

THE SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION (ST. GILDAS) CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1173344

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-06-09

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

Contact

Address 36 Dickenson Road
London
N8 9ET

Phone 02083480998

Website www.sistersofstgildas.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION THROUGH THE RELIGIOUS AND OTHER CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CONGREGATION AS THE TRUSTEES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.

Activities: The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This includes the maintenance and support of the sisters to enable them to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- France
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£1,028,247	£428,439	£6,138,863	0
2023-08-31	£265,813	£387,345	-	-
2022-08-31	£237,908	£316,957	-	-
2021-08-31	£237,889	£229,619	-	-
2020-08-31	£1,119,745	£375,121	£5,427,607	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SISTER A HOGAN		2017-06-09
SISTER E MCNIFF		2017-06-09
SISTER O MAHE		2017-06-09

THE SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION (ST. GILDAS) CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1173344

Accounts

**The Sisters
of Christian
Instruction
(St. Gildas) CIO**

Report and Accounts

31 August 2024

Charity Registration Number 1173344

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

Trustees	Sister Anne Hogan Sister Odile Mahé Sister Elizabeth McNiff
General Councillor Delegate	Sister Dominique Guerin
Regional Bursar	Sister Odile Mahé
Administrative address	The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) 36 Dickenson Road Hornsey London N8 9ET
Charity registration number	1173344
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Investment managers	Charles Stanley and Company Limited 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Solicitors	Pothecary Witham Weld 84 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PX

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2024

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the charity or the CIO) for the year to 31 August 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 27 to 31 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the requirements 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).

Introduction

The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) (the Congregation) is a Roman Catholic religious congregation supporting 293 sisters. It was founded in France in 1820 where its generalate is still located and it is divided into three Regions, a delegation and the Mother House.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity through which the activities and net assets of the Congregation in England have been administered since 1 September 2017. The charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344.

Principal aims and mission

The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This included the maintenance and support of the sisters themselves.

By caring for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation, the charity aims to enable and support the sisters to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the period, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The ministries of the sisters during the year fell into the following main areas:

- ◆ Caring for members of the Congregation
- ◆ Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works:

Principal aims and mission (continued)

◇ *Worship and prayer:*

Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private worship and to continue to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus and the Church through quiet prayer, study of the Gospel and spiritual development. In addition, members of the Congregation celebrate and pray with the wider community including people of all faiths and none. They do this through the provision of spiritual guidance or by just being available to listen in times of need, through the celebration of the Liturgy, prayer groups and church services.

◇ *Social and pastoral work:*

Some members of the Congregation are involved in a diverse range of social and pastoral work, including care of the elderly and people with special needs, family support and hospital visiting. The sisters aim to help, in particular, the poor and marginalised in society regardless of their personal background, faith, gender or individual circumstances.

◇ *Overseas missionary work:*

Members of the Congregation work in health care, literacy work and primary evangelisation in West Africa.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

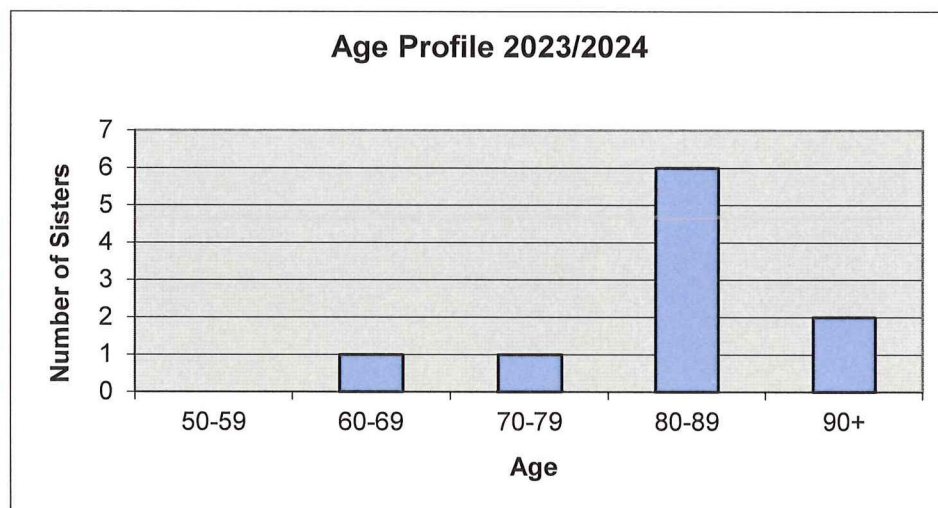
As stated under principal aims and mission above, the aims of the charity during the period were to care for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation and so enable and support them to live out their faith and to put that faith in to practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

Caring for members of the Congregation

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to education. In common with many religious congregations, as the age profile of the members increases so too does the need to provide for the care of the sisters in the future. The age profile of the sisters who were in England during the year is shown graphically overleaf:

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Caring for members of the Congregation (continued)



At present, most ageing or ailing members live as members of various communities, receiving the care they need from the sisters of the community, making use of local facilities. As a consequence, the trustees of the charity have given careful consideration to the impact of this on the work of individual members of the Congregation and the financial implications. Therefore, the objectives of the trustees of the charity include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Congregation receive the high level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they have a right to expect;
- ◆ Enabling all members of the Congregation to continue with their individual ministries, living in community houses for as long as possible; and
- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties used as community houses and assessing their suitability as homes for the sisters.

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works

The religious and charitable works of individual members of the Congregation can be divided into three principal areas: worship and prayer, the social and pastoral work of the sisters and support of overseas missionary work. Each of these is considered in turn.

Worship and prayer

The sisters are involved in a number of activities which include:

- ◇ Promoting the values and vision set out in the Gospel including the promotion of human dignity, teaching respect of different cultures and working for a society based on justice and peace.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

- ◇ Giving members of the public from all walks of life the opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and take time for quiet contemplation and the chance to study and consider the Gospel.
- ◇ Providing religious instruction.
- ◇ Praying with those who are housebound, sick or dying.

Social and pastoral work

The charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work, thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel to help one another and love one's neighbour.

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual sisters:

- ◇ Working in parishes, schools and the local community; visiting; helping in catechetical programmes; helping families in difficulty, the elderly and housebound.
- ◇ Religious formation for adults and children.
- ◇ Giving spiritual guidance.
- ◇ Working as volunteers in organisations concerned with the homeless and adults/children with learning difficulties.
- ◇ Opening the Congregation's houses to the local community for meetings.

The objectives of the trustees of the charity included the following in respect to social and pastoral work:

- ◇ Enabling all members of the Congregation to carry out meaningful pastoral, social and educational work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- ◇ Encouraging members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised; and
- ◇ Whenever possible, ensuring sisters are remunerated for such work by way of salary or stipend. Such income is donated to the charity. This ensures that the work of the sisters may continue and develop into the future.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Overseas missionary work

The Congregation's missions in West Africa are now jointly financed by the English Delegation and the Congregation in France. The financial support of the charity has been used to meet the personal and living expenses of the sisters and their work: literacy, primary evangelisation, religious education, health care (primary health care) and the formation of young African girls aspiring to religious life.

The support enables the sisters to continue to care for some of the poorest and most marginalised in society – an objective which is consistent with the values set out in the Gospel. The individuals who benefit include those of all faiths and none and the help they receive can often mean the difference between life and death for them and their dependents.

Review of activities

The following paragraphs outline the main achievements during the period in each of the charity's principal activities.

Care of members of the Congregation

During the year the charity assisted members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work, enabling them to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. The Barnet community continued to visit Sister Paula in the care home until her death on 21st April 2024. Following the closure of the Birmingham community the property was put up for sale and the completion of the sale was completed on the 29th August 2024.

Worship and prayer

Following the General Chapter in July 23 and the election of a new leadership team Sister Francoise Superior General and Sister Dominique came to England and met with all the sisters in Barnet to share the outcome of the chapter.

At the end of May Sister Odile and Sister Anne Hogan travelled to the Mother House in France to represent Sister Breda unable to travel to celebrate with others 70 years of religious life. It was a celebration of life, of thanksgiving for all the years of faithful service. On the 4th May sisters Anne and Odile went to Lincoln to celebrate the diamond Jubilee of one Sister of the federation community.

During the year Sister Ann O'Sullivan was given the opportunity for a time away. Here is what she has to say about it.

Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

Reconnecting to the source!

"In January until the middle of September of this year, I had the opportunity from my congregation to take a break from my normal activities and working life as a Chaplain, in a residential unit for people living with Dementia and a Creative Psychotherapist to explore other terrains.

These terrains included the following:

- ◆ Nearly 3 months at our Mother House in France.
- ◆ A 10 Week sabbatical program at An Taoiseach, Co Wicklow, Ireland
- ◆ A 30-day retreat at St. Buenos retreat house in Wales.

Nearly 3 months at our Mother House in France

Of our sisters living away from France, returning to our Mother House is reconnecting to our roots. Throughout my time in France, I had the real opportunity of getting to know our sisters at the Mother House and surroundings areas, which was a real joyful experience. I also profited from visiting historic sites and tasting a variety of French delicacies!!!



Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

A 10 Week sabbatical program at An Tairseach, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

An Tairseach is a residential ecology centre, which has been founded by the Dominican sisters. The centre is a peaceful and tranquil building which is surrounded by spacious grounds and a 70-acre organic farm which overlooks Wicklow Bay. The word An Tairseach means – Threshold, crossing over. 20 participants from all over the world, participated in this unique and creative experience. Here are some of the themes we are exploring:

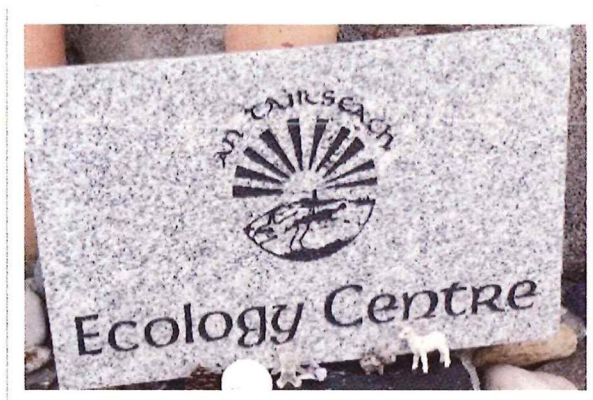
- ◆ The implications for understanding our place in the universe.
- ◆ The theological implications of the new cosmology.
- ◆ Listening to the wisdom of the mystics.
- ◆ Reflecting on the themes from the Celtic tradition.
- ◆ Examining our images of God.
- ◆ Analysing our present world order and exploring possibilities for a sustainable lifestyle.

And more.....

This program is delivered through:

- ◆ Lectures and group sessions led by the An Tairseach team and guest lecturers.
- ◆ Art, movement, rituals, prayer, nature walks, guided meditation, and time alone.
- ◆ Visits to many Sacred places.

My time at An Tairseach was filled with bundles of nourishment, new concepts to explore, time to reflect on one's journey, and like-minded people to share this unique experience with, it is 7 months, since I have returned from An Tairseach and I continued to be inspired and nourished from all I experienced.



Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

A 30 day retreat at St, Beuno's retreat house, Wales.

A 30-day retreat is not for the faint hearted they say!!!! This retreat is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. The exercises are a time-honoured way and powerful way of a person deepening their relationship with God. This retreat is a profound and life changing experience, filled with silence and solitude.

This retreat provided me with the opportunity to reflect on my life to date,

To take time to listen and reconnect to my relationship with God and to have the space to dream anew!



My time away was a sabbatical with a difference! and one I am truly grateful for.! It has enabled me to reconnect with all that I deeply value in life.

Having space to reflect and just are essential and vital elements to reconnecting to one's deepest desires and longings. The challenge is how do we integrate these vital elements into to our daily life! I will leave you with a famous quote from St, Ignatius. Where he encourages us to:



Review of activities (continued)

Sister Paula O'Leary: 28th June, 1943 – 21st April, 2024

On the 21st April, 2024, Sisters, family and many friends gathered together in Barnet parish church to celebrate Sister Paula's life.

Paula was very proud of her Irish heritage, originating from the fine city of Cork.

Sister Paula entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St Gildas in 1963 in St Gildas-des Bois, France. On leaving the novitiate, she joined the community in Briston Grove, Crouch End, London. From there, she went on to train as a teacher and worked for several years in various state schools. She had a very successful career in teaching, and won the respect and affection of both staff and students.

Sr. Paula showed great concern for the marginalised which led her to get involved in a ministry known as 'Women at the well', reaching out to women who had suffered various forms of abuse and had been trafficked.

From 1999 until 2008, Sr Paula served as Regional superior for England, Ireland, with some communities in France.

The last years of her life were spent in Barnet. Her failing health required specialist care which she received in a local Care Home where she passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family and Sisters on 21st April, 2024.

Sister Francoise superior general and Sister Dominique, came over from France to support the Sisters especially those of the Barnet Community.



The community of Dickenson Road welcomes a small group of "St Gildas Family" friends to share and pray together, about once every six weeks.

Review of activities (continued)

Overseas missionary work

During this period, the charity continued to support the work and the personal and living costs of the sisters working in West Africa. This was done via the annual contribution to the Generalate.

Volunteers

The members of the Congregation have gradually started again some of their activities assisting the poor and marginalised and those in need. The majority of members receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the CIO's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Congregation and the CIO. Without their contribution neither would be able to function effectively.

Details of the areas in which members gave their time during the year are shown in the table below:

Area	Number of sisters
Parish work	2
Hospital visiting	1
Housebound visiting	2
Working with other groups/organisations	2
Administration	2
Education	1

Some sisters carry out voluntary work in more than one area as part of their mission and apostolate. Some activities had to stop or change because of health/age.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Along with all other organisations which serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves. Where required under the terms of their ministries, sisters obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The trustees have been kept in touch by the new Religious Life Safeguarding Service to which they are members.

Donations and support of missionary work and ministry

Donations in support of the Congregation's work overseas are decided on by the trustees in consultation with the Generalate of the Congregation. In the main, the charity has supported the work of the Congregation in overseas countries. Broadly, the policy is to give to the most needy areas.

During the period, the trustees continued to give financial support to charities approved by the trustees and whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity.

Financial report for the period

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 24 of the attached accounts. During the year to 31 August 2024, income amounted to £1,028,247 (2023 – £265,813). Income for the year includes donations (including pensions receivable from members of the Congregation under Gift Aid or Deed of Covenant) of £166,513 (2023 – £167,137) and investment income and interest receivable of £119,917 (2023 – £98,676).

Expenditure totalled £428,439 (2023 – £387,345). Expenditure on maintaining the sisters and enabling them to carry out their work during the year amounted to £361,377 (2023 – £338,536). Charitable donations amounted to £46,544 (2023 – £29,108). The total donations given to the Generalate were £43,664 (2023 – £26,168).

Net income for the year before investment losses was £599,808 (2023 – net expenditure of £121,532 before investment losses). Net investment gains for the year totalled £208,971 (2023 – net investment losses of £232,923). Therefore, the net movement on funds and net income was £808,779 (2023 – net expenditure of £354,455)

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to eighteen to twenty-four months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £6,138,863 (2023 – £5,330,084). Of this, £1,716,579 (2023 – £1,754,693) represents the tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters.

The retirement reserve of £4,000,000 (2023 – £3,400,000) consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for the sisters in their retirement. Though calculated using actuarial principles, the fund itself is limited to the resources available.

At the balance sheet date, free reserves amounted to £622,284 (2023 – £175,391). These free reserves are in line with the target range required by the reserves policy above.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Investment policy and performance

The charity had a portfolio of listed investments with a market value at the end of the period of £2,885,421 (2023 – £2,442,019). The portfolio achieved an income yield of 4.1% (2023 – 3.6%) and a capital yield of 7.63% (2023 – a capital loss of 9.39%). At 31 August 2024, the investment managers were also holding cash awaiting investment of £248,680 (2023 – £101,472). The investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited, who operate within guidelines that are set and regularly reviewed by the trustees, who believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

The policy of the charity is to achieve a combination of income and capital growth within acceptable levels of risk.

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest.

The performance of the portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed by the trustees who meet with the investment manager at least once a year. The trustees are content that their policy will be achieved in the medium to long term.

