 people to have a healthier lifestyle; Prevented 765 people from experiencing homelessness; Supported 176 people to get involved with community activities; Supported 622 people to stay safe, free from violence, abuse and exploitation. Our frontline teams are working hard, running crucial prevention and accommodation projects, health and outreach services, tenancy sustainment programmes and a wide range of employability support sessions. They are helping our clients to rebuild their lives so that they never have to go back to the streets again. Together, we are working towards a society where everybody has a place to call home. Thank you SO MUCH for all that you do.*

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries (continued)

Salvation Army: *I would like to say a truly heartfelt 'Thank you' for your magnificent Christmas donation of £2,000. Here at The Salvation Army, when we start our Christmas fundraising, I pray that people will be moved to support our work - and you were! So, thank you so much for your valuable donation. You're an answer to a prayer! Your donation in our hands is much more than a monetary gift – it's a gift of hope and joy, a gift of love and friendship and a gift of practical support and peace. This Christmas and beyond, thanks to your support, we will be providing company and Christmas cheer for isolated older people. We will be easing the stress for families who are in real poverty, with food parcels. We'll give them presents so they have something to wrap for their children to open on Christmas Day. We'll be looking after thousands of people who would otherwise be homeless and many survivors of modern slavery. Thanks to your gift and the gifts of people like you, we are going to be really busy this Christmas and beyond – and we love it. It's what we are here to do. At the heart of Christmas is a message of peace and goodwill. Your thoughtful and kind donation will help us make that a reality, not just a message for so many people. Through my words in this letter, I'd like you to feel the warmth and sincerity of my appreciation, and the gratitude of us all here at The Salvation Army across the UK.*

Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Florence: *We would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your contribution of € 8,114, intended to support the activities in favour of migrants and refugees welcomed as part of the Humanitarian Corridors project. In this very particular moment, those who are on the margins of our city, such as migrants, are the most exposed to social exclusion. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the family home is about to open for disabled women, at Villa Mary Potter. The initiatives we carry out in favour of the people most in need and the poor who live in in our city are also possible thanks to your help, which we feel as a support and an encouragement to continue.*



Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

Emergency Charitable Fund: The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO established an Emergency Charitable Fund of £50,000 within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation. The funds are sourced at the time of the annual assessment from the Congregational Community/Regions/Province with available funds. These monies are extra to the annual assessment and are recorded and managed as a separate cost centre. The annual limit is £50,000 and funds are sought annually to replace what has been dispensed and top up the fund. The Congregational Leader with consent of Council will authorise the use of this fund. The funds will be allocated through reputable Charities / Foundations / Appeals. Receipts are required and expenditure is reported to the Congregation at the time of the donation and in more detail to the Congregational Community/Region/Province Leadership in the annual assessment process when top up funds are sought.

Donations from the Congregation coordinated by the CIO Trustees include:

1. CAFOD support for Yanomami indigenous community in the Brazilian Amazon - £7,000, in April 2024.
2. Caritas Internationalis - Ukraine crisis appeal as it faces its 2nd year of the war - £5,000, in July 2024.
3. UNICEF UK - Gaza crisis appeal - £5,000, in July 2024.
4. Caritas Australia - disaster relief for Papua New Guinea devastating landslide - £5,000 in July 2024.
5. Caritas Internationalis Lebanon's Crisis Emergency Appeal for the people affected by the ongoing conflict at the southern borders – £5,000 in November 2024.
6. Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) disaster relief caused by the devastating hurricanes Milton and Helena. - £5,000 in November 2024.
7. Caritas Spain disaster relief caused by the devastating floods in Eastern Spain, Valencia Region - £5,000 in December 2024.

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries

UNICEF UK: *I am writing today to say thank you so much for raising £5000 to support UNICEF's vital work for children. Your kind gift will help protect children affected by conflict and disaster in Gaza, by providing life-saving food and other essential supplies. Please accept this letter as a receipt of your donation and pass on our acknowledgement and gratitude to all those who contributed. Thanks to the commitment of all our dedicated supporters, UNICEF ensures more of the world's children are vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. We have done more to influence laws and policies to help protect children than anyone else. In 190 countries and territories we are working to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up. Thank you for helping us to be there for the world's most vulnerable children.*

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries (continued)

Caritas Australia: *Thank you for your donation to Caritas Australia's Papua New Guinea Landslide Appeal. When a crisis hits, your invaluable support means we can work hand-in-hand with local partners to bring aid and relief to devastated communities. Caritas Australia is there long after immediate needs are met, supporting communities to respond, recover and rebuild. Your donation will be used to provide critical emergency support to those impacted by the landslide in Papua New Guinea. We are working with partners on the ground to provide emergency essentials and support. Should circumstances prevent us from delivering aid to this emergency, or if excess funds remain after the crisis, donations will be directed to other emergencies where Caritas has humanitarian operations. Thank you again for your generosity. Together we are building a better world.*

Catholic Charities USA: *On behalf of everyone here at Catholic Charities USA, I want to thank you for your generous gift in the amount of \$6,146 to support our efforts to continue providing critical relief to the individuals and families experiencing unimaginable disruption and devastation as a result of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. We are very proud to share with you that one hundred percent of your donation will be allocated to local Catholic Charities Agencies, helping them provide shelter, food and clean water -along with other basic humanitarian aid to meet the needs of members in their communities. Catholic Charities Agencies across the country have a long history of rapidly mobilizing following natural disasters to help meet the immediate needs, and providing critical, long-term support to communities as they rebuild. Today is no different, countless staff and volunteers from Catholic Charities have sprung into action to bring comfort and hope to their neighbors in need. These efforts are made possible by the critical support so many caring individuals like you have provided.*

Fundraising policy

The charity's fundraising activity is negligible. However, it aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communication and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react and to investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

The Trustees continue to fully utilising social media to remain in contact with Sisters throughout the world. The Trustees with this governance model are able to function both in the UK and working remotely from their home countries.

Financial review

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 37 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year amounted to £434,863 (2023 - £694,418). This includes assessments from the individual Communities, Regions and Province of the Congregation totalling £355,231 (2023 - £355,231), additional contributions from Communities, Regions and Province of £50,588 (2023 - £125,076), and contributions towards the Chapter from Communities, Regions and Province of £nil (2023 - £176,388). Bank interest amounted to £29,044 (2023 - £17,735).

Expenditure amounted to £401,875 (2023 - £582,157). Such expenditure includes the cost of co-ordinating and advising the Regions and Province of the Congregation as well as donations payable. Details of donations payable are included in note 4 to the accounts.

Therefore, the net income and the net increase in funds for the year to 31 December 2024 was £32,988 (2023 - £112,261). At 31 December 2024, the net assets of the charity amounted to £937,935 (2023 - £904,947).

Investment policy

The Trustees have considered the cash requirements for the various projects they are involved in and have adopted a policy of keeping available funds in special interest-bearing deposit accounts and a treasury deposit account. An Ethical Investment Policy has been adopted by the charity.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain between two and three years of regular operating expenditure in free reserves (reserves not designated or invested in fixed assets). The Trustees consider this level of free reserves to be appropriate given the charity's responsibility as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities, where in the event of an urgent need in any Congregational Community/Region/Province, immediate financial assistance can be provided. The Trustees will continue to keep this policy under review.

Financial position

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £937,935 (2023 - £904,947). The tangible fixed assets fund totals £143,103 (2023 - £155,253) and is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the charity. The designated emergency charitable fund totals £27,898 (2023 - £14,985). The restricted fund totals £11,697 (2023 - £20,000).

Funds available to co-ordinate and provide advice on the Congregation's worldwide activities in the future are shown as general funds on the balance sheet and amount to £755,237 (2023 - £714,709). The Trustees are of the opinion that these free reserves are adequate but not excessive. The continuing worldwide economic uncertainties mean that the Trustees must have the flexibility to react quickly should the Regions or Province have urgent need of financial resources. As such, the Trustees believe it prudent to retain these reserves at the current time. This level of reserves is deemed appropriate, and the Trustees are content that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

The future plans of the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Trustees continue to attend appropriate educational meetings and webinars that will inform them of recent changes in the charity law that relates to the charity.
- ◆ Exploration and planning to address the future of the Congregation will continue.
- ◆ In March – April 2025 a Trustee will make a Pastoral visit to the Region of the Sacred Heart, Ireland.
- ◆ In May 2025 a Trustee will attend the 60th Anniversary of Calvary Hospice Clinic, Korea.
- ◆ An Interculturality meeting open to any LCM Sister is planned for 1-7 June 2025 at the Carmelite Retreat Centre USA. The Trustees will attend this meeting.
- ◆ In September – October 2025 a Trustee will make a Pastoral visit to the Region of the Queen of Peace, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- ◆ On 24-27 February 2025, Region of the Southern Cross, Australia/New Zealand/ Tonga will hold a Gathering, at Mary MacKillop Centre, North Sydney and a Trustee will attend this Gathering.
- ◆ The Congregation will celebrate its 150th anniversary of the foundation on 2 July 2027.

Governance, structure, and management

Governing document and background

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is an incorporated charitable organisation, currently governed by a constitution dated 5 March 2018. It is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number: 1161450. The original constitution dated 28 April 2015 was amended by a Resolution dated 5 March 2018.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 April 2015. The charity's activities commenced on 1 July 2015 following the transfer of activities, assets and liabilities from a charitable trust called the Generalate Community of the Little Company of Mary. From the date of the transfer, the charitable trust became dormant and has since been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Membership of the CIO

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Governance, structure, and management

Trustees

The charity has four Trustees: the Congregational Leader and three Congregational Councillors. The Trustees are elected for a term of six years at the Congregational Chapter by the elected delegates of the Congregation's membership. The current Trustees were elected in April 2023 at the Nineteenth Congregational Chapter held in Knock, Ireland, and began their term of office on 2 July 2023 as Trustees of the incorporated charitable organisation.

The names of the Trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts and brief biographical details of each of the Trustees in office at the year-end is given below.

- ◆ *Sister Patricia Mary Bell* – Congregational Leader
Sister Patricia Mary Bell has been a Sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1976 and has a wide range of experience in health care in Australia. Having graduated from Nursing at Lewisham, Sydney, she later undertook her midwifery at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, and Oncology at the College of Nursing. She has had wide experience in nursing in medical, surgical, midwifery and especially in palliative care, her "great love". Previously, Sister Patricia Mary has held Charge Sister positions at Lewisham, Wagga Wagga, Hobart, Canberra and Coordinator of Hospice Home Care at Bethlehem, Melbourne and was Director of Mission in Hobart from 1996 until 2005. She has Grief Line and Life Line Counselling Certificates. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2004, a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor/Trustee in 2005. Returning to Australia in 2011 she ministered as a Volunteer in the Community Palliative Care Team at Kogarah, was involved with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking), provided support to refugees and asylum seekers in detention and was the Province Coordinator for the Affiliates and Associates for the Little Company of Mary. In March 2017 she was elected at the Congregational Chapter as a Councillor for 6 years and served as the Congregational Treasurer. In April 2023, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Knock, Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Leader for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.
- ◆ *Sister Esther Myong Soon Shin* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Esther Shin entered the Congregation in 1986 in Korea. She has a professional background in Nursing, experience as a general nursing and hospice palliative nursing in hospital and clinics from 1995 to 1999, also Mary Potter Palliative Centre in Albania from 2000 to 2002. She has experience in formation as a Novice Formator and Temporary Professed Sisters Formator from 2005 to 2011. She served as a chaplain for general patients and hospice patients at the hospital from 2011 to 2016. In 2014, she was a postgraduate of Culture and Spirituality at the Catholic University of Korea. She was elected Province Councillor of the Assumption Province from 2005 to 2011 and elected Province Leader and as a Trustee of the Little Company of Mary Sisters South Korea from 2016 to 2021. In April 2023, at the LCM Congregation Chapter in Knock, Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

◆ *Sister Monica Whelan* – Congregational Councillor

Sister Monica Whelan has been a Sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1990 and has a wide experience in both non-clinical healthcare services and in education as a teacher and school administration. Whilst most of her experience has been in Australia, she also worked at Australian Catholic University as a sessional lecturer as well as facilitating health care programmes in Timor Leste for over ten (10) years. She graduated with a Diploma in Teaching, Catholic teachers College, Sydney 1976 and completed a Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies in 1982. Thesis for this degree was titled Integration of Physically Disabled Children into New South Wales State and Catholic Schools. She has wide experience in educational leadership and is always keen to see others learn and succeed in life. Other qualifications include Bachelor of Theology 2002 and Master of Philosophy 2009. Further professional background in health care includes seven (7) years as Director of Mission Calvary Health Care, Canberra. Three (3) years' experience in Pastoral Care, Bethlehem Hospital, Melbourne and twelve (12) years' experience in education for Mission integration with Little Company of Mary Health Care, Australian Province. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2005 until 2010. In 2017 she was elected as Region Councillor for Australia, New Zealand, Tonga a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor in April 2023 at LCM Congregational Chapter in Ireland. This role is for a period of 6 years whereby Sister Monica is a Trustee of the charity and Congregational Treasurer.

◆ *Sister Ellen Maseve* – Congregational Councillor

Sister Ellen Maseve joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in 1997. She trained in Systemic Child Counselling, nursing, psychology, and Religious Formation. Worked in the hospital as a ward nurse and in administration. Journeyed with those in Religious Formation. From 2011-2018, Sister Ellen served as the member of the Leadership and Governance Team within the Queen of Peace Region, South Africa and Zimbabwe and from 2018-2021 she served as the Region Leader. She was the Hospital Executive Manager for Queen of Peace Murambinda Mission Hospital until her election in April 2023 as the Congregational Councillor at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Ireland for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee Formation

Representatives of the Congregational Leadership (Trustees) attended the following meetings and conferences during the period:

Date	Details
1-7 February	International Leadership Development Programme, Module 1, online, Faith Praxis, UISG. Sisters Esther Shin, Monica Whelan, Ellen Maseve
26 February	UISG Zoom: Meeting of new General Councils. Sisters Ellen Maseve, Esther Shin, Monica Whelan and Patricia Mary Bell.
7-13 March	International Leadership Development Programme, Module 2, online, Faith Praxis, UISG. Sisters Esther Shin, Monica Whelan, Ellen Maseve
14-15 March	UISG Leading the group you are Leading Honestly - session 1 and 2 – Lyn Levo. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
23 April	UISG webinar Canon Law, Topics for Superiors General and Provincials Sr Sharon Euart RSM. Sisters Patricia Mary Bell, Esther Shin, Monica Whelan, Ellen Maseve
14 May	UISG webinar Creating a Culture of Safeguarding in Formation, Fr Bredan Geary FMS, Sr Valquiria, Bro Antoine Kazindu FMS. Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
31 May – 4 June	Module 3 face-to-face Faith and Praxis International Leadership Development Programme held in Rome. Sisters Esther Shin, Monica Whelan, Ellen Maseve
18 June	Trustee Duties in a Faith Charity Context – Charity Commission for England and Wales Online Webinar. Sisters Ellen Maseve and Monica Whelan
8 August	Laudato Si Action Platform Webinar: Connecting Faith and Action. Sister Monica Whelan
14 August	Charity Commission Webinar: Faith: Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities. Sister Monica Whelan
22 August	Charity Commission Webinar: Faith: Understanding Charity Structures: Sister Monica Whelan
27 August	Stone King Webinar: An overview of key visa requirements. Sister Monica Whelan
4 September	Faith: Reporting Serious Incidents – Charity Commission for England and Wales. Sister Monica Whelan

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee Formation (continued)

Date	Details
19 September	Impact Management Webinar – Buzzacott. Sister Monica Whelan
24 September	Faith and International: Charities and Social Media Webinar Charity Commission for England and Wales. Sister Monica Whelan
30 September	UISG Creation: A New Liturgical Feast. Variety of Presenters. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
2 November	National Religious Vocation Conference - National Office for Vocation: Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Sister Monica Whelan
20 November	Faith: Safeguarding your Faith Charity: Charity Commission Expectations – Webinar Charity Commission for England and Wales. Sister Monica Whelan
11 December	Faith: Understanding Charity Structures – Webinar Charity Commission for England and Wales. Sister Monica Whelan

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the accounts the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure and management reporting

As a result of the international scope of their work and travel, the Trustees meet regularly to review developments with regard to the charity or its activities and make any important decisions. The Trustees use electronic means to be informed and kept up to date with developments within the Congregation and the charity. When necessary, the Trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, solicitors, and accountants. The day-to-day management of the charity's activities, and the implementation of policies, is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation or senior staff.

Key management

The Trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the Trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary ("the Congregation"). Whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Risk management

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks, and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws, and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In November 2019, the Trustees commenced using the Bankline service of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for payments by electronic transfer. This process minimises risk and ensures effective safeguards are in place. A policy for digital banking has been developed.

This work has identified two key risks for the charity which are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

- ◆ Operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults including older people. The Trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Trustees are committed fully to implementing the policies of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the new dedicated Religious Life Safeguarding Standard Service.

- ◆ From time to time, the charity donates significant sums in support of the wider Congregation and other organisations. The vast majority of donations sent overseas are to fund projects administered directly by members of the Congregation. Whether or not the funds are used here in Great Britain or overseas, the Trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential recipient of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that, wherever possible (and always in the case of monies sent overseas), a full written report is obtained.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Sister Monica Whelan

Trustee:

Date:



19 June 2025

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies, and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 29 and page 30, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with one of the Trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- ◆ We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of those charged with governance and review of minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ Making enquiries of those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud
(continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ Carried out substantive testing of expenditure;
- ◆ Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ Reading the minutes of meetings of Trustees; and
- ◆ Enquiring of as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 December 2024

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott Audit LLP

Buzzacott Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

20 June 2025

Buzzacott Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income from:							
Donations	1	405,819	—	405,819	581,683	95,000	676,683
Bank interest		29,044	—	29,044	17,735	—	17,735
Total income		434,863	—	434,863	599,418	95,000	694,418
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Co-ordination and direction of, and the provision of advice to, the Regions and Province of the Congregation	2	323,467	8,303	331,770	439,112	—	439,112
. Donations	4	70,105	—	70,105	68,045	75,000	143,045
Total expenditure		393,572	8,303	401,875	507,157	75,000	582,157
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds	5	41,291	(8,303)	32,988	92,261	20,000	112,261
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		884,947	20,000	904,947	792,686	—	792,686
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		926,238	11,697	937,935	884,947	20,000	904,947

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		143,103		155,253
Current assets					
Debtors	9	12,606		12,190	
Short term deposits		538,576		517,585	
Cash at bank and in hand		264,630		250,120	
		<u>815,812</u>		<u>779,895</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(20,980)		(30,201)	
Net current assets			<u>794,832</u>		749,694
Total net assets			<u>937,935</u>		<u>904,947</u>
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	12		<u>11,697</u>		<u>20,000</u>
Unrestricted income funds:					
. General fund		755,237		714,709	
. Tangible fixed assets fund	13	143,103		155,253	
. Emergency charitable fund	13	<u>27,898</u>		<u>14,985</u>	
			<u>926,238</u>		<u>884,947</u>
	14		<u>937,935</u>		<u>904,947</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Sister Monica Whelan
Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on: 19 June 2025

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	6,457	129,815
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		—	(7,300)
Purchase of short-term deposits		(20,991)	(517,585)
Interest receivable		29,044	17,735
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		8,053	(507,150)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		14,510	(377,335)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2024	B	250,120	627,455
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2024	B	264,630	250,120

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

A Reconciliation of net income and net movement in funds to net cash used in operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income and net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	32,988	112,261
Adjustments:		
Depreciation charge	12,150	14,000
Interest receivable	(29,044)	(17,735)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(416)	9,896
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(9,221)	11,393
Net cash provided by operating activities	6,457	129,815

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	264,630	250,120

No separate statement of changes in net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the movements in cash and cash equivalents and movement in net cash (debt).

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2024

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2024 with comparative figures given for the year to 31 December 2023.

The accounts 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The most significant areas of adjustment and key assumptions that affect items in these accounts are the estimation of the useful life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining the depreciation charge and estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received

Income comprises donations and interest receivable.

Income recognition (continued)

Donations, including assessments and additional contributions receivable from individual Community Regions and Province, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition and the basis of apportioning costs

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- ◆ Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs specifically relating to the co-ordination and direction of advice to Regions and Province of the Congregation, donations payable and governance costs.
- ◆ The making of grants and donations is not a central part of the charity's activities. Donations are made only in cases where the Trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2024

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

a. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprising functional properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these accounts at their historic cost at their date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

b. Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture, fittings, and equipment 20% per annum based on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Short term deposits and cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits i.e. current asset investments. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Fund structure

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2024

Fund structure (continued)

The tangible fixed assets fund comprises the net book value of charity's tangible fixed assets, the existence of which is fundamental to the charity being able to perform its charitable work and thereby achieve its charitable objectives. The value represented by such assets should not be regarded, therefore, as realisable.

Designated funds are funds which the Trustees have designated for specific purposes.

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

Pension contributions

Contributions in respect to the charity's defined contribution 'stakeholder' pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they are payable to the scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 6. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2024

1 Income from: Donations

	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Contributions from individual Regions and Province of the Congregation	405,819	—	405,819	581,683	95,000	676,683

2 Expenditure on: Co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation

	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Premises costs	37,082	—	37,082	43,416	—	43,416
Sisters' living expenses	62,306	—	62,306	63,215	—	63,215
Other direct costs including travel	209,479	8,303	217,782	322,100	—	322,100
Governance costs (note 3)	14,600	—	14,600	10,381	—	10,381
	323,467	8,303	331,770	439,112	—	439,112

3 Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	
	2024 £	2023 £
Auditor's remuneration	14,600	10,381

4 Expenditure on: Donations

The charity makes donations to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its donations policy set out in the Trustees' report.

Donations and grants payable to institutions during the period were as follows:

	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Donations payable	70,105	—	70,105	68,045	75,000	143,045

4 Expenditure on: Donations (continued)

Donations payable to institutions during the period comprised the following:

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Aid to the Church in Need	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Barnabas Cathedral	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
British Red Cross	—	—	—	5,000	—	5,000
CAFOD	8,000	—	8,000	21,000	—	21,000
Caritas Australia	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Caritas Espanola	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Caritas International	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Caritas Internationalis	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Catholic Caring Foundation	—	—	—	5,015	—	5,015
Catholic Charities USA	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Christian Aid	—	—	—	5,000	—	5,000
Comunita'di St' Egidio	7,015	—	7,015	7,015	—	7,015
Durham University	—	—	—	—	75,000	75,000
Little Sisters of the Poor	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Missionvale Care Centre Trust	3,015	—	3,015	3,015	—	3,015
RCAOS Our Lady of La Salette and St Joseph	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (Olallo House)	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Solidarity Project	5,000	—	5,000	5,000	—	5,000
Spires	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Anne's Church	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Anselm's Church	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St George's Cathedral (Southwark)	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Vincent de Paul Society	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
The Medaille Trust	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
The Most Holy Trinity RC Church Dockhead	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
The Passage	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
The Salvation Army	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
UNICEF UK	5,000	—	5,000	—	—	—
	70,105	—	70,105	68,045	75,000	143,045

During the year to 31 December 2024, no grants were paid to individuals (2023 - none).

5 Net income and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs (note 6)	44,020	41,844
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit fees		
.. Current year	12,000	8,800
.. Prior year	2,600	1,581
Depreciation	12,150	14,000
Operating lease rentals (note 11)	2,005	2,005

6 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	Total funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Gross salaries	38,278	36,386
Pension costs	5,742	5,458
	44,020	41,844

There was one employee during the year (2023 - one employee) who was involved in the co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation.

No employees earned £60,000 or more during the year (2023 - none).

The Trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the Trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary i.e. the Congregation and whilst certain of their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees (2023 - none).

7 Taxation

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2024 and at 31 December 2024	494,214	39,973	534,187
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	345,945	32,989	378,934
Charge for the year	9,884	2,266	12,150
At 31 December 2024	355,829	35,255	391,084
Net book values			
At 31 December 2024	138,385	4,718	143,103
At 31 December 2023	148,269	6,984	155,253

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's land and buildings and their book values with the market value being considerably higher than the net book value at 31 December 2024.

At 31 December 2024, the charity had no capital commitments (2023 - none).

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2024

9 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	12,127	11,669
Sundry debtors	479	521
	12,606	12,190

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	20,980	30,201

11 Financial commitments

At 31 December 2024, the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to equipment as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Payable:		
· Within one year	2,005	2,005
· Within two to five years	1,680	3,766
	3,685	5,771

12 Restricted funds

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 January 2024	20,000	—
Net movements in year	(8,303)	20,000
At 31 December 2024	11,697	20,000

The restricted fund represents the Congregational Associate Support Fund to support activities to develop, form and promote the LCM Associates and Affiliates.

13 Designated funds

	Emergency charitable fund £	Tangible fixed asset fund £	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 January 2024	14,985	155,253	170,238	161,953
Designated in year	49,988	—	49,988	50,000
Utilised/released in year	(37,075)	(12,150)	(49,225)	(41,715)
At 31 December 2024	27,898	143,103	171,001	170,238

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's freehold properties and other tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be available in order to meet future contingencies.

The Emergency charitable fund represents funds set aside within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	—	143,103	—	143,103
Current Assets	776,217	27,898	11,697	815,812
Current Liabilities	(20,980)	—	—	(20,980)
Total	755,237	171,001	11,697	937,935

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2023 £
Fixed Assets	—	155,253	—	155,253
Current Assets	744,910	14,985	20,000	779,895
Current Liabilities	(30,201)	—	—	(30,201)
Total	714,709	170,238	20,000	904,947

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2023 – none) and no donations were received from the Trustees (2023 - none).

16 Membership of the CIO and ultimate control

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, ex-officio be a Trustee for as long as she holds that office. All other Trustees are appointed by a resolution in writing by the Congregational Leader.

The Congregation does not hold any assets, incur liabilities, or enter into any transactions in its own right. Assets and liabilities of the Congregation are administered in the Trustees of the charity, who undertake all transactions entered into in the course of the Congregation’s charitable activities.

17 Post balance sheet events

From 1 February 2025, the activities, assets and liabilities of the Mary Potter Heritage Centre was transferred from The Little Company of Mary Sisters England CIO (Charity Registration Number 1186617) (also known as The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK) to the Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (this charity).

