

**Little Company of Mary
Congregation CIO**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2024

Charity Registration Number
1161450

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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

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

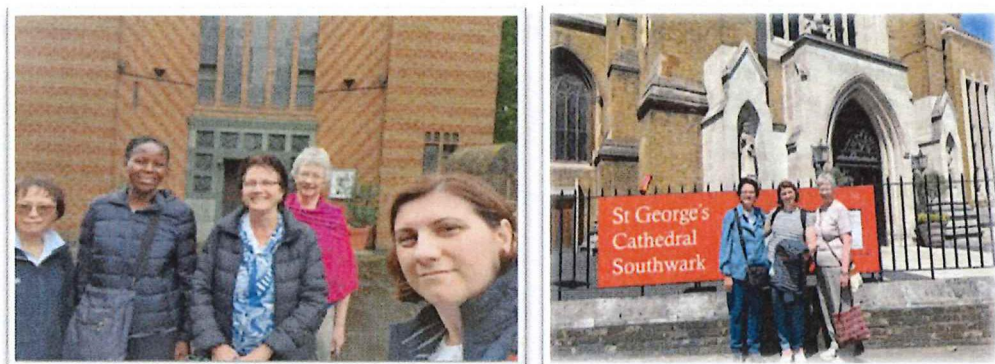
Each Community/Region/Province continues to explore suitable and effective ways in the issue of promotion of the vowed life in their local culture, if possible. The importance of sharing resources across the Congregation is emphasised. Congregational Leadership supports the various approaches of the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



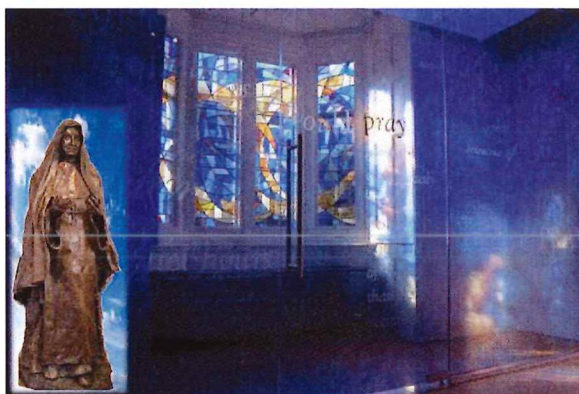
Mary Potter Heritage Centre, Nottingham

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.

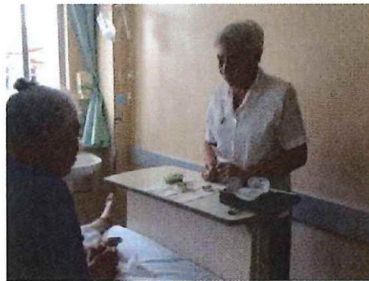
Activities and achievements (continued)

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.

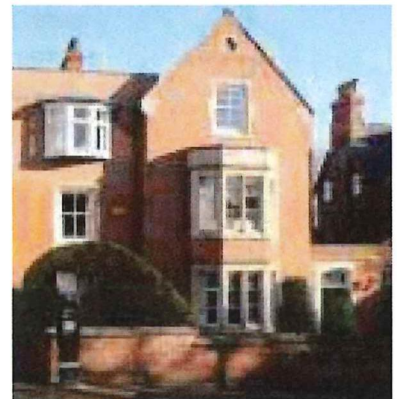
Activities and achievements (continued)

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)

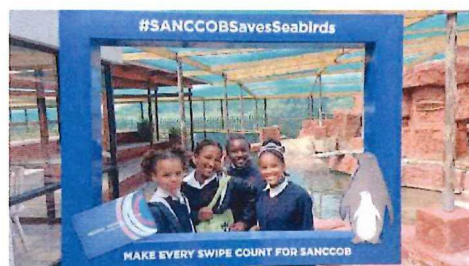
♦ *Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe (continued)*

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 Ornua 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.

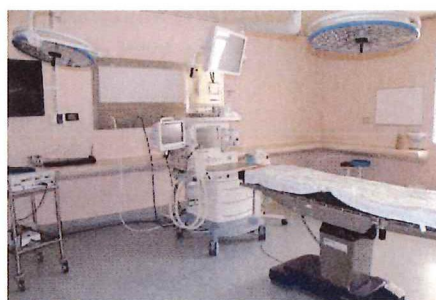
Activities and achievements (continued)

Mission (continued)

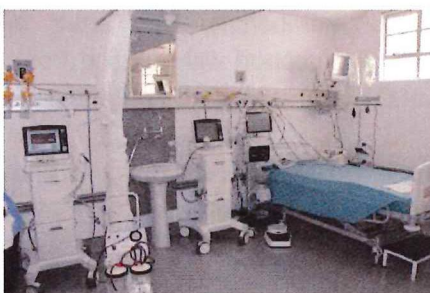
♦ **Region of the Queen of Peace – South Africa and Zimbabwe** (continued)



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.

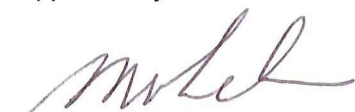
There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and the historical cost equivalent.

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			794,832		749,694
Total net assets			<u>937,935</u>		<u>904,947</u>
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	12		11,697		20,000
Unrestricted income funds:					
. General fund		755,237		714,709	
. Tangible fixed assets fund	13	143,103		155,253	
. Emergency charitable fund	13	27,898		14,985	
			<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	<u>6,457</u>	<u>129,815</u>
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		<u>8,053</u>	<u>(507,150)</u>
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	<u>264,630</u>	<u>250,120</u>

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	<u>6,457</u>	<u>129,815</u>

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>264,630</u>	<u>250,120</u>

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.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 December 2024

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.

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 £
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	—	155,253	—	155,253
<i>Current Assets</i>	744,910	14,985	20,000	779,895
<i>Current Liabilities</i>	(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).