Future plans

The trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charity or its activities over the next two to five years. It is their intention to continue to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. Focus will continue to be given to assisting the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To continue to remain focussed on the importance of worship and prayer to the lives of the individual sisters and to the overall mission of the charity.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older, and if necessary to adapt the charity's plans in respect to property needs and the provision of care to elderly members..
- ◆ To support the Congregation's work in Africa in partnership with the Congregation's Generalate.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution agreed by the trustees on 30 May 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9 June 2017.

Liability of the member

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 (continued)

Governance

In terms of Canon law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Superior General and her General Council in Nantes, France. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter or meeting of delegates of all the regions of the Congregation.

Since the 2017 General Chapter, England and Ireland are now a delegation with a General Councillor having overall responsibility, assisted by a Delegate living in England who works in close collaboration with the General Councillor. After consultation with the sisters of the delegation, the Superior General names the Delegate with the consent of her council.

The Assistant Delegate communicates with the General Councillor responsible for the Delegation. Once or twice a year she meets with the Superior General and her Council to give an account of the progress and development of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged.

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344. The trustees are appointed by the Superior General in her capacity as sole member of the CIO. As members of the Congregation, the trustees are aware of the work of the charity and of its structure. With the help of professional advisers, and through attendance at seminars, conferences etc, they update their knowledge of charity law and its requirements.

Trustees

The names of the trustees are set out within the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts and brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at 31 August 2024 are given below.

Sister Anne Hogan

Sister Anne joined the Congregation in 1962. She is a qualified teacher but her main involvements have been in the areas of formation and administration. She has been responsible for novices both here in the UK and also in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She served as Regional Superior for twelve years and then as General Councillor for six years. As Regional Superior she was a trustee of the charity. Presently, Sister Anne is Assistant Delegate for England and Ireland.

Sister Elizabeth McNiff

Sister Elizabeth joined the Congregation 57 years ago. After training in child care she worked in the Social Services departments for Haringey, Solihull and Birmingham (1971-1996), caring for disadvantaged young people, mainly adolescents in the residential setting. She has been bursar in the Birmingham Community and is now bursar of the Barnet Community and continues to be actively involved in Parish life supporting people in need as well as looking to the welfare of the Barnet community.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

Sister Odile Mahé

Sister Odile is the Bursar for the Delegation with overall responsibility for the finances of the charity. She joined the Congregation 63 years ago and, after graduating and qualifying as a teacher, spent 20 years of her religious life in education. She was also Bursar of her community. Before taking up the post of Regional Bursar she did some further training in IT.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

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. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ 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; and
- ◆ Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they 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 the trustees are members of the Congregation and, whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or key management personnel.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet when necessary to review the activities, possible developments, make important decisions and to seek advice and support from professional advisers including solicitors, investment managers, accountants and property consultants. They delegate the day-to-day management of the activities, and the implementation of policies, to members of the Congregation.

At the end of August 2024, the Delegation of England comprised 10 sisters. The sisters live in two communities in London. The community houses are located in areas and parishes where their proximity to the people among whom they dwell, enables the sisters to respond most effectively to needs, either working alone, or in partnership with other organisations. As stated above, each community has a Leader appointed by the General Councillor Delegate.

St Gildas Schools in Yeovil and London, formerly the property of the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas), are administered by the Dioceses of Clifton and Westminster respectively. The sisters continue to maintain an interest in the life of the schools and support their work.



Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications 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 to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the period, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks the Congregation currently faces and have reviewed the measures already in place to deal with them.

The trustees recognise their responsibility for the management of risks faced by the charity and the sisters. The areas identified for particular attention within the charity's risk management strategy are:

Governance and management: looks at the risk of the Congregation, and hence the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members, and the good use of its resources.

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters shows that the average age at 31 August 2024 was 83 years. The trustees are aware that there is both a moral and legal obligation to care for the sisters. None of the sisters have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and any other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant.

As the age profile increases, so too does the need to provide care for the sisters. Key elements of the management of this risk are: a) ensuring that the charity has the available financial resources to finance this care both now and in the future by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles; and b) ensuring that processes are in place to review the ministries and needs of individual sisters encouraging those who need it to take on less demanding ministries and for identifying those who need extra care and help.

Operational: looks at the risks inherent in the activities of the charity, particularly pastoral care.

The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all whom the charity serves. This means that all sisters who are in any kind of ministry have obtained clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

The charity does not work with children, but it does work with adults who may need help at particularly vulnerable moments in life.

Financial: looks at risks including those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, poor accounting and poor management of the investment portfolio.

The principal asset of the charity comprises listed investments, the value of which is dependent on movements in UK and world stock markets. The investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly with the investment managers and the manager's performance and that of the portfolio are monitored. The investment strategy is assessed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's needs both now and in the future.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Reputational: looks at possible damage to the Congregation and hence the reputation of the charity.

Laws, regulations, external and environment: looks at the effect of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations in so far as they are applicable to the Congregation's activities.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Working with other organisations

The charity has worked closely with other charities and public bodies in the fields of social and pastoral care and education, including working with the vulnerable and the marginalised. One sister receives a salary, while the others work on a voluntary basis. In all cases, working together enables the sisters to be more effective and avoid duplication of effort in providing services to the people they serve. Examples of the organisations for which members have worked and with which the charity has co-operated during the period are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Ascent Movement in Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Justice and Peace Link;
- ◆ Churches Together;

Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation

The members of the Congregation continue to give unsparing service and dedication to all the Congregation's works and the trustees wish to record their appreciation.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Trustee

O. Mahé

Approved by the trustees on:

14/02/2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 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 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 15, 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 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 and 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 the trustees and the review of minutes of meetings of the trustees.

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

- ◆ Making enquiries of the trustees as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and 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 including the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ 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:

- ◆ Reviewing the minutes of meetings of trustees;
- ◆ Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ Agreeing accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

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 31 August 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 LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date 12 February 2025

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	1	589,437	167,137
Investments and interest receivable	2	119,917	98,676
Other sources:			
. Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets		318,893	—
Total income		1,028,247	265,813
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
. Investment management costs		20,518	19,701
Charitable activities			
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	3	361,377	338,536
. Charitable donations	4	46,544	29,108
Total expenditure		428,439	387,345
Net income (expenditure) for the year before investment gains (losses)		599,808	(121,532)
Net investment gains (losses)		208,971	(232,923)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds		808,779	(354,455)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2023		5,330,084	5,684,539
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2024		6,138,863	5,330,084

The statement of financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses recognised in the year.

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

All of the charity's funds were unrestricted in the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		1,716,579		1,754,693
Investments	9		3,134,101		2,543,491
			<u>4,850,680</u>		<u>4,298,184</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	2,599		13,239	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,355,552</u>		<u>1,120,287</u>	
		<u>1,358,151</u>		<u>1,133,526</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(69,968)		(101,626)	
Net current assets			<u>1,288,183</u>		<u>1,031,900</u>
Total net assets			<u>6,138,863</u>		<u>5,330,084</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Unrestricted funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		1,716,579		1,754,693
. Designated funds	13		4,000,000		3,400,000
. General funds			<u>422,284</u>		<u>175,391</u>
			<u>6,138,863</u>		<u>5,330,084</u>

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees:

Trustee *O. Mahé*

Approved by the trustees on: *6/02/2025*

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	167,643	(161,911)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and interest received		119,990	97,786
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		190,193	131,822
Purchase of investments		(424,624)	(300,775)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,897)	—
Net proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		344,169	—
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		214,831	(71,167)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		382,474	(233,078)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		1,221,759	1,454,837
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	B	1,604,233	1,221,759

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2024

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	808,779	(354,455)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	34,236	35,661
Gains (losses) on investments	(208,971)	232,923
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(325,392)	—
Investment income and interest receivable	(119,917)	(98,676)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	10,566	(9,797)
Decrease (increase) in creditors	(31,658)	32,433
Net cash provided by (used) in operating activities	167,643	(161,911)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,120,287	235,265	1,355,552
Cash held by investment managers	101,472	147,208	248,680
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,221,759	382,473	1,604,232

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 31 August 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

These accounts have been prepared for the year ended to 31 August 2024 with comparative information provided in respect to the year ended 31 August 2023.

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 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where such judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of calculating the depreciation charge; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds including the determination of the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement reserve.

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 acknowledge and recognise potential impact of the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate on the charity and have concluded that there may continue to be some negative consequences as investment markets remain volatile. However, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 August 2025, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the performance of the investment market. However, the trustees have considered the possible impact on the charity and have concluded that, although there may be some negative consequences, it is appropriate for the charity to continue to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis.

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, investment income, interest receivable and income from other sources including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of religious individuals received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, 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.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or income has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

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.

Any surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

All other income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be measured reliably. It is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income recognition (continued)

Expenditure recognition

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. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The majority of expenditure is directly attributable and any apportionment between headings is negligible.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the listed investments.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities and includes:

- ◇ Expenditure on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. Such expenditure enables the members to carry out the work of the charity in the areas of the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith, the advancement of education and the provision of social and pastoral work.
- ◇ The provision of charitable donations relating, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Charitable donations are made where the trustees believe there is a real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year commitments. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any donations approved but unpaid at the end of the financial period.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

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.

All expenditure on support and governance is allocated to the charitable activities of care of members of the Congregation and enabling their ministry as any costs in relation to provision of donations or raising funds is considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

♦ *Freehold buildings*

Non-specialised buildings are those designed as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. They are stated at cost, or, in the case of older properties where cost is not available, at a trustees' valuation made in 1996 based on market value for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 September 2014, the value assigned to those properties valued in 1996 is now deemed to be cost. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Specialised buildings comprise a large residential convent stated at cost. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the building off over its estimated useful economic life to the Congregation.

♦ *Motor vehicles*

Expenditure on the purchase of motor vehicles is capitalised and depreciated over a four year period on a straight line basis.

♦ *Furniture, fittings and equipment*

Expenditure on furniture, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over a four to fifteen year period, depending on the nature of the asset, on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

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. 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.

Funds structure

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

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Details of these are provided in note 13.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Operating leases

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

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant or Gift Aid	166,513	167,137
Other donations (note 17)	422,924	—
	589,437	167,137

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	2024 £	2023 £
Income from listed investments	100,864	88,726
Interest receivable		
. Cash held by investment managers	6,276	995
. Bank interest	12,777	8,955
	119,917	98,676

3 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	2024 £	2023 £
Premises (excluding depreciation)	88,447	65,017
Sisters' living and personal expenses	96,309	68,634
Nursing home fees	89,793	127,400
Education, training and spiritual renewal	22,996	15,874
Depreciation	34,236	35,661
Support costs		
. Governance (professional fees)	18,371	14,274
. Other costs	11,225	11,676
	361,377	338,536

4 Expenditure on: Charitable donations

The donations payable during the year were to institutions and were for the following purposes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Support of the Congregation's work overseas	904	922
Support of the Congregation's Generalate	43,664	26,168
Other donations of less than £1,000 each	1,976	2,018
	46,544	29,108

5 Net expenditure for the year before investment gains (losses)

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	17,580	13,609
.. Previous period	791	665
Depreciation	34,236	35,661
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	318,893	—
Operating lease payments		
. Office equipment	3,176	2,867

6 Staff costs, key management personnel and Trustees' remuneration

As members of the Congregation, the trustees' living and personal expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or as members of key management during the year.

The charity did not have any employees during the year (2023 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

None of the trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the charity. During the year, a total of £49,676 (2023 – £45,538) was donated by the trustees to the charity.

7 Taxation

The Sisters of the Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) 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
	Specialised £	Non-specialised £	Motor vehicles £	£	£
Cost or deemed cost					
At 1 September 2023	1,578,817	645,342	19,426	30,983	2,274,568
Additions	—	—	—	14,897	14,897
Disposals	—	(13,000)	—	(9,626)	(22,626)
At 31 August 2024	1,578,817	632,342	19,426	36,254	2,266,839
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	488,613	—	19,426	11,836	519,875
Charge for the year	31,576	—	—	2,660	34,236
Disposals	—	—	—	(3,851)	(3,851)
At 31 August 2024	520,189	—	19,426	10,645	550,260
Net book values					
At 31 August 2024	1,058,628	632,342	—	25,609	1,716,579
At 31 August 2023	1,090,204	645,342	—	19,147	1,754,693

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

9 Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments		
Fair (market) value at 1 September 2023	2,442,019	2,505,989
Additions at cost	424,624	300,775
Disposals at book value (see below)	(167,547)	(129,510)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	186,325	(235,235)
Fair (market) value at 31 August 2024	2,885,421	2,442,019
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	248,680	101,472
	3,134,101	2,543,491
Cost of listed investments at 31 August 2024	2,309,047	2,057,496

Disposals at book value included above one made up of the following:

	2024 £	2023 £
Proceeds	190,193	131,822
Realised gains	(22,646)	(2,312)
	167,547	129,510

Notes to the accounts 31 August 2024

9 Investments (continued)

Listed investments held at 31 August 2024 comprised the following:

	2024 £	2023 £
. UK Equities	1,076,806	866,001
. Overseas Equities	812,084	601,501
. Fixed interest	342,892	287,728
. Property	132,116	138,376
. Alternatives	474,967	500,165
. Mixed Investment	46,556	48,248
	2,885,421	2,442,019

At 31 August 2024 there were no individual holdings deemed material when compared with the overall portfolio valuation as at that date.

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Investment income receivable	1,121	1,194
Donations receivable (pensions of individual religious)	—	10,138
Prepayments and other debtors	1,478	1,907
	2,599	13,239

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts held on behalf of individual members of the Congregation	52,338	52,338
Accruals	17,630	13,640
Other creditors	—	35,648
	69,968	101,626

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	1,754,693	1,790,354
Net movement in the year	(38,114)	(35,661)
At 31 August 2024	1,716,579	1,754,693

The tangible fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. It has been identified separately in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are required for the charity's work and are not available as a reserve to fund day to day activities or meet future contingencies.

13 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated fund which had been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Retirement reserve:		
At 1 September	3,400,000	3,400,000
New designations	600,000	—
At 31 August	4,000,000	3,400,000

The retirement reserve is calculated using actuarial principles and was created in order to assist in providing for the sisters in their retirement. The amount designated is restricted to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

At 31 August 2024, the fund balances are represented by the following assets and liabilities:

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,716,579	—	1,716,579
Investments	—	—	3,134,101	3,134,101
Net current assets	422,284	—	665,899	1,288,183
Total net assets	422,284	1,716,579	4,000,000	6,138,863
	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,754,693	—	1,754,693
Investments	—	—	2,543,491	2,543,491
Net current assets	175,391	—	856,509	1,031,900
Total net assets	175,391	1,754,693	3,400,000	5,330,084

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

The total unrealised gains at 31 August 2024 constitute revaluation of listed investments and the movements on the unrealised gains are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrealised gains included above on listed investments		
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2024	576,374	384,523
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains		
Total unrealised gains at 1 September 2023	384,523	649,572
In respect to disposals in the year	5,526	(29,814)
Net (losses) gains arising on revaluation in the year	186,325	(235,235)
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2024	576,374	384,523

15 Operating leases

At 31 August 2024, the charity had total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to certain assets as follows:

Operating lease payments payable:	Equipment		Land and buildings	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	3,164	2,880	—	—
Amounts due between two and five years	4,756	7,920	—	—
	7,920	10,800	—	—

16 Ultimate control and liability of the member

The Superior General of the Congregation for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex officio the sole member of the CIO. The sole member is responsible for the appointment of the trustees.

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.

17 Related party transactions

During the year, the charity received a donation from the Congregational charity in Ireland of £422,924 following the sale of a property by that charity. Sister Odile Mahé and Sister Anne Hogan are both trustees of the Congregational charity in Ireland.

Other than the above and the donations received from trustees disclosed in note 6 to these accounts, there were no related party transactions requiring disclosure (2023 – none).

THE SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION (ST. GILDAS) CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1173344

Accounts

**The Sisters
of Christian
Instruction
(St. Gildas) CIO**

Report and Accounts

31 August 2023

Charity Registration Number 1173344

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

Trustees	Sister Anne Hogan Sister Odile Mahé Sister Elizabeth McNiff
General Councillor Delegate	Sister Dominique Guerin
Regional Bursar	Sister Odile Mahé
Administrative address	The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) 36 Dickenson Road Hornsey London N8 9ET
Charity registration number	1173344
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Investment managers	Charles Stanley and Company Limited 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Solicitors	Pothecary Witham Weld 84 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PX

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the charity or the CIO) for the year to 31 August 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 31 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the requirements 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).