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161450

Accounts

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2023

Charity Registration Number
1161450

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees, and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	27

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	32
Balance sheet	33
Statement of cash flows	34
Principal accounting policies	35
Notes to the accounts	39

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees, and advisers

Trustees	Sister Patricia Mary Bell Sister Esther Myong Soon Shin (appointed July 2023) Sister Monica Whelan (appointed July 2023) Sister Ellen Maseve (appointed July 2023) Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald (resigned July 2023) Sister Susanna Mi Young Park (resigned July 2023) Sister Elizabeth Gilroy (resigned July 2023)
Congregational Leader	Sister Patricia Mary Bell (from July 2023) Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald (to July 2023)
Administrative address	Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO 28 Trinity Crescent Tooting Bec London SW17 7AE
Telephone	020 8682 0928
Charity registration number	1161450
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1st Floor, Houblon House 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court Upper Borough Walls Bath BA1 1RG

Trustees' report Year to 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report together with the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO for the year to 31 December 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 35 to 39 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction and mission

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is the administrative centre of the worldwide Congregation of the Little Company of Mary (the "Congregation") (LCM), a Roman Catholic religious congregation which is divided into six Congregational Community/Regions/Province and ministries in eleven countries. The principal mission of the Congregation is to pray and care for the sick, the suffering and the dying.

The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care, and welfare facilities/services, in the countries of Australia, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. Each Congregational Community/Region/Province has a high degree of autonomy and is responsible for its own financial needs. Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the "charity") acts as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities and provides assistance in an advisory capacity to the Congregational Community/Regions/Province in their work of providing health care within the ethos of the Roman Catholic religion. The charity's expenditure is financed principally by an assessment or annual contribution from each of the Regions/Province.

Charitable objects

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion through the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on anywhere in the world by or under the directions of the Congregation as the Trustees with the approval of the Congregational Leader shall think fit.

Activities and achievements

The charity has continued to provide leadership and assistance to the Congregation in implementing the Chapter Statement of the Congregational Chapter 2023. The Congregational Community/Regions/Province have been supported in their mission and overall responsibility for health care services, hospices, aged care facilities and extensive outreach programmes, as well as the diverse ministries of prison ministry, pastoral ministry in hospitals, hospices, homes and parishes, bereavement ministry, health education ministry, counselling, spiritual direction, and refugee ministry.

Activities and achievements (continued)

The 19th Congregational Chapter was held in Knock, Ireland in April 2023, attended by the Congregational Leadership, Leaders and Delegates from each Congregational Community/Province and Region and other invited sisters. Through a process of reflective discernment, the Chapter delegates formulated a Chapter Statement, to be implemented over the next six years. All processes are in place to support the activities required to address every aspect of the Chapter Statement entrusted to the Congregational Leadership on election at that Chapter.

The significant ongoing achievements towards achieving the goals discussed at these meetings are summarised below.

Interculturality

Members of the Congregation are encouraged to maintain contact with one another and access webinars if they wished.

Spirituality

To continue to promote the LCM spirit and charism as a global expression of compassion through prayer and presence, the following actions have been taken:

- ◆ Reflections written by sisters and Associates are shared monthly through the website.
- ◆ Twice yearly Newsletter includes relevant reflections for the times.
- ◆ Prayer requests are received through the Congregational and various Community/Regions/Province websites. These intentions are held in the prayer of the Sisters.
- ◆ When requested, and only in accord with the requirements of GDPR, Novena prayers for the needs of individual sick and dying persons are said throughout the Congregation with the person's request and consent.
- ◆ Continuing our cherished tradition of the annual Motto.

Care for our Common Home

At the 2023 Congregational Chapter there was agreement to develop an LCM Congregational Plan so wider representation could be incorporated from the Congregation. A review of the initial Group was completed and our new plan commenced February 2024. The focus is on the Statement that was presented at the recent Chapter and by using the resources of the Laudato Si Action Platform.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Care for our Common Home (continued)



Pilgrimage for the Planet, London



Mass for the Protection of Creation, South Korea

Increased promotion of the spirituality, mission, and ministry, including the prayer ministry globally through the use of electronic means

The Congregational website is regularly updated with monthly reflections, thoughts for the month and news and events. New social media pages have been developed by some Community/Regions/Province who are responsible to moderate content in keeping with relevant privacy laws.

Promotion of the LCM spirit, through the vowed life

Each Community/Region/Province continues to explore suitable and effective ways in the issue of promotion of the vowed life in their local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation is emphasised. Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the Community/Regions/Province.

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes

The Congregational Leadership continues to facilitate the development of the Associate programs across the Congregation. Responsibility for this rests in the local Congregational Community/Regions/Province Leadership. Creative ways of maintaining connection with groups across the Congregation have been sustained with the use of new digital technology and when possible, prayer group gatherings. The Region of the Southern Cross website indicates - *Many today are called to be Associates or Affiliates and we give thanks for their fidelity to the call and the generous way in which they live out this call through their daily lives and the various ministries they are involved with, where they give expression to the LCM Charism.*

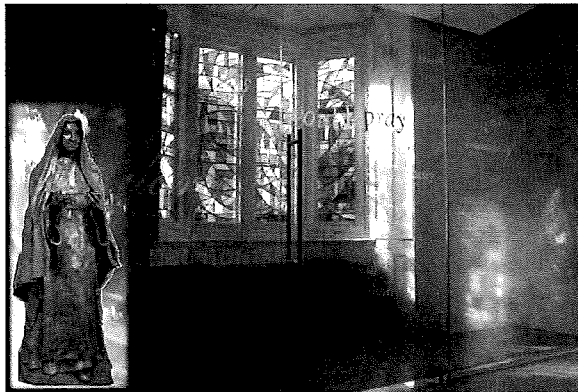
Congregational Associate Support Fund

Since January 2023, a fund of £20,000 is held in the Congregational accounts, available on the request of the Congregational Community/Region/Province Leader to support activities to develop, form and promote the LCM Associates and Affiliates. It is for the use of the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. This fund is available thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Regions who have been blessed with excess resources.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, Nottingham (continued)

The sustainability of the Heritage Centre, Nottingham continues to be a focus of Congregational Leadership in collaboration with the Community of the Maternal Heart. Discussions have taken place and the Heritage Centre will, in a staged process, come under the management of the Congregational Leadership with a Trustee as the main contact from February 2024.



Heritage Centre - prayer room

Stewardship for Mission

The Congregational Mission Fund has been developed and commenced in January 2023. A policy has been developed to support the management of this fund to support the life and mission of the LCM spirit in the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. A formal request was received and granted in May 2023 from the Region of the Queen of Peace requesting support for two Executive positions at St Anne's Hospital.

LCM Congregational Archive - LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project

The LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project is progressing well, focusing on the growth during the first sixty years of the Congregation's existence, up to its entry into modern day Zimbabwe. It will consider the early leaders of these international foundations and the stories of the Sisters who pioneered these initiatives. The project focuses on the direction taken by the Congregation in these localities, away from Mary Potter's direct leadership, exploring the story from a cultural, social and spiritual perspective.

Since Dr Eilish Gregory commenced the history project in September 2022, there have been regular updates and presentation given to the Congregational Leadership.

Stewardship of our Archival Patrimony

A decision was made at the Congregational Chapter for the Archives held at Tooting Bec to be securely stored at Durham University. An agreement is in the draft stages of development. It is our hope that once the agreement is finalised and signed the LCM Archives will be transferred to Durham University sometime after May 2024.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational Community/Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission

As Regions/Province take the decision to explore new ways of governance appropriate to reality and the future, the Congregational Leadership Team facilitates this through committees and roles to achieve the transition whilst being guided by the integral principles of inclusivity and relationship. The previous Provinces of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) and the Immaculate Conception (United States of America) were assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in 2018. The previous Province of the Sacred Heart (Ireland and Italy) has been assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in December 2021. The previous Region of the Maternal Heart (UK) was assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to the Community of the Maternal Heart, England in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader in January 2023. The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region of the Immaculate Conception, USA and the Region of the Southern Cross as they consider transition to being Communities in direct relationship to the Congregational Leader. Preparatory work is in progress and this will possibly happen within the next 2 years.

The Congregational Leadership Team has developed and enhanced means of electronic communication and meetings with the introduction of Zooms software, providing flexibility and efficiency in the meeting process.

The CIO has policies in place to fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are reviewed regularly.

Key to the success of any governance is maintaining and adapting processes of governance and management in light of civil requirements and to meet the evolving needs of the times. Enhanced technological capacity as a means of communication is essential to function both at Tooting Bec and in our governance approach of working remotely. The digital banking continues to be of great help. Monitoring of expenditure weekly by Leadership members occurs through the use of the Clear Spend Banking App.

All Trustees continue to support by ongoing conversation with the Congregational Community/Region/Province Leaders and the Sisters in the Congregation.

Congregational Leadership is a pastoral relationship and we endeavour to be in frequent contact with, and offer support for, our Congregational Community/Region/Province Leaders, with regular visits to the various countries of the Congregation.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission

As noted above, the charity provides leadership and guidance to each of the Congregational Community/Regions/Province in facilitating their work.

◆ ***Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga***

Conversations have begun to ensure that whatever shape the future Region governance takes or the transition of the Region to any other form, any requirements of the Little Company of Mary for the good functioning of Calvary Ministries has been well considered.

The Region Leadership will look into collaboration with the laity and that of Congregational Leadership will be essential as they look at developing a shape/model of governance that reflects "a collegial model of support for the life of the Sisters and their Mission".

Australia

The Sisters, across all age ranges, continue to carry out volunteer ministries, including assisting the frail aged, sick and the underprivileged in both residential/hospice and community care, wherever the Sisters are present.

Calvary Ministries, a Pontifical Juridical Person, has the responsibility for the Little Company of Mary Health and Aged Care. The members of Calvary Ministries took up their appointment on 1 January 2011. On a regular basis, the Chairs of the Members Council and the Board of Trustees of Calvary Ministries meet in Rome with representatives of the Holy See.

Tonga

The LCM spirit continues in Tonga. Sisters are involved in ministry in jails, schools, hospitals and disability services as well as parish support and catechetical work. The ministry is now expressed through offering daily prayers for the sick and dying, holding LCM Affiliates' prayer meetings, visiting prisoners at the Hu'atolitoi Prison, providing Chaplaincy at Vaiola Hospital, supporting older people in their own homes, working with women and children in crisis, school counselling and teaching Christian faith, joining others in actions around the climate crisis, making pastoral visits and participating in the life of the Parish of Pea.



LCM hospital ministry, Tonga

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

- ◆ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga** (continued)

New Zealand

The Sisters continue to focus their financial and personnel resources on subsidised housing for the aged and on community support through volunteering. At Mary Potter Courts, people continue to reside in the 47 houses, living independently, watching out for each other and enjoying access to the Mary Potter Community Centre, Christchurch.



Mary Potter apartments,
accessible rental housing



Mary Potter Community Centre

The Region of the Southern Cross funds

- ◆ A Palliative Care programme in partnership with the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Timor Leste.
- ◆ A Counsellor Training Certificate programme in Tonga to enhance prevention of, and intervention in, domestic violence and social problems.
- ◆ **The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK**
Maternal Heart continues to provide a safe, loving environment for our Sisters who have spent their lives in ministry to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Many of these Sisters are beyond the statutory retirement age but are contributing invaluable volunteer ministry.

The Congregational Leader has held discussions with the Community Co-ordinator regarding the on-going support relationship as a community. One of the Trustees is a Collaborator for this community from February 2024.

Activities and achievements (continued)

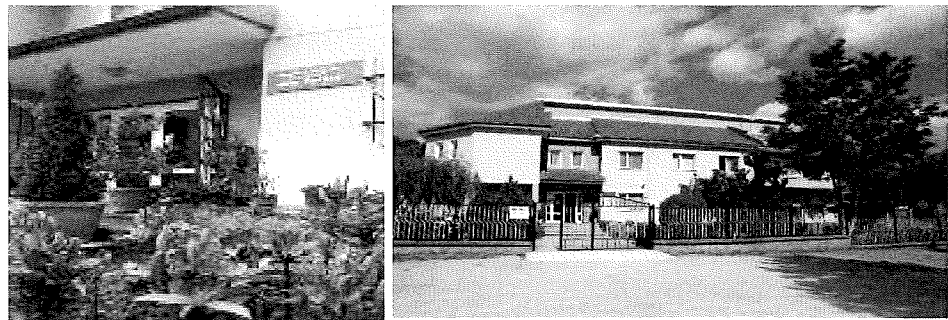
Mission (continued)

◆ ***The Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart UK*** (continued)

The Mary Potter Heritage Centre is the focal point of ministry of the Maternal Heart and is gaining momentum since it re-opened to the public and is receiving more requests for visits and is working on its further development. They also launched the Centre on Facebook which enables reaching out to a broader audience and this helps to ensure that the Mary Potter legacy continues into the future.



The Maternal Heart continues to support the clinic activities in Korce, Albania financially and with administrative/evaluative visits when possible.



The Mary Potter Palliative Care Centre, Albania

◆ ***Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy***

The Little Company of Mary retains a significant involvement in the ongoing governance of the Milford Care Centre, Limerick – Hospice and Aged Care Services, as well as Community Palliative Care.



Milford Care Centre, Limerick

The Sisters explored partnership with another organisation to provide a property for provision of services to women at risk in Killarney.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy** (continued)

The Sisters continue to minister to the ageing in group housing and community and day care services, care for the aged or frail and sick Sisters. Some are involved in bereavement support groups and environmental work, refugees and homeless, social and pastoral work. This ministry happens in hospitals, hospices and prisons and takes the form of counselling and chaplaincy.

The Region continues to welcome home our Irish Sisters who have spent their lives in South Africa and/or Zimbabwe.

Work is continuing to ensure support for the Sisters in Italy and their Health and Wellbeing. The Region Leadership is spending much time and effort on this and Congregational Leadership acknowledge this and offer support as needed.

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines**

Hospice and aged care continue to be the main ministries of the Sisters. In each aged care and hospice centre, Sisters are actively involved in hospice education for health care professionals.

The Pocheon Nursing Home provides high quality care to the aged.

Sisters are working as chaplains in three general hospitals to extend the Little Company of Mary charism and spirituality of healing ministry.

The ongoing meeting with the Province Leadership of the Assumption has occurred and matters to be addressed have been identified and are under consideration.

A Province Gathering was held from 7-10 November 2023. The Congregational Leader joined the Sisters via ZOOM to give a welcome address.

The Province celebrated their 60th Foundation in Korea on 15 August 2023.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines** (continued)

The Congregational Leader continues to have regular meetings via ZOOM with the Province Leader to offer support and guidance.

Following the report and evaluation of the Baguio Mission, Philippine there will be one more year of discernment about the future of this mission.



◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe**

The Sisters manage Murambinda Mission Hospital – a generalist health care service in Buhera District, one of the poorest districts of Zimbabwe.

The Sisters continue to provide pastoral care and home visiting in a number of hospitals and local communities where they reside.

Missionvale, founded by an LCM Sister, is effectively managed, and used by the people in the township. Included in its activities are a feeding programme, clothing bank, rural health clinic, and a kindergarten to grade 8 with plans to take it up to grade 12.

Missionvale newsletter update

“We now offer a 6 month training course, after which graduates have the chance to begin a home garden with another 6 months of mentorship from our supervisor. The vegetables are either included in food parcels for families in need or go to our Swap Shop which is one of our new initiatives. Community members can volunteer at the Centre or bring in recycling for which they earn our token “MCC Bucks”. MCC Bucks can be exchanged for what they need – so they are able to buy vegetables or other food items, clothing, stationery etc. It has been so encouraging to see the community embrace this new approach of reciprocity and to see how proud they are with what they are able to provide for their families through this exchange program. Donations like these make all of this possible and we simply cannot thank you enough!”



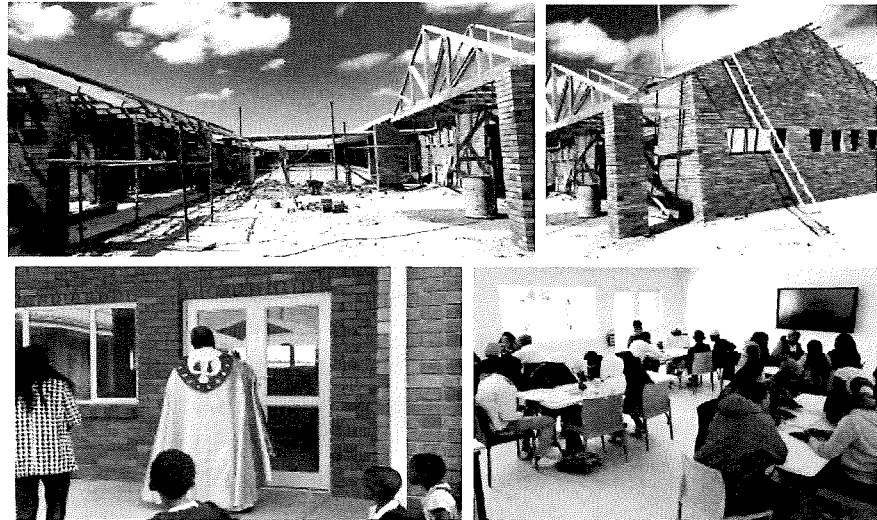
Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe (continued)***

Missionvale newsletter update (continued)

In August, we held the official opening of our new Youth Development Centre. It will be home to our Impumelelo Training and Development Centre with five classrooms for learning and acquiring skills that are going to empower the youth in Missionvale. Healthy living, sports, arts and culture activities for children after school as well as meeting spaces for our various support groups and a variety of youth workshops. It will also house a robotics lab and maker space with the existing buildings serving as art and literacy spaces.



What a fruitful year we had! Our Christmas distributions were amazing! We were able to give nearly 5000 presents to little ones in Missionvale and surrounds. In addition, 2450 families had a decent meal. We couldn't have done all this without your support. We are so grateful for your love and kindness.



Distributing food parcels in the community

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

♦ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)

Missionvale newsletter update (continued)

For the first time in the history of the Centre, all the staff were able to get together for 4 days workshop to do strategic planning, utilising space kindly provided by Nelson Mandela University's Missionvale Campus".



Inpatient facilities for HIV/AIDS ministry continue in Mashambanzou Waterfalls, Harare and Murambinda in Zimbabwe. These provide essential medical and social services for the local people in impoverished communities.

The Trustees approved the request from the Region Leadership to partner and provide services through the re-opening of St Anne's' Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2020 to care for those affected by Covid-19. The Congregational Leadership supported this through the provision of funds and the coordination of financial support from across the Congregation.



Following the opening as a COVID hospital in 2020 St Anne's Hospital later expanded and became a general referral hospital. There were increasing demands being made for the ongoing development and sustainability of the hospital. Mary Mother of Hope Health Care Pvt Limited (St Anne's Hospital) was established with board membership and chair appointments. Congregational Leadership supported this with funding from the Mission Fund for the two Executive positions, of General Manager and Finance Manager.

The LCM's mission funding has ensured continuity and provides for the funding gaps in supporting the poor living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the high-density suburbs of the Greater Harare.

The Congregational Leadership responded to the request of the last Region Leader in Queen of Peace and initiated a peer support program for the Executive of St Anne's Hospital, Harare with Executives of LCM Health Care in Australia. Feedback has been that this has been very helpful and enjoyable for all, as practical realities are shared and worked through.

Quarterly meetings have been held via Zoom with the Region Leadership and Congregational Leader for support and mentoring of our emerging Leaders.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)

Congregational Leader continues with regular Zoom meetings with the Region Leader for support and guidance.

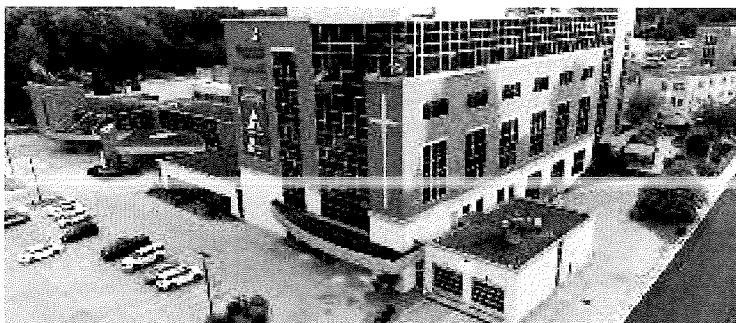
The Congregational Leader visited the Region of Queen of Peace in November 2023 and attended the Region Gathering held on 9-13 November.

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America**

While prayer for the suffering and dying is paramount, Sisters are actively engaged in the works of the healing ministry in Evergreen Park (IL); Torrance (CA) and Jasper (IN) in delivering compassionate care to all through their ministry in a variety of ways of nurturing Hospice Nurses, Certified Spiritual Directors, Compassionate Hospital Visitors, Caring Home Visits to Shut-Ins, Food Pantry Worker, Advocate for the Poor, Prayerful presence and support to grieving families.

The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region Leader and it is noted that the Region will delay becoming a community until the process of transfer of sponsorship of Memorial Hospital, Jasper, Indiana is complete. Then the Region would become a Community in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader. At the appropriate time, areas will be delegated to the lay people identified by the Sisters and already working with the Sisters in the current structure, these roles would act with delegation from the Congregational Leader and form an essential important part of Community administration and Sister support, enabling the Sisters to live their LCM life fully.

The Memorial hospital in Jasper Indiana have been sponsored by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary for many years. The Congregational Leadership supported the Region Leadership decision in 2020 as they explored future stewardship and sustainability of the Memorial Hospital, Jasper, Indiana. In February 2024, that hospital and associated medical centres transitioned to stewardship and ownership by the Deaconess Health System, Indiana – another Catholic health care system.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America (continued)**

The Region have been in discussion with the Leadership of OSF Little Company of Mary Foundation and permission is sought to establish an endowment for the on-going education for LCM professionals to help and ensure the quality of care for patients in the communities.



Donations policy

When planning their budget at the beginning of the year, the Trustees agree to set aside a certain amount for the organisations whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity. These organisations are usually known to the Sisters and include the missions of the International Regions and Province of the Little Company of Mary. The donations are decided upon by the Trustees and applications from other organisations are considered on an individual basis.

The donations policy was reviewed and amended in 2019 to increase the amount to be directed to donations with a particular focus on support for refugees, homelessness and eradication of Human Trafficking.

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries

The Passage: *I'd like to extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to you and everyone at Little Company of Mary Sisters for your donation of £2,000 over the Christmas period. Here at The Passage, each person's journey is unique. We help people to strengthen existing skills and gain new ones, access the entitlements, and support that is right for them, and provide safe and sustainable accommodation. Your contribution will ensure we can continue to give individual and tailored support to anyone experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. It will be hugely useful as we work towards our vision of a society where street homelessness no longer exists and where everyone has a place to call home. It is not an overstatement to say that your support will get people off the street and into safe and secure accommodation.*

Salvation Army: *Thank you very much indeed for your magnificent donation of £2,000 for the work of The Salvation Army, sent on behalf of the Little Company of Mary. Your generous gift will enable us to bring hope into the lives of some of the most vulnerable people you could imagine. Isolated older people will receive the comfort and friendship that we can provide. Families who are facing grinding poverty will receive our practical help and support. And our drop-in centres and Lifehouses will continue to support people who are homeless and have nothing. Supporters like you are the lifeblood of our charity and without you our work would quite literally cease. We are delighted that we can count on your truly generous support – words cannot express how much this means to us and our beneficiaries.*

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries (continued)

Solidarity Projects Ltd: *We wish to express appreciation for your generous donation of £5,000 towards the Solidarity with South Sudan initiative. We are deeply grateful for your assistance with the ministry programs which involve Catholic religious congregations from around the world. Thank you for always being by our side and for supporting our work.*

Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Florence: We wish to sincerely thank you, Little Company of Mary Congregation, for the contribution of €7,902.46, intended to support the activities in favour of migrants and refugees welcomed as part of the humanitarian corridors project. In this very particular moment, those who are on the edge of our city, such as migrants, are the most exposed to social exclusion. The initiatives that we carry out in favour of the people most in difficulty and the poor who live in our city are also possible thanks to your help which we feel as a support and an encouragement to continue.

Aid to the Church in Need: *Thank you for the generous donation we received from your congregation of £1,000. The kindness of benefactors like yourselves enables us to support the faithful wherever they are persecuted or in need. Every year we respond to more than 5,000 requests for aid in around 140 countries, including emergency help for those fleeing persecution or suffering from natural disasters. As you may be aware, the money that we raise goes directly to bishops, priests and religious sisters and brothers who are involved in projects helping thousands of people who are in desperate need. This includes providing them with food, water, shelter, and spiritual support.*

Emergency Charitable Fund: The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO established an Emergency Charitable Fund of £50,000 within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation. The funds are sourced at the time of the annual assessment from the Congregational Community/Regions/Province with available funds. These monies are extra to the annual assessment and are recorded and managed as a separate cost centre. The annual limit is £50,000 and funds are sought annually to replace what has been dispensed and top up the fund. The Congregational Leader with consent of Council will authorise the use of this fund. The funds will be allocated through reputable Charities / Foundations / Appeals. Receipts are required and expenditure is reported to the Congregation at the time of the donation and in more detail to the Region/Province Leadership in the annual assessment process when top up funds are sought.

Donations from the Congregation coordinated by the CIO Trustees include:

1. Catholic Caring Foundation New Zealand support for cyclone disaster - £5,015.
2. CAFOD – Disaster relief for Turkey and Syria earthquake disaster - £10,000.
3. CAFOD – support Morocco earthquake and Libya flooding disaster - £10,000.
4. Christian Aid - Middle East Crisis Appeal - £5,000.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries (continued)

5. British Red Cross - Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory appeal - £5,000.

Catholic Caring Foundation, Bishop of Auckland: *Thank you for responding to our Cyclone Relief Appeal 2023 that have devastated so many throughout the North Island. The impact of the cyclone has been catastrophic with loss of life, homes and livelihoods. Your donation will be supporting the cyclone relief in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne area and the Hawkes Bay region through the dioceses of Palmerston North and Hamilton.*

CAFOD: *I am writing to express CAFOD's sincerest thanks for your recent incredibly generous donation of £10,000 to support our work with the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.*

CAFOD: *I am writing to thank you for your extraordinary generous donation of £10,000. Your generosity will help CAFOD and partners to give hope to people who have lost everything in Morocco and Libya. Thank God for the amazing generosity of supporters like you.*

Christian Aid: *Thank you for your donation of £5,000 to our Middle East Crisis Appeal. Your thoughtful gift will help our established partners across the region deliver vital emergency supplies such as medical relief, food, and shelter, to vulnerable families affected by this terrible crisis. It will also help us advocate for a just and lasting peace in this area.*

British Red Cross: *Thank you for forwarding to us the donations totalling to £5,000 for our Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory Appeal. With your help, we'll continue to provide vital humanitarian, individual support for the most vulnerable, and those who fall through the gaps. Your generous donation will make a real difference to people in their hour of need.*

Fundraising policy

The charity's fundraising activity is negligible. However, it aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communication and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react and to investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

The Trustees continue to fully utilising social media to remain in contact with Sisters throughout the world. The Trustees with this governance model are able to function both in the UK and working remotely from their home countries.

