

Male Journey trustee statement for the year Feb 2022-Feb 2023

Background

The principal activity of Male Journey is to offer a 5-day event called the *Mens Rites of Passage (MRoP)*, for people who identify as male. The event sets out to offer men a unique opportunity to enhance their 'grip' on the reality of their life. It was started about twenty-five years ago by the American Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, based on his work in prisons with male offenders, recognising that their offending behaviours were a manifestation of a crisis of the human spirit, and the significant absence of appropriate opportunities for young men to move effectively into adulthood. Its significance for all men was quickly recognised and now the event is offered to all men of whatever background and whatever age, recognising that there is a massive 'catch-up' operation to engage with. In a broad sense, it offers an 'emotional vocabulary' for addressing positively the issues and challenges of the modern world.

The MRoP was first offered in the UK in 2003, and after a slow start, has been offered annually since 2008. The creation of Male Journey as a registered charity to enable this work, which is carried out entirely by volunteers, was established in 2018.

Ever since 2003, there has been a growing supportive network of local means groups which set out to offer an ongoing approach both to 'continuing the journey' and encouraging men into our network. There are now twenty local groups in the UK, and parallel 'brother' groups in the Republic of Ireland. Similar linked structures exist in Europe, America, and around the world.

Weekend events are held to provide one another with encouragement and direction: annually, we hold a 'Moot' which is in effect our decision-forming group. We also hold 'stokers' weekend events to support the facilitators of the local groups. There are also weekend workshops exploring aspects of male experience.

Our current website explains it like this:

We affirm and support men seeking a life-long journey of spiritual consciousness in order to transform themselves, and through these journeys, their relationships, families, workplaces, communities and our environment.

Our programmes, events and resources provide men with opportunities to do their 'inner work' in the company of other men. We use ritual, teaching and ways of communicating to create safe environments where men can explore and discover their deeper selves and the true purpose of their lives. We provide spaces where:

- men can be vulnerable without being judged or shamed
- men can share their emotions openly
- men can let go of those patterns and beliefs that no longer serve them
- men can rediscover and reconnect with the power of nature, mystery and the universe
- men can establish true relationships with authenticity and integrity

We seek to engender a generation of men who will be leaders and elders in their diverse roles as sons, partners, fathers, grandfathers, colleagues, stewards and servers. To borrow the visionary statement of our US Brothers at Illuman:

- We are men transforming men through a power greater than ourselves
- We are seeking a life changing spirituality
- Our primary concern is inner work that makes a difference in the world
- We are fed by the wisdom traditions of forgiveness and radical inclusivity
- Our work recovers traditional patterns of male initiation, affirms a masculine path to healing, reveals the true and false self and honours the path of descent
- We do this through the power of ritual, image, story and council.

We welcome all men without regard to your age, ethnicity, background, sexual orientation, status, or creed. We aim to be inclusive. We support men of all faiths, and none.

Activity in this financial year

Our main event, the Men's Rites of Passage was held in July 2022. The MRoP is explained briefly on our website, as:

A 5-day life changing program for men devised by Richard Rohr OFM which has been undertaken by over 5000 men across the world.

This is not about religion, but about spirituality. About age-old traditions that guide men into manhood. About coming to trust that there is something much greater at work in your life than you could ever imagine. Taking you sometimes OUT of your comfort zones, but more deeply back into your own life. You may find yourself mentally, intellectually, emotionally or spiritually challenged. This is part of the experience for some men: it may feel risky or uncomfortable; you may not always feel in control. Throughout the 5 days you will be held by an experienced team of male elders who have all previously undertaken the Rites themselves. As the Elders take you through the process of the Rites you will experience drumming, ritual, fire, silence, small groups, wilderness, solo-time, teaching ... and more.

The Men's Rites of Passage are suitable for men of all colour, age, sexuality, ethnicity and faith tradition (or no faith); men with more severe physical disabilities are asked to provide more details of their restrictions during the application process and we will provide further advice.

It was attended by thirty-one men, supported by a team of twelve. Since this event was held very much in the aftermath of Covid lockdowns and all its constraints, we felt it to be a great success that we were able to hold the event successfully. After Covid, this had not been certain.

Financially, it made an appropriate surplus, as planned, of £4353 which in itself we regard as a considerable success in the challenging circumstances!

A start was made in this year to more formally support our local groups by having a weekend where all stokers were invited. This event also was a great success and will be repeated in the future.

This year has been affected by issues left by vestiges of the COVID pandemic. We have however engaged with the process of re-building our confidence as we set out to after the Covid , and we made progress towards more robust, supportive approaches for our fellow-volunteers.

Kevin McNally. (Chair), Peter Bruckenwell, Martin Honeywell, David Townsend, Chris O'Donnell (resigned 13/11/2022), Francis Rothery (resigned 27/10/2022), Stephen Ashton (appointed 30/11/2022)

K. McNally : 23rd October 2023

The Male Journey

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Registration Number 1163767
Income and Expenditure 2022/2023

| | 12 months to 28Feb23 |
|--|-------------------------|
| Donations | |
| General Donations | 386 |
| Bursary Fund Income | 1,013 |
| Bursary Fund Awards | (1,775) |
| Total Donations | (376) |
| Events | |
| Moot Income | 4,570 |
| Moot Cost | (5,146) |
| MROP Income | 16,706 |
| MROP Cost | (12,353) |
| Poetry Books Income | 87 |
| Poetry Books Cost | (32) |
| Stokers Weekend Income | 1,219 |
| Stokers Weekend Cost | (942) |
| Way of Council Training | (300) |
| YMROP Cost | (168) |
| Total Events | 3,641 |
| Other | |
| Bank Interest Income | 65 |
| Total Other | 65 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) before Operating Expenses | 3,330 |
| Operating Expenses | |
| Insurance | (417) |
| Legal Fees | (58) |
| Postage | (4) |
| Sundry | (43) |
| Website | (181) |
| Zoom | (144) |
| Total Operating Expenses | (848) |
| Surplus / (Deficit) after Operating Expenses | 2,482 |

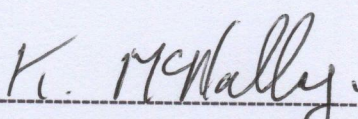
The Male Journey

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Registration Number 1163767

Assets & Liabilities 2022/2023

| | Opening Balance (1Mar22) | Closing Balance (28Feb23) | Movement |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash and Bank | | | |
| Triodos - Undesignated | 12,881 | 13,992 | 1,111 |
| Triodos - Bursary Fund | 2,885 | 2,123 | (762) |
| Triodos - Development Fund | 865 | 565 | (300) |
| Paypal | 185 | 98 | (87) |
| Total Cash and Bank | 16,815 | 16,778 | (38) |
| Other Current Assets | | | |
| Prepayments | 416 | 684 | 268 |
| Stock | 826 | 795 | (32) |
| Total Other Current Assets | 1,242 | 1,478 | 236 |
| Total Assets | 18,057 | 18,256 | 198 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accruals | - | - | - |
| Advance Receipts for Events | (2,798) | (515) | 2,283 |
| Total Current Liabilities | (2,798) | (515) | 2,283 |
| Net Assets | 15,259 | 17,741 | 2,482 |
| Represented By: | | | |
| General Reserve | 11,510 | 15,053 | 3,544 |
| Bursary Reserve | 2,885 | 2,123 | (762) |
| Development Reserve | 865 | 565 | (300) |
| Total Reserves | 15,259 | 17,741 | 2,482 |

Signed:



Kevin McNally - Chair of Trustees

28th September 2023