Introduction

The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) (the Congregation) is a Roman Catholic religious congregation supporting 293 sisters. It was founded in France in 1820 where its generalate is still located and it is divided into three Regions, a delegation and the Mother House.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity through which the activities and net assets of the Congregation in England have been administered since 1 September 2017. The charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 - Charity Registration No. 1173344.

Principal aims and mission

The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This included the maintenance and support of the sisters themselves.

By caring for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation, the charity aims to enable and support the sisters to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the period, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The ministries of the sisters during the year fell into the following main areas:

- ◆ Caring for members of the Congregation
- ◆ Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works:

Principal aims and mission (continued)

◇ **Worship and prayer:**

Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private worship and to continue to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus and the Church through quiet prayer, study of the Gospel and spiritual development. In addition, members of the Congregation celebrate and pray with the wider community including people of all faiths and none. They do this through the provision of spiritual guidance or by just being available to listen in times of need, through the celebration of the Liturgy, prayer groups and church services.

◇ **Social and pastoral work:**

Some members of the Congregation are involved in a diverse range of social and pastoral work, including care of the elderly and people with special needs, family support and hospital visiting. The sisters aim to help, in particular, the poor and marginalised in society regardless of their personal background, faith, gender or individual circumstances.

◇ **Overseas missionary work:**

Members of the Congregation work in health care, literacy work and primary evangelisation in West Africa.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

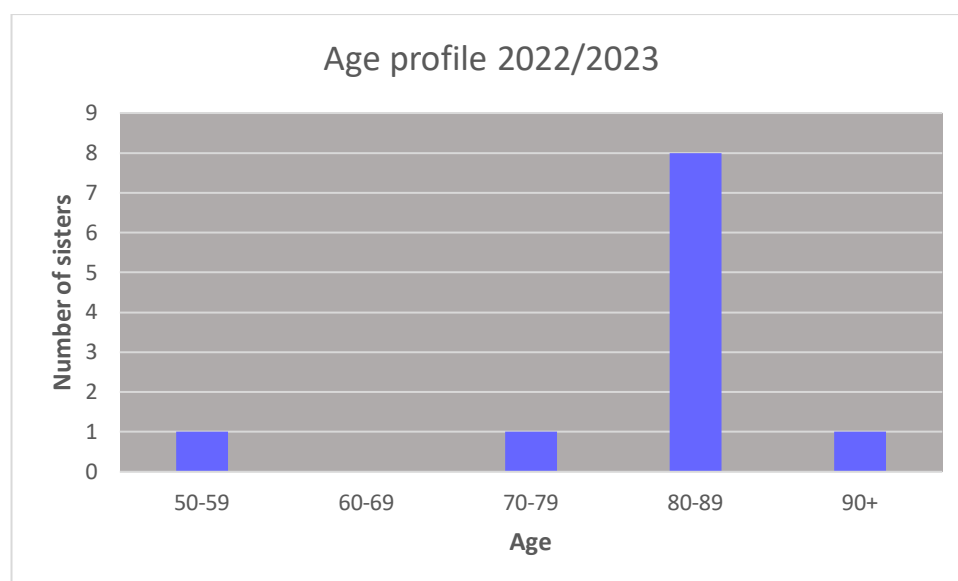
As stated under principal aims and mission above, the aims of the charity during the period were to care for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation and so enable and support them to live out their faith and to put that faith in to practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

Caring for members of the Congregation

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to education. In common with many religious congregations, as the age profile of the members increases so too does the need to provide for the care of the sisters in the future. The age profile of the sisters who were in England during the year is shown graphically overleaf:

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Caring for members of the Congregation (continued)



At present, most ageing or ailing members live as members of various communities, receiving the care they need from the sisters of the community, making use of local facilities. As a consequence, the trustees of the charity have given careful consideration to the impact of this on the work of individual members of the Congregation and the financial implications. Therefore, the objectives of the trustees of the charity include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Congregation receive the high level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they have a right to expect;
- ◆ Enabling all members of the Congregation to continue with their individual ministries, living in community houses for as long as possible; and
- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties used as community houses and assessing their suitability as homes for the sisters.

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works

The religious and charitable works of individual members of the Congregation can be divided into three principal areas: worship and prayer, the social and pastoral work of the sisters and support of overseas missionary work. Each of these is considered in turn.

Worship and prayer

The sisters are involved in a number of activities which include:

- ◇ Promoting the values and vision set out in the Gospel including the promotion of human dignity, teaching respect of different cultures and working for a society based on justice and peace.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

- ◇ Giving members of the public from all walks of life the opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and take time for quiet contemplation and the chance to study and consider the Gospel.
- ◇ Providing religious instruction.
- ◇ Praying with those who are housebound, sick or dying.

Social and pastoral work

The charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work, thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel to help one another and love one's neighbour.

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual sisters:

- ◇ Working in parishes, schools and the local community; visiting; helping in catechetical programmes; helping families in difficulty, the elderly and housebound.
- ◇ Religious formation for adults and children.
- ◇ Giving spiritual guidance.
- ◇ Working as volunteers in organisations concerned with the homeless and adults/children with learning difficulties.
- ◇ Opening the Congregation's houses to the local community for meetings.

The objectives of the trustees of the charity included the following in respect to social and pastoral work:

- ◇ Enabling all members of the Congregation to carry out meaningful pastoral, social and educational work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- ◇ Encouraging members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised; and
- ◇ Whenever possible, ensuring sisters are remunerated for such work by way of salary or stipend. Such income is donated to the charity. This ensures that the work of the sisters may continue and develop into the future.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Overseas missionary work

The Congregation's missions in West Africa are now jointly financed by the English Delegation and the Congregation in France. The financial support of the charity has been used to meet the personal and living expenses of the sisters and their work: literacy, primary evangelisation, religious education, health care (primary health care) and the formation of young African girls aspiring to religious life.

The support enables the sisters to continue to care for some of the poorest and most marginalised in society – an objective which is consistent with the values set out in the Gospel. The individuals who benefit include those of all faiths and none and the help they receive can often mean the difference between life and death for them and their dependents.

Review of activities

The following paragraphs outline the main achievements during the period in each of the charity's principal activities.

Care of members of the Congregation

During the year the charity assisted members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work, enabling them to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. During the year, following the closure of the Bray community in Ireland, the Barnet community welcomed the 2 sisters from Bray. In April they also welcomed the sisters who have to move back to London following the decision to close the Kingshurst community near Birmingham. The sisters continue to visit Sister Paula in the care home regularly.

Worship and prayer

At the end of September 2022 Sister Joan and Sister Anne Hogan travelled to France to celebrate with their group 60 years of religious life. They were joined by Sister Odile. The celebration took place in the Mother House on 24 September 2022 and it was a celebration of life, of thanksgiving for all the years of faithful service. In June it was the turn of Sister Maureen to go to France to celebrate, with her companions, 70 years of religious life. Three of the sisters managed to join her in France and to celebrate once again the sisters faithful service to the Congregation and the mission. While in France, some of the sisters availed themselves of a retreat.

Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)



Jubilee celebrations

On Saturday 21 January 2023 the sisters met in Barnet with Sister Marie-Therese Superior General and Sister Dominique for a pre Chapter meeting due to take place in France in July. It gave each one the opportunity to exchange views, ask questions, and express desires and hopes for the future.

From **11 July to 30 July 2023** Sister Anne Hogan and Sister Odile Mahe took part in the 37th General Chapter of the congregation. The theme of the Chapter was “***I set you as watchman***” After looking back over the last six years, the Chapter delegates were invited to look to the future with realism and hope. One important part was the election of the new leadership team. After a time of discernment, a new leader was chosen and for the first time two African sisters joined her as part of the team. The remaining time was shared between group work and general assemblies to elaborate on the work of the next six years so that we could be in the word of the Bishop of Nantes: “***presence in the Church, humble, discreet, witness of compassion, available to support anyone in need...***”

Our new leadership Team



Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

On 30 July we celebrated the end of the Chapter with a eucharistic celebration with the official transfer of power between the new Superior General and the retiring one. This was followed by a festive gathering of those present.



"I set you as watchman"

The Chapter document containing the final work of the Chapter will be officially handed to each sister during the coming year.

Review of activities (continued)

Social and pastoral work

On Saturday 25 March 2023 parishioners and friends joined the sisters in a celebration to say farewell to the sisters after a presence of over 50 years in Kingshurst, Birmingham. It was both a sad and joyful celebration of thanksgiving for the friendship, the support and the mission of the sisters but also of the many signs of community working together. Sister Dominique representing Sister Marie-Therese, superior general, came over from France to join and take part in the celebration.

Community House Kingshurst



Stained glass window - St Anthony's Church Kingshurst - showing our congregation badge



Sister Ann O Sullivan continued to work as chaplain at MHA Charnwood House Coventry.

The community of Dickenson Road welcomes a small group of "St Gildas Family" friends to share and pray together, about once every six weeks.

Overseas missionary work

During this period, the charity continued to support the work and the personal and living costs of the sisters working in West Africa. This was done via the annual contribution to the Generalate.

For the first time the Chapter delegates elected two African sisters on the general team. One of them was trained by Sister Anne Hogan when she was in charge of the noviciate.

Review of activities (continued)

Volunteers

The members of the Congregation have gradually started again some of their activities assisting the poor and marginalised and those in need. The majority of members receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the CIO's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Congregation and the CIO. Without their contribution neither would be able to function effectively.

Details of the areas in which members gave their time during the year are shown in the table below:

Area	Number of sisters
Parish work	3
Hospital visiting	1
Housebound visiting	2
Working with other groups/organisations	3
Administration	2
Education	1

Some sisters carry out voluntary work in more than one area as part of their mission and apostolate. Some activities had to stop or change because of health/age.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Along with all other organisations which serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves. Where required under the terms of their ministries, sisters obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The trustees have been kept in touch by the new Religious Life Safeguarding Service to which they are members.

Donations and support of missionary work and ministry

Donations in support of the Congregation's work overseas are decided on by the trustees in consultation with the Generalate of the Congregation. In the main, the charity has supported the work of the Congregation in overseas countries. Broadly, the policy is to give to the most needy areas.

During the period, the trustees continued to give financial support to charities approved by the trustees and whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity.

Financial report for the period

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 23 of the attached accounts. During the year to 31 August 2023, income amounted to £265,813 (2022 – £237,908). Income for the year includes donations (including pensions receivable from members of the Congregation under Gift Aid or Deed of Covenant) of £167,137 (2022 –£150,831) and investment income and interest receivable of £98,676 (2022 – £85,977).

Expenditure totalled £387,345 (2022 – £316,957). Expenditure on maintaining the sisters and enabling them to carry out their work during the year amounted to £338,536 (2022 – £277,455). Charitable donations amounted to £29,108 (2022 - £19,952). The total donations given to the Generalate were £26,168 (2022 - £17,213).

Net expenditure for the year before investment losses was £121,532 (2022 – £79,049 before investment gains). Net investment losses for the year totalled £232,923 (2022 – net investment gains of £8,111). Therefore, the net movement on funds and net expenditure was £354,455 (2022 - £70,938)

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to eighteen to twenty-four months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £5,330,084 (2022 – £5,684,539). Of this, £1,754,693 (2022 – £1,790,354) represents the tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters.

The retirement reserve of £3,400,000 (2022 – £3,400,000) consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for the sisters in their retirement. Though calculated using actuarial principles, the fund itself is limited to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

At the balance sheet date, free reserves amounted to £175,391 (2022 – £494,185). These free reserves are short of the figure required by the reserves policy above. However, subsequent to the year end the trustees have received a donation from Ireland of circa £422,000 following the sale of a property and, in addition, since the year end the charity's own property in Birmingham has been placed on the market for £375,000. Therefore, the trustees are content with the reserves position at 31 August 2023 and believe that post year end the reserves policy will have been met.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Investment policy and performance

The charity had a portfolio of listed investments with a market value at the end of the period of £2,442,019 (2022 – £2,505,989). The portfolio achieved an income yield of 3.6% (2022 – 3.6%) and a capital yield of minus 9.29% (2022 – capital yield of plus 0.34%). At 31 August 2023, the investment managers were also holding cash awaiting investment of £101,472 (2022 – £90,779). The investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited, who operate within guidelines that are set and regularly reviewed by the trustees, who believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

The policy of the charity is to achieve a combination of income and capital growth within acceptable levels of risk.

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest.

The performance of the portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed by the trustees who meet with the investment manager at least once a year. The trustees are content that their policy will be achieved in the medium to long term.

Future plans

The trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charity or its activities over the next two to five years. It is their intention to continue to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. Focus will continue to be given to assisting the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To continue to remain focussed on the importance of worship and prayer to the lives of the individual sisters and to the overall mission of the charity.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older, and if necessary to adapt the charity's plans in respect to property needs and the provision of care to elderly members. Following the closing of the Birmingham community the house has been put on the market.
- ◆ To support the Congregation's work in Africa in partnership with the Congregation's Generalate.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution agreed by the trustees on 30 May 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9 June 2017.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Liability of the member

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

In terms of Canon law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Superior General and her General Council in Nantes, France. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter or meeting of delegates of all the regions of the Congregation.

Since the 2017 General Chapter, England and Ireland are now a delegation with a General Councillor having overall responsibility, assisted by a Delegate living in England who works in close collaboration with the General Councillor. After consultation with the sisters of the delegation, the Superior General names the Delegate with the consent of her council.

The Assistant Delegate communicates with the General Councillor responsible for the Delegation. Once or twice a year she meets with the Superior General and her Council to give an account of the progress and development of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged.

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344. The trustees are appointed by the Superior General in her capacity as sole member of the CIO. As members of the Congregation, the trustees are aware of the work of the charity and of its structure. With the help of professional advisers, and through attendance at seminars, conferences etc, they update their knowledge of charity law and its requirements.

Trustees

The names of the trustees are set out within the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts and brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at 31 August 2023 are given below.

Sister Anne Hogan

Sister Anne joined the Congregation in 1962. She is a qualified teacher but her main involvements have been in the areas of formation and administration. She has been responsible for novices both here in the UK and also in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She served as Regional Superior for twelve years and then as General Councillor for six years. As Regional Superior she was a trustee of the charity. Presently, Sister Anne is Assistant Delegate for England and Ireland.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees (continued)

Sister Elizabeth McNiff

Sister Elizabeth joined the Congregation 57 years ago. After training in child care she worked in the Social Services departments for Haringey, Solihull and Birmingham (1971-1996), caring for disadvantaged young people, mainly adolescents in the residential setting. She has been bursar in the Birmingham Community and is now bursar of the Barnet Community and continues to be actively involved in Parish life supporting people in need as well as looking to the welfare of the Barnet community.

Sister Odile Mahé

Sister Odile is the Bursar for the Delegation with overall responsibility for the finances of the charity. She joined the Congregation 63 years ago and, after graduating and qualifying as a teacher, spent 20 years of her religious life in education. She was also Bursar of her community. Before taking up the post of Regional Bursar she did some further training in IT.

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 these 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; and
- ◆ 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they 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 the trustees are members of the Congregation and, whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or key management personnel.

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet when necessary to review the activities, possible developments, make important decisions and to seek advice and support from professional advisers including solicitors, investment managers, accountants and property consultants. They delegate the day-to-day management of the activities, and the implementation of policies, to members of the Congregation.

At the end of August 2023, the Delegation of England comprised 11 sisters. The sisters live in two communities in London. The community houses are located in areas and parishes where their proximity to the people among whom they dwell, enables the sisters to respond most effectively to needs, either working alone, or in partnership with other organisations. As stated above, each community has a Leader appointed by the General Councillor Delegate.

St Gildas Schools in Yeovil and London, formerly the property of the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas), are administered by the Dioceses of Clifton and Westminster respectively. The sisters continue to maintain an interest in the life of the schools and support their work.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications 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 to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the period, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks the Congregation currently faces and have reviewed the measures already in place to deal with them.

The trustees recognise their responsibility for the management of risks faced by the charity and the sisters. The areas identified for particular attention within the charity's risk management strategy are:

Governance and management: looks at the risk of the Congregation, and hence the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members, and the good use of its resources.