Financial review

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 32 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year amounted to £694,418 (2022 - £250,510). This includes assessments from the individual Communities, Regions and Province of the Congregation totalling £355,231 (2022 - £197,613), additional contributions from Communities, Regions and Province of £125,076 (2022 - £49,988), and contributions towards the Chapter from Communities, Regions and Province of £176,388 (2022 - £nil). Bank interest amounted to £17,735 (2022 - £2,909).

Expenditure amounted to £582,157 (2022 - £333,821). Such expenditure includes the cost of co-ordinating and advising the Regions and Province of the Congregation as well as donations payable. Details of donations payable are included in note 4 to the accounts.

Therefore, the net income and the net increase in funds for the year to 31 December 2023 was £112,261 (2022 – net expenditure and net decrease in funds of £83,311). At 31 December 2023, the net assets of the charity amounted to £904,947 (2022 - £792,686).

Investment policy

The Trustees have considered the cash requirements for the various projects they are involved in and have adopted a policy of keeping available funds in special interest-bearing deposit accounts and a treasury deposit account. An Ethical Investment Policy has been adopted by the charity.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain between two and three years of regular operating expenditure in free reserves (reserves not designated or invested in fixed assets). The Trustees consider this level of free reserves to be appropriate given the charity's responsibility as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities, where in the event of an urgent need in any Congregational Community/Region/Province, immediate financial assistance can be provided. The Trustees will continue to keep this policy under review.

Financial position

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £904,947 (2022 - £792,686). The tangible fixed assets fund totals £155,253 (2022 - £161,953) and is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the charity. The designated emergency charitable fund totals £14,985 (2022 - £nil). The restricted fund totals £20,000 (2022 - £nil).

Funds available to co-ordinate and provide advice on the Congregation's worldwide activities in the future are shown as general funds on the balance sheet and amount to £714,709 (2022 - £630,733). The Trustees are of the opinion that these free reserves are adequate but not excessive. The continuing worldwide economic uncertainties mean that the Trustees must have the flexibility to react quickly should the Regions or Province have urgent need of financial resources. As such, the Trustees believe it prudent to retain these reserves at the current time. This level of reserves is deemed appropriate, and the Trustees are content that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

The future plans of the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Trustees continue to attend appropriate educational meetings and webinars that will inform them of recent changes in the charity law that relates to the charity.
- ◆ Exploration and planning to address the future of the Congregation will continue.
- ◆ In February-April 2024 a Trustee will make a Pastoral Visit to Province of Assumption, South Korea
- ◆ On 17-23 March 2024 the Region of the Southern Cross, Australia/New Zealand/Tonga will hold a Region Assembly and a Trustee will attend.
- ◆ On 21-23 May 2024 a proposed pilgrimage to the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, Nottingham is organised for parishioners of St Anselm's Church, Tooting Bec and Trustees will attend.
- ◆ In June 2024 a Trustee will make a Pastoral visit to the Congregational Community of the Maternal Heart, UK.
- ◆ In August/September 2024 a Trustee will make a Pastoral Visit to the Region of the Immaculate Conception, USA.
- ◆ On 20-25 October 2024 the Trustees will attend the meeting in South Korea for Little Company of Mary Sisters 25 years and under Finally Professed.
- ◆ Expressions of interest have been invited in a programme called Thresholds of Transformation sponsored by the Trustees. The programme will be held throughout 2024.
- ◆ Negotiations are underway for the transfer of our archives to Durham University archives. An agreement is in the final stages of development.
- ◆ An Interculturality meeting open to any Sister is planned for 1-7 June 2025 at the Carmelite Retreat Centre USA.
- ◆ The Congregation will celebrate its 150th anniversary of the foundation on 2 July 2027.

Governance, structure, and management

Governing document and background

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is an incorporated charitable organisation, currently governed by a constitution dated 5 March 2018. It is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number: 1161450. The original constitution dated 28 April 2015 was amended by a Resolution dated 5 March 2018.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Governing document and background (continued)

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 April 2015. The charity's activities commenced on 1 July 2015 following the transfer of activities, assets and liabilities from a charitable trust called the Generalate Community of the Little Company of Mary. From the date of the transfer, the charitable trust became dormant and has since been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Membership of the CIO

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Trustees

The charity has four Trustees: the Congregational Leader and three Congregational Councillors. The Trustees are elected for a term of six years at the Congregational Chapter by the elected delegates of the Congregation's membership. The current Trustees were elected in April 2023 at the Nineteenth Congregational Chapter held in Knock, Ireland, and began their term of office on 2 July 2023 as Trustees of the incorporated charitable organisation.

The names of the Trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts and brief biographical details of each of the Trustees in office at the year-end is given below.

- ◆ ***Sister Patricia Mary Bell*** – Congregational Leader
Sister Patricia Mary Bell has been a Sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1976 and has a wide range of experience in health care in Australia. Having graduated from Nursing at Lewisham, Sydney, she later undertook her midwifery at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, and Oncology at the College of Nursing. She has had wide experience in nursing in medical, surgical, midwifery and especially in palliative care, her "great love". Previously, Sister Patricia Mary has held Charge Sister positions at Lewisham, Wagga Wagga, Hobart, Canberra and Coordinator of Hospice Home Care at Bethlehem, Melbourne and was Director of Mission in Hobart from 1996 until 2005. She has Grief Line and Life Line Counselling Certificates. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2004, a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor/Trustee in 2005. Returning to Australia in 2011 she ministered as a Volunteer in the Community Palliative Care Team at Kogarah, was involved with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking), provided support to refugees and asylum seekers in detention and was the Province Coordinator for the Affiliates and Associates for the Little Company of Mary. In March 2017 she was elected at the Congregational Chapter as a Councillor for 6 years and served as the Congregational Treasurer. In April 2023, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Knock, Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Leader for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Esther Myong Soon Shin* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Esther Shin entered the Congregation in 1986 in Korea. She has a professional background in Nursing, experience as a general nursing and hospice palliative nursing in hospital and clinics from 1995 to 1999, also Mary Potter Palliative Centre in Albania from 2000 to 2002. She has experience in formation as a Novice Formator and Temporary Professed Sisters Formator from 2005 to 2011. She served as a chaplain for general patients and hospice patients at the hospital from 2011 to 2016. In 2014, she was a postgraduate of Culture and Spirituality at the Catholic University of Korea. She was elected Province Councillor of the Assumption Province from 2005 to 2011 and elected Province Leader and as a Trustee of the Little Company of Mary Sisters South Korea from 2016 to 2021. In April 2023, at the LCM Congregation Chapter in Knock, Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.

- ◆ *Sister Monica Whelan* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Monica Whelan has been a Sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1990 and has a wide experience in both non-clinical healthcare services and in education as a teacher and school administration. Whilst most of her experience has been in Australia, she also worked at Australian Catholic University as a sessional lecturer as well as facilitating health care programs in Timor Leste for over ten (10) years. She graduated with a Diploma in Teaching, Catholic teachers College, Sydney 1976 and completed a Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies in 1982. Thesis for this degree was titled Integration of Physically Disabled Children into New South Wales State and Catholic Schools. She has wide experience in educational leadership and is always keen to see others learn and succeed in life. Other qualifications include Bachelor of Theology 2002 and Master of Philosophy 2009. Further professional background in health care includes seven (7) years as Director of Mission Calvary Health Care, Canberra. Three (3) years' experience in Pastoral Care, Bethlehem Hospital, Melbourne and twelve (12) years' experience in education for Mission integration with Little Company of Mary Health Care, Australian Province. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2005 until 2010. In 2017 she was elected as Region Councillor for Australia, New Zealand, Tonga a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor in April 2023 at LCM Congregational Chapter in Ireland. This role is for a period of 6 years whereby Sister Monica is a Trustee of the charity and Congregational Treasurer.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Ellen Maseve* – Congregational Councillor
 Sister Ellen Maseve joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in 1997. She trained in Systemic Child Counselling, nursing, psychology, and Religious Formation. Worked in the hospital as a ward nurse and in administration. Journeyed with those in Religious Formation. From 2011-2018, Sister Ellen served as the member of the Leadership and Governance Team within the Queen of Peace Region, South Africa and Zimbabwe and from 2018-2021 she served as the Region Leader. She was the Hospital Executive Manager for Queen of Peace Murambinda Mission Hospital until her election in April 2023 as the Congregational Councillor at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Ireland for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a Trustee of the charity.

Trustee Formation

Representatives of the Congregational Leadership attended the following meetings and conferences during the period:

Date	Details
28 July	Buzzacott webinar; Trustees responsibilities. Sister Ellen Maseve
6 August	Buzzacott webinar; Trustees Responsibilities. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
7 August	Buzzacott videos; Charity Governance Code and Financial Governance. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
8 August	Buzzacott video; Risk and Reserves. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
8 August	Buzzacott video; Trustees Responsibilities. Sister Esther Shin
9 August	Buzzacott video; Public Benefit. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
9 August	Buzzacott videos; Charity Governance Code and Financial Governance. Sister Ellen Maseve
14 August	Buzzacott video; The Charity Governance Code. Sister Esther Shin
15 August	Buzzacott three-part Videos on Accounts for non-Accountants; Trustee's report; Statutory Reporting, Judgmental areas. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
15 August	Buzzacott video; Risk and Reserves. Sister Esther Shin
17 August	Stone King Trustee Training Webinar; The Essential Trustee & Governance in Practice. Sister Monica Whelan

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee Formation (continued)

Date	Details
17 August	Stone King Trustee Training Webinar; The Essential Trustee & Governance in Practice. Sister Ellen Maseve
18 August	Catholic Religious Australia Video; Safeguarding. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
21 August	Buzzacott video; Public Benefit. Sister Esther Shin
September	Buzzacott Webinars Trustees Responsibilities: The Charity Governance Code; Financial Governance; Risk and Reserves; Public Benefit. Sister Monica Whelan
12 September	UISG webinar Integral Ecology in Religious Life and Mission. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
14 September	UISG Zoom Communion that Radiates, Synodality. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
14, 24 September and 2 October	UISG ZOOM: Communion that Radiates, Synodality. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
20 September	UISG webinar Conversations on the Synod; Overview and opportunities. Sister Esther Shin
21 September	CAFOD - Afternoon of reflection. Sister Monica Whelan
25 September	USIG Conversations on the Synod – Continental Perspectives. Sister Monica Whelan
25 September	UISG webinar Conversations on the Synod: Continental perspectives. Sister Esther Shin
25 September	UISG webinar Conversations on the Synod: Continental perspectives. Sister Ellen Maseve
5 October	A Pastoral Reflection on Social Media Engagement: Formation on Communication. Sister Monica Whelan
8 October	Day for Religious, Living Consecrated Life as we journey to a Synodal Church. Sister Monica Whelan

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee Formation (continued)

Date	Details
12 October	USIG Living the Charism, Reforming the Care: Catholic Care for Children in Eastern Africa. Sister Monica Whelan
17 October	Safeguarding webinar in an International Context, Charity Commission's Expectations. Sister Monica Whelan and Sister Esther Shin
25 October	UISG webinar Canon Law and Basic for Superior Generals. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
25 October	USIG webinar: Canon Law Basics for Superior General. Sister Monica Whelan, Sister Esther Shin and Sister Ellen Maseve
6 November	Webinar Anchoring Faith Consistent Investing in the Experience of Frontline Communities. UISG in collaboration with Laudator Si and Laudato Si Movement. Sister Esther Shin
7 November	Financing a Liveable Future: Church Investment in Climate Solutions Conference, London. Sister Monica Whelan
8 November	Buzzacott Online YouTube Video, Accounts for Non-accountants. Sister Ellen Maseve
16 November	Managing Your Faith Charity, Birmingham. Sister Monica Whelan
6 December	Stone King webinar: Coming to the UK as a Religious Visitor during the festive season. Sisters Patricia Mary Bell and Sister Esther Shin
6 December	UISG webinar: "Sharing from the Synod Assembly 2023" series. Sister Esther Shin and Sister Ellen Maseve
6 December	Stone King webinar: Coming to the UK as a religious visitor during the festive period. Sister Ellen Maseve
12 December	LCWR ZOOM meeting: Leadership for an Increasingly Intercultural Religious Life. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
14/15 December	UISG webinar Canon Law and the role of Congregational Councillors. Sister Patricia Mary Bell

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the accounts the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure and management reporting

As a result of the international scope of their work and travel, the Trustees meet regularly to review developments with regard to the charity or its activities and make any important decisions. The Trustees use electronic means to be informed and kept up to date with developments within the Congregation and the charity. When necessary, the Trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, solicitors, and accountants. The day-to-day management of the charity's activities, and the implementation of policies, is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation or senior staff.

Key management

The Trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the Trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary ("the Congregation"). Whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Risk management

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks, and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws, and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In November 2019, the Trustees commenced using the Bankline service of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for payments by electronic transfer. This process minimises risk and ensures effective safeguards are in place. A policy for digital banking has been developed.

This work has identified two key risks for the charity which are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- ◆ Operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults including older people. The Trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Trustees are committed fully to implementing the policies of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the new dedicated Religious Life Safeguarding Standard Service.
- ◆ From time to time, the charity donates significant sums in support of the wider Congregation and other organisations. The vast majority of donations sent overseas are to fund projects administered directly by members of the Congregation. Whether or not the funds are used here in Great Britain or overseas, the Trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential recipient of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that, wherever possible (and always in the case of monies sent overseas), a full written report is obtained.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Trustee:

Date: 24 May 2024

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies, and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with one of the Trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- ◆ We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of those charged with governance and review of minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ Making enquiries of those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud
(continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ Carried out substantive testing of expenditure;
- ◆ Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ Reading the minutes of meetings of Trustees; and
- ◆ Enquiring of us as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

We did not identify any irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 December 2023

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

24 May 2024

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2023

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from:							
Donations	1	581,683	95,000	676,683	247,601	—	247,601
Bank interest		17,735	—	17,735	2,909	—	2,909
Total income		599,418	95,000	694,418	250,510	—	250,510
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Co-ordination and direction of, and the provision of advice to, the Regions and Province of the Congregation	2	439,112	—	439,112	250,722	—	250,722
. Donations	4	68,045	75,000	143,045	83,099	—	83,099
Total expenditure		507,157	75,000	582,157	333,821	—	333,821
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds	5	92,261	20,000	112,261	(83,311)	—	(83,311)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		792,686	—	792,686	875,997	—	875,997
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		884,947	20,000	904,947	792,686	—	792,686

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		155,253		161,953
Current assets					
Debtors	9	12,190		22,086	
Short term deposits		517,585		—	
Cash at bank and in hand		250,120		627,455	
		<u>779,895</u>		<u>649,541</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(30,201)		(18,808)	
Net current assets			<u>749,694</u>		<u>630,733</u>
Total net assets			<u>904,947</u>		<u>792,686</u>
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	12		<u>20,000</u>		<u>—</u>
Unrestricted income funds:					
. General fund		714,709		630,733	
. Tangible fixed assets fund	13	155,253		161,953	
. Emergency charitable fund	13	14,985		—	
			<u>884,947</u>		<u>792,686</u>
	14		<u>904,947</u>		<u>792,686</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on:

24 May 2024

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	129,815	(87,515)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,300)	—
Purchase of short term deposits		(517,585)	—
Interest receivable		17,735	2,909
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		(507,150)	2,909
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(377,335)	(84,606)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023	B	627,455	712,061
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023	B	250,120	627,455

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

A Reconciliation of net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds to net cash used in operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	112,261	(83,311)
Adjustments:		
Depreciation charge	14,000	14,586
Interest receivable	(17,735)	(2,909)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	9,896	(15,646)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	11,393	(235)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	129,815	(87,515)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	250,120	627,455

No separate statement of changes in net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the movements in cash and cash equivalents and movement in net cash (debt).

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2023

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2023 with comparative figures given for the year to 31 December 2022.

The accounts 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The most significant areas of adjustment and key assumptions that affect items in these accounts are the estimation of the useful life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining the depreciation charge and estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received

Income comprises donations and interest receivable.

Income recognition (continued)

Donations, including assessments and additional contributions receivable from individual Community Regions and Province, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

The surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal.

Expenditure recognition and the basis of apportioning costs

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- ◆ Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs specifically relating to the co-ordination and direction of advice to Regions and Province of the Congregation, donations payable and governance costs.
- ◆ The making of grants and donations is not a central part of the charity's activities. Donations are made only in cases where the Trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2023

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

a. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprising functional properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these accounts at their historic cost at their date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

b. Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture, fittings, and equipment 20% per annum based on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Short term deposits and cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits i.e. current asset investments. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Fund structure

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

Fund structure (continued)

The tangible fixed assets fund comprises the net book value of charity's tangible fixed assets, the existence of which is fundamental to the charity being able to perform its charitable work and thereby achieve its charitable objectives. The value represented by such assets should not be regarded, therefore, as realisable.

Designated funds are funds which the Trustees have designated for specific purposes.

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

Pension contributions

Contributions in respect to the charity's defined contribution 'stakeholder' pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they are payable to the scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 6. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2023

1 Income from: Donations

	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Contributions from individual Regions and Province of the Congregation	581,683	95,000	676,683	247,601	—	247,601

2 Expenditure on: Co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation

	Unrestricted funds	
	2023 £	2022 £
Premises costs	43,416	33,340
Sisters' living expenses	63,215	39,001
Other direct costs including travel	322,100	170,002
Governance costs (note 3)	10,381	8,379
	439,112	250,722

3 Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	
	2023 £	2022 £
Auditor's remuneration	10,381	8,379

4 Expenditure on: Donations

The charity makes donations to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its donations policy set out in the Trustees' report.

Donations and grants payable to institutions during the period were as follows:

	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Donations payable	68,045	75,000	143,045	83,099	—	83,099

4 Expenditure on: Donations (continued)

Donations payable to institutions during the period comprised the following:

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	Un-restricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aid to the Church in Need	1,000	—	1,000	11,015	—	11,015
Barnabas Cathedral	1,000	—	1,000	—	—	—
British Red Cross	5,000	—	5,000	—	—	—
CAFOD	21,000	—	21,000	1,000	—	1,000
CARE Australia	—	—	—	20,024	—	20,024
Catholic Caring Foundation	5,015	—	5,015	—	—	—
Christian Aid	5,000	—	5,000	—	—	—
Comunita'di St' Egidio	7,015	—	7,015	7,015	—	7,015
DIF - Diocese of Lismore	—	—	—	10,015	—	10,015
Durham University	—	75,000	75,000	—	—	—
Little Sisters of the Poor	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Missionvale Care Centre Trust	3,015	—	3,015	3,015	—	3,015
RCAOS Our Lady of La Salette and St Joseph	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (Olallo House)	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
Solidarity Project	5,000	—	5,000	5,000	—	5,000
Spires	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Anne's Church	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Anselm's Church	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Barnabas Cathedral	—	—	—	1,000	—	1,000
St George's Cathedral (Southwark)	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
St Vincent de Paul Society	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
The Medaille Trust	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
The Most Holy Trinity RC Church Dockhead	1,000	—	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
The Passage	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
The Salvation Army	2,000	—	2,000	2,000	—	2,000
Victorian Flood Appeal (Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania)	—	—	—	10,015	—	10,015
	68,045	75,000	143,045	83,099	—	83,099

During the year to 31 December 2023, no grants were paid to individuals (2022 - none).

5 Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total funds	Total funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	41,844	42,493
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit fees		
.. Current year	8,800	8,379
.. Prior year	1,581	—
Depreciation	14,000	14,586
Operating lease rentals (note 11)	2,005	2,005

6 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	Total funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Gross salaries	36,386	37,536
Pension costs	5,458	4,957
	41,844	42,493

There was one employee during the year (2022 - one employee) who was involved in the co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation.

No employees earned £60,000 or more during the year (2022: none).

The Trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the Trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary i.e. the Congregation and whilst certain of their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees (2022 - none).

7 Taxation

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023 and at 31 December 2023	494,214	32,673	526,887
Additions	—	7,300	7,300
At 31 December 2023	494,214	39,973	534,187
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	336,061	28,873	364,934
Charge for the year	9,884	4,116	14,000
At 31 December 2023	345,945	32,989	378,934
Net book values			
At 31 December 2023	148,269	6,984	155,253
At 31 December 2022	158,153	3,800	161,953

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's land and buildings and their book values with the market value being considerably higher than the net book value at 31 December 2023.

At 31 December 2023, the charity had no capital commitments (2022 - none).

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2023

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	11,669	21,573
Sundry debtors	521	513
	<u>12,190</u>	<u>22,086</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals and deferred income	30,201	18,808

11 Financial commitments

At 31 December 2023, the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to equipment as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Payable:		
. Within one year	2,005	2,005
. Within two to five years	3,766	5,771
	<u>5,771</u>	<u>7,776</u>

12 Restricted funds

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 January 2023	—	—
Net movements in year	20,000	—
At 31 December 2023	<u>20,000</u>	<u>—</u>

The restricted fund represents the Congregational Associate Support Fund to support activities to develop, form and promote the LCM Associates and Affiliates.

13 Designated funds

	Emergency charitable fund £	Tangible fixed asset fund £	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 January 2023	—	161,953	161,953	176,537
Designated in year	50,000	—	50,000	(14,584)
Utilised/released in year	(35,015)	(6,700)	(41,715)	—
At 31 December 2023	<u>14,985</u>	<u>155,253</u>	<u>170,238</u>	<u>161,953</u>

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's freehold properties and other tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be available in order to meet future contingencies.

The Emergency charitable fund represents funds set aside within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2023 £
Fixed Assets	—	155,253	—	155,253
Current Assets	744,910	14,985	20,000	779,895
Current Liabilities	(30,201)	—	—	(30,201)
Total	714,709	170,238	20,000	904,947
Prior Year				
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2022 £
Fixed Assets	—	161,953	—	161,953
Current Assets	649,541	—	—	649,541
Current Liabilities	(18,808)	—	—	(18,808)
Total	630,733	161,953	—	792,686

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2022 – none) and no donations were received from the Trustees (2022 - none).

16 Membership of the CIO and ultimate control

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, ex-officio be a Trustee for as long as she holds that office. All other Trustees are appointed by a resolution in writing by the Congregational Leader.

The Congregation does not hold any assets, incur liabilities, or enter into any transactions in its own right. Assets and liabilities of the Congregation are administered in the Trustees of the charity, who undertake all transactions entered into in the course of the Congregation's charitable activities.

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161450

Accounts

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2022

Charity Registration Number
1161450

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees, and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	28

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	33
Balance sheet	34
Statement of cash flows	35
Principal accounting policies	36
Notes to the accounts	40

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees, and advisers

Trustees	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald Sister Susanna Mi Young Park Sister Patricia Mary Bell Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
Congregational Leader	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
Administrative address	Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO 28 Trinity Crescent Tooting Bec London SW17 7AE
Telephone	020 8682 0928
Charity registration number	1161450
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1st Floor, Houblon House 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court Upper Borough Walls Bath BA1 1RG

Trustees' report Year to 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report together with the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO for the year to 31 December 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 35 to 38 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction and mission

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is the administrative centre of the worldwide Congregation of the Little Company of Mary (the "Congregation") (LCM), a Roman Catholic religious congregation which is divided into six Regions/Province and ministers in eleven countries. The principal mission of the Congregation is to pray and care for the sick, the suffering and the dying.

The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care, and welfare facilities/services, in the countries of Australia, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe. Each Region/Province has a high degree of autonomy and is responsible for its own financial needs. Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the "charity") acts as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities and provides assistance in an advisory capacity to the Regions/Province in their work of providing health care within the ethos of the Roman Catholic religion. The charity's expenditure is financed principally by an assessment or annual contribution from each of the Regions/Province.

Charitable objects

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion through the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on anywhere in the world by or under the directions of the Congregation as the trustees with the approval of the Congregational Leader shall think fit.

Activities and achievements

The charity has continued to provide leadership and assistance to the Congregation in implementing the Vision and Acts of the Congregational Chapter 2017. The Regions/Province have been supported in their mission and overall responsibility for health care services, hospices, aged care facilities and extensive outreach programmes, as well as the diverse ministries of prison ministry, pastoral ministry in hospitals, hospices, homes and parishes, bereavement ministry, health education ministry, counselling, spiritual direction, and refugee ministry.

Since the 18th Congregational Chapter in March 2017, the Congregational Leadership (trustees) have developed an implementation plan for the Vision and Acts of the Chapter. All processes are in place to support the activities required to address every aspect of the Vision and Acts entrusted to the Congregational Leadership on election at that Chapter.

Activities and achievements (continued)

The 6th Extended Council Meeting was held via Zoom in February 2022. The discussion was around the shape of the 19th Congregational Chapter and all Leaders affirmed their support for the approach to the Chapter Pilgrimage.

In January 2022 the letter of Convocation of the 19th Congregational Chapter was announced to the members of the Congregation. The Pre-Chapter Planning Committee for the Congregational Chapter began in April 2022. The membership is composed of six LCM Sisters and a facilitator. The planning process has involved each Sister in the Congregation in prayer, reflection and conversation so that the agenda is developed from the membership. A series of reflections on four (4) themes were identified from the feedback from the Sisters: Charism, Call and Response; Embracing our Reality; Embracing our Vulnerability; Stewardship for Mission; Leadership in the Service of the Spirit.

The significant ongoing achievements towards achieving the goals discussed at these meetings are summarised below.