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters shows that the average age at 31 August 2023 was 83 years. The trustees are aware that there is both a moral and legal obligation to care for the sisters. None of the sisters have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and any other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant.

As the age profile increases, so too does the need to provide care for the sisters. Key elements of the management of this risk are: a) ensuring that the charity has the available financial resources to finance this care both now and in the future by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles; and b) ensuring that processes are in place to review the ministries and needs of individual sisters encouraging those who need it to take on less demanding ministries and for identifying those who need extra care and help.

Operational: looks at the risks inherent in the activities of the charity, particularly pastoral care.

The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all whom the charity serves. This means that all sisters who are in any kind of ministry have obtained clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

The charity does not work with children, but it does work with adults who may need help at particularly vulnerable moments in life.

Financial: looks at risks including those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, poor accounting and poor management of the investment portfolio.

The principal asset of the charity comprises listed investments, the value of which is dependent on movements in UK and world stock markets. The investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly with the investment managers and the manager's performance and that of the portfolio are monitored. The investment strategy is assessed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's needs both now and in the future.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Reputational: looks at possible damage to the Congregation and hence the reputation of the charity.

Laws, regulations, external and environment: looks at the effect of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations in so far as they are applicable to the Congregation's activities.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Working with other organisations

The charity has worked closely with other charities and public bodies in the fields of social and pastoral care and education, including working with the vulnerable and the marginalised. One sister receives a salary, while the others work on a voluntary basis. In all cases, working together enables the sisters to be more effective and avoid duplication of effort in providing services to the people they serve. Examples of the organisations for which members have worked and with which the charity has co-operated during the period are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Ascent Movement in Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Justice and Peace Link;
- ◆ Churches Together;

Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation

The members of the Congregation continue to give unsparing service and dedication to all the Congregation's works and the trustees wish to record their appreciation.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 28/02/24

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management and 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 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of the trustees and the review of minutes of meetings of the trustees.

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

- ◆ Making enquiries of the trustees as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and 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 including the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ Gained an understanding of the processes in place for the management of the charity's investments and confirmed the validity of investment movements; 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:

- ◆ Reviewing the minutes of meetings of trustees;
- ◆ Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ Agreeing accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

As a result of our procedures we did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date 28/02/24

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	1	167,137	150,831
Investments and interest receivable	2	98,676	85,977
Other sources:			
. Miscellaneous income		—	1,100
Total income		265,813	237,908
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
. Investment management costs		19,701	19,550
Charitable activities			
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	3	338,536	277,455
. Charitable donations	4	29,108	19,952
Total expenditure		387,345	316,957
Net expenditure for the year before investment (losses) gains		(121,532)	(79,049)
Net investment (losses) gains		(232,923)	8,111
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		(354,455)	(70,938)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2022	14	5,684,539	5,755,477
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2023		5,330,084	5,684,539

The statement of financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses recognised in the year.

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

All of the charity's funds were unrestricted in the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		1,754,693		1,790,354
Investments	9		2,543,491		2,596,768
			4,298,184		4,387,122
Current assets					
Debtors	10	13,239		2,552	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,120,287		1,364,058	
		1,133,526		1,366,610	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(101,626)		(69,193)	
Net current assets			1,031,900		1,297,417
Total net assets			5,330,084		5,684,539
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Unrestricted funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		1,754,693		1,790,354
. Designated funds	13		3,400,000		3,400,000
. General funds			175,391		494,185
			5,330,084		5,684,539

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 28/02/24

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(161,911)	(125,595)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and interest received		97,786	85,731
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		131,822	66,633
Purchase of investments		(300,775)	(191,636)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		—	1,400
Net cash used in investing activities		(71,167)	(37,872)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(233,078)	(163,467)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		1,454,837	1,618,304
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	B	1,221,759	1,454,837

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2023

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(354,455)	(70,938)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	35,661	36,225
Losses (gains) on investments	232,923	(8,111)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	1,550
Investment income and interest receivable	(98,676)	(85,977)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(9,797)	1,204
Increase in creditors	32,433	452
Net cash used in operating activities	(161,911)	(125,595)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,364,058	(243,771)	1,120,287
Cash held by investment managers	90,779	10,693	101,472
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,454,837	(233,078)	1,221,759

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).

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

These accounts have been prepared for the year ended to 31 August 2023 with comparative information provided in respect to the year ended 31 August 2022.

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 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where such judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of calculating the depreciation charge;
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds including the determination of the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement reserve; and
- ◆ estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

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 acknowledge and recognise potential impact of the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate on the charity and have concluded that there may continue to be some negative consequences as investment markets remain volatile. However, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above.

With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 August 2024, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the performance of the investment market. However, the trustees have considered the possible impact on the charity and have concluded that, although there may be some negative consequences, it is appropriate for the charity to continue to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis.

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, legacies, investment income, interest receivable and income from other sources including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of religious individuals received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, 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.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or income has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

Income recognition (continued)

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.

Any surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

All other income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be measured reliably. It is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition

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. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The majority of expenditure is directly attributable and any apportionment between headings is negligible.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the listed investments.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities and includes:

- ◇ Expenditure on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. Such expenditure enables the members to carry out the work of the charity in the areas of the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith, the advancement of education and the provision of social and pastoral work.
- ◇ The provision of charitable donations relating, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Charitable donations are made where the trustees believe there is a real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year commitments. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any donations approved but unpaid at the end of the financial period.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

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.

All expenditure on support and governance is allocated to the charitable activities of care of members of the Congregation and enabling their ministry as any costs in relation to provision of donations or raising funds is considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

◆ Freehold land and buildings

Non-specialised buildings are those designed as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. They are stated at cost, or, in the case of older properties where cost is not available, at a trustees' valuation made in 1996 based on market value for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 September 2014, the value assigned to those properties valued in 1996 is now deemed to be cost. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Specialised buildings comprise a large residential convent stated at cost. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the building off over its estimated useful economic life to the Congregation.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

◆ Motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment

Expenditure on the purchase of motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over a four year period on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

Investments (continued)

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

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.

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. 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.

Funds structure

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

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Details of these are provided in note 13.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Operating leases

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

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant or Gift Aid	167,137	150,831

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	2023 £	2022 £
Income from listed investments		
United Kingdom		
. Equities	35,724	36,000
. Fixed interest	7,744	8,121
. Properties, infrastructure and renewable energy	21,501	19,047
. Alternatives	5,146	4,221
Overseas		
. Equities	14,639	14,180
. Fixed interest	710	855
. Properties, infrastructure and renewable energy	1,650	1,650
. Alternatives	1,612	1,476
	88,726	85,550
Interest receivable		
Cash held by investment managers	995	—
Bank interest	8,955	427
	98,676	85,977

3 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	2023 £	2022 £
Premises (excluding depreciation)	65,017	106,287
Sisters' living and personal expenses	68,634	65,844
Nursing home fees	127,400	34,887
Education, training and spiritual renewal	15,874	11,388
Depreciation and deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	35,661	37,775
Support costs		
. Governance (professional fees)	14,274	12,775
. Other costs	11,676	8,499
	338,536	277,455

4 Expenditure on: Charitable donations

The donations payable during the year were to institutions and were for the following purposes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Support of the Congregation's work overseas	922	1,024
Support of the Congregation's Generalate	26,168	17,213
Other donations of less than £1,000 each	2,018	1,715
	29,108	19,952

5 Net expenditure for the year before investment (losses) gains

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	13,609	12,415
.. Previous period	665	360
Depreciation	35,661	36,225
Deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	1,550
Operating lease payments		
. Land and buildings	—	3,250
. Office equipment	2,867	2,784

6 Staff costs, key management personnel and Trustees' remuneration

As members of the Congregation, the trustees' living and personal expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or as members of key management during the year.

The charity did not have any employees during the year (2022 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

None of the trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the charity. During the year, a total of £45,538 (2022 – £43,032) was donated by the trustees to the charity.

7 Taxation

The Sisters of the Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) 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
	Specialised £	Non-specialised £	Motor vehicles £	£	£
Cost or deemed cost					
At 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023	1,578,817	645,342	19,426	30,983	2,274,568
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	457,037	—	17,256	9,921	484,214
Charge for the year	31,576	—	2,170	1,915	35,661
At 31 August 2023	488,613	—	19,426	11,836	519,875
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	1,090,204	645,342	—	19,147	1,754,693
At 31 August 2022	1,121,780	645,342	2,170	21,062	1,790,354

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

9 Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments		
Fair (market) value at 1 September 2022	2,505,989	2,372,875
Additions at cost	300,775	191,636
Disposals at book value (see below)	(129,510)	(62,505)
Net unrealised investment (losses) gains	(235,235)	3,983
Fair (market) value at 31 August 2023	2,442,019	2,505,989
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	101,472	90,779
	2,543,491	2,596,768
Cost of listed investments at 31 August 2023	2,057,496	1,856,417

Disposals at book value included above one made up of the following:

	2023 £	2022 £
Proceeds	131,822	66,633
Realised gains	(2,312)	(4,128)
	129,510	62,505

9 Investments (continued)

Listed investments held at 31 August 2023 comprised the following:

	2023 £	2022 £
United Kingdom		
. Equities	866,001	909,729
. Fixed interest	232,505	171,294
. Properties, infrastructure and renewable energy	348,917	485,038
. Alternatives	224,580	252,226
Overseas		
. Equities	601,501	487,924
. Fixed interest	55,223	65,418
. Properties, infrastructure and renewable energy	26,760	34,480
. Alternatives	86,532	99,880
	2,442,019	2,505,989

At 31 August 2023 there were no individual holdings deemed material when compared with the overall portfolio valuation as at that date.

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

10 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment income receivable	1,194	304
Donations receivable (pensions of individual religious)	10,138	—
Prepayments and other debtors	1,907	2,248
	13,239	2,552

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts held on behalf of individual members of the Congregation	52,338	52,338
Accruals	13,640	12,415
Other creditors	35,648	4,440
	101,626	69,193

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	1,790,354	1,829,529
Net movement in the year	(35,661)	(39,175)
At 31 August 2023	1,754,693	1,790,354

The tangible fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. It has been identified separately in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are required for the charity's work and are not available as a reserve to fund day to day activities or meet future contingencies.

13 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated fund which had been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

Retirement reserve:	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	3,400,000	3,400,000
Designated in the year	—	—
At 31 August 2023	3,400,000	3,400,000

The retirement reserve is calculated using actuarial principles and was created in order to assist in providing for the sisters in their retirement. The amount designated is restricted to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

At 31 August 2023, the fund balances are represented by the following assets and liabilities:

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,754,693	—	1,754,693
Investments	—	—	2,543,491	2,543,491
Net current assets	175,391	—	856,509	1,031,900
Total net assets	175,391	1,754,693	3,400,000	5,330,084

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,790,354	—	1,790,354
Investments	—	—	2,596,768	2,596,768
Net current assets	494,185	—	803,232	1,297,417
Total net assets	494,185	1,790,354	3,400,000	5,684,539

The total unrealised gains at 31 August 2023 constitute revaluation of listed investments and the movements on the unrealised gains are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrealised gains included above on listed investments		
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2023	384,523	649,572
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains		
Total unrealised gains at 1 September 2022	649,572	659,156
In respect to disposals in the year	(29,814)	(13,567)
Net (losses) gains arising on revaluation in the year	(235,235)	3,983
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2023	384,523	649,572

15 Operating leases

At 31 August 2023, the charity had total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to certain assets as follows:

Operating lease payments payable:	Equipment		Land and buildings	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	2,880	3,112	—	3,250
Amounts due between two and five years	7,920	10,800	—	—
	10,800	13,912	—	3,250

16 Post balance sheet events

Since the year end, the charity has placed its property situated in Birmingham on the market. The property has a net book value in these accounts of £13,000 and it is being marketed for sale at £375,000.

In addition, since the year end, the charity has received a donation from the Congregational charity in Ireland of £422,000 following the sale of a property by that charity. Sister Odile Mahé and Sister Anne Hogan are both trustees of the Congregational charity in Ireland.

17 Ultimate control and liability of the member

The Superior General of the Congregation for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex officio the sole member of the CIO. The sole member is responsible for the appointment of the trustees.

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.

18 Related party transactions

Other than the donations received from trustees disclosed in note 6 to these accounts and the post year end donation from the Congregational charity in Ireland, there are no related party transactions requiring disclosure (2022 – none).

Accounts

**The Sisters
of Christian
Instruction
(St. Gildas) CIO**

Report and Accounts

31 August 2022

Charity Registration Number 1173344

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

Trustees	Sister Anne Hogan Sister Odile Mahé Sister Elizabeth McNiff
General Councillor Delegate	Sister Dominique Guerin
Regional Bursar	Sister Odile Mahé
Administrative address	The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) 36 Dickenson Road Hornsey London N8 9ET
Charity registration number	1173344
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Investment managers	Charles Stanley and Company Limited 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Solicitors	Pothecary Witham Weld 84 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PX

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the charity or the CIO) for the year to 31 August 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 31 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the requirements 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).

Introduction

The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) (the Congregation) is a Roman Catholic religious congregation supporting 293 sisters. It was founded in France in 1820 where its generalate is still located and it is divided into three Regions, a delegation and the Mother House.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity through which the activities and net assets of the Congregation in England have been administered since 1 September 2017. The charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 - Charity Registration No. 1173344.

Principal aims and mission

The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This included the maintenance and support of the sisters themselves.

By caring for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation, the charity aims to enable and support the sisters to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the period, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal aims and mission (continued)

The ministries of the sisters during the year fell into the following main areas:

- ◆ Caring for members of the Congregation
- ◆ Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works:
 - ◇ Worship and prayer:
Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private worship and to continue to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus and the Church through quiet prayer, study of the Gospel and spiritual development. In addition, members of the Congregation celebrate and pray with the wider community including people of all faiths and none. They do this through the provision of spiritual guidance or by just being available to listen in times of need, through the celebration of the Liturgy, prayer groups and church services.
 - ◇ Social and pastoral work:
Many members of the Congregation are involved in a diverse range of social and pastoral work, including care of the elderly and people with special needs, family support and hospital visiting. The sisters aim to help, in particular, the poor and marginalised in society regardless of their personal background, faith, gender or individual circumstances.
 - ◇ Overseas missionary work:
Members of the Congregation work in health care, literacy work and primary evangelisation in West Africa.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

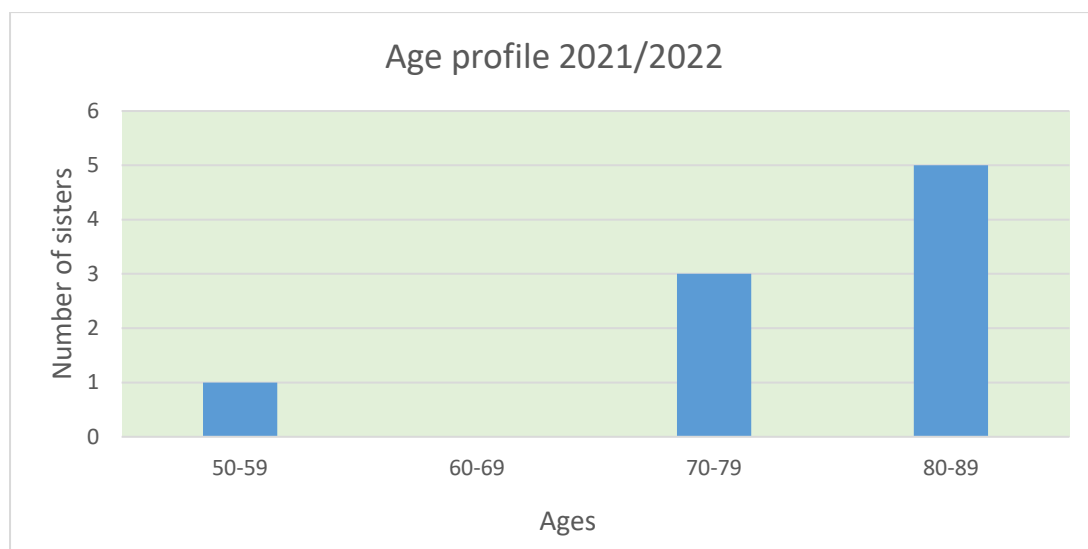
As stated under principal aims and mission above, the aims of the charity during the period were to care for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation and so enable and support them to live out their faith and to put that faith in to practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

Caring for members of the Congregation

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to education. In common with many religious congregations, as the age profile of the members increases so too does the need to provide for the care of the sisters in the future. The age profile of the sisters who were in England during the year is shown graphically overleaf:

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Caring for members of the Congregation (continued)



At present, most ageing or ailing members live as members of various communities, receiving the care they need from the sisters of the community, making use of local facilities. As a consequence, the trustees of the charity have given careful consideration to the impact of this on the work of individual members of the Congregation and the financial implications. Therefore, the objectives of the trustees of the charity include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Congregation receive the high level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they have a right to expect;
- ◆ Enabling all members of the Congregation to continue with their individual ministries, living in community houses for as long as possible; and
- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties used as community houses and assessing their suitability as homes for the sisters.

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works

The religious and charitable works of individual members of the Congregation can be divided into three principal areas: worship and prayer, the social and pastoral work of the sisters and support of overseas missionary work. Each of these is considered in turn.

Worship and prayer

The sisters are involved in a number of activities which include:

- ◇ Promoting the values and vision set out in the Gospel including the promotion of human dignity, teaching respect of different cultures and working for a society based on justice and peace.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

- ◇ Giving members of the public from all walks of life the opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and take time for quiet contemplation and the chance to study and consider the Gospel.
- ◇ Providing religious instruction.
- ◇ Praying with those who are housebound, sick or dying.

Social and pastoral work

The charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work, thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel to help one another and love one's neighbour.

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual sisters:

- ◇ Working in parishes, schools and the local community; visiting; helping in catechetical programmes; helping families in difficulty, the elderly and housebound.
- ◇ Religious formation for adults and children.
- ◇ Giving spiritual guidance.
- ◇ Working as volunteers in organisations concerned with the homeless and adults/children with learning difficulties.
- ◇ Opening the Congregation's houses to the local community for meetings.

The objectives of the trustees of the charity included the following in respect to social and pastoral work:

- ◇ Enabling all members of the Congregation to carry out meaningful pastoral, social and educational work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- ◇ Encouraging members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised; and
- ◇ Whenever possible, ensuring sisters are remunerated for such work by way of salary or stipend. Such income is donated to the charity. This ensures that the work of the sisters may continue and develop into the future.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Overseas missionary work

The Congregation's missions in West Africa are now jointly financed by the English Delegation and the Congregation in France. The financial support of the charity has been used to meet the personal and living expenses of the sisters and their work: literacy, primary evangelisation, religious education, health care (primary health care) and the formation of young African girls aspiring to religious life.

The support enables the sisters to continue to care for some of the poorest and most marginalised in society – an objective which is consistent with the values set out in the Gospel. The individuals who benefit include those of all faiths and none and the help they receive can often mean the difference between life and death for them and their dependents.

Review of activities

The following paragraphs outline the main achievements during the period in each of the charity's principal activities.

Care of members of the Congregation

During the year the charity assisted members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work, enabling them to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. During the year the trustees and the sisters of the Barnet community began to look for local nursing homes which could offer specialised dementia care for one of the sisters. They soon became interested in a new home very near the community which was due to open in May 2022. The sisters visited it on several occasions and were impressed by what was being provided which was very much what they were looking for. The proximity of the community (walking distance) meant that the sisters could visit anytime and were reassured that the sister would receive the personalised care she required. The sister was admitted and welcomed by staff at "Signature Barnet" on 19 May 2022. Sister has settled in very happily.

Covid-19

As restrictions after the pandemic were lifted the sisters gradually started again their involvement with local communities and groups.

Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer

RECEPTION OF THE REVISED RULE OF LIFE BARNET



Over the period 5-15 September, Sister Dominique and Sister Catherine (both general councillors) managed at last to come on a visit to the English communities. This was the first one since the pandemic. It was with joy that we were able once again to meet and share news, and celebrate being together again. During a celebration in Barnet the sisters were able to receive the revised version of the constitution which had been presented to the rest of the Congregation in July. This was an uplifting experience and also a joyful one to be able to meet again.

JUBILEES CELEBRATION ST GILDAS OCTOBER 2021



In October Sister Ann O'Sullivan was able to travel to France for a short weekend Congregation meeting of her age group. Sister Odile was due to celebrate her diamond jubilee of religious life in 2020 but this had to be postponed because of Covid. When it became possible to meet again in groups and to travel, it was decided that we would join the 2021 group which we did. Therefore, Sister Odile was able to join with them and take part in the celebration in the Mother House in France on the Sunday 10 October. It was a real celebration of life, thanksgiving for all the years of faithful service. Sister Marie-Josephe who has just retired to France after many years spent in England and Ghana was also part of the group due to celebrate 70 years in 2020.

Review of activities (continued)

Social and pastoral work

On 10 September, Sisters Dominique and Catherine joined the Sisters from the Kingshurst community in the 10th anniversary of the Tuesday Club which the sisters are very much a part of. Sister Josephine from the Barnet community was also present both at the Mass and reception and a good time was enjoyed by all.

On 24 August, Sister Anne and Sister Odile joined the parish community of St Fergal's in Bray, Ireland for a thanksgiving and farewell Mass for the Sisters who are joining the English region after 29 years of mission in Ireland. It was a great occasion for all.

As mentioned above, the sisters are gradually becoming involved or supporting groups again following the ending of Covid lockdowns. The above is a good example of this.

Carer's Club - Abide Church, Crouch End

Every Thursday a number of people meet at the Abide Church in Crouch End, London. The purpose of this friendly get together is to offer a space to meet, relax and share something of their involvements in caring for persons with a variety of special needs: mothers caring for children and young adults, women caring for elderly family members. These are but a couple of examples of challenges being faced by those who come through the doors every Thursday.

The meetings are informal, but the leaders are keen to offer from time to time some therapies such as massage, nail treatments, etc. free of charge and which are much appreciated.

Sister Anne Hogan has been attending these meetings for several years now, joining in as a friend with a listening ear. Sister Anne feels privileged to be a witness to the courage and devotion of many of the men and women who are willing to share their stories.

Sister Ann O'Sullivan continues work both as a child therapist and as chaplain at MHA Charnwood House Coventry.

Overseas missionary work

During this period, the charity continued to support the work and the personal and living costs of the Sisters working in West Africa. This was done via the annual contribution to the Generalate. The following illustrates the impact the charity's funding can have on individuals' lives:

Jacob Alhassan

On Friday 26 November 2021, Sister Joan Mahoney and I travelled to Oxford to attend the graduation ceremony at Oxford University of Jacob Alhassan at his invitation.

Several weeks previously, Sister Joan contacted me asking if I would like to accompany her to Oxford for the ceremony. It was through a letter addressed to Sister Joan sent to our Generalate at rue Berthelot, Nantes and passed on to her that Jacob managed to get in touch with saying he would love to meet her again after so many years. He had first met Sister Joan and the sisters of St Gildas in Tamale when he enrolled in the library founded by our sisters.

Review of activities (continued)

Overseas missionary work

Jacob Alhassan (continued)

He used to walk for two hours from a local village to attend twice a week. He told us that it was there that he developed his love of reading and said he was greatly helped by the encouragement he received from the sisters.

He eventually was given a place in St Charles school which was a junior seminary founded by the White Fathers. He won a place at the university in Accra where he gained his first degree. This was followed by a further degree at the University of Durham in the UK. He gained employment at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada where he continued his research work which gained him another degree from Oxford, including his doctorate.

He has returned to Saskatchewan but intends returning to Ghana to contribute to furthering the education of young people there.

Joan and I felt very privileged to have shared this momentous occasion with Jacob. We represented his family who could not be there and Jacob appreciated this.

There must have been, and still are, other 'Jacobs' who have been helped along the way by the little library in Tamale. We praise and thank God for the good being done by our sisters.



Library Tamale Ghana

Volunteers

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, the members of the Congregation were able to gradually start again some of their activities assisting the poor and marginalised and those in need. The majority of members receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the CIO's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Congregation and the CIO. Without their contribution neither would be able to function effectively.

Review of activities (continued)

Volunteers

Details of the areas in which members gave their time during the year are shown in the table below:

Area	Number of sisters
Parish work	2
Hospital visiting	1
Housebound visiting	2
Working with other groups/organisations	3
Administration	2
Education	1

Some sisters carry out voluntary work in more than one area as part of their mission and apostolate.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Along with all other organisations which serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves. Where required under the terms of their ministries, sisters obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The trustees have been kept in touch via zoom meetings organised by Conference of Religious and the new Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLLS).

Donations and support of missionary work and ministry

Donations in support of the Congregation's work overseas are decided on by the trustees in consultation with the Generalate of the Congregation. In the main, the charity has supported the work of the Congregation in overseas countries. Broadly, the policy is to give to the most needy areas.

During the period, the trustees continued to give financial support to charities approved by the trustees and whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity.

Financial report for the period

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 23 of the attached accounts. During the year to 31 August 2022, income amounted to £237,908 (2021 – £237,889). Income for the year includes donations (including pensions receivable from members of the Congregation under Gift Aid or Deed of Covenant) of £150,831 (2021 –£154,546) and investment income and interest receivable of £85,977 (2021 – £83,343).

Financial report for the period (continued)

Results for the period (continued)

Expenditure totalled £316,957 (2021 – £229,619). Expenditure on maintaining the sisters and enabling them to carry out their work during the year amounted to £277,455 (2021 – £188,571). Charitable donations amounted to £19,952 (2021 - £22,541). The total donations given to the Generalate were £17,213 (2021 - £18,314).

Net expenditure for the year was £79,049 (2021 – net income of £8,270). Net investment gains for the year totalled £8,111 (2021 – £319,600).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to eighteen to twenty-four months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £5,684,539 (2021 – £5,755,477). Of this, £1,790,354 (2021 – £1,829,529) represents the tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters.

The retirement reserve of £3,400,000 (2021 – £3,400,000) consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for the sisters in their retirement. Though calculated using actuarial principles, the fund itself is limited to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

At the balance sheet date, free reserves amounted to £494,185 (2021 – £525,948).

Investment policy and performance

The charity had a portfolio of listed investments with a market value at the end of the period of £2,505,989 (2021 – £2,372,875). The portfolio achieved an income yield of 3.6% (2021 – 4.2%) and a capital yield of 0.34% (2021 – 16%). At 31 August 2022, the investment managers were also holding cash awaiting investment of £90,779 (2021 – £35,332). The investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited, who operate within guidelines that are set and regularly reviewed by the trustees, who believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Investment policy and performance (continued)

The policy of the charity is to achieve a combination of income and capital growth within acceptable levels of risk.

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest.

The performance of the portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed by the trustees who meet with the investment manager at least once a year. The trustees are content that their policy will be achieved in the medium to long term.

Future plans

The trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charity or its activities over the next two to five years. It is their intention to continue to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. Focus will continue to be given to assisting the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To continue to remain focussed on the importance of worship and prayer to the lives of the individual sisters and to the overall mission of the charity.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older, and if necessary to adapt the charity's plans in respect to property needs and the provision of care to elderly members.
- ◆ To support the Congregation's work in Africa in partnership with the Congregation's Generalate.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution agreed by the trustees on 30 May 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9 June 2017.

Liability of the member

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

In terms of Canon law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Superior General and her General Council in Nantes, France. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter or meeting of delegates of all the regions of the Congregation.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Since the 2017 General Chapter, England and Ireland are now a delegation with a General Councillor having overall responsibility and assisted by a Delegate living in England who works in close collaboration with the General Councillor. After consultation with the sisters of the delegation, the Superior General names the Delegate with the consent of her council.

The Assistant Delegate communicates with the General Councillor responsible for the Delegation. Once or twice a year she meets with the Superior General and her Council to give an account of the progress and development of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged.

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344. The trustees are appointed by the Superior General in her capacity as sole member of the CIO. As members of the Congregation, the trustees are aware of the work of the charity and of its structure. With the help of professional advisers, and through attendance at seminars, conferences etc, they update their knowledge of charity law and its requirements.

The names of the trustees are set out within the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts and brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at 31 August 2022 are given below.

Sister Anne Hogan

Sister Anne joined the Congregation in 1962. She is a qualified teacher but her main involvements have been in the areas of formation and administration. She has been responsible for novices both here in the UK and also in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She served as Regional Superior for twelve years and then as General Councillor for six years. As Regional Superior she was a trustee of the charity. Presently, Sister Anne is Assistant Delegate for England and Ireland.

Sister Elizabeth McNiff

Sister Elizabeth joined the Congregation 56 years ago. After training in child care she worked in the Social Services departments for Haringey, Solihull and Birmingham (1971-1996), caring for disadvantaged young people, mainly adolescents in the residential setting. She has been bursar in the Birmingham Community and is now bursar of the Barnet Community and continues to be actively involved in Parish life supporting people in need.

Sister Odile Mahé

Sister Odile is the Bursar for the Delegation with overall responsibility for the finances of the charity. She joined the Congregation 62 years ago and, after graduating and qualifying as a teacher, spent 20 years of her religious life in education. She was also Bursar of her community. Before taking up the post of Regional Bursar she did some further training in IT. Covid 19 and restrictions have meant that so far she has not yet been able to resume her volunteering work.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these 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; and
- ◆ Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they 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 the trustees are members of the Congregation and, whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or key management personnel.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet when necessary to review the activities, possible developments, make important decisions and to seek advice and support from professional advisers including solicitors, investment managers, accountants and property consultants. They delegate the day-to-day management of the activities, and the implementation of policies, to members of the Congregation.

At the end of August 2022, the Delegation of England and Ireland comprised 11 sisters, 9 of whom continue to live in England. The sisters live in three communities in London and Birmingham. The community houses are located in areas and parishes where their proximity to the people among whom they dwell, enables the sisters to respond most effectively to needs, either working alone, or in partnership with other organisations. As stated above, each community has a Leader appointed by the General Councillor Delegate.

St Gildas Schools in Yeovil and London, formerly the property of the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas), are administered by the Dioceses of Clifton and Westminster respectively. The sisters continue to maintain an interest in the life of the schools and support their work.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications 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 to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the period, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Risk management

The trustees recognise their responsibility for the management of risks faced by the charity and the sisters.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

The areas identified for particular attention within the charity's risk management strategy are:

Governance and management: looks at the risk of the Congregation, and hence the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members, and the good use of its resources.

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters shows that the average age at 31 August 2022 was 79 years. The trustees are aware that there is both a moral and legal obligation to care for the sisters. None of the sisters have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and any other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant.

As the age profile increases, so too does the need to provide care for the sisters. Key elements of the management of this risk are: a) ensuring that the charity has the available financial resources to finance this care both now and in the future by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles; and b) ensuring that processes are in place to review the ministries and needs of individual sisters encouraging those who need it to take on less demanding ministries and for identifying those who need extra care and help.

Operational: looks at the risks inherent in the activities of the charity, particularly pastoral care.

The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all whom the charity serves. This means that all sisters who are in any kind of ministry have obtained clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS).

The charity does not work with children, but it does work with adults who may need help at particularly vulnerable moments in life.

Financial: looks at risks including those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, poor accounting and poor management of the investment portfolio.

The principal asset of the charity comprises listed investments, the value of which is dependent on movements in UK and world stock markets. The investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly with the investment managers and the manager's performance and that of the portfolio are monitored. The investment strategy is assessed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's needs both now and in the future. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we communicated with our investment managers and, whilst there remain concerns over the volatility in world stock markets, we acknowledge also that we are long term investors. As such, the charity will be able to wait for markets to stabilise over time whilst we, as trustees, keep a watching brief.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Reputational: looks at possible damage to the Congregation and hence the reputation of the charity.

Laws, regulations, external and environment: looks at the effect of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations in so far as they are applicable to the Congregation's activities.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Working with other organisations

The charity has worked closely with other charities and public bodies in the fields of social and pastoral care and education, including working with the vulnerable and the marginalised. One sister receives a salary, while the others work on a voluntary basis. In all cases, working together enables the sisters to be more effective and avoid duplication of effort in providing services to the people they serve. Examples of the organisations for which members have worked and with which the charity has co-operated during the period are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Ascent Movement in Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Justice and Peace Link; and
- ◆ Churches Together.

Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation

The members of the Congregation continue to give unsparing service and dedication to all the Congregation's works and the trustees wish to record their appreciation.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 20/03/2023

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management and 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 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of the trustees and the review of minutes of meetings of the trustees.