Interculturality

Three Zoom meetings using the UISG webinars from UISG have been held, with the last in February 2022. Many Sisters participated and were supported by simultaneous translation for the Sisters from Korea. These webinars provided basic knowledge about attitudes and skills necessary for strengthening our intercultural life and to provide a process for strengthening interculturality in the Little Company of Mary. The priority during 2022 was the Chapter Pilgrimage and no further interculturality meetings were planned by Congregational Leadership. Members of the group were encouraged to maintain contact with one another and request further access to webinars if they wished from the Congregational Leadership.

Spirituality

To continue to promote the LCM spirit and charism as a global expression of compassion through prayer and presence, the following actions have been taken:

- ◆ Reflections written by sisters and Associates are shared monthly through the website.
- ◆ A twice yearly Newsletter includes relevant reflections for the times.
- ◆ Prayer requests are received through the Congregational and various Regions/Province websites. These intentions are held in the prayer of the Sisters.
- ◆ When requested, and only in accord with the requirements of GDPR, Novena prayers for the needs of individual sick and dying persons are said throughout the Congregation with the person's request and consent.
- ◆ Continuing our cherished tradition of the annual Motto.
- ◆ The Mary Potter booklet is used for Novena and healing prayers

Activities and achievements (continued)

Care for our Common Home

The Interest Group developed a statement and plan for consideration as part of shaping the future Vision through the Congregational Chapter process, using the resources of the Laudato Si Action Platform. A facilitator was engaged to assist with this project.

Increased promotion of the spirituality, mission, and ministry, including the prayer ministry globally through the use of electronic means

The Congregational website is regularly updated with monthly reflections, thoughts for the month and news and events. New social media pages have been developed by some Regions and the Province who are responsible to moderate content in keeping with relevant privacy laws.

Promotion of the LCM spirit, through the vowed life

At the Extended Council Meeting, the issue of promotion of the vowed life was explored and it was recognised that no one approach can be mandated. Each Region/Province must explore this in ways suitable and effective in the local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation was emphasised. The Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the Regions/Province.

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes

The Congregational Leadership continues to facilitate the development of the Associate programs across the Congregation. Responsibility for this rests in the local Regions/Province Leadership. Creative ways of maintaining connection with groups across the Congregation have been sustained with the use of new digital technology. Towards the end of 2022 as restrictions eased, gatherings have re-commenced.

With the suspension of the LCM Heritage Centre in Nottingham, England due to health and welfare priorities and government restrictions, Associate pilgrimages were not possible. Affiliates and Associates were encouraged to use the digital Heritage Pilgrimage resource on the Congregational website.

Congregational Associate Support Fund

From January 2023, £20,000 is held in the Congregational accounts, available on the request of the Region/Province Leader to support activities to develop, form and promote the LCM Associates and Affiliates. It is for the use of the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. This fund is available thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Regions who have been blessed with excess resources.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, Nottingham (continued)

Whilst action had been completed in 2020 to honour the Chapter mandate and ensure future sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, the Congregational Leadership together with the Region of the Maternal Heart has continued to review and ensure the sustainability of the Heritage Centre. Since the pandemic that led to redundancy and furlough of the staff, the Region of the Maternal Heart has in September 2022 appointed a lay person as the Manager for the Heritage Centre.

Although closed to the public for over two years the administration and maintenance continued on the premises where necessary. The transfer of the remaining Mary Potter artefacts held at LCM Marlborough Road, Nottingham to the top floor of the Heritage Centre has been completed and they are now on display for visitors' viewing. In September 2022 the Centre reopened and several small groups have visited. Following appointment, the Manager will be able to develop further the programmes and pilgrimages that had been set aside during the pandemic.



Heritage Centre - prayer room

Stewardship for Mission

L&P Cantor Fitzgerald of Dublin, Ireland was engaged to conduct a Congregational Resource Assessment during 2021 in preparation for the 2023 Congregational Chapter. The assessment was called Stewardship for Mission Project. The final report was completed in April 2022.

Leaders with significant assets from Regions of the Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception, and Southern Cross have informed the Congregational Leadership that they will set aside designated funds in their own Regions for the Congregational Mission Fund. Due to the decrease in its financial reserves, the Region of the Maternal Heart is exempt from this contribution. These designated funds will be to support the life and mission of the LCM spirit in the Region of the Queen of Peace and the Province of the Assumption. The support might include the needs of the Sisters as well as ministries but excludes education and formation needs. The Congregational Mission Fund has been developed for requests and will commence in January 2023. A policy has been developed to support the management of this fund.

Activities and achievements (continued)

LCM Congregational Archive - LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project

An LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project, focusing on the growth during the first sixty years of the Congregation's existence, up to its entry into modern day Zimbabwe, has been established. It will consider the early leaders of these international foundations and the stories of the Sisters who pioneered these initiatives. The project focuses on the direction taken by the Congregation in these localities, away from Mary Potter's direct leadership, exploring the story from a cultural, social and spiritual perspective.

The agreement for the three-year LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow position, through the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) at Durham University, UK has been signed by both LCM and CCS. The position has been filled and Dr Eilish Gregory commenced this history project in September 2022.

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission

As Regions/Province take the decision to explore new ways of governance appropriate to reality and the future, the Congregational Leadership Team facilitates this through committees and roles to achieve the transition whilst being guided by the integral principles of inclusivity and relationship. The previous Provinces of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) and the Immaculate Conception (United States of America) were assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to Regions in 2018. The previous Province of the Sacred Heart (Ireland and Italy) was assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in December 2021. The previous Region of the Maternal Heart (UK) was assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to the Community of the Maternal Heart, England in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader on 1 January 2023. The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region of the Immaculate Conception, USA and it is noted that the Region will delay becoming a Community until the process of transfer of sponsorship of Memorial Hospital, Jasper, Indiana is complete.

The Congregational Leadership Team has developed and enhanced means of electronic communication and meetings with the introduction of Zoom software, providing flexibility and efficiency in the meeting process.

The CIO has policies in place to fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are reviewed regularly and were all reviewed in 2022.

Key to the success of any governance is maintaining and adapting processes of governance and management in light of civil requirements and to meet the evolving needs of the times. Enhanced technological capacity as a means of communication was essential to function both at Tooting Bec and in the flexible governance approach of working remotely. The digital banking continues to be of great help. Monitoring of expenditure weekly by Leadership members occurs through the use of the Clear Spend Banking App.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic the members of the Congregational Leadership have remained in their home countries. Two trustees returned to the UK for 3 months during 2022 to attend business meetings.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission
(continued)

The ability to work remotely for the past three years has been supported by ongoing conversation with Region/Province Leaders and the Sisters in the Congregation. The Congregational Leadership continued to be committed to:

- ◆ meet every Monday for a Leadership catch up by Zoom.
- ◆ Meet every Tuesday Morning for Exposition Contemplative prayer streamed from the Chapel of a Korean community.
- ◆ Following that, a social chat and cup of tea/coffee weekly by Zoom.
- ◆ Celebrate major feasts together with prayer and some form of festive sharing by Zoom.

Congregational Leadership is a pastoral relationship and we have endeavoured throughout our term to be in frequent contact with, and offer support for, our Region/Province Leaders, with regular visits to the various countries of the Congregation. The pandemic changed that, but we have made the decision to commit energy to ways of engaging through calls, videoconference, letters, and emails. Our belief in the importance of relationship remains.

Mission

As noted above, the charity provides leadership and guidance to each of the Regions/Province in facilitating their work.

◆ ***Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga***

Conversations have begun to ensure that whatever shape the future Region governance takes or the transition of the Region to any other form, any requirements of the Little Company of Mary for the good functioning of Calvary Ministries have been well considered.

The Region Leadership will look into collaboration with the laity and that of Congregational Leadership which will be essential as they look at developing a shape/model of governance that reflects “a collegial model of support for the life of the Sisters and their Mission”.



LCM Governance Meeting August 2022

Australia

The sisters, across all age ranges, continue to carry out volunteer ministries, including assisting the frail aged, sick and the underprivileged in both residential/hospice and community care, wherever the sisters are present.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

♦ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

Australia (continued)

Calvary Ministries, a Pontifical Juridical Person, has the responsibility for the Little Company of Mary Health and Aged Care. The members of Calvary Ministries took up their appointment on 1 January 2011. On a regular basis, the Chairs of the Members Council and the Board of Trustees of Calvary Ministries meet in Rome with representatives of the Holy See.

Tonga

Sisters are involved in ministry in jails, schools, hospitals and disability services as well as parish support and catechetical work.

The aftereffects from the tsunami and volcanic disaster in Tonga in 2022 caused widespread disruption to the people of the Kingdom of Tonga. Our Sisters were able to offer support during this time of recovery and were fortunate not to be severely affected.

New Zealand

In New Zealand, the Sisters continue to focus their financial and personnel resources on subsidised housing for the aged and on community support through volunteering.



Mary Potter Courts, Christchurch

The Region of the Southern Cross funds

- ♦ A Palliative Care Programme in partnership with the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Timor Leste.
- ♦ A Counsellor Training Certificate Programme in Tonga to enhance prevention of, and intervention in, domestic violence and social problems.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***The Region of the Maternal Heart UK***

Maternal Heart continues to provide a safe, loving environment for our Sisters who have spent their lives in ministry to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Many of these Sisters are beyond the statutory retirement age but are contributing invaluable volunteer ministry.

The Sisters of the Region of the Maternal Heart, England became the Community of the Maternal Heart, in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader, on 1 January 2023.

The Heritage Centre is the focal point of ministry of the Maternal Heart. Since the reopening of the Centre in September 2022, they have appointed a Manager for the Heritage Centre, under the initial mentorship of an LCM sister.

The Maternal Heart continues to support the clinic activities in Albania financially and with administrative/evaluative visits when possible.



The Mary Potter Centre Hospice

◆ ***Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy***

The Little Company of Mary retains a significant involvement in the ongoing governance of the Milford Care Centre, Limerick – Hospice and Aged Care Services, as well as Community Palliative Care.

The Sisters explored partnership with another organisation to provide a property for provision of services to women at risk in Killarney.

The Sisters continue to minister to the ageing in group housing and community and day care services, care for the aged or frail and sick Sisters and bereavement counselling.

The Region continues to welcome home our Irish Sisters who have spent their lives in South Africa and/or Zimbabwe.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy**

Work is continuing to ensure support for the Sisters in Italy and their Health and Wellbeing. The Region Leadership is spending much time and effort on this and Congregational Leadership acknowledge this and offer support as needed.

The Missioning of the new Region Leadership was held in July 2022 with the Sisters of the Region meeting in small groups due to the pandemic.

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines**

Hospice and aged care continue to be the main ministries of the Sisters. In each aged care and hospice centre, Sisters are actively involved in hospice education for health care professionals.

The care of Palliative Care patients in the Hospice in Pocheon following discernment was changed to the care of the aged.

Sisters are working as chaplains in three general hospitals to extend the Little Company of Mary charism and spirituality of healing ministry.

The ongoing meeting with the Province Leadership of the Assumption has occurred and matters to be addressed have been identified and are under consideration.

The Congregational Leader made an informal Pastoral Visit in person to the Province in October/November 2022. Canon Law has made it acceptable for interviews to be done via phone or videoconference which occurred for the Sisters in the Philippines.

In December 2022 the Bishop and Council of Priests agreed to gift the building and land of Calvary Gangneung Clinic to the Little Company of Mary as long as its use remains hospice and palliative care. This will enable the ministry to be redeveloped and ensure the facilities meet the needs of palliative care into the future. This emerged as a positive outcome of the Pastoral Visit where four options to offer the Bishop were developed.

In March 2023 a trustee will attend when a sister makes her Final Profession of vows.

A project is in progress to assist in the development of formation. The Congregational Leader continues with regular Zoom meetings with the Leadership Team, as well as individual conversations with the Leader. Meetings explore some of the realities of leadership – LCM traditions, spirituality, leading in religious life in changing (and challenging times) and practical aspects such as change management, canon law, and civil governance.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines** (continued)

In January 2023, the Leadership visited the community in the Baguio Diocese, Philippines to discern the sustainability of the Philippine mission following its direction of development since the pandemic. The two missionary Sisters can now visit the patients in the BGN (Baguio General Hospital). The palliative care team provide periodic hospice services and the team would like to collaborate with the Sisters as volunteer workers.

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe**

The Sisters manage Murambinda Mission Hospital – a generalist health care service in Buhera District, one of the poorest districts of Zimbabwe.

The sisters continue to provide pastoral care and home visiting in a number of hospitals and local communities where they reside.

Missionvale, founded by an LCM Sister, is effectively managed, and used by the people in the township. Included in its activities are a feeding programme, clothing bank, rural health clinic, and a kindergarten to grade 8 with plans to take it up to grade 12.

Marketing Manager for Missionvale Care Centre

“As the year 2022 draws to a close, we want to take a minute to thank you for all you have done for the people and children of Missionvale. ... what a huge boost for our vegetable garden. ... We now have 17 enthusiastic “farmers” as they like to call themselves! We’re preparing now to have vegetables ready in time for Christmas. The recent rains together with our new water reservoir has helped tremendously, but it is contributions like these that make it a reality. We are sending loads of love and big hugs from Missionvale.”



Inpatient facilities for HIV/AIDS ministry continue in Mashambanzou Waterfalls, Harare and Murambinda in Zimbabwe. These provide essential medical and social services for the local people in impoverished communities.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)



Through the Little Company of Mary's Mission Support, Mashambanzou Care Trust has managed to reach out and give hope to vulnerable children and adults by implementing project activities designed to address assessed needs such as a Care Unit Male Ward Extension, skills training and IGA support for teen mothers, support for school fees and other education material. Project beneficiaries are identified through home visits and family assessments by assessing the needs of vulnerable children and adults who are assisted through a Family Centred Support (FCS) model.

Support for school fees and other education material



Care Unit toilet which is being extended so that it improves the sanitary facilities for admitted patients.



Skills training and IGA Support for teen mothers

The trustees approved the request from the Region Leadership to partner and provide services through the re-opening of St Anne's Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2020 to care for those affected by Covid-19. The Congregational Leadership supported this through the provision of funds and the coordination of financial support from across the Congregation.

The LCM's mission funding has ensured continuity and provides for the funding gaps in supporting the poor living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the high-density suburbs of Greater Harare.

"As members of the staff at St Anne's Hospital we thank the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary for their courage to reopen the hospital in the midst of economic crisis in Zimbabwe. We are grateful for their commitment in contributing to the ailing health sector in our country."

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

- ◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)
 - ◆ The team of specialist doctors operating within the hospital premises supports mainly surgical cases. There are qualified staff in theatre and the doctors are happy with the equipment and infrastructure.
 - ◆ The upgrade of the Laundry Unit equipment – now has the capacity to wash linen for 200 beds.
 - ◆ The aim is to provide accessible and affordable world-class healthcare service with the construction of a helipad
 - ◆ St Anne's Covid ICU has the capacity to supply high oxygen machines to complement the ventilators.



The Congregational Leadership responded to the request of the last Region Leader in Queen of Peace and initiated a peer support program for the Executive of St Anne's Hospital, Harare with Executives of LCM Health Care in Australia. Feedback has been that this has been very helpful and enjoyable for all, as practical realities are shared and worked through.

Quarterly meetings have been held via Zoom with the Region Leadership and Congregational Leader for support and mentoring of our emerging Leaders.

The Formal Pastoral Visit planned for 2020 was rescheduled for February 2022. However, the Congregational Leader was unable to visit due to the changing and continual realities of the pandemic. Canon Law has made it acceptable for interviews to be done via phone or videoconference and the pastoral visit was able to be achieved using this technology.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe (continued)**

A project is in progress to assist in the development of the formation approach. The Congregational Leader continues with regular Zoom meetings with the Leadership Team, as well as individual conversations with the leader. Meetings explore some of the realities of leadership – LCM traditions, spirituality, leading in religious life in changing (and challenging times) and practical aspects such as change management, canon law, civil governance. The conversations are honest, rich and enlivening.

A Region Gathering was held from 1-6 June 2022. The Congregational Leader joined the Sisters via Zoom to give an opening address and also for the closing evaluation.

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America**

The Congregational Leader has been in discussion with the Region Leader and it is noted that the Region will delay becoming a community until the process of transfer of sponsorship of Memorial Hospital, Jasper, Indiana is complete. Then the Region would become a Community in direct relationship with the Congregational Leader. At the appropriate time, areas will be delegated to the lay people identified by the Sisters and already working with the Sisters in the current structure, these roles would act with delegation from the Congregational Leader and form an essential important part of Community administration and Sister support, enabling the Sisters to live their LCM life fully.

The Region have been in discussion with the Leadership of OSF Little Company of Mary Foundation and permission is sought to establish an endowment for the on-going education for LCM professionals to help and ensure the quality of care for patients in the communities.



Donations policy

When planning their budget at the beginning of the year, the trustees agree to set aside a certain amount for the organisations whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity. These organisations are usually known to the Sisters and include the missions of the International Regions and Province of the Little Company of Mary. The donations are decided upon by the trustees and applications from other organisations are considered on an individual basis.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Donations policy (continued)

The donations policy was reviewed and amended in 2019 to increase the amount to be directed to donations with a particular focus on support for refugees, homelessness and the eradication of Human Trafficking.

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries

Support Sant'Egidio Community, Florence Italy - financial support for their Refugee and Humanitarian Project: Words from the President

"A group of Afghan refugees arrives in Rome thanks to the ground-breaking Humanitarian Corridor project that allows vulnerable people a safe and legal passage as they flee violence, poverty, persecution, injustice. The President of the Community of Sant'Egidio describes the project as "an example for Europe".

Building a new life in Italy: Speaking at a press conference shortly after the arrival of the Afghan refugees, the President of Sant'Egidio said Italy's Humanitarian Corridors project sets an example for the European Union on how to best address the migration crisis, by welcoming and integrating those in need of humanitarian protection, through a close collaboration between State and Church authorities and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Addressing the refugees he gave them a warm welcome, saying that in Italy they will find a future, with home, school and work that war in their country has denied them. As part of the project, they will be sheltered and helped to become self-sufficient and integrated into Italian society thanks to a programme that includes housing, legal aid, language classes, enrolment in schools for the children and help with employment."

Solidarity with Sudan

Fundraising Director ... "I want to express my sincere gratitude for your precious support to Solidarity with South Sudan. Your generous and constant assistance plays a significant role in helping us realize our activities for the South Sudanese people and to achieve our goal to empower South Sudan to build a just and peaceful society. I'm pleased to share with you a short presentation in which you will find updated information on the results achieved by our projects:

Catholic Health Training Institute: 39% of graduates are women. Solidarity is working to increase the percentage of women each year.

Solidarity Teacher Training College: 769 graduates through pre-service and in-service programmes since the beginning of the project. More than 75% of the graduates are currently working in education sector, in their communities. Every year, since 2018, 2 graduates receive scholarships to study in Kenya (Tangaza University College of Nairobi). New Mode 2 – in service weekend course launched 26 August 2022 - Teachers already teaching in schools can acquiring a Qualified Teacher Status. New Diploma Program - Students who have already graduated (from STTC or with another equivalent qualification) can receive an additional 1-year training course that upgrades their diploma.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Stories of gratitude from Beneficiaries (continued)

Solidarity with Sudan (continued)

Pastoral Activities & Trauma Healing: Psychosocial care and support, one of Solidarity's priorities in 2022 and 2023. Workshops, training of catholic teachers dedicated to trauma and peace promotion.

Sustainable Agricultural Project in Riimenze: 756 households are benefitting from agricultural training, learning on nutrition, distribution of pigs and chicken. SAP-R conducts agricultural awareness to the wider community population through radio talk shows. Environment friendly approaches via implementation of climate smart farming methods and the controlled integrated livestock keeping.

Support for women, children and elderly people: 2.452 women attended courses dedicated to them, on better nutrition, horticulture, saving scheme. Assistance to 100 displaced elderly people with monthly food and home repairs."

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making Solidarity with South Sudan scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection in 2018, for this honour, and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I was awarded a scholarship by Solidarity with South Sudan to go and upgrade my diploma and pursue a Bachelor's degree in Nursing in Kenya. In Sept 2018 I joined the Great lakes university of Kisumu-Kenya, Bachelor of Science in Nursing -upgrading program. Because of your support, I was able to learn in a conducive environment. I'm forever grateful, for the way you stood with me during the pandemic, despite covid-19 crippled the global economy." reflection of a student in 2018 class

Medaille Trust – 2022

"In 2022 Medaille Trust supported over 400 victims of modern slavery in our various services. More than 200 victims have been supported in our safe houses. We did our best to ensure our houses were happy homes arranging Wellbeing Wednesdays with Yoga and Cooking and Nutrition classes. Our staff and residents celebrated together, occasions such as Easter, Diwali and Eid. We organized day trips to the seaside, visits to the Zoo and Pick Your Own Farms in Summer. Our residents also got involved in gardening, and growing vegetables which they were able to use in the kitchen. Recognising that the needs of our residents go well beyond housing, the Moving On Project (MOP) went into full gear this year stepping up activities at its seven geographical hubs to support and help survivors to rebuild their lives. This year MOP has helped over 200 clients with: Physical and mental wellbeing by accessing counselling and signposting them to appropriate health services. Education and employment by helping them access education, training and employment courses and community volunteering opportunities. Community Integration by running activity classes and drop-in sessions and helping clients participate in community activities. Access justice by supporting clients through the legal process and conducting legally admissible interviews. Independent Living by helping clients to understand their rights and entitlements and empowering them to advocate for themselves." Winter report Medaille Trust

"Life is hard for people without papers. When I left the safe house, I was so depressed, I called every day asking for my support worker. When I was brought to MOP it was like the stress in my head was taken away". MOP client

Activities and achievements (continued)

Emergency Charitable Fund

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO established an Emergency Charitable Fund of £50,000 within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation. The funds are sourced at the time of the annual assessment from the Regions/Province with available funds. These monies are extra to the annual assessment and are recorded and managed as a separate cost centre. The annual limit is £50,000 and funds are sought annually to replace what has been dispensed and top up the fund. The Congregational Leader with consent of Council will authorise the use of this fund. The funds will be allocated through reputable Charities / Foundations / Appeals. Receipts are required and expenditure is reported to the Congregation at the time of the donation and in more detail to the Region/Province Leadership in the annual assessment process when top up funds are sought.

Donations from the Congregation coordinated by the CIO trustees include:

1. CARE Australia - tsunami and volcanic disaster relief for Tonga - £20,000
2. Aid to the Church in Need, USA. Support for Ukraine - £10,000
3. DIF - Diocese of Lismore. Disaster relief for flooding in northern NSW, Australia - £10,000
4. Community Enterprise Foundation Bendigo Bank. flood relief for the devastated three states of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania across Australia - £10,000

Aid to the church in need, USA

"Thank you so much for your wonderful gift in the amount of \$12,759. As you requested, this donation will be used for the suffering faithful in Ukraine. Sadly, today the world, or regions of it, seem to be in chaos. War, homelessness, families torn apart - it's almost too much to bear. But amid all the suffering and turmoil, small miracles start to happen. Strangers work together; people help one another; love becomes the most important gift in our lives. As one Bishop of Ukraine told us, "While evil has shown itself to be so strong, this has also exposed a lot of good. In a way, the evil we are experiencing also squeezes the good juice from the grape, and that good juice is our compassion, mutual support, and love."

Fundraising policy

The charity's fundraising activity is negligible. However, it aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communication and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react and to investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Covid-19

The pandemic had an impact on the trustees and a flexible design was fully implemented as a governance model and all trustees followed their own Governments' advice by returning to their own countries to live and operate remotely. In February/March 2023 the trustees returned to the UK. Trustees continue to fully utilise social media to remain in contact with Sisters throughout the world.

CIO income from pensions received has decreased with these pensions being retained in Australia to support the living costs of trustees now living in Australia. Expenditure has been reduced with all travel ceased until safe to do so till the latter half of 2022. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review. Whilst there will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position.

A Covid-19 Secure Risk Assessment and Control Plan for the CIO Office at Tooting Bec was developed in September 2020 and reviewed in 2022.

Financial review

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 33 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year amounted to £250,510 (2021 - £231,143). This includes assessments from the individual Regions and Province of the Congregation totalling £197,613 (2021 - £177,613) and additional contributions from Regions and Province of £49,988 (2021 - £49,988). Bank interest amounted to £2,909 (2021 - £483) and the surplus on the disposal of a motor vehicle amounted to £nil (2021 - £3,059).

Expenditure amounted to £333,821 (2021 - £270,688). Such expenditure includes the cost of co-ordinating and advising the Regions and Province of the Congregation as well as donations payable. Details of donations payable are included in note 4 to the accounts.

Therefore, the net expenditure and the net decrease in funds for the year to 31 December 2022 was £83,311 (2021 - £39,545). At 31 December 2022, the net assets of the charity amounted to £792,686 (2021 - £875,997).

Investment policy

The trustees have considered the cash requirements for the various projects they are involved in and have adopted a policy of keeping available funds in special interest-bearing deposit accounts and a treasury deposit account. These provided an average return of less than 1% during the period but, given the level of risk the trustees are willing to undertake and the current economic environment especially in the wake of Covid-19, the returns are deemed satisfactory. An Ethical Investment Policy has been adopted by the charity.

Financial review (continued)

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain between two and three years of regular operating expenditure in free reserves (reserves not designated or invested in fixed assets). The trustees consider this level of free reserves to be appropriate given the charity's responsibility as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities, where in the event of an urgent need in any Region/Province, immediate financial assistance can be provided. The trustees will continue to keep this policy under review.

Financial position

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £792,686 (2021 - £875,997). The tangible fixed assets fund totals £161,953 (2021 - £176,538) and is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the charity.

Funds available to co-ordinate and provide advice on the Congregation's worldwide activities in the future are shown as general funds on the balance sheet and amount to £630,733 (2021 - £699,459). The trustees are of the opinion that the free reserves are adequate but not excessive. The continuing worldwide economic uncertainties mean that the trustees must have the flexibility to react quickly should the Regions or Province have urgent need of financial resources. As such, the trustees believe it prudent to retain these reserves at the current time. This level of reserves is deemed appropriate, and the trustees are content that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

The future plans of the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Trustees continue to attend appropriate educational meetings and webinars that will inform them of recent changes in the charity law that relates to the charity.
- ◆ In February/March 2023 all trustees will return to the UK for the preparation of the Congregational Chapter in April 2023 where the next Congregational Leadership Team (trustees) will be elected.
- ◆ Exploration and planning to address the future of the Congregation will continue.
- ◆ The Chapter Pilgrimage has commenced with the engagement of the Sisters throughout the Congregation. The 19th Congregational Chapter will be held in Knock House Hotel, Knock, Ireland 15-30 April 2023. The Congregational Leadership elect will take up office on 2 July 2023.

Governance, structure, and management

Governing document and background

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is an incorporated charitable organisation, currently governed by a constitution dated 5 March 2018. It is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number: 1161450. The original constitution dated 28 April 2015 was amended by a Resolution dated 5 March 2018.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 April 2015. The charity's activities commenced on 1 July 2015 following the transfer of activities, assets and liabilities from a charitable trust called the Generalate Community of the Little Company of Mary. From the date of the transfer, the charitable trust became dormant and has since been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Membership of the CIO

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Trustees

The charity has four trustees: the Congregational Leader and three Congregational Councillors. The trustees are elected for a term of six years at the Congregational Chapter by the elected delegates of the Congregation's membership. The current trustees were elected in March 2017 at the Eighteenth Congregational Chapter held in Newry, Northern Ireland, and began their term of office on 2 July 2017 as trustees of the incorporated charitable organisation.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts and brief biographical details of each of the trustees in office at the year-end is given below.

◆ *Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald* – Congregational Leader

Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald has spent over forty years in health, aged and community care clinical at management and governance levels. She entered the Congregation in 1983. Her initial professional background was in General and Midwifery Nursing. To prepare for a position as a Director of Nursing, she completed a Bachelor of Health Science and a Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management. After completing this role and in order to transition to a different role within the Little Company of Mary health care services, Sister Bernadette completed a Master of Theology (Distinction), a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics. Each qualification was undertaken to ensure that she was able to fulfil the roles of Director of Mission and National Director of Mission for LCM Health Care Services. Her background in governance included Director positions on the Boards of Governance of Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, Calvary Health Care Adelaide, as a trustee on the Board of Catholic Health Care Services New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory and a Member on the Members Council of Calvary Ministries Limited Australia

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald* – Congregational Leader (continued)
(all Catholic Australian health and aged care organisations). She was a member of the Executive of Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes (New South Wales). Sister Bernadette served as the Province Leader of the Province of the Holy Spirit (Australia) from 2011 to 2015 and of the newly formed Province of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) from 2015 until her election in 2017 as the Congregational Leader, Little Company of Mary at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

- ◆ *Sister Susanna Mi Young Park* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Susanna Park entered the Congregation in 1986 in Korea. Before joining the Little Company of Mary, she qualified as a pharmacist in 1982 in Korea and completed a master's degree of pharmacology from Daegu Catholic University in 1984. She worked at Calvary Clinic in GangNeung from 1989 to 1993, at Morhyun Home Care Hospice in Seoul from 1994 to 1996 and at the Catholic University of Korea UijeongBu St Mary's Hospital from 1996 to 1998 as a pharmacist. She served as the Province Leader of the Assumption Province and as a trustee of the Little Company of Mary Sisters South Korea from 1999 to 2005 and again from 2011 to 2016. She obtained a postgraduate diploma of Mariology at Lampeter University in the UK in 2008. She was a member of a community of the Heritage Centre of the Little Company of Mary in Nottingham from 2009 to 2011. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

- ◆ *Sister Patricia Mary Bell* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Patricia Mary Bell has been a sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1976 and has a wide range of experience in health care in Australia. Having graduated from Nursing at Lewisham, Sydney, she later undertook her midwifery at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, and Oncology at the College of Nursing. She has had wide experience in nursing in medical, surgical, midwifery and especially in palliative care, her "great love". Previously, Sister Patricia Mary has held Charge Sister positions at Lewisham, Wagga Wagga, Hobart, Canberra and Coordinator of Hospice Home Care at Bethlehem, Melbourne and was Director of Mission in Hobart from 1996 until 2005. She has Grief Line and Life Line Counselling Certificates. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2004, a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor/trustee in 2005. Returning to Australia in 2011 she ministered as a Volunteer in the Community Palliative Care Team at Kogarah, was involved with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking), provided support to refugees and asylum seekers in detention and was the Province Coordinator for the Affiliates and Associates for the Little Company of Mary. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity and as Congregational Treasurer.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Elizabeth Gilroy* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Elizabeth Gilroy has a professional background in General and Midwifery Nursing, with over 30 years' experience in specialist areas of Operating Theatre, Accident and Emergency and Labour Ward nursing. She also has had several years as Health and Safety Registered Nurse at Qantas Airways. She has had further experience at Governance Levels of the Province Leadership Team and a Director of the Corporation of the Little Company of Mary Holy Spirit Province, Australia. She has experience in formation and ongoing education with further studies in theology, attained a Master of Arts with a Major in Pastoral Counselling and Pastoral Ministry, Boston USA and a Certificate in Effective Group Leadership Skill Training with a Diploma in Spiritual Direction and Counselling. Her professional experience also includes Spiritual Companion for Calvary Ministries, (Health Care), Australia; Consultant for National Office for LCM Health Care assisting in formulating LCM National Leadership Development Programmes; and Pastoral Counsellor at Franciscan Counselling Service, Boston USA. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

Trustee Formation

Representatives of the Congregational Leadership attended the following meetings and conferences during the period:

- ◆ 13 January 2022: Stone King Webinar: The essential trustee and governance in practice - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 27 January 2022: UISG Webinar: Building a communications office – Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 2 February 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership /Part one
(Trusteeship and governance) - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 2 February 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership /Part one
(Trusteeship and governance) – Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 7 February 2022: Trustee Training, Regulatory and governance update: part one – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 7 February 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership /Part one
(Trusteeship and governance) – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 3 March 2022: UISG Online course For All the Earth – Sister Laurie Brink – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 22 February 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership/Part 2 Legacy - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 23 February 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership/Part 2 Legacy. Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 9 March 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership - Webinar 2: Legacy - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 10 March 2022: UISG/USG/PCPM Safeguarding Protocols: Sharing our common journey - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 16 March 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership/Part three Adapting to change - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 22 March 2022: Stone King: Data Protection Emergencies tactical data breach and Subject Access Request Management - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 23 March 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership/Part 3 Adapting to Change - Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 29 March 2022: SAFE and Charity Commission: Online Security and Fraud Prevention. - Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 4 April 2022: UISG Plenary Online Meeting. Embracing Vulnerability – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 5 April 2022: UISG Safeguarding. Speaking what is unspoken – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 14 April 2022: Stone King: The Essential Trustee and Governance in practice - Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 11 April 2022: Stone King and Buzzacott Walking in Partnership/Part 3 Adapting to Change - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 26 April 2022: UISG Online prayer for Plenary - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 26 April 2022: CoR Safeguarding Update for Church in England and Wales: 'Towards a Theology and Spirituality of Safeguarding' Sr Jane Bertelsen - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 25-30 April 2022: Online International Ignatian Ecospiritual Conference - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 2-6 May 2022: UISG Online Plenary Meeting – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 10 May 2022: Buzzacott: The Four M's of Good Business Management – Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 19 May 2022: Religious Safeguarding meeting with Sr. Francis Orchard - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 8 June 2022: UISG Rome Care and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults presented by Ms. Claudia Giampietro - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 8 June 2022: UISG Care and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults presented by Sr. Tiziana Merletti, SFP - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 9 June 2022: Stone King "Emerging from the Pandemic" – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ May 2022: Buzzacott Trustee training Part one. Regulatory and Governance update, Amanda Francis – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
- ◆ May 2022: Buzzacott Part two: Financial Governance – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
- ◆ May/June 2022 Stone King and Buzzacott. Walking in Partnership – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
 - Part 1 Trusteeship and Governance
 - Part 2 Legacy.
 - Part 3. Adapting to Change.
- ◆ 21 June 2022: UISG&CWR Webinar Aspects of Strategic Planning - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 11 July 2022: UISG Plenary Assembly 2022 Final Session - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 12 July 2022: Stone King: "Bringing religious workers to the UK as visitors" – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 20 July 2022: UISG&CWR Webinar Social Media and Visibility - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 12 August 2022: LCWR Assembly: Presidential address by Jane Herb, IHM – Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 13 August 2022: LCWR Assembly: Conversation with M. Shawn Copeland and Constance FitzGerald - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 16 August 2022: LCWR Assembly: Learnings from the Collaborative Leadership Hubs -- Anne Munley, IHM - Sister Susanna Park

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 17 September 2022: CRA Ted Dunn Pathways to Deep Change and Transformation in Religious Congregations Part 1 - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 26 September 2022: CRA's Ted Dunn CRA Ted Dunn Pathways to Deep Change and Transformation in Religious Congregations Part 1, Session 1 - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 30 September 2022: CRA's Ted Dunn Pathways to Deep Change and Transformation in Religious Congregations Part 2, Session 2 - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 1 October 2022: CRA Ted Dunn Pathways to Deep Change and Transformation in Religious Congregations Part 2 - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 3 October 2022: Respectful Engagement, Graced Crossroads, Ted Dunn – Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 4 October 2022: Bringing Volunteers to United Kingdom – Julianna Barker, Stone King – Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 6 October 2022: LCWR Sr Lynn Jarrell Canonical Authority and Civil Management Exercised in an Institute – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 18-19 October 2022: UISG Leadership, vulnerability and self-knowledge. Parts 1 and 2 - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 9 November 2022: Collaboration, Gather the Wisdom, Weave the Dream, Ted Dunn – Sister Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 25-26 November 2022: UISG Webinar Leadership, vulnerability and self-Knowledge: Sr. Paula Jordão, Verum Dei - Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 30 November 2022: Emerging Futures Collaborative update – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities, and assets of the charity. As a result of the international scope of their work and travel, they meet regularly to review developments with regard to the charity or its activities and make any important decisions. The trustees use electronic means to be informed and kept up to date with developments within the Congregation and the charity. When necessary, the trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, solicitors, and accountants. The day-to-day management of the charity's activities, and the implementation of policies, is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation or senior staff.

Key management

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary ("the Congregation"). Whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks, and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws, and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In November 2019, the trustees commenced using the Bankline service of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for payments by electronic transfer. This process minimises risk and ensures effective safeguards are in place. A policy for digital banking has been developed.

With the exception of the challenges faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic (see above), this work has identified two key risks for the charity which are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- ◆ Operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults including older people. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed fully to implementing the policies of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the new dedicated Religious Life Safeguarding Standard Service.
- ◆ From time to time, the charity donates significant sums in support of the wider Congregation and other organisations. The vast majority of donations sent overseas are to fund projects administered directly by members of the Congregation. Whether or not the funds are used here in Great Britain or overseas, the trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential recipient of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that, wherever possible (and always in the case of monies sent overseas), a full written report is obtained.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Sister Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Date: 23 June 2023

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies, and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with one of the trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- ◆ We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of those charged with governance and review of minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ Making enquiries of those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ Carried out substantive testing of expenditure;
- ◆ Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ Reading the minutes of meetings of trustees; and
- ◆ Enquiring of us as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

We did not identify any irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 December 2022

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

29 June 2023

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	
		2022 £	2021 £
Income from:			
Donations	1	247,601	227,601
Bank interest		2,909	483
Other income			
. Surplus on disposal of motor vehicles		—	3,059
Total income		250,510	231,143
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities			
. Co-ordination and direction of, and the provision of advice to, the Regions and Province of the Congregation	2	250,722	182,549
. Donations	4	83,099	88,139
Total expenditure		333,821	270,688
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	5	(83,311)	(39,545)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		875,997	915,542
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		792,686	875,997

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		161,953		176,538
Current assets					
Debtors	9	22,086		6,440	
Cash at bank and in hand		627,455		712,061	
		649,541		718,501	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(18,808)		(19,042)	
Net current assets			630,733		699,459
Total net assets			792,686		875,997
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds					
. General fund			630,733		699,459
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		161,953		176,538
			792,686		875,997

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Sister Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 23 June 2023

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(87,515)	(22,848)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed asset		—	10,250
Interest receivable		2,909	483
Net cash provided by investing activities	B	2,909	10,733
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(84,606)	(12,115)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2022	B	712,061	724,176
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2022	B	627,455	712,061

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

A Reconciliation of net expenditure and net movement in funds to net cash used in operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(83,311)	(39,545)
Adjustments:		
Depreciation charge	14,585	14,906
Interest receivable	(2,909)	(483)
Surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	(3,061)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(15,646)	2,263
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(234)	3,072
Net cash used in operating activities	(87,515)	(22,848)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	627,455	712,061

No separate statement of changes in net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the movements in cash and cash equivalents and movement in net cash (debt).

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2022

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2022 with comparative figures given for the year to 31 December 2021.

The accounts 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The most significant areas of adjustment and key assumptions that affect items in these accounts are the estimation of the useful life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining the depreciation charge and estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received

Income comprises donations and interest receivable.

Income recognition (continued)

Donations, including assessments and additional contributions receivable from individual Regions and Province, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

The surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal.

Expenditure recognition and the basis of apportioning costs

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- ◆ Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs specifically relating to the co-ordination and direction of advice to Regions and Province of the Congregation, donations payable and governance costs.
- ◆ The making of grants and donations is not a central part of the charity's activities. Donations are made only in cases where the trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2022

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

a. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprising functional properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these accounts at their historic cost at their date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

b. Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

◆ Furniture, fittings, and equipment	20% per annum based on cost
◆ Motor vehicles	25% per annum based on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Short term deposits and cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits i.e. current asset investments. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2022

Fund structure

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

The tangible fixed assets fund comprises the net book value of charity's tangible fixed assets, the existence of which is fundamental to the charity being able to perform its charitable work and thereby achieve its charitable objectives. The value represented by such assets should not be regarded, therefore, as realisable.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

Pension contributions

Contributions in respect to the charity's defined contribution 'stakeholder' pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they are payable to the scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 6. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2022

1 Income from: Donations

	2022 £	2021 £
Contributions from individual Regions and Province of the Congregation	247,601	227,601

2 Expenditure on: Co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation

	2022 £	2021 £
Premises costs	33,340	28,455
Sisters' living expenses	39,001	35,222
Other direct costs including travel	170,002	109,852
Governance costs (note 3)	8,379	9,020
	250,722	182,549

3 Governance costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Auditor's remuneration	8,379	9,020

4 Expenditure on: Donations

The charity makes donations to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its donations policy set out in the trustees' report.

Donations and grants payable to institutions during the period were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Donations payable	83,099	88,139

4 Expenditure on: Donations (continued)

Donations payable to institutions during the period comprised the following:

	2022 £	2021 £
Aid to the Church in Need	11,015	1,000
Australian Province of the Society of Jesus	—	2,782
CAFOD	1,000	1,000
CARE Australia	20,024	—
Caritas Manila, Australia (Covid-19 - India)	—	10,015
Caritas Mania, Australia (Haiti Appeal)	—	5,023
Comunita'di St' Egidio	7,015	—
DIF - Diocese of Lismore	10,015	—
Hagar International (Support for Afghanistan)	—	5,024
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (CovSolidarity)	—	10,015
Little Sisters of the Poor	1,000	1,000
Missionvale Care Centre Trust	3,015	3,015
Olallo House	—	1,000
Our Lady of La Salette	—	1,000
RCAOS Our Lady of La Salette and St Joseph	1,000	—
Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (Olallo House)	1,000	—
St Anne's Hospital, Harare	—	20,265
Solidarity Project	5,000	10,000
Solidarity South Sudan	—	5,000
Spires	1,000	1,000
St Anne's Church	1,000	1,000
St Anselm's Church	1,000	1,000
St Barnabas Cathedral	1,000	1,000
St George's Cathedral (Southwark)	1,000	—
St Vincent de Paul Society	2,000	2,000
The Medaille Trust	1,000	1,000
The Most Holy Trinity RC Church Dockhead	1,000	—
The Passage	2,000	2,000
The Salvation Army	2,000	2,000
Victorian Flood Appeal (Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania)	10,015	—
Payments of less than £1,000 each	—	1,000
	83,099	88,139

During the year to 31 December 2022, no grants were paid to individuals (2021 - none).

5 Net expenditure and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs (note 6)	42,493	36,970
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit fees		
.. Current year	8,379	7,980
.. Prior year	—	1,040
Depreciation	14,585	14,906
Operating lease rentals (note 11)	2,005	2,005

6 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Gross salaries	37,536	32,148
Pension costs	4,957	4,822
	42,493	36,970

There was one employee during the year (2021 - one employee) who was involved in the co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation.

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary i.e. the Congregation and whilst certain of their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees (2021 - none).

7 Taxation

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2022 and at 31 December 2022	494,214	32,673	526,887
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	326,177	24,172	350,349
Charge for the year	9,884	4,701	14,585
At 31 December 2022	336,061	28,873	364,934
Net book values			
At 31 December 2022	158,153	3,800	161,953
At 31 December 2021	168,037	8,501	176,538

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's land and buildings and their book values with the market value being considerably higher than the net book value at 31 December 2022.

At 31 December 2022, the charity had no capital commitments (2021 - none).

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2022

9 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	21,573	6,440
Sundry debtors	513	—
	22,086	6,440

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and deferred income	18,807	19,042

11 Financial commitments

At 31 December 2022, the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to equipment as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Payable:		
. Within one year	2,005	2,005
. Within one to five years	5,771	7,776
	7,776	9,781

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2022 £
At 1 January 2022	176,538
Net movements in year	(14,585)
At 31 December 2022	161,953
	2021 £
At 1 January 2021	198,633
Net movements in year	(22,095)
At 31 December 2021	176,538

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's freehold properties and other tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be available in order to meet future contingencies.

13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2021 – none) and no donations were received from the trustees (2021 - none).

14 Membership of the CIO and ultimate control

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, ex-officio be a trustee for as long as she holds that office. All other trustees are appointed by a resolution in writing by the Congregational Leader.

The Congregation does not hold any assets, incur liabilities, or enter into any transactions in its own right. Assets and liabilities of the Congregation are administered in the trustees of the charity, who undertake all transactions entered into in the course of the Congregation's charitable activities.

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161450

Accounts

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2021

Charity Registration Number
1161450

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees, and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	27

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	32
Balance sheet	33
Statement of cash flows	34
Principal accounting policies	35
Notes to the accounts	39

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees, and advisers

Trustees	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald Sister Susanna Mi Young Park Sister Patricia Mary Bell Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
Congregational Leader	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
Administrative address	Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO 28 Trinity Crescent Tooting Bec London SW17 7AE
Telephone	020 8682 0928
Charity registration number	1161450
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1st Floor, Houblon House 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP
Solicitors	Stone King LLP 13 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HJ

Trustees' report Year to 31 December 2021

The trustees present their report together with the accounts of the Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO for the year to 31 December 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 37 to 40 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction and mission

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is the administrative centre of the worldwide Congregation of the Little Company of Mary (the "Congregation") (LCM), a Roman Catholic religious congregation which is divided into six Regions/Province and ministers in eleven countries. The principal mission of the Congregation is to pray and care for the sick, the suffering and the dying.

The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care, and welfare facilities/services, in the countries of Australia, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. Each Region/Province has a high degree of autonomy and is responsible for its own financial needs. Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the "charity") acts as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities and provides assistance in an advisory capacity to the Regions/Province in their work of providing health care within the ethos of the Roman Catholic religion. The charity's expenditure is financed principally by an assessment or annual contribution from each of the Regions/Province.

Charitable objects

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion through the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on anywhere in the world by or under the directions of the Congregation as the trustees with the approval of the Congregational Leader shall think fit.

Activities and achievements

The charity has continued to provide leadership and assistance to the Congregation in implementing the Vision and Acts of the Congregational Chapter 2017. The Regions/Province have been supported in their mission and overall responsibility for health care services, hospices, aged care facilities and extensive outreach programmes, as well as the diverse ministries of prison ministry, pastoral ministry in hospitals, hospices, homes and parishes, bereavement ministry, health education ministry, counselling, spiritual direction, and refugee ministry.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Since the 18th Congregational Chapter in March 2017, the Congregational Leadership (trustees) have developed an implementation plan for the Vision and Acts of the Chapter. All processes are in place to support the activities required to address every aspect of the Vision and Acts entrusted to the Congregational Leadership on election at that Chapter.

Three Extended Council Meetings via Zoom were held in April, May, and September 2021. The agendas explored:

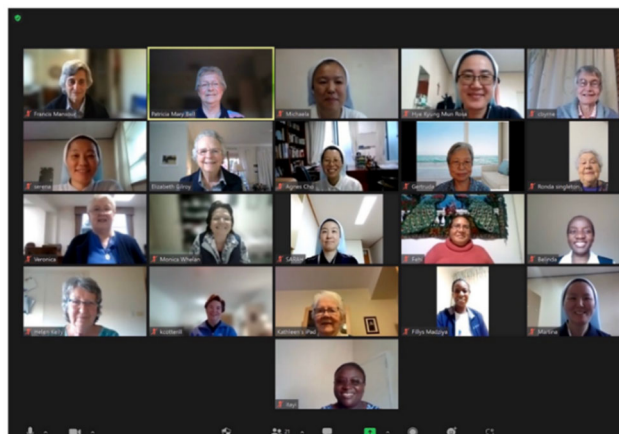
- ◆ Focus Question: *What is God inviting the Congregation to do now?* It provided a template that might be used to invite the broader Congregation into Listening for the Call of God as we begin the Chapter Journey.
- ◆ Chapter Pilgrimage;
- ◆ Chapter Letter of Convocation and process for choosing Delegates;
- ◆ Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Congregational Archive;
- ◆ Coordinator for Constitution and Directives Review Forum; and
- ◆ Stewardship for Mission Project.

The use of digital meeting processes was affirmed in review by participants.

Significant achievements towards achieving the above goals are summarised below.

Interculturality

The approach to interculturality in 2021 has been shaped by the reality of Covid-19 which has touched all but one country where sisters minister. These times of crisis - natural, economic, political, and societal - have enhanced the awareness of sisters as one Congregation. This has been supported by various Congregational calls to prayer and regular dissemination of news relevant to the countries in which LCM is situated. Ongoing education through webinar and resource sharing is offered throughout the Congregation on interculturality and intercultural living. UISG Interculturality Webinars for the Congregation and follow up with Zoom discussion/sharing meetings have been initiated.




Interculturality meeting September 2021

Activities and achievements (continued)

Spirituality

The relevance of the LCM spirit and charism has never been clearer, given the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic. To continue to promote the LCM spirit and charism as a global expression of compassion through prayer and presence, the following actions have been taken:

- ◆ Reflections written by sisters and Associates are shared monthly through the website.
 - ◆ Twice yearly Newsletter includes relevant reflections for the times.
 - ◆ As part of the Universal Church, reflections on the writings of Pope Francis are shared monthly.
 - ◆ A culture of care for creation is promoted through reflection and sponsorship of an upcoming Eco Spirituality conference in 2022. The LCM became a major sponsor in 2021 for the International Ignatian Ecospiritual Conference to be held online in April 2022.
- 
- ◆ Prayer requests are received through the Congregational and various Regions/Province websites. These intentions are held in the prayer of the sisters.
 - ◆ When requested, and only in accord with the requirements of GDPR, Novena prayers for the needs of individual sick and dying persons are said throughout the Congregation with the person's request and consent.
 - ◆ Continuing our cherished tradition of the annual Motto.

Care for our Common Home

The Interest Group has developed a statement and plan for consideration as part of shaping the future Vision through the Congregational Chapter process, using the resources of the Laudato Si Action Platform. A facilitator was engaged to assist with this project.

Increased promotion of the spirituality, mission, and ministry, including the prayer ministry globally through the use of electronic means

The Congregational website is regularly updated with monthly reflections, thoughts for the month and news and events. New social media pages have been developed by some Regions and the Province who are responsible to moderate content in keeping with relevant privacy laws.

Promotion of the LCM spirit, through the vowed life

At the Extended Council Meeting, the issue of promotion of the vowed life was explored and it was recognised that no one approach can be mandated. Each Region/Province must explore this in ways suitable and effective in the local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation was emphasised. Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the Regions/Province. In 2021, Leadership Formation programs were run by the Congregational Leadership for emerging leaders.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes

The Congregational Leadership continues to facilitate the development of the Associate programs across the Congregation. Responsibility for this rests in the local Regions/Province Leadership. Throughout 2021, many of the groups were unable to meet. However, they responded with the use of new digital technologies to ensure ongoing development. Creative ways of maintaining connection with groups across the Congregation have been sustained.

With the suspension of the LCM Heritage Centre in Nottingham, England due to health and welfare priorities and government restrictions, the Congregational Leadership were not required to support Associate pilgrimages. New approaches and encouragement to use the digital Heritage Pilgrimage resource are in place.



Affiliate and Associate Coordinators meeting August 2021

Sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, Nottingham

Whilst action had been completed in 2020 to honour the Chapter mandate and ensure future sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, the suspension of the Centre activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to one redundancy and one staff member being placed on furlough. This changed significantly the situation of sustainability. The future of the Centre will be a focus of the Congregational Leadership with the Region of the Maternal Heart, England once the pandemic situation abates.

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission

As Regions/Province take the decision to explore new ways of governance appropriate to reality and the future, the Congregational Leadership Team facilitates this through committees and roles to achieve the transition whilst being guided by the integral principles of inclusivity and relationship. The previous Provinces of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) and the Immaculate Conception (United States of America) were assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to Region in 2018. The previous Province of the Maternal Heart (UK) was assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in January 2020. The previous Province of the Sacred Heart (Ireland and Italy) has been assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in December 2021.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission
(continued)

The Congregational Leadership Team has developed and enhanced means of electronic communication and meetings with the introduction of Zooms software, providing flexibility and efficiency in the meeting process.

The CIO has policies in place to fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are reviewed regularly and were all reviewed in 2021.

Key to the success of any governance is maintaining and adapting processes of governance and management in light of civil requirements and to meet the evolving needs of the times. Enhanced technological capacity as a means of communication was essential to function both at Tooting Bec and in the new flexible governance approach or working remotely. The introduction of digital banking has proved of great help throughout 2021. Monitoring of expenditure weekly by Leadership members occurs through the use of the Clear Spend Banking App.

The Covid-19 pandemic led to governments issuing advice to their citizens to return home. Congregational Leadership members returned to their home countries in March / April 2020. Our one staff member worked from home as she chose or, when allowed by government regulation, at the CIO office. All equipment and internet connection has been provided by the LCM CIO. A Covid-19 Safe Policy and procedures were developed in 2020 and reviewed in 2021.