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

- ◆ Making enquiries of the trustees as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and 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 including the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ Gained an understanding of the processes in place for the management of the charity's investments and confirmed the validity of investment movements; 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:

- ◆ Reviewing the minutes of meetings of trustees;
- ◆ Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ Agreeing accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

As a result of our procedures we did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date 30 March 2023

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	1	150,831	154,546
Investments and interest receivable	2	85,977	83,343
Other sources:			
. Miscellaneous income		1,100	—
Total income		237,908	237,889
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
. Investment management costs		19,550	18,507
Charitable activities			
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	3	277,455	188,571
. Charitable donations	4	19,952	22,541
Total expenditure		316,957	229,619
Net (expenditure) income for the year before investment gains		(79,049)	8,270
Net investment gains		8,111	319,600
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds		(70,938)	327,870
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2021	14	5,755,477	5,427,607
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		5,684,539	5,755,477

The statement of financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses recognised in the year.

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

All of the charity's funds were unrestricted in the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		1,790,354		1,829,529
Investments	9		2,596,768		2,408,207
			4,387,122		4,237,736
Current assets					
Debtors	10	2,552		3,510	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,364,058		1,582,972	
		1,366,610		1,586,482	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(69,193)		(68,741)	
Net current assets			1,297,417		1,517,741
Total net assets			5,684,539		5,755,477
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Unrestricted funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		1,790,354		1,829,529
. Designated funds	13		3,400,000		3,400,000
. General funds			494,185		525,948
			5,684,539		5,755,477

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 20/03/2023

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(125,595)	(33,186)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and interest received		85,731	83,456
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		66,633	92,204
Purchase of investments		(191,636)	(166,914)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		1,400	—
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		(37,872)	8,746
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(163,467)	(24,440)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2021		1,618,304	1,642,744
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2022	B	1,454,837	1,618,304

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2022

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(70,938)	327,870
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	36,225	37,701
Gains on investments	(8,111)	(319,600)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,550	—
Investment income and interest receivable	(85,977)	(83,343)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	1,204	(884)
Increase in creditors	452	5,070
Net cash used in operating activities	(125,595)	(33,186)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,582,972	(218,914)	1,364,058
Cash held by investment managers	35,332	55,447	90,779
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,618,304	(163,467)	1,454,837

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).

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

These accounts have been prepared for the year ended to 31 August 2022 with comparative information provided in respect to the year ended 31 August 2021.

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 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where such judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of calculating the depreciation charge;
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds including the determination of the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement reserve; and
- ◆ estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

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 acknowledge and recognise potential impact of the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate on the charity and have concluded that there may continue to be some negative consequences as investment markets remain volatile. However, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 August 2023, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the performance of the investment market.

However, the trustees have considered the possible impact on the charity and have concluded that although there may be some negative consequences, it is appropriate for the charity to continue to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis.

This is particularly relevant at the current time given the potential for volatility in world stock markets (see the investment policy and the risk management sections of the trustees' report for more information).

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, legacies, investment income, interest receivable and income from other sources including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets. Income also includes the fair value of the net assets transferred from the Charitable Trust.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of religious individuals received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, 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.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or income has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

Income recognition (continued)

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.

Any surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

All other income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be measured reliably. It is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition

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. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The majority of expenditure is directly attributable and any apportionment between headings is negligible.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the listed investments.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities and includes:

- ◇ Expenditure on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. Such expenditure enables the members to carry out the work of the charity in the areas of the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith, the advancement of education and the provision of social and pastoral work.
- ◇ The provision of charitable donations relating, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Charitable donations are made where the trustees believe there is a real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year commitments. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any donations approved but unpaid at the end of the financial period.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

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.

All expenditure on support and governance is allocated to the charitable activities of care of members of the Congregation and enabling their ministry as any costs in relation to provision of donations or raising funds is considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

♦ Freehold land and buildings

Non-specialised buildings are those designed as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. They are stated at cost, or, in the case of older properties where cost is not available, at a trustees' valuation made in 1996 based on market value for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 September 2014, the value assigned to those properties valued in 1996 is now deemed to be cost. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Specialised buildings comprise a large residential convent stated at cost. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the building off over its estimated useful economic life to the Congregation.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

♦ Motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment

Expenditure on the purchase of motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over a four year period on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Investments (continued)

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

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.

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. 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.

Funds structure

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

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Details of these are provided in note 13.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Operating leases

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

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant or Gift Aid	150,831	154,546

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	2022 £	2021 £
Income from listed investments		
UK equities	36,002	47,783
Overseas equities	14,180	9,650
Fixed interest securities	8,974	7,640
Alternatives including mixed funds	26,394	18,139
	85,550	83,212
Interest receivable		
Bank interest	427	131
	85,977	83,343

3 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	2022 £	2021 £
Premises (excluding depreciation)	106,287	58,239
Sisters' living and personal expenses	65,844	61,832
Nursing home fees	34,887	—
Education, training and spiritual renewal	11,388	11,436
Depreciation and deficit on disposal of tangible fixed asset	37,775	37,701
Support costs		
. Governance (professional fees)	12,775	12,870
. Other costs	8,499	6,493
	277,455	188,571

4 Expenditure on: Charitable donations

The donations payable during the year were to institutions and were for the following purposes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Support of the Congregation's work overseas	1,024	894
Support of the Congregation's Generalate	17,213	18,314
Other donations of less than £1,000 each	1,715	3,333
	19,952	22,541

5 Net (expenditure) income for the year before investment gains

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	12,415	11,880
.. Previous period	360	990
Depreciation	36,225	37,701
Deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,550	—
Operating lease payments		
. Land and buildings	3,250	7,800
. Office equipment	2,784	2,784

6 Staff costs, key management personnel and Trustees' remuneration

As members of the Congregation, the trustees' living and personal expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or as members of key management during the year.

The charity did not have any employees during the year (2021 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

None of the trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the charity. During the year, a total of £43,032 (2021 – £42,152) was donated by the trustees to the charity.

7 Taxation

The Sisters of the Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) 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
	Specialised £	Non-specialised £	Motor vehicles £	£	£
Cost or deemed cost					
At 1 September 2021	1,578,817	645,342	25,326	30,983	2,280,468
Disposals	—	—	(5,900)	—	(5,900)
At 31 August 2022	<u>1,578,817</u>	<u>645,342</u>	<u>19,426</u>	<u>30,983</u>	2,274,568
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	425,461	—	18,037	7,441	450,939
Charge for the year	31,576	—	2,169	2,480	36,225
Disposals	—	—	(2,950)	—	(2,950)
At 31 August 2022	<u>457,037</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>17,256</u>	<u>9,921</u>	484,214
Net book values					
At 31 August 2022	<u>1,121,780</u>	<u>645,342</u>	<u>2,170</u>	<u>21,062</u>	1,790,354
At 31 August 2021	<u>1,153,356</u>	<u>645,342</u>	<u>7,289</u>	<u>23,542</u>	1,829,529

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

9 Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments		
Fair (market) value at 1 September 2021	2,372,875	1,978,565
Additions at cost	191,636	166,914
Disposals at book value (see below)	(62,505)	(70,825)
Net unrealised investment gains	3,983	298,221
Fair (market) value at 31 August 2022	2,505,989	2,372,875
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	90,779	35,332
	2,596,768	2,408,207
Cost of listed investments at 31 August 2022	1,856,417	1,713,719

Disposals at book value included above one made up of the following:

	2022 £	2021 £
Proceeds	66,633	92,204
Realised gains	(4,128)	(21,379)
	62,505	70,825

9 Investments (continued)

Listed investments held at 31 August 2022 comprised the following:

	2022 £	2021 £
UK equities	909,729	1,108,209
Overseas equities	487,924	406,748
Fixed interest	236,712	234,005
Unit trusts	871,624	623,913
	2,505,989	2,372,875

At 31 August 2022 there were no individual holdings deemed material when compared with the overall portfolio valuation as at that date.

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

10 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Investment income receivable	304	58
Prepayments and other debtors	2,248	3,452
	2,552	3,510

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts held on behalf of individual members of the Congregation	52,338	52,338
Accruals	12,415	11,923
Other creditors	4,440	4,480
	69,193	68,741

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September 2021	1,829,529	1,867,230
Net movement in the year	(39,175)	(37,701)
At 31 August 2022	1,790,354	1,829,529

The tangible fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. It has been identified separately in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are required for the charity's work and are not available as a reserve to fund day to day activities or meet future contingencies.

13 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated fund which had been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Retirement reserve:		
At 1 September 2021	3,400,000	3,000,000
Designated in the year	—	400,000
At 31 August 2022	3,400,000	3,400,000

The retirement reserve is calculated using actuarial principles and was created in order to assist in providing for the sisters in their retirement. The amount designated is restricted to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

At 31 August 2022, the fund balances are represented by the following assets and liabilities:

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,790,354	—	1,790,354
Investments	—	—	2,596,768	2,596,768
Net current assets	494,185	—	803,232	1,297,417
Total net assets	494,185	1,790,354	3,400,000	5,684,539
	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,829,529	—	1,829,529
Investments	—	—	2,408,207	2,408,207
Net current assets	525,948	—	991,793	1,517,741
Total net assets	525,948	1,829,529	3,400,000	5,755,477

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

The total unrealised gains at 31 August 2022 constitute revaluation of listed investments and the movements on the unrealised gains are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Unrealised gains included above on listed investments		
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2022	649,572	659,156
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains		
Total unrealised gains at 1 September 2021	659,156	338,663
In respect to disposals in the year	(13,567)	22,272
Net gains arising on revaluation in the year	3,983	298,221
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2022	649,572	659,156

15 Operating leases

At 31 August 2022, the charity had total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to certain assets as follows:

Operating lease payments payable:	Equipment		Land and buildings	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts due within one year	3,112	2,784	3,250	3,250
Amounts due between two and five years	10,800	232	—	—
	13,912	3,016	3,250	3,250

16 Ultimate control and liability of the member

The Superior General of the Congregation for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex officio the sole member of the CIO. The sole member is responsible for the appointment of the trustees.

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.

Accounts

**The Sisters
of Christian
Instruction
(St. Gildas) CIO**

Report and Accounts

31 August 2021

Charity Registration Number 1173344

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

Trustees	Sister Anne Hogan Sister Odile Mahé Sister Elizabeth McNiff
General Councillor Delegate	Sister Dominique Guerin
Regional Bursar	Sister Odile Mahé
Administrative address	The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) 36 Dickenson Road Hornsey London N8 9ET
Charity registration number	1173344
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8LA
Investment managers	Charles Stanley and Company Limited 55 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AS
Solicitors	Pothecary Witham Weld 84 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PX

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2021

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the charity or the CIO) for the year to 31 August 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 27 to 32 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the requirements 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).

Introduction

The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) (the Congregation) is a Roman Catholic religious congregation supporting 329 sisters. It was founded in France in 1820 where its generalate is still located and it is divided into three Regions, a delegation and the Mother House.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity through which the activities and net assets of the Congregation in England have been administered since 1 September 2017. The charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 - Charity Registration No. 1173344.

Principal aims and mission

The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This included the maintenance and support of the sisters themselves.

By caring for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation, the charity aims to enable and support the sisters to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the period, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal aims and mission (continued)

The ministries of the sisters during the year fell into the following main areas:

- ◆ Caring for members of the Congregation
- ◆ Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works:
 - ◇ Worship and prayer:
Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private worship and to continue to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus and the Church through quiet prayer, study of the Gospel and spiritual development. In addition, members of the Congregation celebrate and pray with the wider community including people of all faiths and none. They do this through the provision of spiritual guidance or by just being available to listen in times of need, through the celebration of the Liturgy, prayer groups and church services.
 - ◇ Social and pastoral work:
Many members of the Congregation are involved in a diverse range of social and pastoral work, including care of the elderly and people with special needs, family support and hospital visiting. The sisters aim to help, in particular, the poor and marginalised in society regardless of their personal background, faith, gender or individual circumstances.
 - ◇ Overseas missionary work:
Members of the Congregation work in health care, literacy work and primary evangelisation in West Africa.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

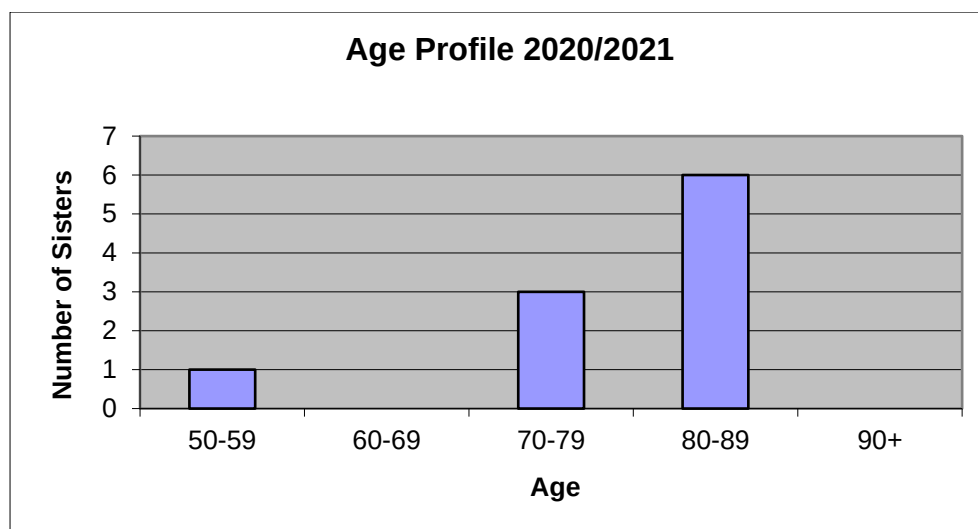
As stated under principal aims and mission above, the aims of the charity during the period were to care for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation and so enable and support them to live out their faith and to put that faith in to practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

Caring for members of the Congregation

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to education. In common with many religious congregations, as the age profile of the members increases so too does the need to provide for the care of the sisters in the future. The age profile of the sisters who were in England during the year is shown graphically overleaf:

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Caring for members of the Congregation (continued)



At present, most ageing or ailing members live as members of various communities, receiving the care they need from the sisters of the community, making use of local facilities. As a consequence, the trustees of the charity have given careful consideration to the impact of this on the work of individual members of the Congregation and the financial implications. Therefore, the objectives of the trustees of the charity include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Congregation receive the high level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they have a right to expect;
- ◆ Enabling all members of the Congregation to continue with their individual ministries, living in community houses for as long as possible; and
- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties used as community houses and assessing their suitability as homes for the sisters.

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works

The religious and charitable works of individual members of the Congregation can be divided into three principal areas: worship and prayer, the social and pastoral work of the sisters and support of overseas missionary work. Each of these is considered in turn.

Worship and prayer

The sisters are involved in a number of activities which include:

- ◆ Promoting the values and vision set out in the Gospel including the promotion of human dignity, teaching respect of different cultures and working for a society based on justice and peace.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

- ◇ Giving members of the public from all walks of life the opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and take time for quiet contemplation and the chance to study and consider the Gospel.
- ◇ Providing religious instruction.
- ◇ Praying with those who are housebound, sick or dying.

Social and pastoral work

The charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work, thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel to help one another and love one's neighbour.

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual sisters:

- ◇ Working in parishes, schools and the local community; visiting; helping in catechetical programmes; helping families in difficulty, the elderly and housebound.
- ◇ Religious formation for adults and children.
- ◇ Giving spiritual guidance.
- ◇ Working as volunteers in organisations concerned with the homeless and adults/children with learning difficulties.
- ◇ Opening the Congregation's houses to the local community for meetings.

The objectives of the trustees of the charity included the following in respect to social and pastoral work:

- ◇ Enabling all members of the Congregation to carry out meaningful pastoral, social and educational work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- ◇ Encouraging members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised; and
- ◇ Whenever possible, ensuring sisters are remunerated for such work by way of salary or stipend. Such income is donated to the charity. This ensures that the work of the sisters may continue and develop into the future.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Overseas missionary work

The Congregation's missions in West Africa are now jointly financed by the English Delegation and the Congregation in France. The financial support of the charity has been used to meet the personal and living expenses of the sisters and their work: literacy, primary evangelisation, religious education, health care (primary health care) and the formation of young African girls aspiring to religious life.