The ability to work remotely as the Congregational Leadership was supported by ongoing conversation with Region/Province Leaders and the development of a policy on Roles and Boundaries in Flexible Design Governance Approach, approved by them prior to implementation. As Leadership, we had the opportunity to build a foundation for relationship at Tooting Bec during the first two years and, with each of us now living in their own country separated by distance and time zones, maintaining and building this relationship is of great importance to us. The Congregational Leadership is committed to:

- ◆ Meet every Monday for a Leadership catch up by Zoom.
- ◆ Meet every Tuesday Morning for Exposition Contemplative prayer streamed from the Chapel of a Korean community.
- ◆ Following that, a social chat and cup of tea/coffee weekly by Zoom.
- ◆ Celebrate major feasts together with prayer and some form of festive sharing by Zoom.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Regions/Province level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission (continued)

Congregational Leadership is a pastoral relationship and we have endeavoured throughout our term to be in frequent contact with, and offer support for, our Region/Province Leaders, with regular visits to the various countries of the Congregation. The pandemic has changed that, but we have made the decision to commit energy to ways of engaging through calls, videoconference, letters, and emails. Our belief in the importance of relationship remains.

Mission

As noted above, the charity provides leadership and guidance to each of the Regions/Province in facilitating their work.

◆ ***Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga***

Over the last year, the sisters of the Region have developed their model of governance further due to unexpected changes to Leadership. This approach was explored further in an Assembly via Microsoft Teams in February 2021.

A Formal Pastoral Visit was made by the Congregational Leader in January – May 2021. In light of the pandemic, it was acceptable in Canon law for interviews to be done by phone or videoconference.

After a nomination process, the Region of the Southern Cross has a new Region Leadership. The term of office will be from 4 November 2021 for three years.

The Missioning of the new Region Leadership was held on 4 November 2021 via Video / Zoom with the sisters of the Region and the Congregational Leadership.

Australia

The sisters, across all age ranges, continue to carry out volunteer ministries, including assisting the frail aged, sick and the underprivileged in both residential/hospice and community care, wherever the sisters are present.



Refugees Candlelight Vigil

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

Australia (continued)

Calvary Ministries, a Pontifical Juridical Person, has the responsibility for the Little Company of Mary Health and Aged Care. The members of Calvary Ministries took up their appointment on 1 January 2011. On a regular basis, the Chairs of the Members Council and the Board of Members of Calvary Ministries meet in Rome with representatives of the Holy See.

Tonga

Sisters are involved in ministry in jails, schools, hospitals and disability services as well as parish support and catechetical work.



Climate change affecting the South Pacific

New Zealand

In New Zealand, the sisters continue to focus their financial and personnel resources on subsidised housing for the aged and on community support through volunteering.



Mary Potter Courts, Christchurch

The Region of the Southern Cross funds

- ◆ A Palliative Care programme in partnership with the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Timor Leste.
- ◆ A Counsellor Training Certificate programme in Tonga to enhance prevention of, and intervention in, domestic violence and social problems.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***Region of the Maternal Heart - UK***

The English Region continues to provide a safe, loving environment for our sisters who have spent their lives in ministry to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Many of these sisters are beyond the statutory retirement age but are contributing invaluable volunteer ministry.

The Heritage Centre is the focal point of ministry for the Region. Due to the pandemic, it was decided that there would be no pilgrimages in 2020 and 2021 during the interim closure of the Heritage Centre and no plans have been made for 2022 until further discussions are held with the Region on the way forward for the Centre. The Region decided to close the Heritage Centre during the pandemic to comply with UK legislation. The future opening and use are under review.



The Region continues to support the clinic activities in Albania financially and with administrative/evaluative visits each year. No visit was possible during 2021 due to the pandemic.



The Mary Potter Centre Hospice

◆ ***Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy***

The Little Company of Mary retains a significant involvement in the ongoing governance of the Milford Care Centre, Limerick – Hospice and Aged Care Services, as well as Community Palliative Care.



Infinity Woodland Pathway in Milford

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy** (continued)

The sisters explored partnership with another organisation to provide a property for provision of services to women at risk in Killarney.

The sisters continue to minister to the ageing in group housing and community and day care services, care for the aged or frail and sick sisters and bereavement counselling.



Prayer group, LCM sisters Ireland



LCM Sister and carer, Milford Convent

The Region continues to welcome home our Irish sisters who have spent their lives in South Africa and/or Zimbabwe.

The Sisters of the Province of the Sacred Heart have chosen a model of governance with a Region Leader and two Region Councillors. The establishment of the Region of the Sacred Heart took effect on 8 December 2021. A letter and greeting were sent to the Region from the Congregational Leadership as the use of Zoom was not possible for the sisters of the Region for the ritual of transition to the Region of the Sacred Heart.

After a nomination process, the Region of the Sacred Heart has a new Region Leadership. Their term of office will be from 8 December 2021 for three years.

Due to the pandemic, the Missioning of the Region Leadership will be held at a date to be confirmed.

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines**

Hospice and aged care continue to be the main ministries of the sisters. In each aged care and hospice centre, sisters are actively involved in hospice education for health care professionals.

The care of Palliative Care patients in the Hospice in Pocheon following discernment was changed to the care of the aged.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

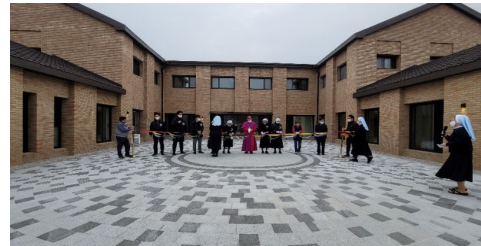
◆ ***Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines (continued)***

Sisters are working as chaplains in three general hospitals to extend the Little Company of Mary charism and spirituality of healing ministry.



LCM sisters

A new convent was built in Pocheon to accommodate ten sisters and a guest room in 2021. Blessing and opening of the building was held in November 2021.



Pocheon new convent opened November 2021

The Province of the Assumption Assembly was cancelled due to Covid-19 requirements. However, a series of discussion meetings by Zoom enabled discussion and consultation.

The Formal Pastoral Visit was made in May 2021 by the Assistant Congregational Leader. In light of the pandemic, it was acceptable in Canon law for interviews to be done by phone or videoconference.

After a nomination process, the Province of the Assumption has a new Province Leadership. Their term of office will be from 15 August 2021 for five years.

The missioning of the incoming Province Leadership was held in August on Zoom in a meaningful ceremony attended by the Congregational Leadership.

A meeting was held via Zoom in December 2021 with the Province Leadership and Congregational Leader for support and mentoring of our emerging Leaders. These meetings will occur quarterly at least.

Formation of new members will continue in Korea, when required.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines (continued)***

A new community in the Baguio Diocese, Philippines was established, and the blessing of the convent took place in August 2020 by the Bishop of Baguio. There will be a ministry of pastoral support and chaplaincy to the local National Hospital once the pandemic allows this involvement. The sisters are supporting the local community with prayer gatherings and volunteering in a local Covid-19 clinic.

◆ ***Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe***

The sisters manage Murambinda Mission Hospital – a generalist health care service in Buhera District, one of the poorest districts of Zimbabwe.

The sisters continue to provide pastoral care and home visiting in a number of hospitals and local communities where they reside.

Missionvale, founded by an LCM Sister, is effectively managed, and used by the people in the township. Included in its activities are a feeding programme, clothing bank, rural health clinic, and a kindergarten to grade 8 with plans to take it up to grade 12.

Inpatient facilities for HIV/AIDS ministry continue in Mashambanzou Waterfalls, Harare and Murambinda in Zimbabwe. These provide essential medical and social services for the local people in impoverished communities.



LCM sisters

The trustees approved the request from the Region Leadership to partner and provide services through the re-opening of St Anne's' Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2020 to care for those affected by Covid-19. Throughout 2021 the main focus has been for those suffering from Covid-19.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)

The Congregational Leadership supported this through the provision of funds and the coordination of financial support from across the Congregation.

The Region of the Queen Peace Gathering was held from 23-28 February 2021. A Congregational Councillor presented a Congregational overview on behalf of the Congregational Leader at this through a digital presentation.

After a nomination process, the Region of the Queen of Peace has a new Region Leadership. Their term of office will be from 1 November 2021 for three years.

The Missioning of the new Region Leadership was held on 1 November 2021 via Video / Zoom with the sisters of the Region and Congregational Leadership.

The Congregational Leader delivered the UISG *Leadership of consecrated life for a world in gestation* by Zoom in August/September 2021, a five week program to the incoming Region Leadership.

A meeting was held via Zoom in December 2021 with the Region Leadership and Congregational Leader for support and mentoring of our emerging Leaders. These meetings will occur quarterly at least.

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America**

The Congregational Leadership continues to support the Region to develop a future governance plan for the one remaining sponsored ministry, the Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.



After a simple process of nomination, the Region of the Immaculate Conception re-appointed their current Region Leadership. Their term of office will from 1 October 2021 for three years.

Donations policy

When planning their budget at the beginning of the year, the trustees agree to set aside a certain amount for the organisations whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity. These organisations are usually known to the sisters and include the missions of the International Regions and Province of the Little Company of Mary. The donations are decided upon by the trustees and applications from other organisations are considered on an individual basis.

The donations policy was reviewed and amended in 2019 to increase the amount to be directed to donations with a particular focus on support for refugees and eradication of Human Trafficking.

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO established an Emergency Charitable Fund of £50,000 within the Congregational budget to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation. The funds are sourced at the time of the annual assessment from the Regions / Province with available funds. These monies are extra to the annual assessment and are recorded and managed as a separate cost centre. The annual limit is £50,000 and funds are sought annually to replace what has been dispensed and top up the fund. The Congregational Leader with consent of Council will authorise the use of this fund. The funds will be allocated through reputable Charities / Foundations / Appeals. Receipts are required and expenditure is reported to the Congregation at the time of the donation and in more detail to the Region / Province Leadership in the annual assessment process when top up funds are sought.

Donations from the Congregation coordinated by the CIO trustees include:

1. Region of Queen of Peace, South Africa, and Zimbabwe - support for those affected by Covid-19 and the Region during pandemic - £10,000.
2. Caritas Australia - support for India during the pandemic - £10,000.
3. Hagar Australia - gender-based violence and human trafficking, Afghanistan - £5,000.
4. Caritas Australia - earthquake disaster relief for Haiti - £5,000.
5. Solidarity with Sudan - supporting programmes being implemented and especially as the country suffers from the pandemic - £10,000.
6. UISG CovSolidarity - support for Congregations affected by Covid-19 - £10,000.

“Approximately 15,400 vulnerable people in Afghanistan have benefitted from Hagar’s Emergency Response so far. Hagar has been one of the very few NGOs on the ground that have been permitted to provide humanitarian support at this time.” Extract from Hagar newsletter.

“In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sustainable Agriculture-Remediation project has been operational. It was still possible to support many families. The project was favoured by the fact that it took place for the most part in rural areas where population density is lower and outdoor activities are carried out, which exposes people to a lower risk of infection”. Extract from Solidarity with Sudan newsletter

Fundraising policy

The charity's fundraising activity is negligible. However, it aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communication and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react and to investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Covid-19

The pandemic has had an impact on the trustees. A flexible design has been fully implemented as a new governance model and all trustees have been following their own Governments' advice, returning to their own countries to live and operate remotely. Trustees will return to the UK for shorter periods of time when it is safe to travel. Trustees are fully utilising social media to remain in contact with sisters throughout the world. Significant meetings and pastoral visits have been postponed until it is safe to travel. Trustees meet weekly via Zoom for prayer, support, sharing of information and decision making. Our one employed staff member is working from home in accordance with government advice and all aspects of health and safety have been addressed.

CIO income from pensions received has decreased with these pensions being retained in Australia to support the living costs of trustees now living in Australia. Expenditure has been reduced with all travel ceased until safe to do so. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review. Whilst there will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position.

A Covid-19 Secure Risk Assessment and Control Plan for the CIO Office at Tooting Bec was developed in September 2020 and reviewed in 2021.

Financial review

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 32 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year amounted to £231,143 (2020 - £257,296). This includes assessments from the individual Regions and Province of the Congregation totalling £177,613 (2020 - £197,613), and additional contributions from Regions and Province of £49,988 (2020 - £57,176). Bank interest amounted to £483 (2020 - £2,507) and the surplus on the disposal of a motor vehicle amounted to £3,059 (2020 - £nil).

Expenditure amounted to £270,688 (2020 - £288,194). Such expenditure includes the cost of co-ordinating and advising the Regions and Province of the Congregation as well as donations payable. Details of donations payable are included in note 4 to the accounts.

Therefore, the net expenditure and the net decrease in funds for the year to 31 December was £39,545 (2020 - £30,898). At 31 December 2021, the net assets of the charity amounted to £875,997 (2020 - £915,542).

Financial review *(continued)*

Investment policy

The trustees have considered the cash requirements for the various projects they are involved in and have adopted a policy of keeping available funds in special interest-bearing deposit accounts and a treasury deposit account. These provided an average return of less than 1% during the period but, given the level of risk the trustees are willing to undertake and the current economic environment especially in the wake of Covid-19, the returns are deemed satisfactory. An Ethical Investment Policy has been adopted by the charity.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain between two and three years of regular operating expenditure in free reserves (reserves not designated or invested in fixed assets). The trustees consider this level of free reserves to be appropriate given the charity's responsibility as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities, where in the event of an urgent need in any Region/Province, immediate financial assistance can be provided. The trustees will continue to keep this policy under review.

Financial position

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £875,997 (2020 - £915,542). The tangible fixed assets fund totals £176,538 (2020 - £198,633) and is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the charity.

Funds available to co-ordinate and provide advice on the Congregation's worldwide activities in the future are shown as general funds on the balance sheet and amount to £699,459 (2020 - £716,909). The trustees are of the opinion that the free reserves are adequate but not excessive. The continuing worldwide economic uncertainties mean that the trustees must have the flexibility to react quickly should the Regions or Province have urgent need of financial resources. As such, the trustees believe it prudent to retain these reserves at the current time. This level of reserves is deemed appropriate, and the trustees are content that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

The future plans of the charity are as follows:

- ◆ An Extended Council meeting via Zoom is planned for February 2022. This will assist in shaping the work of Congregational Leadership currently and towards Chapter 2023.
- ◆ The Formal Pastoral Visit to the Region of the Queen of Peace, will be made in February 2022 by Congregational Leader via Zoom.
- ◆ Trustees continue to attend appropriate educational meetings and webinars that will inform them of recent changes in the charity law that relates to the charity.
- ◆ L&P Cantor Fitzgerald of Dublin, Ireland have been engaged to conduct a Congregational Resource Assessment during 2021 in preparation for the 2023 Congregational Chapter. The assessment is called Stewardship for Mission Project. The final report is due by 8 April 2022.

Future plans *(continued)*

- ◆ An LCM Postdoctoral Research Fellow Project will be explored and consulted on with the Extended Council. The project will focus on the growth, and in particular the first sixty years of the Congregation's existence, up to its entry into modern day Zimbabwe. It will consider the early leaders of these international foundations and the stories of the sisters who pioneered these initiatives.
- ◆ Exploration and planning to address the future of the Congregation will continue.
- ◆ Discussions with St Egidio community Florence regarding financial support in 2022 for their Refugee and Humanitarian Project.
- ◆ The Chapter Pilgrimage has commenced with the engagement of the sisters throughout the Congregation. The 19th Congregational Chapter will be held in Seoul, Republic of South Korea from 16-30 April 2023.

Governance, structure, and management

Governing document and background

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is an incorporated charitable organisation, currently governed by a constitution dated 5 March 2018. It is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number: 1161450. The original constitution dated 28 April 2015 was amended by a Resolution dated 5 March 2018.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 April 2015. The charity's activities commenced on 1 July 2015 following the transfer of activities, assets and liabilities from a charitable trust called the Generalate Community of the Little Company of Mary. From the date of the transfer, the charitable trust became dormant and has since been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Membership of the CIO

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Trustees

The charity has four trustees: the Congregational Leader and three Congregational Councillors. The trustees are elected for a term of six years at the Congregational Chapter by the elected delegates of the Congregation's membership. The current trustees were elected in March 2017 at the Eighteenth Congregational Chapter held in Newry, Northern Ireland, and began their term of office on 2 July 2017 as trustees of the incorporated charitable organisation.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts and brief biographical details of each of the trustees in office at the year-end is given below.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

◆ *Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald* – Congregational Leader

Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald has spent over forty years in health, aged and community care clinical at management and governance levels. She entered the Congregation in 1983. Her initial professional background was in General and Midwifery Nursing. To prepare for a position as a Director of Nursing, she completed a Bachelor of Health Science and a Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management. After completing this role and in order to transition to a different role within the Little Company of Mary health care services, Sister Bernadette completed a Master of Theology (Distinction), a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics. Each qualification was undertaken to ensure that she was able to fulfil the roles of Director of Mission and National Director of Mission for LCM Health Care Services. Her background in governance included Director positions on the Boards of Governance of Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, Calvary Health Care Adelaide, as a trustee on the Board of Catholic Health Care Services New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory and a Member on the Members Council of Calvary Ministries Limited Australia (all Catholic Australian health and aged care organisations). She was a member of the Executive of Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes (New South Wales). Sister Bernadette served as the Province Leader of the Province of the Holy Spirit (Australia) from 2011 to 2015 and of the newly formed Province of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga) from 2015 until her election in 2017 as the Congregational Leader, Little Company of Mary at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

◆ *Sister Susanna Mi Young Park* – Congregational Councillor

Sister Susanna Park entered the Congregation in 1986 in Korea. Before joining the Little Company of Mary, she qualified as a pharmacist in 1982 in Korea and completed a master's degree of pharmacology from Daegu Catholic University in 1984. She worked at Calvary Clinic in GangNeung from 1989 to 1993, at Morhyun Home Care Hospice in Seoul from 1994 to 1996 and at the Catholic University of Korea UijeongBu St Mary's Hospital from 1996 to 1998 as a pharmacist. She served as the Province Leader of the Assumption Province and as a trustee of the Little Company of Mary Sisters South Korea from 1999 to 2005 and again from 2011 to 2016. She obtained a postgraduate diploma of Mariology at Lampeter University in the UK in 2008. She was a member of a community of the Heritage Centre of the Little Company of Mary in Nottingham from 2009 to 2011. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ **Sister Patricia Mary Bell** – Congregational Councillor
Sister Patricia Mary Bell has been a sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1976 and has a wide range of experience in health care in Australia. Having graduated from Nursing at Lewisham, Sydney, she later undertook her midwifery at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, and Oncology at the College of Nursing. She has had wide experience in nursing in medical, surgical, midwifery and especially in palliative care, her "great love". Previously, Sister Patricia Mary has held Charge Sister positions at Lewisham, Wagga Wagga, Hobart, Canberra and Coordinator of Hospice Home Care at Bethlehem, Melbourne and was Director of Mission in Hobart from 1996 until 2005. She has Grief Line and Life Line Counselling Certificates. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2004, a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor/trustee in 2005. Returning to Australia in 2011 she ministered as a Volunteer in the Community Palliative Care Team at Kogarah, was involved with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking), provided support to refugees and asylum seekers in detention and was the Province Coordinator for the Affiliates and Associates for the Little Company of Mary. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity and as Congregational Treasurer.

- ◆ **Sister Elizabeth Gilroy** – Congregational Councillor
Sister Elizabeth Gilroy has a professional background in General and Midwifery Nursing, with over 30 years' experience in specialist areas of Operating Theatre, Accident and Emergency and Labour Ward nursing. She also has had several years as Health and Safety Registered Nurse at Qantas Airways. She has had further experience at Governance Levels of the Province Leadership Team and a Director of the Corporation of the Little Company of Mary Holy Spirit Province, Australia. She has experience in formation and ongoing education with further studies in theology, attained a Master of Arts with a Major in Pastoral Counselling and Pastoral Ministry, Boston USA and a Certificate in Effective Group Leadership Skill Training with a Diploma in Spiritual Direction and Counselling. Her professional experience also includes Spiritual Companion for Calvary Ministries, (Health Care), Australia; Consultant for National Office for LCM Health Care assisting in formulating LCM National Leadership Development Programmes; and Pastoral Counsellor at Franciscan Counselling Service, Boston USA. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as a Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

Trustee Formation

Representatives of the Congregational Leadership attended the following meetings and conferences during the period:

- ◆ 17 January 2020: Webinar: Sustainability in the Spirit of the Integral Ecology of Laudato Si – Sister Susanna Park;

- ◆ 14 January 2021: Association of Provincial Bursars Open Forum – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald;

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 24 January 2021: Webinar: Realizing the Vision of Laudato Si run by UISG – Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 28 January 2021: Religious Formation Conference: Naming the Present Moment. Father Ron Rolheiser – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 12 February 2021: Charity Commission for England and Wales: Holding, Moving, and Receiving Funds Safely when Working Internationally – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 13 February 2021: CICLSAL Safeguarding Webinar 1 – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 13 February 2021: Multimedia International: Creating an Ever More Beautiful Precious World presentation by Sister Anne Marie Sanders IHM – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 15 February 2021: Catch up view – Catholic Religious Australia Emerging Futures Collaborative 9 November 2020. CRA Interculturality Video #1 – Exploring Interculturality, Father Tim Norton SVD. CRA Interculturality Video #2 – Interculturality and Community Living, Sister Geraldine Kearney SGS - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 16 February 2021: Catch up view - CRA Interculturality Video #3 - Interculturality and Leadership. CRA Interculturality Video #4 – Interculturality Beyond Borders 2019, Sister Theresia Tina RSM - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 24 February 2021: Stone King Virtual Charity Training: The Essential Trustee and Governance in Practice – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald and Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 17 March 2021: Charity Commission for England and Wales Webinar: Charities and Safeguarding in an International Context - Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 20 March 2021: UISG Safeguarding and Canonical Provisions - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 22 March 2021: USG-UISG Joint Assembly meetings 2021. Becoming Brothers, Becoming Sisters for a Wounded World - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 22 March 2021: UISG Sisters Empowering Sisters - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 31 March 2021: Stone King Webinar: Safeguarding; a Governance Perspective, by Sarah Clune - Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 2 April 2021: Centre Christian Studies, Durham Webinar on Recovering the Importance of the Archives of Religious Congregations – Hanna Thomas, John Mc Cafferty, Liam Temple, Scholastic Jacob – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 6 April 2021: Stone King Webinar: Safeguarding a Governance perspective, by Sarah Clune – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 6 April 2021: Threshold of Hope Video, Ireland, Deirdre Ni Chinneide – Sister Patricia Mary Bell, Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 10-11 April 2021: Webinar: Hidden Histories Part I /2 by Durham University Centre for Catholic Studies – Sister Susanna Park.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 12 April 2021: UISG Webinar: Safe Environments in Initial and Ongoing Formation to Religious Life - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 12 April 2021: UISG Webinar: Becoming Intercultural: Perspectives on Mission - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 17 April 2021: UISG Webinar: Communicating for Advocacy - Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 22 April 2021: Ethical and responsible investment namely: climate change and sanctity of life issues. Richard Maitland and Alexander True, Sarasin & Partners, Amanda Francis, Buzzacott and Alexandra Steffensen, Stone King - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 30 April 2021: Becoming Sisters, Becoming Brothers UISG / USG Plenary Assembly Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 30 April 2021: APB Webinar: Safeguarding, Implementation, and Recommendations of Elliott Report with Father David Smolira SJ - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 2 May 2021: The Future of Catholicism in Australia: Sister Joan Chittister OSB. The Eight Spiritual Mountains of the Church - Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 3 May 2021: Future Church: Women Erased, Women Religious by Sandra Schneider IHM - Sister Patricia Mary Bell, Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 4 May 2021: Future Church: Women Erased, Women Religious by Sandra Schneider IHM - Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 4 May 2021: Becoming Intercultural: Perspectives on Mission: Father Steve Bevens SVD - Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 6 May 2021: Buzzacott's Charity Accounts for Non-accountants, Planning and Reflection, Amanda Francis and Gumayel Miah – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 6 May 2021: Buzzacott's Charity Accounts for Non-accountants, Planning and Reflection, Amanda Francis – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 12 May 2021: UISG Webinar: Safe Environments and Formation - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 16 May 2021: Leading in Times of Crisis - Sister Miriam Altenhoffen SSpS Parts 1-5 – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 16 May 2021: Centre for Catholic Studies Durham Hidden Histories Parts 1-2 - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 17 May 2021: The Future of Catholicism in Australia, Sister Joan Chittister - Sister Patricia Mary Bell, Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 26-28 May 2021: UISG & USG online Meeting - Becoming Sisters, Becoming Brothers, Consecrated Life at the Service of Fraternity in a Wounded World - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 26 May 2021: Webinar from UISG - Intercultural Sensitivity, Tim Norton – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 2 June 2021: Catholic Religious Australia webinar: The Risen Life, Timothy Radcliffe OP - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 2 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Terminology and Definition, Roger Schroder SVD - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 2 June 2021: Webinar from CRA – The Risen Life, Timothy Radcliffe OP - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 3 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – The Value of Interculturality in Religious Life, Tim Norton, and Pat Murray - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 5-13 June 2021: UISG Online Course on Interculturality and Religious Life – Sister Susanna Park
- ◆ 7 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Personality and Culture, Atenhofen - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 7 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Interculturality and Spirituality, Personal and Local Levels, Roger Schroder SVD - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 8 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Intercultural Journey of Jesus, Adriana Milmanda SSPS - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 9 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Sociocentric and Individual-centric Cultures, Power and Distance, Roger Schroder SVD and Maria Nguyen OSB - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 9 June 2021: Webinar from UISG – Interculturality and Leadership in Consecrated Life, Pernia - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 12 June 2021: Archival Resources for Catholic Collection: Legal issues in Archives Practice - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 12 June 2021: UISG Safeguarding Final Session - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 13 June 2021: UISG How to Organize a Meeting or a Course with ZOOM: Technical and Facilitation Tools (previous presentation on YouTube) - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 8-9 July 2021: UISG Assembly Webinars 26, 27, 28 May 2021 – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 5 August 2021: Webinar: Arise - Supporting work of Sisters against Slavery – Greg Burke, Luke de Pulford, and Sister Catherine Espenila - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 13 August 2021: Webinar: Missioning Emerging Futures Collaborative – CRA - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 21 August 2021: UISG Webinar: Sisters Empowering Women - Sister Susanna Park.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 22 August 2021: Ongoing Formation: Elizabeth Johnson CSJ Talk on Laudato Si. "Enfolded With Affection". Imagining 'Us in Creation Theology' Most Important Encyclical Written in the History of Encyclicals, CTU Chicago – Sister Elizabeth Gilroy.
- ◆ 15 September 2021: Webinar: Aberdeen Standard Capital - Charity Commission Development Affecting Investments and Companies in Transition to Lower Carbon Future – Julie Hutchison and Ben Turner - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 23 September 2021: Charity Commission Webinar: Charities and safeguarding in an international context - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 25 September 2021: UISG - Intercultural Sensitivity, Tim Norton UISG – Terminology and Definition, Roger Schroder SVD UISG – The Value of Interculturality in Religious Life, Tim Norton, and Pat Murray - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 27 September 2021: UISG - Interculturality and Religious Life – Adriana Milmanda UISG – Personality and Culture, Miriam Atenhofen UISG – Interculturality and Gender Miriam Atenhofen. - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 27 September 2021: Formation Webinar: Hildegard of Bingen, Matthew Fox - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 29 September 2021: Virtual Charity Training: The Essential Trustee and Governance in Practice - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 29 September 2021: Charity Commission: Holding, Moving, and Receiving Funds Safely when working Internationally – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 5 October 2021: UISG – Interculturality and Spirituality, Personal and Local Levels, Roger Schroder UISG – Interculturality and Spirituality Charism and Heritage II – Adriana Milmanda UISG – Intercultural Journey of Jesus, Adriana Milmanda SSPS UISG – Intercultural Journey of the Early Church, Roger Schroder / Tim Norton - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 5 October 2021: UISG Webinar: Sisters Empowering Women: Nurturing Peace: Social Friendship and Dialogue - Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 6 October 2021: UISG Interculturality and the Digital Age - Peter Nahr UISG – Sociocentric and Individual-centric Cultures, Power and Distance, Roger Schroder, and Maria Nguyen UISG – Interculturality and Leadership in Consecrated Life, Antonio Pernia UISG – Christian Leadership in Intercultural Communities, Pat Murray / Tim Norton - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 26 October 2021: UISG Safeguarding - Changes in Penal Canon Law – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 29 October 2021: London Jesuit Centre webinar: Towards a Safer Church, A Conversation with Hans Zollner SJ - Sister Susanna Park.
- ◆ 8 November 2021: Emerging Futures Collaborative - Sharing on Shaping the Future - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 8 November 2021: COREW Father Hans Zollner SJ Safeguarding - Towards a Safer Church - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 10 November 2021: Towards a Safer Church, London Jesuit Centre, Father Hans Zolliner SJ - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 11 November 2021: APB Conference October 2021 - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
 - Investing for the Kingdom and the Bursar's Mission in the 21st Century – Catherine Cowley.
 - Guardians of Creation Project.
 - Immigration Considerations for Religious - Stone King – Julie Moktadir.
- ◆ 17 November 2021: Broken Bay Institute, Sydney Australia: Governance and the Catholic Church - Father Brian Lucas – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 23-24 Nov 2021: Catholic Religious Australia Interculturality and Prophetic Leadership – Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 23-25 Nov 2021: CRA Conference via ZOOM – Embracing Mission- Interculturality and Prophetic Leadership – Teresa Maya CCVI and Kevin O'Neill SSC – Sister Patricia Mary Bell.
- ◆ 26 November 2021: UISG Informed Consent and Advanced Declarations of Treatment - Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 26 November 2021: Faith and Climate Change – Dr Carmody Grey, Leeds, UK - Sister Patricia Mary Bell.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities, and assets of the charity. As a result of the international scope of their work and travel, they meet regularly to review developments with regard to the charity or its activities and make any important decisions. The trustees use electronic means to be informed and kept up to date with developments within the Congregation and the charity. When necessary, the trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, solicitors, and accountants. The day-to-day management of the charity's activities, and the implementation of policies, is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation or senior staff.

Key management

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary ("the Congregation"). Whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks, and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws, and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In November 2019, the trustees commenced using the Bankline service of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for payments by electronic transfer. This process minimises risk and ensures effective safeguards are in place. A policy for digital banking has been developed.

Governance, structure, and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

With the exception of the challenges faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic (see above), this work has identified two key risks for the charity which are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- ◆ Operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults including older people. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed fully to implementing the policies of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

- ◆ From time to time, the charity donates significant sums in support of the wider Congregation and other organisations. The vast majority of donations sent overseas are to fund projects administered directly by members of the Congregation. Whether or not the funds are used here in Great Britain or overseas, the trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential recipient of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that, wherever possible (and always in the case of monies sent overseas), a full written report is obtained.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Date: 6/7/22

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies, and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with one of the trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); and
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of those charged with governance and review of minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Carried out substantive testing of expenditure;
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading the minutes of meetings of trustees; and
- Enquiring of us as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

We did not identify any irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 December 2021

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

23 August 2022

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	
		2021 £	2020 £
Income from:			
Donations	1	227,601	254,789
Bank interest		483	2,507
Other income			
. Surplus on disposal of motor vehicles		3,059	—
Total income		231,143	257,296
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities			
. Co-ordination and direction of, and the provision of advice to, the Regions and Province of the Congregation	2	182,549	212,384
. Donations	4	88,139	75,810
Total expenditure		270,688	288,194
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	5	(39,545)	(30,898)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		915,542	946,440
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		875,997	915,542

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		176,538		198,633
Current assets					
Debtors	9	6,440		8,703	
Cash at bank and in hand		712,061		724,176	
		718,501		<u>732,879</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(19,042)		<u>(15,970)</u>	
Net current assets			699,459		716,909
Total net assets			875,997		<u>915,542</u>
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds					
. General fund			699,459		716,909
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		176,538		198,633
			875,997		<u>915,542</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 6/7/22

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(22,848)	(6,005)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		—	(1,567)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed asset		10,250	—
Interest receivable		483	2,507
Net cash provided by investing activities	B	10,733	940
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(12,115)	(5,065)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2021	B	724,176	729,241
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2021	B	712,061	724,176

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2021

A Reconciliation of net expenditure and net movement in funds to net cash used in operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(39,545)	(30,898)
Adjustments:		
Depreciation charge	14,906	19,621
Interest receivable	(483)	(2,507)
Surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets	(3,061)	—
Decrease in debtors	2,263	5,677
Increase in creditors	3,072	2,102
Net cash used in operating activities	(22,848)	(6,005)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	712,061	724,176

No separate statement of changes in net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the movements in cash and cash equivalents and movement in net cash (debt).

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2021

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2021 with comparative figures given for the year to 31 December 2020.

The accounts 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The most significant areas of adjustment and key assumptions that affect items in these accounts are the estimation of the useful life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining the depreciation charge and estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received

Income comprises donations and interest receivable.

Income recognition (continued)

Donations, including assessments and additional contributions receivable from individual Regions and Province, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

The surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal.

Expenditure recognition and the basis of apportioning costs

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- ◆ Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs specifically relating to the co-ordination and direction of advice to Regions and Province of the Congregation, donations payable and governance costs.
- ◆ The making of grants and donations is not a central part of the charity's activities. Donations are made only in cases where the trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2021

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

a. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprising functional properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these accounts at their historic cost at their date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

b. Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

◆ Furniture, fittings, and equipment	20% per annum based on cost
◆ Motor vehicles	25% per annum based on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Short term deposits and cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits i.e. current asset investments. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2021

Fund structure

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

The tangible fixed assets fund comprises the net book value of charity's tangible fixed assets, the existence of which is fundamental to the charity being able to perform its charitable work and thereby achieve its charitable objectives. The value represented by such assets should not be regarded, therefore, as realisable.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

Pension contributions

Contributions in respect to the charity's defined contribution 'stakeholder' pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they are payable to the scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 6. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2021

1 Income from: Donations

	2021 £	2020 £
Contributions from individual Regions and Province of the Congregation	227,601	254,789

2 Expenditure on: Co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation

	2021 £	2020 £
Premises costs	28,455	41,863
Sisters' living expenses	35,222	46,130
Other direct costs	109,852	115,369
Governance costs (note 3)	9,020	9,022
	182,549	212,384

3 Governance costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Auditor's remuneration	9,020	9,022

4 Expenditure on: Donations

The charity makes donations to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its donations policy set out in the trustees' report.

Donations and grants payable to institutions during the period were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Donations payable	88,139	75,810

4 Expenditure on: Donations (continued)

Donations payable to institutions during the period comprised the following:

	2021	2020
	£	£
American Red Cross	—	10,015
Aid to the Church in Need	1,000	11,000
Australian Province of the Society of Jesus	2,782	—
Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Victoria, Australia	—	2,500
Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Tasmania, Australia	—	2,500
CAFOD	1,000	1,000
Caritas Manila, Australia (Covid-19 - India)	10,015	—
Caritas Mania, Australia (Haiti Appeal)	5,023	—
Caritas Manila, Philippines	—	1,015
Hagar International (Support for Afghanistan)	5,024	—
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (Covid)	—	10,015
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (Migrants Sicily)	—	5,000
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (CovSolidarity)	10,015	—
Little Sisters of the Poor	1,000	1,000
Missionvale Care Centre Trust	3,015	3,765
NSW Rural Fire Service Bushfire Appeal	—	2,500
Olallo House	1,000	—
Our Lady of La Salette	1,000	1,000
St Anne's Hospital, Harare	20,265	—
Solidarity Project	10,000	—
Solidarity South Sudan	5,000	11,000
South Australian Government State Emergency Bushfire Relief Fund	—	2,500
Spires	1,000	1,000
St Anne's Church	1,000	1,000
St Anselm's Church	1,000	2,000
St Barnabas Cathedral	1,000	1,000
St Vincent de Paul Society	2,000	2,000
The Medaille Trust	1,000	1,000
The Passage	2,000	1,000
The Salvation Army	2,000	1,000
Payments of less than £1,000 each	1,000	1,000
	88,139	75,810

During the year to 31 December 2021, no grants were paid to individuals (2020 - none).

5 Net expenditure and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	36,970	41,406
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit fees		
.. Current year	7,980	7,600
.. Prior year	1,040	1,422
Depreciation	14,906	19,621
Operating lease rentals (note 11)	2,005	1,794

6 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2021 £	2020 £
Gross salaries	32,148	36,584
Pension costs	4,822	4,822
	36,970	41,406

There was one employee during the year (2020 - one employee) who was involved in the co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Province of the Congregation.

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary i.e. the Congregation and whilst certain of their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees (2020 - none).

7 Taxation

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2021	494,214	32,673	19,174	546,061
Disposals	—	—	(19,174)	(19,174)
At 31 December 2021	494,214	32,673	—	526,887
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	316,293	19,150	11,985	347,428
Charge for the year	9,884	5,022	—	14,906
Disposals	—	—	(11,985)	(11,985)
At 31 December 2021	326,177	24,172	—	350,349
Net book values				
At 31 December 2021	168,037	8,501	—	176,538
At 31 December 2020	177,921	13,523	7,189	198,633

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's land and buildings and their book values with the market value being considerably higher than the net book value at 31 December 2021.

At 31 December 2021, the charity had no capital commitments (2020 - none).

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2021

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	6,440	5,763
Sundry debtors	—	2,940
	6,440	8,703

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals and deferred income	19,042	15,970

11 Financial commitments

At 31 December 2021, the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to equipment as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Payable:		
. Within one year	2,005	1,794
. Within one to five years	7,776	—
	9,781	1,794

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2021 £
At 1 January 2021	198,633
Net movements in year	(22,095)
At 31 December 2021	176,538
	2020 £
At 1 January 2020	216,687
Net movements in year	(18,054)
At 31 December 2020	198,633

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's freehold properties and other tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be available in order to meet future contingencies.

13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2020 – none) and no donations were received from the trustees (2020 - none).

14 Membership of the CIO and ultimate control

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, ex-officio be a trustee for as long as she holds that office. All other trustees are appointed by a resolution in writing by the Congregational Leader.

The Congregation does not hold any assets, incur liabilities, or enter into any transactions in its own right. Assets and liabilities of the Congregation are administered in the trustees of the charity, who undertake all transactions entered into in the course of the Congregation's charitable activities.

LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY CONGREGATION CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161450

Accounts

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2020

Charity Registration Number
1161450

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	24

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	29
Balance sheet	30
Statement of cash flows	31
Principal accounting policies	32
Notes to the accounts	36

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald Sister Susanna Mi Young Park Sister Patricia Mary Bell Sister Elizabeth Gilroy
Congregational Leader	Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald
Administrative address	Little Company of Mary Congregation 28 Trinity Crescent Tooting Bec London SW17 7AE
Telephone	020 8682 0928
Charity registration number	1161450
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 1st Floor, Houblon House 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8HP
Solicitors	Stone King LLP 13 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HJ

Trustees' report Year to 31 December 2020

The trustees present their report together with the accounts of the Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO for the year to 31 December 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 34 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction and mission

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is the administrative centre of the worldwide Congregation of the Little Company of Mary (the "Congregation") (LCM), a Roman Catholic religious congregation which is divided into six Provinces/Regions and ministers in eleven countries. The principal mission of the Congregation is to pray and care for the sick, the suffering and the dying.

The ministries of the Congregation are expressed in the provision of health, aged care and welfare facilities/services, in the countries of Australia, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. Each Province/Region has a high degree of autonomy and is responsible for its own financial needs. Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the "charity") acts as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities and provides assistance in an advisory capacity to the Provinces/Regions in their work of providing health care within the ethos of the Roman Catholic religion. The charity's expenditure is financed principally by an assessment or annual contribution from each of the Provinces/Regions.

Charitable objects

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion through the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on anywhere in the world by or under the directions of the Congregation as the trustees with the approval of the Congregational Leader shall think fit.

Activities and achievements

The charity has continued to provide leadership and assistance to the Congregation in implementing the Vision and Acts of the Congregational Chapter 2017. The Provinces/Regions have been supported in their mission and overall responsibility for health care services, hospices, aged care facilities and extensive outreach programmes, as well as the diverse ministries of prison ministry, pastoral ministry in hospitals, hospices, homes and parishes, bereavement ministry, health education ministry, counselling, spiritual direction and refugee ministry.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Since the 18th Congregational Chapter in March 2017, the Congregational Leadership (trustees) have developed an implementation plan for the Vision and Acts of the Chapter. All processes are in place to support the activities required to address every aspect of the Vision and Acts entrusted to the Congregational Leadership on election at that Chapter.

An Extended Council Meeting via Microsoft Teams was held on 14 September 2020. Its aim was for Leaders to become familiar with the new Congregational Facilitator who will assist in work towards the Chapter in 2023. Its agenda explored:

- ◆ The reality of Provinces/Regions;
- ◆ Issues facing Provinces/Regions; and
- ◆ Issues facing the Congregation in our reality.

The use of digital meeting processes was affirmed in review by participants.

Significant achievements towards achieving the above goals are summarised below.

Interculturality

The approach to interculturality in 2020 has been shaped by the reality of Covid-19 which has touched all but one country where sisters minister. These times of crisis - natural, economic, political and societal have enhanced the awareness of sisters as one Congregation. This has been supported by various Congregational calls to prayer and regular dissemination of news relevant to the countries in which LCM is situated. Ongoing education through webinar and resource sharing is offered throughout the Congregation on interculturality and intercultural living.

Spirituality

The relevance of the LCM spirit and charism has never been clearer, given the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic. To continue to promote the LCM spirit and charism as a global expression of compassion through prayer and presence, the following actions have been taken:

- ◆ Reflections written by sisters and Associates shared monthly through website.
- ◆ Twice yearly Newsletter includes relevant reflections for the times.
- ◆ As part of the Universal Church, reflections on the writings of Pope Francis are shared monthly.
- ◆ A culture of care for creation is promoted.
- ◆ Prayer requests are received through the Congregational and various Province/Regions websites. These intentions are held in the prayer of the Sisters.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Spirituality (continued)

- ◆ When requested, and only in accord with the requirements of GDPR, Novena prayers for the needs of individual sick and dying persons are said throughout the Congregation with the person's request and consent.

Increased promotion of the spirituality, mission and ministry, including the prayer ministry globally through the use of electronic means

The Congregational website is regularly updated with monthly reflections, thoughts for the month and news and events. New social media pages have been developed by some Provinces and Regions who are responsible to moderate content in keeping with relevant privacy laws.

Promotion of the LCM spirit, through the vowed life

At the Extended Council Meeting, the issue of promotion of the vowed life was explored and it was recognised that no one approach can be mandated. Each Province/Region must explore this in ways suitable and effective in the local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation was emphasised. Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the Provinces/Regions. In 2020, the Region of the Southern Cross was supported by the Congregational Leadership to discern the way forward in terms of vocation promotion.

Promotion of the LCM spirit through global development of Affiliate and Associate programmes

Congregational Leadership continue to facilitate the development of the Associate programs across the Congregation. Responsibility for this rests in the local Province/Region Leadership. Throughout 2020, some groups were unable to meet. However, others responded with the use of new digital technologies to ensure ongoing development.

With the closure of the LCM Heritage Centre in Nottingham, England due to health and welfare priorities and government restrictions, Congregational Leadership were not required to support Associate pilgrimages. New approaches and encouragement to use the digital Heritage Pilgrimage resource are in place.

Sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, Nottingham

Whilst action had been completed in 2020 to honour the Chapter mandate and ensure future sustainability of the LCM Heritage Centre, the closure of the Centre due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to one redundancy and one staff member being placed on furlough. This changed significantly the situation of sustainability. The future of the Centre will be a focus of the Congregational Leadership with the Region of the Maternal Heart, England once the pandemic situation abates.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Province/Region level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission

As Provinces/Regions take the decision to explore new ways of governance appropriate to reality and the future, the Congregational Leadership Team facilitates this through committees and roles to achieve the transition whilst being guided by the integral principles of inclusivity and relationship. The previous Provinces of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand and Tonga) and the Immaculate Conception (United States of America) have been assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to Region in 2018. The previous Province of the Maternal Heart (UK) has been assisted by the Congregational Leader to transition to a Region in January 2020. Throughout 2020, the Province of the Sacred Heart (Ireland and Italy) has been supported to discern its future. The Sisters of the Province are empowered to determine the future governance structure, with a hope for a decision mid-2021.

The Congregational Leadership Team has developed and enhanced means of electronic communication and meetings with the introduction of Microsoft Teams software, providing flexibility and efficiency in the meeting process.

The CIO has policies in place to fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are reviewed regularly and were all reviewed in 2020.

Key to the success of any governance is maintaining and adapting processes of governance and management in light of civil requirements and to meet the evolving needs of the times. Enhanced technological capacity as a means of communication was essential to function both at Tooting Bec and in the new flexible governance approach or working remotely. The introduction of digital banking has proved of great help throughout 2020. Monitoring of expenditure weekly by Leadership members occurs through the use of the Clear Spend Banking App.

The Covid-19 pandemic led to governments issuing advice to its citizens to return home. Congregational Leadership members returned to their home countries in March/April 2020. The one staff member worked from home as she chose, or when allowed by government regulation, at the CIO office. All equipment and internet connection has been provided by the LCM CIO.

The ability to work remotely as Congregational Leadership was supported by ongoing conversation with Province/Region Leaders and the development of a policy on Roles and Boundaries in Flexible Design Governance Approach, approved by them prior to implementation. As Leadership, we had the opportunity to build a foundation for relationship at Tooting Bec during the first two years and with each of us now living in their own country separated by distance and time zones maintaining and building this relationship is of great importance to us. The Congregational Leadership are committed to:

- ◆ Meet every Monday for a Leadership catch up by Microsoft Teams.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Effective models of governance at Congregational and Province/Region level through flexible design and ongoing evolution of models to support life and mission
(continued)

- ◆ Meet every Tuesday Morning for Exposition Contemplative prayer streamed from the Chapel of a Korean community.
- ◆ Following that, a social chat and cup of tea/coffee weekly by Microsoft Teams.
- ◆ Celebrate major feasts together with prayer and some form of festive sharing by Microsoft Teams.

Congregational Leadership is a pastoral relationship and we have endeavoured throughout our term to be in frequent contact with, and offer support for, our Province/Region Leaders, with regular visits to the various countries of the Congregation. The pandemic has changed that, but we have made the decision to commit energy to ways of engaging through calls, videoconference, letters and emails. Our belief in the importance of relationship remains.

Mission

As noted above, the charity provides leadership and guidance to each of the Provinces/Regions in facilitating their work.

- ◆ ***Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga***
Over the last year the Sisters of the Region have developed their model of governance further due to unexpected changes to Leadership. This approach has been explored further in an Assembly via Microsoft Teams in February 2021.

Plans are in place for a Formal Pastoral Visit by the Congregational Leader in 2021.

Australia

Calvary Ministries, a Pontifical Juridical Person, has the responsibility for the Little Company of Mary Health and Aged Care. The members of Calvary Ministries took up their appointment on 1 January 2011. On a regular basis, the Chairs of the Members Council and the Board of Members of Calvary Ministries meet in Rome with representatives of the Holy See.

The sisters, across all age ranges, continue to carry out volunteer ministries, including assisting the frail aged, sick and the underprivileged in both residential/hospice and community care, wherever the sisters are present.

Stage one of the new Residential Aged Care Facility at Calvary Ryde was completed in September 2020.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Southern Cross - Australia/Aotearoa - New Zealand/Tonga**
(continued)

Tonga

Sisters are involved in ministry in jails, schools, hospitals and disability services as well as parish support and catechetical work.

New Zealand

In New Zealand, the sisters continue to focus their financial and personnel resources on subsidised housing for the aged and on community support through volunteering.



The Region of the Southern Cross funds:

- ◆ A Palliative Care programme in partnership with the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Timor Leste.
- ◆ A Counsellor Training Certificate programme in Tonga to enhance prevention of, and intervention in, domestic violence and social problems.
- ◆ **Region of the Maternal Heart - UK**
The English Region continues to provide a safe, loving environment for our sisters who have spent their lives in ministry to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Many of these sisters are beyond the statutory retirement age but are contributing invaluable volunteer ministry.

The Heritage Centre is the focal point of ministry for the Region. Due to the pandemic, it was decided that there would be no pilgrimages in 2020 during the interim closure of the Heritage Centre and no plans have been made for 2021 until further discussions are held with the Region on the way forward for the Centre. The Region decided to close the Heritage Centre during the pandemic to comply with UK legislation. The future opening and use is under review.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Maternal Heart – UK (continued)**

The Region continues to support the Clinic activities in Albania financially and with administrative/evaluative visits each year. No visit was possible during 2020 due to the pandemic.



The sisters of the Province of the Maternal Heart have chosen a model of governance with a Region Leader and Assistant Region Leader. The establishment of the Region of the Maternal Heart took effect on 1 January 2020. Three trustees attended the ritual of transition to the Region of the Maternal Heart and the Missioning of the Region Leadership.



◆ **Province of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy**

The Little Company of Mary retains a significant involvement in the ongoing governance of the Milford Care Centre, Limerick – Hospice and Aged Care Services, as well as Community Palliative Care.



The new Milford Care Centre Palliative Care Wing

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ ***Province of the Sacred Heart – Ireland and Italy (continued)***

Sisters are also developing a partnership with another organisation in Killarney to provide housing for women at risk.

The sisters continue to minister to the ageing in group housing and community and day care services, care for the aged or frail and sick sisters and bereavement counselling.



The Sisters in 2020 explored partnership with another organisation to provide a property for provision of services to women at risk in Killarney.

The Province continues to welcome home our Irish sisters who have spent their lives in South Africa and/or Zimbabwe.

The Congregational Leader supports a process in each Province to review the reflection on the Act of Chapter which requires consideration of the shape of governance for the future. The Province of the Sacred Heart has commenced a process of discernment in 2020 which will be resolved in mid-2021.

◆ ***Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines***

Hospice and aged care continue to be the main ministries of the sisters. In each aged care and hospice centre, sisters are actively involved in hospice education for health care professionals.

The care of Palliative Care patients in the Hospice in Pocheon following discernment was changed to the care of the aged.

Sisters are working as chaplains in three general hospitals to extend the Little Company of Mary charism and spirituality of healing ministry.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Province of the Assumption – South Korea and the Philippines** (continued)



Sisters, in conjunction with the local parish church of Brgy San Miguel Chapel, Diocese of Pasig in Manila had established a feeding, education programme and basic health clinic for the street children and those living in the nearby cemetery of San Miguel. The San Miguel Feeding Center and the community in Taguig city, Manila were closed in July 2020 due to the changes in the Governments movement policy and regional environment.

A new community in the Baguio Diocese, Philippines was established and the blessing of the convent took place in August 2020 by the Bishop of Baguio. There will be a ministry of pastoral support and chaplaincy to the local National Hospital once the pandemic allows this involvement.



Formation House Manila: The property, at 19 Betty Go Belmonte Street, Manila, funded by the charity, has been used more recently for formation by the Province of the Assumption. In 2019, the Leadership of the Province was supported by the Congregational Leadership to review this situation and it determined the withdrawal from stewardship of the House in 2020. The Formation House was sold to another Congregation and closed in June 2020. Formation of new members will continue in Korea, when required.

Plans are in place for a Formal Pastoral Visit by the Assistant Congregational Leader in 2021.

Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

♦ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe**

The Sisters manage Murambinda Mission Hospital – a generalist health care service in Buhera District, one of the poorest districts of Zimbabwe.

The sisters continue to provide pastoral care and home visiting in a number of hospitals and local communities where they reside.

Missionvale, founded by an LCM Sister, is effectively managed and used by the people in the township. Included in its activities are a feeding programme, clothing bank, rural health clinic, and a kindergarten to grade 8 with plans to take it up to grade 12.

Inpatient facilities for HIV/AIDS ministry continues in Mashambanzou Waterfalls, Harare and Murambinda in Zimbabwe. These provide essential medical and social services for the local people in impoverished communities.

A trustee attended the Region Gathering, on behalf of the Congregational Leader, during a visit February/March 2020.

Two Sisters were finally professed into the Congregation in December 2020 in Zimbabwe.



The Trustees approved the request from Region Leadership to partner and provide services through the re-opening of St Anne's' Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2020 to care for those affected by Covid-19.

Congregational Leadership supported this through the provision of funds and the coordination of financial support from across the Congregation.



Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

◆ **Region of the Immaculate Conception - United States of America**

A trustee made an Informal Pastoral Visit to the Region of the Immaculate Conception to attend the handover of Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centre's to OSF Healthcare, USA in January 2020. The Congregational Leadership continues to support the Region to develop a future governance plan for the one remaining sponsored ministry, the Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana.