The support enables the sisters to continue to care for some of the poorest and most marginalised in society – an objective which is consistent with the values set out in the Gospel. The individuals who benefit include those of all faiths and none and the help they receive can often mean the difference between life and death for them and their dependents.

Review of activities

The following paragraphs outline the main achievements during the period in each of the charity's principal activities.

Care of members of the Congregation

During the year the charity assisted members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work, enabling them to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. All the members of the Congregation are cared for in their own communities where possible.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of the world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of the charity's control.

As most of the members of the Congregation are aged over 70, the sisters have had to adhere to advice issued by the government. This has meant that their normal apostolic activities have had to find new shape or cease altogether. As a result of the social distancing rules, the sisters have tried to find new ways of working and supporting themselves and those with whom they work. They are gradually starting again their involvement with the local communities and groups.

The sisters throughout the Congregation support each other in prayer and through electronic communication.

Review of activities (continued)

Covid-19 (continued)

The charity's investment income had been adversely affected in 2020 because of the nervousness in the commercial sector caused by Covid-19 but has recovered in 2021. In terms of expenditure, it is anticipated that there will be a rise in living expenses due to rise in cost of living but such increases will be offset by reductions in other costs. We will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review.

Today, despite Covid-19, we find different ways of working.

Worship and prayer

This year due to continuing restrictions on travel and mixing some of the sisters were unable to attend retreats which provide worship and opportunity for renewal and quiet contemplation. During the partial lockdown when group meeting and sharing was not possible, the sisters took part in group sharing via zoom.

Celebrations of the bicentenary of the Congregation had to be cancelled as well as the Congregation Assembly planned for the summer of 2020 because of the pandemic. These were postponed and rearranged for July 2021. Three sisters managed to travel to France and were able to take part in the celebrations during the weekend of the 2-4 of July. It was an uplifting experience and also a joyful one to be able to meet again; a time where our common bonds, our commitment to follow Christ in faith and obedience were strengthened. May those memories be a source of encouragement in the days to come. The celebration was presided over by the Bishop of Nantes. Not one of the sisters in Africa was able to participate in person due to travel restrictions. During the weekend the sisters present received the revised version of the constitutions.



RECEPTION OF THE REVISED RULE OF LIFE 3 JULY 2021

Review of activities (continued)

***Worship and prayer* (continued)**

200 YEARS CELEBRATION ST GILDAS 4 JULY 2021



Social and pastoral work

29 June 2021

The sisters met together in Barnet to say good bye to Sister Marie-Josephe as she was preparing to return definitely to the Mother House in France after spending over 70 years of her Religious Life involved in education in our schools in Somerset and in our Mission in Ghana. Due to restrictions in place over numbers attending the farewell had to be on a much smaller scale than otherwise. However, it was a great joyful occasion for all. Good Bye and Thank you Marie-Josephe for your ministry with us.

Review of activities (continued)

Social and pastoral work (continued)

Sister Ann O Sullivan has been and is working as a Chaplain at **MHA Charnwood House** Coventry. She also continued to work as a child therapist. Charwood House is a calm welcoming space for people living with Dementia. MHA places great importance on nurturing the mind, body and spirit of those they care for, their families, colleagues of all faiths and none. The chaplain role is about compassion, listening to and supporting the spiritual and religious needs of those in later life.



MHA Charnwood House Coventry

“As a chaplain my role normally is:

- ◇ *To provide, one-one support, comfort and a listening ear to our residents, their families and colleagues.*
- ◇ *To support residents and families at the end of life.*
- ◇ *To provide religious services, to cater for the individual religious needs of each resident.*
- ◇ *To provide training for staff on end of life care.*
- ◇ *To link with external faith communities.*

*As a result of the pandemic we feel that our role has changed. For me I feel that my role as a chaplain can be summarised in 3 ways: **Prayer, Presence and a representative of Hope.***

A compassionate presence is a huge part of this ministry. I have mostly spoken with families over the phone or outside the home. At times when families have requested a prayer for a loved one I have simply stood outside the room and prayed. Prayer is a very powerful gift God has given us and not even the pandemic can take that away. The chaplain represents Hope, and hope is not rooted in just a feeling, but in the reality of the Risen Christ.

Despite what we have experienced, Charnwood House continues to be a vibrant place for the residents, staff and families. It is such a joy and a privilege for me to be engaged in this live-giving ministry.”

Sister Ann O Sullivan, MHA Chaplain

Review of activities (continued)

Overseas missionary work

During this period, the charity continued to support the work and the personal and living costs of the sisters working in West Africa. This was done via the annual contribution to the Generalate and an extra small donation to help with the aftermath of the pandemic.

Sister Joan who worked in Tamale Ghana for many years and was instrumental with Sister Marie-Josephe in setting up the library there, received an e-mail from a young man, who many years ago used the library regularly (he used to walk 2 hours to get there) and through his love of reading and hard work has now completed not only a PhD but a second masters degree from Oxford with distinction. He now wants to offer young people the sort of opportunities he did not have. Sister Joan and Sister Anne Hogan were able to attend the graduation in Oxford. This is one example of the many young people whose education through the years has been helped and continues to be so by the free access to the library.

Library Tamale Ghana



Volunteers

With the easing off of the restrictions, the members of the Congregation were able to gradually start again some of their activities assisting the poor and marginalised and those in need. The majority of members receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the CIO's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Congregation and the CIO. Without their contribution neither would be able to function effectively.

Review of activities (continued)

Volunteers (continued)

Details of the areas in which members gave their time during the year are shown in the table below:

Area	Number of sisters
Parish work	3
Hospital visiting	2
Housebound visiting	2
Working with other groups/organisations	3
Administration	2
Education	1

Some sisters carry out voluntary work in more than one area as part of their mission and apostolate. Some activities had to stop or were changed because of Covid-19.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Along with all other organisations which serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves. Where required under the terms of their ministries, sisters obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) which are being revised following the Elliot report. The trustees have been kept in touch via zoom meetings organised by the Cor and the new Religious Life Safeguarding Service.

Donations and support of missionary work and ministry

Donations in support of the Congregation's work overseas are decided on by the trustees in consultation with the Generalate of the Congregation. In the main, the charity has supported the work of the Congregation in overseas countries. Broadly, the policy is to give to the most needy areas.

During the period, the trustees continued to give financial support to charities approved by the trustees and whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity.

Financial report for the period

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 24 of the attached accounts.

During the year to 31 August 2021, income amounted to £237,889 (2020 – £1,119,745). Income for the year includes donations (including pensions receivable from members of the Congregation under Gift Aid or Deed of Covenant) of £154,546 and investment income and interest receivable of £83,343. Income in 2020 included a surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets of £890,736.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Results for the period (continued)

Expenditure totalled £229,619 (2020 – £375,121). Expenditure on maintaining the sisters and enabling them to carry out their work during the year amounted to £188,571 (2020 – £235,338). Charitable donations amounted to £22,541 (2020 - £121,316). The total donations given to the Generalate were £18,314 (2020 - £118,069).

Net income for the year was £8,270 (2020 – £744,624). Net investment gains for the year totalled £319,600 (2020 – losses £189,856).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to eighteen to twenty-four months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £5,755,477 (2020 – £5,427,607). Of this, £1,829,529 (2020 – £1,867,230) represents the tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters.

The retirement reserve of £3,400,000 (2020 – £3,000,000) consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for the sisters in their retirement. Though calculated using actuarial principles, the fund itself is limited to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

At the balance sheet date, free reserves amounted to £525,948 (2020 – £560,377). The trustees consider this level of free reserves to be in accordance with their reserves policy and to be appropriate given the continuing volatility of the investment markets, Covid-19 and economic uncertainties generally.

Investment policy and performance

The charity had a portfolio of listed investments with a market value at the end of the period of £2,372,875 (2020 – £1,978,565). The portfolio achieved an income yield of 4.2% (2020 – 3.7%) and a capital yield of 16% (2020 – negative capital yield of 9%). At 31 August 2021, the investment managers were also holding cash awaiting investment of £35,332 (2020 – £28,549). The investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited, who operate within guidelines that are set and regularly reviewed by the trustees, who believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Investment policy and performance (continued)

The policy of the charity is to achieve a combination of income and capital growth within acceptable levels of risk.

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest.

The performance of the portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed by the trustees who meet with the investment manager at least once a year. The trustees are content that their policy will be achieved in the medium to long term.

Future plans

The trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charity or its activities over the next two to five years. It is their intention to continue to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. Focus will continue to be given to assisting the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To continue to remain focussed on the importance of worship and prayer to the lives of the individual sisters and to the overall mission of the charity.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older, and if necessary to adapt the charity's plans in respect to property needs and the provision of care to elderly members.
- ◆ To support the Congregation's work in Africa in partnership with the Congregation's Generalate.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution agreed by the trustees on 30 May 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9 June 2017.

Liability of the member

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

In terms of Canon law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Superior General and her General Council in Nantes, France. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter or meeting of delegates of all the regions of the Congregation.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Since the 2017 General Chapter, England and Ireland are now a delegation with a General Councillor having overall responsibility and assisted by a Delegate living in England who works in close collaboration with the General Councillor. After consultation with the sisters of the delegation, the Superior General names the Delegate with the consent of her council.

The Assistant Delegate communicates with the General Councillor responsible for the Delegation. Once or twice a year she meets with the Superior General and her Council to give an account of the progress and development of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged.

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344. The trustees are appointed by the Superior General in her capacity as sole member of the CIO. As members of the Congregation, the trustees are aware of the work of the charity and of its structure. With the help of professional advisers, and through attendance at seminars, conferences etc, they update their knowledge of charity law and its requirements.

The names of the trustees are set out within the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts and brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at 31 August 2021 are given below.

Sister Anne Hogan

Sister Anne joined the Congregation in 1962. She is a qualified teacher but her main involvements have been in the areas of formation and administration. She has been responsible for novices both here in the UK and also in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She served as Regional Superior for twelve years and then as General Councillor for six years. As Regional Superior she was a trustee of the charity. Presently, Sister Anne is Assistant Delegate for England and Ireland.

Sister Elizabeth McNiff

Sister Elizabeth joined the Congregation 55 years ago. After training in child care she worked in the Social Services departments for Haringey, Solihull and Birmingham (1971-1996), caring for disadvantaged young people, mainly adolescents in the residential setting. She has been bursar in the Birmingham Community and is now bursar of the Barnet Community and continues to be actively involved in Parish life supporting people in need.

Sister Odile Mahé

Sister Odile is the Bursar for the Delegation with overall responsibility for the finances of the charity. She joined the Congregation 61 years ago and, after graduating and qualifying as a teacher, spent 20 years of her religious life in education. She was also Bursar of her community. Before taking up the post of Regional Bursar she did some further training in IT. Covid 19 and restrictions have meant that so far she has not yet been able to resume her volunteering work.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these 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; and
- ◆ Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they 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 the trustees are members of the Congregation and, whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or key management personnel.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet when necessary to review the activities, possible developments, make important decisions and to seek advice and support from professional advisers including solicitors, investment managers, accountants and property consultants. They delegate the day to day management of the activities, and the implementation of policies, to members of the Congregation.

At the end of August the Delegation of England and Ireland comprised 12 sisters, 10 of whom continue to live in England. The sisters live in three communities in London and Birmingham. The community houses are located in areas and parishes where their proximity to the people among whom they dwell, enables the sisters to respond most effectively to needs, either working alone, or in partnership with other organisations. As stated above, each community has a Leader appointed by the General Councillor Delegate.

St Gildas Schools in Yeovil and London, formerly the property of the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas), are administered by the Dioceses of Clifton and Westminster respectively. The sisters continue to maintain an interest in the life of the schools and support their work.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications 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 to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the period, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Risk management

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks the Congregation currently faces and have reviewed the measures already in place to deal with them.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to present us with challenges and threats to the well-being of our charity and its activities which could not have been foreseen. The trustees recognise their responsibility for the management of risks faced by the charity and the sisters.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

They note above the financial and operational effects of Covid-19. Over and above these, the areas identified for particular attention within the charity's risk management strategy are:

Governance and management: looks at the risk of the Congregation, and hence the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members, and the good use of its resources.

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters shows that the average age at 31 August 2021 was 83 years. The trustees are aware that there is both a moral and legal obligation to care for the sisters. None of the sisters have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and any other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant.

As the age profile increases, so too does the need to provide care for the sisters. Key elements of the management of this risk are: a) ensuring that the charity has the available financial resources to finance this care both now and in the future by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles; and b) ensuring that processes are in place to review the ministries and needs of individual sisters encouraging those who need it to take on less demanding ministries and for identifying those who need extra care and help.

Operational: looks at the risks inherent in the activities of the charity, particularly pastoral care.

The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all whom the charity serves. This means that all sisters who are in any kind of ministry have obtained clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS).

The charity does not work with children, but it does work with adults who may need help at particularly vulnerable moments in life.

Financial: looks at risks including those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, poor accounting and poor management of the investment portfolio.

The principal asset of the charity comprises listed investments, the value of which is dependent on movements in UK and world stock markets. The investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly with the investment managers and the manager's performance and that of the portfolio are monitored. The investment strategy is assessed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's needs both now and in the future. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we communicated with our investment managers and, whilst there remain concerns over the volatility in world stock markets, we acknowledge also that we are long term investors. As such, the charity will be able to wait for markets to stabilise over time whilst we, as trustees, keep a watching brief.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Reputational: looks at possible damage to the Congregation and hence the reputation of the charity.

Laws, regulations, external and environment: looks at the effect of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations in so far as they are applicable to the Congregation's activities.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Working with other organisations

The charity has worked closely with other charities and public bodies in the fields of social and pastoral care and education, including working with the vulnerable and the marginalised. One sister receives a salary, while the others work on a voluntary basis. In all cases, working together enables the sisters to be more effective and avoid duplication of effort in providing services to the people they serve. Examples of the organisations for which members have worked and with which the charity has co-operated during the period are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Ascent Movement in Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Justice and Peace Link;
- ◆ Churches Together;
- ◆ SVP; and
- ◆ Caritas Westminster.

Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation

The members of the Congregation continue to give unsparing service and dedication to all the Congregation's works and the trustees wish to record their appreciation.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

O.Mahé
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 16/02/2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management and 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 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of the trustees and the review of minutes of meetings of the trustees.

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

- ◆ Making enquiries of the trustees as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and 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 including the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ Gained an understanding of the processes in place for the management of the charity's investments and confirmed the validity of investment movements; 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:

- ◆ Reviewing the minutes of meetings of trustees;
- ◆ Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ Agreeing accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

As a result of our procedures we did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

10 March 2022

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	1	154,546	148,039
Investments and interest receivable	2	83,343	80,970
Other income			
. Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets - freehold property and motor vehicles		—	890,736
Total income		237,889	1,119,745
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
. Investment management costs		18,507	18,467
Charitable activities			
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	3	188,571	235,338
. Charitable donations	4	22,541	121,316
Total expenditure		229,619	375,121
Net income for the year before investment gains (losses)		8,270	744,624
Net investment gains (losses)		319,600	(189,856)
Net income and net movement in funds		327,870	554,768
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2020	14	5,427,607	4,872,839
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2021		5,755,477	5,427,607

The statement of financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses recognised in the year.

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

All of the charity's funds were unrestricted in the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		1,829,529		1,867,230
Investments	9		2,408,207		2,007,114
			4,237,736		3,874,344
Current assets					
Debtors	10	3,510		2,739	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,582,972		1,614,195	
		1,586,482		1,616,934	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(68,741)		(63,671)	
Net current assets			1,517,741		1,553,263
Total net assets			5,755,477		5,427,607
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Unrestricted funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		1,829,529		1,867,230
. Designated funds	13		3,400,000		3,000,000
. General funds			525,948		560,377
			5,755,477		5,427,607

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees:

O.Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 16/02/2022

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(33,186)	(194,168)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and interest received		83,456	81,404
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		92,204	223,123
Purchase of investments		(166,914)	(256,554)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		—	(14,576)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		—	1,165,740
Net cash provided by investing activities		8,746	1,199,137
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(24,440)	1,004,969
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2020		1,642,744	637,775
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2021	B	1,618,304	1,642,744

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2021

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	327,870	554,768
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	37,701	37,700
Gains on investments	(319,600)	189,856
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	(890,736)
Investment income and interest receivable	(83,343)	(80,970)
Increase in debtors	(884)	(159)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	5,070	(4,627)
Net cash used in operating activities	(33,186)	(194,168)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,614,195	(31,223)	1,582,972
Cash held by investment managers	28,549	6,783	35,332
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,642,744	(24,440)	1,618,304

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).