Donations policy

When planning their budget at the beginning of the year, the trustees agree to set aside a certain amount for the organisations whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity. These organisations are usually known to the sisters and include the missions of the International Regions and Provinces of the Little Company of Mary. The donations are decided upon by the trustees and applications from other organisations are considered on an individual basis.

The donations policy was reviewed and amended in 2019 to increase the amount to be directed to donations with a particular focus on support for refugees and eradication of Human Trafficking.

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO established an Emergency Charitable Fund of £50,000 within the Congregational budget for 2020 to support those affected by natural world disasters on behalf of the Congregation. The funds are sourced at the time of the annual assessment from the Provinces/Regions with available funds. These monies are extra to the annual assessment and are recorded and managed as a separate cost centre. The annual limit is £50,000 and funds are sought annually to replace what has been dispensed and top up the fund. The Congregational Leader with consent of Council will authorise the use of this fund. The funds will be allocated through reputable Charities/Foundations/Appeals. Receipts are required and expenditure reported to the Congregation at time of donation and in more detail to Province/Region Leadership in the annual assessment process when top up funds are sought.

Donations from the Congregation coordinated by the CIO Trustees include:

1. NSW, Australia Rural Fire Service bushfire appeal - £2,500
2. State Emergency Bushfire Relief Fund South Australia - £2,500

Donations policy (continued)

3. Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Tasmania, Australia - £2,500
4. Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Victoria, Australia - £2,500
5. Caritas Manila, Philippines, Volcano Disaster Relief - £1,000
6. UISG Rome, support for Congregations affected by Covid-19 - £10,000
7. Solidarity with Sudan, support for programmes in South Sudan struggling during Covid-19 - £5,000
8. Aid to the Church in Need, disaster relief after chemical eruption in Lebanon - £10,000
9. Solidarity with Sudan, second request for support during Covid-19 - £1,000
10. American Red Cross, Disaster relief West Coast USA, Bushfire Appeal - £10,000

Fundraising policy

The charity's fundraising activity is negligible. However, it aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communication and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react and to investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Covid-19

The pandemic has had an impact on the trustees. A flexible design has been fully implemented as a new Governance model and all trustees have been following their own Governments' advice, returning to their own countries to live and operate remotely. Trustees will return to the UK for shorter periods of time when it is safe to travel. Trustees are fully utilising social media to remain in contact with sisters throughout the world. Significant meetings and pastoral visits have been postponed until it is safe to travel. Trustees meet weekly via Microsoft Teams for prayer, support, sharing of information and decision making. Our one employed staff member is working from home in accordance with government advice and all aspects of health and safety have been addressed.

CIO income from pensions received has decreased with these pensions being returned to Australia to support the living costs of trustees now living in Australia. Expenditure has been reduced with all travel ceased till safe to do so. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review. Whilst there will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position.

A Covid-19 Secure Risk Assessment and Control Plan for the CIO Office at Tooting Bec was developed in September 2020.

Financial review

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 29 of the attached accounts.

Total income for the year amounted to £257,296 (2019 - £215,001). This includes assessments from the individual Regions and Provinces of the Congregation totalling £197,613 (2019 - £185,938), and additional contributions from Regions and Provinces of £57,176 (2019 - £24,521). Bank interest amounted to £2,507 (2019 - £4,542).

Expenditure amounted to £288,194 (2019 - £333,326). Such expenditure includes the cost of co-ordinating and advising the Regions and Provinces of the Congregation as well as donations payable. Details of donations payable are included in note 4 to the accounts.

Therefore, the net expenditure and the net decrease in funds for the year to 31 December was £30,898 (2019 - net expenditure and net decrease in funds of £118,325). At 31 December 2020, the net assets of the charity amounted to £915,542 (2019 - £946,440).

Investment policy

The trustees have considered the cash requirements for the various projects they are involved in and have adopted a policy of keeping available funds in special interest bearing deposit accounts and a treasury deposit account. These provided an average return of less than 1% during the period but, given the level of risk the trustees are willing to undertake and the current economic environment especially in the wake of Covid-19, the returns are deemed satisfactory. An Ethical Investment Policy has been adopted by the charity.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain between two and three years of regular operating expenditure in free reserves (reserves not designated or invested in fixed assets). The trustees consider this level of free reserves to be appropriate given the charity's responsibility as co-ordinator of the Congregation's worldwide activities, where in the event of an urgent need in any Province/Region, immediate financial assistance can be provided. The trustees will continue to keep this policy under review.

Financial position

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £915,542 (2019 - £946,440). The tangible fixed assets fund totals £198,633 (2019 - £216,687) and is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the charity.

Funds available to co-ordinate and provide advice on the Congregation's worldwide activities in the future are shown as general funds on the balance sheet and amount to £716,909 (2019 - £729,753). The trustees are of the opinion that the free reserves are adequate but not excessive. The continuing worldwide economic uncertainties mean that the trustees must have the flexibility to react quickly should Provinces or Regions have urgent need of financial resources. As such, the trustees believe it prudent to retain these reserves at the current time. Given the challenges that will arise in the short to medium term as a result of Covid-19 and in the light of the charity's commitment to support the Congregation for the long term, this level of reserves is deemed appropriate and the trustees are content that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

The future plans of the charity are as follows:

- ◆ The Region of the Southern Cross Assembly will be held by Microsoft Teams 21 - 26 February 2021 and the Congregational Leader will attend given this precedes a possible change of Leadership. A Formal Pastoral Visit to the Region of the Southern Cross will be made in 2021.
- ◆ The Region of the Queen Peace Gathering will be held from 23 - 28 February 2021. A Congregational Councillor will present a Congregational overview on behalf of the Congregational Leader at this through digital presentation.
- ◆ The Province of the Assumption Gathering will be held across a series of weekends in February/March 2021. A Congregational Councillor will present a Congregational overview on behalf of the Congregational Leader at this through digital presentation.
- ◆ An Extended Council meeting via Microsoft Teams is planned for April 2021. This will assist in shaping the work of Congregational Leadership currently and towards Chapter 2023.
- ◆ The Formal Pastoral Visit to the Province of the Assumption, South Korea, will be made in April/May 2021 by the Assistant Congregational Leader.
- ◆ Trustees continue to attend appropriate educational meetings and webinars that will inform them of recent changes in the charity law that relate to the charity.
- ◆ L&P Cantor Fitzgerald of Dublin, Ireland have been engaged to conduct a Congregational Resource Assessment during 2021 in preparation for the 2023 Congregational Chapter. The assessment is called Stewardship for Mission Project.
- ◆ Exploration and planning to address the future of the Congregation will continue.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document and background

Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is an incorporated charitable organisation, currently governed by a constitution dated 5 March 2018. It is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number: 1161450. The original constitution dated 28 April 2015 was amended by a Resolution dated 5 March 2018.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 April 2015. The charity's activities commenced on 1 July 2015 following the transfer of activities, assets and liabilities from a charitable trust called the Generalate Community of the Little Company of Mary. From the date of the transfer, the charitable trust became dormant and has since been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Membership of the CIO

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Trustees

The charity has four trustees: the Congregational Leader and three Congregational Councillors. The trustees are elected for a term of six years at the Congregational Chapter by the elected delegates of the Congregation's membership. The current trustees were elected in March 2017 at the Eighteenth Congregational Chapter held in Newry, Northern Ireland, and began their term of office on 2 July 2017 as trustees of the incorporated charitable organisation.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts and brief biographical details of each of the trustees in office at the year end is given below.

- ◆ *Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald* – Congregational Leader
Sister Bernadette Fitzgerald has spent over forty years in health, aged and community care clinical at management and governance levels. She entered the Congregation in 1983. Her initial professional background was in General and Midwifery Nursing. To prepare for a position as a Director of Nursing, she completed a Bachelor of Health Science and a Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management. After completing this role and in order to transition to a different role within the Little Company of Mary health care services, Sister Bernadette completed a Master of Theology (Distinction), a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics. Each qualification was undertaken to ensure that she was able to fulfil the roles of Director of Mission and National Director of Mission for LCM Health Care Services. Her background in governance included Director positions on the Boards of Governance of Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, Calvary Health Care Adelaide, as a trustee on the Board of Catholic Health Care Services New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory and a Member on the Members Council of Calvary Ministries Limited Australia (all Catholic Australian health and aged care organisations). She was a member of the Executive of Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes (New South Wales). Sister Bernadette served as the Province Leader of the Province of the Holy Spirit (Australia) from 2011 to 2015 and of the newly formed Province of the Southern Cross (Australia, New Zealand and Tonga) from 2015 until her election in 2017, as the Congregational Leader, Little Company of Mary at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Susanna Mi Young Park* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Susanna Park entered the Congregation in 1986 in Korea. Before joining the Little Company of Mary, she qualified as a Pharmacist in 1982 in Korea and completed a master's degree of Pharmacology from Daegu Catholic University in 1984. She worked at Calvary Clinic in GangNeung from 1989 to 1993, at Morhyun Home Care Hospice in Seoul from 1994 to 1996 and at the Catholic University of Korea UijeongBu St Mary's Hospital from 1996 to 1998 as a pharmacist. She served as the Province Leader of the Assumption Province and as a trustee of the Little Company of Mary Sisters South Korea from 1999 to 2005 and again from 2011 to 2016. She obtained a postgraduate diploma of Mariology at Lampeter University in the UK in 2008. She was a member of a community of the Heritage Centre of the Little Company of Mary in Nottingham from 2009 to 2011. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

- ◆ *Sister Patricia Mary Bell* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Patricia Mary Bell has been a sister of the Little Company of Mary since 1976 and has a wide range of experience in health care in Australia. Having graduated from Nursing at Lewisham, Sydney, she later undertook her midwifery at St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney and Oncology at the College of Nursing. She has had wide experience in nursing in medical, surgical, midwifery and especially in palliative care, her "great love". Previously, Sister Patricia Mary has held Charge Sister positions at Lewisham, Wagga Wagga, Hobart, Canberra and Coordinator of Hospice Home Care at Bethlehem, Melbourne and was Director of Mission in Hobart from 1996 until 2005. She has Grief Line and Life Line Counselling Certificates. She was elected as Province Councillor for Australia in 2004, a role she held until her election as Congregational Councillor/trustee in 2005. Returning to Australia in 2011 she ministered as a Volunteer in the Community Palliative Care Team at Kogarah, was involved with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking), provided support to refugees and asylum seekers in detention and was the Province Coordinator for the Affiliates and Associates for the Little Company of Mary. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity and as Congregational Treasurer.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

- ◆ *Sister Elizabeth Gilroy* – Congregational Councillor
Sister Elizabeth Gilroy has a professional background in General and Midwifery Nursing, with over 30 years' experience in specialist areas of Operating Theatre, Accident and Emergency and Labour Ward nursing. She also has had several years as Health and Safety Registered Nurse at Qantas Airways. She has had further experience at Governance Levels of the Province Leadership Team and a Director of the Corporation of the Little Company of Mary Holy Spirit Province, Australia. She has experience in Formation and ongoing Education with further studies in Theology, attained a Master of Arts with a Major in Pastoral Counselling and Pastoral Ministry, Boston USA and a Certificate in Effective Group Leadership Skill Training with a Diploma in Spiritual Direction and Counselling. Her professional experience also includes Spiritual Companion for Calvary Ministries, (Health Care), Australia; Consultant for National Office for LCM Health Care assisting in formulating LCM National Leadership Development Programmes; and Pastoral Counsellor at Franciscan Counselling Service, Boston USA. In March 2017, at the LCM Congregational Chapter in Northern Ireland, she was elected as the Congregational Councillor for a period of 6 years and consequently is serving as a trustee of the charity.

Trustee Formation

Representatives of the Congregational Leadership attended the following meetings and conferences during the period:

- ◆ 17 January 2020: Webinar: Sustainability in the spirit of the integral ecology of Laudato Si – Sr Susanna Park;
- ◆ 22 January 2020: Webinar: The meeting on Leadership in Intercultural Communities – Sr Susanna Park, Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald;
- ◆ 7-9 February 2020: Charisms in Communion: The Prophecy of Chiara Lubich held at Castel Gandolfo, Italy - Sr Patricia Mary Bell;
- ◆ 19 February 2020: Webinar: Interculturality Questions and Answers Sr Pat Murray UISG - Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald, Sr Elizabeth Gilroy and Sr Susanna Park;
- ◆ 22 February 2020: Pre-Lent Day of reflection: Contemplating the word of God - Sr Patricia Mary Bell and Sr Elizabeth Gilroy;
- ◆ 25 February 2020: Webinar: Criteria for Discernment in the Economic Field - Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald;
- ◆ 24 March 2020: Webinar: Interculturality as witness - Sr. Bernadette Fitzgerald and Sr Susanna Park;
- ◆ 31 March 2020: Webinar: Charity Training: Immigration issues for charities – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald;

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 1 April 2020: Webinar: Covid-19: How to better manage stress and anxiety in these uncertain times UISG – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald and Sr Susanna Park;
- ◆ 21 April 2020: Webinar: How to face the social and personal grief, Covid-19 - Sr Susanna Park and Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald.
- ◆ 5 May 2020: Webinar; Covid-19: Re-imagining the future - How spirituality and the proper charism can help Religious Life to be generative in this time by Sr. Teresa Gilstj and Fr. David Kinnear Glenday, mccj - Sr Susanna Park
- ◆ 7 May 2020: UISG Webinar: UISG Re-imagining the future: How spirituality can help Religious Life to be generative in this time - Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 13 May 2020: Stone King Webinar, "How to manage Charity Finances in a positive and practical way"- Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 22 May 2020: Webinar: Nonviolent communication and social media by Nicholas T. Schafer - Sr Susanna Park
- ◆ 10 June 2020: Webinar: Laudato Si' Reflecting on a Global Plan by Fr. Albert Parise, mccj, Sr. Catharine Barange, Sisters of St. Joseph de Lyons and Laura Noctor-King - Sr Susanna Park
- ◆ 18 June 2020: Buzzacott Webinar: Adapting financial governance in the light of Covid-19 - Sr Susanna Park
- ◆ 1 July 2020: Webinar: New Challenges for a Spirituality of Ecojustice. Covid-19 A New Call to Justice Making. Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu, Liverpool Justice and Peace Assembly - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 5 July 2020: Buzzacott Webinar: Adapting Financial Governance in Light of Covid-19 - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 8 July 2020: Webinar: Professor Ernesto Caffo, UISG – Care of Children after Lockdown - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 9 July 2020: Webinar: Fr Hans Zollner SJ – Safeguarding Online in Times of Lockdown - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 22 July 2020: UISG Telco: Canon law in Covid-19 – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 22 July 2020: Sarasin and Partners Webinar: Paris Defiant or Paris Compliant- Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 23 July 2020: Potheccray, Witham, Weld Webinar: helping Charities Through and Out of Lockdown- Sr Patricia Mary Bell

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 10 August 2020: Webinars attended by Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
 - Safeguarding and A Theology of Childhood
 - Victimology and the Relational Safety Model
 - Safeguarding online in times of lockdown
 - Care for children after lockdown

- ◆ 3 September 2020: Webinars attended by Sr Patricia Mary Bell
 - Safeguarding and A Theology of Childhood
 - Victimology and the Relational Safety Model

Sr Patricia has previously completed the other two units of the program

- ◆ 30 July - 16 September 2020: Laudato Si' Animators online training course run by Global Catholic Climate Movement - Sr Susanna Park

- ◆ 7 -18 September 2020: Webinars attended by Sr Susanna Park
 - Safeguarding and A Theology of Childhood
 - Victimology and the Relational Safety Model
 - Safeguarding online in times of lockdown
 - Care for children after lockdown

- ◆ 15 September 2020: COREW Webinar: Interacting with Survivors Webinar – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald

- ◆ 6 October 2020: Webinar APB Mini Conference Canon Law – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald

- ◆ 6 October 2020: RBS Webinar: Fraud Awareness by Andy May - Sr Patricia Mary Bell and Sr Elizabeth Gilroy

- ◆ 6 October 2020: APB Webinars. Financing Projects Abroad; accountancy and tax implications. Looking at both internal projects abroad and independent ones. Adam Halsey, Partner, Haysmacintyre Accountants – Sr Patricia Mary Bell

- ◆ 6 Oct -14 Nov 2020: Five weeks' program Leaders for a Consecrated Life in a World in Gestation online leadership course run by UISG and USG – Sr Susanna Park and Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustee formation (continued)

- ◆ 7 October 2020: Employment Law Libby Hubbard, Anthony Collins Solicitors – Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 7 October 2020: What is Good Investment? Ed Kirwan, Willie Hartley-Russell, Dr James Corah and Celia Waring from CCLS - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 13 October 2020: Webinar: Online Conversation with Fr. Augusto Zampini regarding “Fratelli tutti”- Sr Susanna Park and Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 14 October 2020: Acting Now WATAC – Laudato Si Eco-Theologies and Advocacy – Jaqui Remond and Dianne Rayson – Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 3 November 2020: Stone King Webinar: Virtual Charity Training: Managing Change, Restructure, Redundancy and Employee Support – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 5, 6, 20 Nov 2020 UISG Leadership for Consecrated Life in a world in Gestation 5 modules completed – Sr Patricia Mary Bel
- ◆ 25 November 2020: Webinar by Charity Commission - Running your international charity during the Covid-19 outbreak – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 2 December 2020: UISG Leadership in Religious Communities during Covid-19 – Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald
- ◆ 9 December 2020: Joint Charity Commission and National Crime Agency webinar: Recovering with Integrity- Charities united against corruption internationally - Sr Patricia Mary Bell
- ◆ 10 December 2020: Webinar, CICLSAL - The gift of fidelity, the joy of perseverance - Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ observe the methods and principles of 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. As a result of the international scope of their work and travel, they meet regularly to review developments with regard to the charity or its activities and make any important decisions. The trustees use electronic means to be informed and kept up to date with developments within the Congregation and the charity. When necessary, the trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, solicitors and accountants. The day to day management of the charity's activities, and the implementation of policies, is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation or senior staff.

Key management

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary ("the Congregation"). Whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In November 2019 the trustees commenced using the Bankline service of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for payments by electronic transfer. This process minimises risk and ensures effective safeguards are in place. A policy for digital banking has been developed.

With the exception of the challenges faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic (see above), this work has identified two key risks for the charity which are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- ◆ Operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults including older people. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed fully to implementing the policies of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS).
- ◆ From time to time, the charity donates significant sums in support of the wider Congregation and other organisations. The vast majority of donations sent overseas are to fund projects administered directly by members of the Congregation. Whether or not the funds are used here in Great Britain or overseas, the trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential recipient of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that, wherever possible (and always in the case of monies sent overseas), a full written report is obtained.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Date: 12 July 2021

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with one of the trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); and
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of those charged with governance and review of minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Tested the authorisation of expenditure;
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading the minutes of meetings of trustees; and
- Enquiring of as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

We did not identify any irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 December 2020

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

20 July 2021

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	
		2020 £	2019 £
Income from:			
Donations	1	254,789	210,459
Bank interest		2,507	4,542
Total income		257,296	215,001
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities			
. Co-ordination and direction of, and the provision of advice to, the Regions and Provinces of the Congregation	2	212,384	305,379
. Donations	4	75,810	27,947
Total expenditure		288,194	333,326
Net expenditure and net movement in funds	5	(30,898)	(118,325)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020		946,440	1,064,765
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		915,542	946,440

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		198,633		216,687
Current assets					
Debtors	9	8,703		14,380	
Cash at bank and in hand		724,176		729,241	
		732,879		743,621	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(15,970)		(13,868)	
Net current assets			716,909		729,753
Total net assets			915,542		946,440
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds					
. General fund			716,909		729,753
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		198,633		216,687
			915,542		946,440

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Patricia Mary Bell

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 12 July 2021

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities	A		
Net cash used in operating activities		(6,005)	(108,744)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,567)	(7,226)
Interest receivable		2,507	4,542
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	B	940	(2,684)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(5,065)	(111,428)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2020	B	729,241	840,669
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2020	B	724,176	729,241

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2020

A Reconciliation of net expenditure and net movement in funds to net cash used in operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net expenditure and net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(30,898)	(118,325)
Adjustments:		
Depreciation charge	19,621	19,567
Interest receivable	(2,507)	(4,542)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	5,677	(1,338)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	2,102	(4,106)
Net cash used in operating activities	(6,005)	(108,744)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	724,176	729,241

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2020

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 December 2020 with comparative figures given for the year to 31 December 2019.

The accounts 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The most significant areas of adjustment and key assumptions that affect items in these accounts are the estimation of the useful life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining the depreciation charge and estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

Whilst acknowledging the continuing effects that Covid-19 will have on the charity's operations with regards to the next accounting period, the trustees have concluded that there will be minimal impact on the charity's income and expenditure. Consequently, their belief is that Covid-19 will not cast any significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern especially given its reserve levels. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations and interest receivable.

Donations, including assessments and additional contributions receivable from individual Provinces and Regions, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

The surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal.

Expenditure recognition and the basis of apportioning costs

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- ◆ Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs specifically relating to the co-ordination and direction of advice to Provinces and Regions of the Congregation, donations payable and governance costs.
- ◆ The making of grants and donations is not a central part of the charity's activities. Donations are made only in cases where the trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2020

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

a. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprising functional properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these accounts at their historic cost at their date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

b. Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

◆ Furniture, fittings and equipment	20% per annum based on cost
◆ Motor vehicles	25% per annum based on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Short term deposits and cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits i.e. current asset investments. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2020

Fund structure

General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

The tangible fixed assets fund comprises the net book value of charity's tangible fixed assets, the existence of which is fundamental to the charity being able to perform its charitable work and thereby achieve its charitable objectives. The value represented by such assets should not be regarded, therefore, as realisable.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

Pension contributions

Contributions in respect to the charity's defined contribution 'stakeholder' pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they are payable to the scheme. The charity's contributions are restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 6. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Notes to the accounts Year to 31 December 2020

1 Income from: Donations

	2020 £	2019 £
Contributions from individual Regions and Provinces of the Congregation	254,789	210,459

2 Expenditure on: Co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Provinces of the Congregation

	2020 £	2019 £
Premises costs	41,863	45,810
Sisters' living expenses	46,130	64,541
Other direct costs	115,369	186,574
Governance costs (note 3)	9,022	8,454
	212,384	305,379

3 Governance costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Auditor's remuneration	9,022	8,454

4 Expenditure on: Donations

The charity makes donations to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its donations policy set out in the trustees' report.

Donations and grants payable to institutions during the period were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Donations payable	75,810	27,947

4 Expenditure on: Donations (continued)

Donations payable to institutions during the period comprised the following:

	2020 £	2019 £
American Red Cross	10,015	—
Aid to the Church in Need	11,000	2,000
Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Victoria, Australia	2,500	—
Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal Tasmania, Australia	2,500	—
CAFOD	1,000	1,000
Caritas Manila, Philippines	1,015	—
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (Covid)	10,015	—
International Union Superiors General (UISG) (Migrants Sicily)	5,000	—
Little Sisters of the Poor	1,000	1,000
Missionvale Care Centre Trust	3,765	—
NSW Rural Fire Service Bushfire Appeal	2,500	—
Our Lady of La Salette	1,000	1,000
Solidarity South Sudan	11,000	10,020
South Australian Government State Emergency Bushfire Relief Fund	2,500	—
Spires	1,000	1,000
St Anne's Church	1,000	1,000
St Anselm's Church	2,000	1,000
St Barnabas Cathedral	1,000	2,000
St Vincent de Paul Society	2,000	1,000
The Archbishop Romero Trust	—	1,000
The Medaille Trust	1,000	1,000
The Passage	1,000	1,000
The Salvation Army	1,000	1,000
Wailing Women Ministries	—	1,000
Payments of less than £1,000 each	1,000	1,927
	75,810	27,947

During the year to 31 December 2020, no grants were paid to individuals (2019 - none).

5 Net expenditure and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs (note 6)	41,406	34,682
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit fees		
.. Current year	7,600	7,050
.. Prior year	1,422	1,404
Depreciation	19,621	19,567
Operating lease rentals (note 11)	2,466	2,687

6 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2020 £	2019 £
Gross salaries	36,584	29,954
Pension costs	4,822	4,728
	41,406	34,682

There was one employee during the year (2019 - one employee) who was involved in the co-ordination and direction of, and provision of advice to, individual Regions and Provinces of the Congregation.

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All of the trustees are members of the Little Company of Mary i.e. the Congregation and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees (2019 - none).

7 Taxation

The Little Company of Mary Congregation CIO is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2020	494,214	31,106	19,174	544,494
Additions	—	1,567	—	1,567
At 31 December 2020	494,214	32,673	19,174	546,061
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	306,409	14,207	7,191	327,807
Charge for the year	9,884	4,943	4,794	19,621
At 31 December 2020	316,293	19,150	11,985	347,428
Net book values				
At 31 December 2020	177,921	13,523	7,189	198,633
At 31 December 2019	187,805	16,899	11,983	216,687

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's land and buildings and their book values with the market value being considerably higher than the net book value at 31 December 2020.

At 31 December 2020 the charity had no capital commitments (2019 - none).

9 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Prepayments	5,763	13,908
Sundry debtors	2,938	472
	8,703	14,380

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals and deferred income	15,970	13,868

11 Financial commitments

At 31 December 2020 the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to equipment which expire as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Payable:		
. Within one year	1,794	2,466
. Within one to five years	—	1,794
	1,794	4,260

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2020 £
At 1 January 2020	216,687
Net movements in year	(18,054)
At 31 December 2020	198,633

	2019 £
At 1 January 2019	229,028
Net movements in year	(12,341)
At 31 December 2019	216,687

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's freehold properties and other tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be available in order to meet future contingencies.

13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2019 – none) and no donations were received from the trustees (2019 - none).

14 Membership of the CIO and ultimate control

The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex-officio the sole member of the CIO. If the CIO is wound up, the member of the CIO has no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The Congregational Leader for the time being shall automatically, ex-officio be a trustee for as long as she holds that office. All other trustees are appointed by a resolution in writing by the Congregational Leader.

The Congregation does not hold any assets, incur liabilities or enter into any transactions in its own right. Assets and liabilities of the Congregation are administered in the trustees of the charity, who undertake all transactions entered into in the course of the Congregation's charitable activities.