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

These accounts have been prepared for the year ended to 31 August 2021 with comparative information provided in respect to the year ended 31 August 2020.

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 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where such judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating accrued expenditure;
- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of calculating the depreciation charge;
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds including the determination of the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement reserve; and
- ◆ estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

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.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The trustees acknowledge and recognise the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the charity.

The charity's investment income may be adversely affected because of the volatility in listed investments as stock markets have reacted to the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the commercial sector in particular. In terms of expenditure, it is anticipated that there may be a rise in living expenses due to rise in cost of living but such increases will be offset by reductions in other costs. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review but do not anticipate that the impact on the charity's finances will be material or impact on the charity's going concern.

With regard to the next accounting period (i.e. the year ending 31 August 2022), the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the level of investment return and the performance of the investment market. This is particularly relevant at the current time given the potential for volatility in world stock markets (see the investment policy and the risk management sections of the trustees' report for more information together with note 9 below).

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, legacies, investment income, interest receivable and income from other sources including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets. Income also includes the fair value of the net assets transferred from the Charitable Trust.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of religious individuals received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, 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.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Income recognition (continued)

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or income has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

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.

Any surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

All other income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be measured reliably. It is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition

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. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The majority of expenditure is directly attributable and any apportionment between headings is negligible.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the listed investments.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities and includes:

- ◇ Expenditure on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. Such expenditure enables the members to carry out the work of the charity in the areas of the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith, the advancement of education and the provision of social and pastoral work.

Expenditure recognition (continued)

- ◇ The provision of charitable donations relating, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Charitable donations are made where the trustees believe there is a real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year commitments. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any donations approved but unpaid at the end of the financial period.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

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.

All expenditure on support and governance is allocated to the charitable activities of care of members of the Congregation and enabling their ministry as any costs in relation to provision of donations or raising funds is considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

- ◆ **Freehold land and buildings**

Non-specialised buildings are those designed as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. They are stated at cost, or, in the case of older properties where cost is not available, at a trustees' valuation made in 1996 based on market value for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 September 2014, the value assigned to those properties valued in 1996 is now deemed to be cost. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Specialised buildings comprise a large residential convent stated at cost. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the building off over its estimated useful economic life to the Congregation.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

- ◆ **Motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment**

Expenditure on the purchase of motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over a four year period on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

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.

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. 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.

Funds structure

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

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Details of these are provided in note 13.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Operating leases

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

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant or Gift Aid	154,546	148,039

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	2021 £	2020 £
Income from listed investments		
UK equities	47,783	42,640
Overseas equities	9,650	8,918
Fixed interest securities	7,640	9,621
Unit trusts	18,139	18,548
	83,212	79,727
Interest receivable		
Bank interest	131	1,243
	83,343	80,970

3 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	2021 £	2020 £
Premises (excluding depreciation)	58,239	105,657
Sisters' living and personal expenses	61,832	64,699
Education, training and spiritual renewal	11,436	9,997
Depreciation	37,701	37,700
Support costs		
. Governance (professional fees)	12,870	11,510
. Other costs	6,493	5,775
	188,571	235,338

4 Expenditure on: Charitable donations

The donations payable during the year were to institutions and were for the following purposes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Support of the Congregation's work overseas	894	967
Support of the Congregation's Generalate	18,314	118,069
Other donations of less than £1,000 each	3,333	2,280
	22,541	121,316

5 Net income for the year before investment gains (losses)

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	11,880	10,890
.. Previous period	990	330
Depreciation	37,701	37,700
Operating lease payments		
. Land and buildings	7,800	7,800
. Office equipment	2,784	2,784

6 Staff costs, key management personnel and Trustees' remuneration

As members of the Congregation, the trustees' living and personal expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or as members of key management during the year.

The charity did not have any employees during the year (2020 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

None of the trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the charity. During the year, a total of £42,152 (2020 – £41,255) was donated by the trustees to the charity.

7 Taxation

The Sisters of the Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) 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
	Specialised £	Non-specialised £	Motor vehicles £	£	£
Cost or deemed cost					
At 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021	1,578,817	645,342	25,326	30,983	2,280,468
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	393,885	—	14,393	4,960	413,238
Charge for the year	31,576	—	3,644	2,481	37,701
At 31 August 2021	425,461	—	18,037	7,441	450,939
Net book values					
At 31 August 2021	1,153,356	645,342	7,289	23,542	1,829,529
At 31 August 2020	1,184,932	645,342	10,933	26,023	1,867,230

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

9 Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 September 2020	1,978,565	2,134,990
Additions at cost	166,914	256,554
Disposals at book value (see below)	(70,825)	(243,662)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	298,221	(169,317)
Market value at 31 August 2021	2,372,875	1,978,565
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	35,332	28,549
	2,408,207	2,007,114
Cost of listed investments at 31 August 2021	1,713,719	1,639,902

Disposals at book value included above one made up of the following:

	2021 £	2020 £
Proceeds	92,204	223,123
(Gains) losses	(21,379)	20,539
	70,825	243,662

9 Investments (continued)

Listed investments held at 31 August 2021 comprised the following:

	2021 £	2020 £
UK equities	234,005	783,578
Overseas equities	623,913	368,393
Fixed interest	1,108,209	565,492
Unit trusts	406,748	261,102
	2,372,875	1,978,565

At 31 August 2021 there were no individual holdings deemed material when compared with the overall portfolio valuation as at that date.

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

10 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Investment income receivable	58	171
Prepayments and other debtors	3,452	2,568
	3,510	2,739

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts held on behalf of individual members of the Congregation	52,338	52,338
Accruals	11,923	10,933
Other creditors	4,480	400
	68,741	63,671

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September 2020	1,867,230	2,165,358
Net movement in the year	(37,701)	(298,128)
At 31 August 2021	1,829,529	1,867,230

The tangible fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. It has been identified separately in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are required for the charity's work and are not available as a reserve to fund day to day activities or meet future contingencies.

13 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated fund which had been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

Retirement reserve:	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September 2020	3,000,000	2,300,000
Designated in the year	400,000	700,000
At 31 August 2021	3,400,000	3,000,000

The retirement reserve is calculated using actuarial principles and was created in order to assist in providing for the sisters in their retirement.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

At 31 August 2021, the fund balances are represented by the following assets and liabilities:

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,829,529	—	1,829,529
Investments	—	—	2,408,207	2,408,207
Net current assets	525,948	—	991,793	1,517,741
Total net assets	525,948	1,829,529	3,400,000	5,755,477

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,867,230	—	1,867,230
Investments	—	—	2,007,114	2,007,114
Net current assets	560,377	—	992,886	1,553,263
Total net assets	560,377	1,867,230	3,000,000	5,427,607

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

The total unrealised gains at 31 August 2021 constitute revaluation of listed investments and the movements on the unrealised gains are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Unrealised gains included above on listed investments		
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2021	659,156	338,663
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains		
Total unrealised gains at 1 September 2020	338,663	538,292
In respect to disposals in the year	22,272	(30,312)
Net gains (losses) arising on revaluation in the year	298,221	(169,317)
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2021	659,156	338,663

15 Operating leases

At 31 August 2021, the charity had total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect to certain assets as follows:

Operating lease payments payable:	Equipment		Land and buildings	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts due within one year	2,784	2,784	3,250	2,600
Amounts due between two and five years	232	3,016	—	—
	3,016	5,800	3,250	2,600

16 Ultimate control and liability of the member

The Superior General of the Congregation for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex officio the sole member of the CIO. The sole member is responsible for the appointment of the trustees.

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 SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION (ST. GILDAS) CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1173344

Accounts

**The Sisters
of Christian
Instruction
(St. Gildas) CIO**

Report and Accounts

31 August 2020

Charity Registration Number 1173344

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

Trustees	Sister Anne Hogan Sister Odile Mahé Sister Elizabeth McNiff
General Councillor Delegate	Sister Dominique Guerin
Regional Bursar	Sister Odile Mahé
Administrative address	The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) 36 Dickenson Road Hornsey London N8 9ET
Charity registration number	1173344
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 62-63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8LA
Investment managers	Charles Stanley and Company Limited 25 Luke Street London EC2A 4AR
Solicitors	Pothecary Witham Weld 70 St Georges Square London SW1V 3RD

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) CIO (the charity or the CIO) for the year to 31 August 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 24 to 29 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable laws, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the requirements 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).

Introduction

The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas) (the Congregation) is a Roman Catholic religious congregation supporting 329 sisters. It was founded in France in 1820 where its generalate is still located and it is divided into three Regions, a delegation and the Mother House.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity through which the activities and net assets of the Congregation in England have been administered since 1 September 2017. The charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 - Charity Registration No. 1173344.

Principal aims and mission

The general objects of the charity during the period were the advancement of the religious and other charitable work carried on by the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas). This included the maintenance and support of the sisters themselves.

By caring for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation, the charity aims to enable and support the sisters to live out their faith and to put that faith into practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the period, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Principal aims and mission (continued)

The ministries of the sisters during the year fell into the following main areas:

- ◆ Caring for members of the Congregation
- ◆ Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works:
 - ◇ Worship and prayer:
Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private worship and to continue to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus and the Church through quiet prayer, study of the Gospel and spiritual development. In addition, members of the Congregation celebrate and pray with the wider community including people of all faiths and none. They do this through the provision of spiritual guidance or by just being available to listen in times of need, through the celebration of the Liturgy, prayer groups and church services.
 - ◇ Social and pastoral work:
Many members of the Congregation are involved in a diverse range of social and pastoral work, including care of the elderly and people with special needs, family support and hospital visiting. The sisters aim to help, in particular, the poor and marginalised in society regardless of their personal background, faith, gender or individual circumstances.
 - ◇ Overseas missionary work:
Members of the Congregation work in health care, literacy work and primary evangelisation in West Africa.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

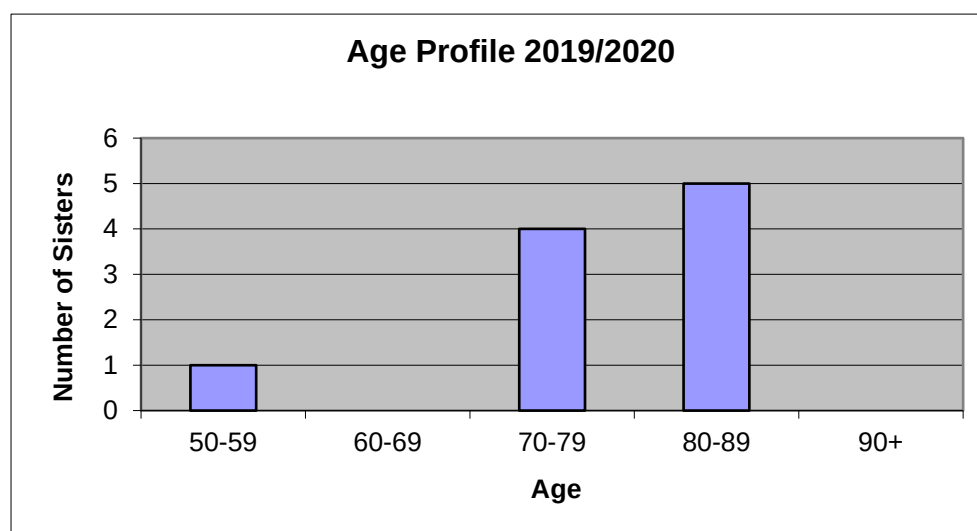
As stated under principal aims and mission on page 2, the aims of the charity during the period were to care for individual members of the Congregation throughout their lives with the Congregation and so enable and support them to live out their faith and to put that faith in to practice through a variety of religious and other charitable works.

Caring for members of the Congregation

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to education. In common with many religious congregations, as the age profile of the members increases so too does the need to provide for the care of the sisters in the future. The age profile of the sisters in England is shown graphically overleaf:

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Caring for members of the Congregation (continued)



At present, most ageing or ailing members live as members of various communities, receiving the care they need from the sisters of the community, making use of local facilities. As a consequence, the trustees of the charity have given careful consideration to the impact of this on the work of individual members of the Congregation and the financial implications. Therefore, the objectives of the trustees of the charity include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Congregation receive the high level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they have a right to expect;
- ◆ Enabling all members of the Congregation to continue with their individual ministries, living in community houses for as long as possible; and
- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties used as community houses and assessing their suitability as homes for the sisters.

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works

The religious and charitable works of individual members of the Congregation can be divided into three principal areas: worship and prayer, the social and pastoral work of the sisters and support of overseas missionary work. Each of these is considered in turn.

Worship and prayer

The sisters are involved in a number of activities which include:

- ◆ Promoting the values and vision set out in the Gospel including the promotion of human dignity, teaching respect of different cultures and working for a society based on justice and peace.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

- ◇ Giving members of the public from all walks of life the opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and take time for quiet contemplation and the chance to study and consider the Gospel.
- ◇ Providing religious instruction.
- ◇ Praying with those who are housebound, sick or dying.

Social and pastoral work

The charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work, thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel to help one another and love one's neighbour.

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual sisters:

- ◇ Working in parishes, schools and the local community; visiting; helping in catechetical programmes; helping families in difficulty, the elderly and housebound.
- ◇ Religious formation for adults and children.
- ◇ Giving spiritual guidance.
- ◇ Working as volunteers in organisations concerned with the homeless and adults/children with learning difficulties.
- ◇ Opening the Congregation's houses to the local community for meetings.

The objectives of the trustees of the charity included the following in respect to social and pastoral work:

- ◇ Enabling all members of the Congregation to carry out meaningful pastoral, social and educational work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- ◇ Encouraging members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised; and
- ◇ Whenever possible, ensuring sisters are remunerated for such work by way of salary or stipend. Such income is donated to the charity. This ensures that the work of the sisters may continue and develop into the future.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Enabling and supporting members in a variety of religious and charitable works
(continued)

Overseas missionary work

The Congregation's missions in West Africa are now jointly financed by the English Delegation and the Congregation in France. The financial support of the charity has been used to meet the personal and living expenses of the sisters and their work: literacy, primary evangelisation, religious education, health care (primary health care) and the formation of young African girls aspiring to religious life.

The support enables the sisters to continue to care for some of the poorest and most marginalised in society – an objective which is consistent with the values set out in the Gospel. The individuals who benefit include those of all faiths and none and the help they receive can often mean the difference between life and death for them and their dependents.

Review of activities

The following paragraphs outline the main achievements during the period in each of the charity's principal activities.

Care of members of the Congregation

During the year the charity assisted members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work, enabling them to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. All the members of the Congregation are cared for in their own communities where possible.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of the world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of the charity's control.

As most of the members of the Congregation are aged over 70, the sisters have had to adhere to the stringent government advice issued on 23 March. This has meant that their normal apostolic activities have had to find new shape or cease altogether. As a result of the social distancing rules, whilst largely remaining in lockdown, the sisters have tried to find new ways of working and supporting themselves and those with whom they work.

The sisters throughout the Congregation support each other in prayer and through electronic communication.

Along with many other charities, the trustees cannot at this stage imagine what the new needs will be and what position we ourselves will be in to respond to those needs.

Review of activities (continued)

Covid-19 (continued)

The charity's investment income may be adversely affected because of the volatility in listed investments as stock markets have reacted to the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the commercial sector in particular. In terms of our expenditure, it is anticipated that there will be a rise in living expenses due to the rise in the cost of living during the crisis and the difficulties in obtaining food locally at a good price but such increases will be offset by a reduction in motor and travel costs. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review.

Today, despite Covid-19, the sisters find different ways of working albeit socially distanced.

Worship and prayer

During the period, the sisters continued with their own private worship and with their own spiritual development and training. This year due to Covid-19 the sisters were unable to attend retreats which provide worship and opportunity for renewal and quiet contemplation. Instead they used the time of lockdown for deepening their prayer life through the use of books and the internet. However, just before lockdown the sisters were able to celebrate the life of Sister Mary Connor and Sister Anne Madigan who both died - one in England and the other in Ireland.

On **21 September 2019**, the sisters and the sisters of Providence of Ruille met together with Sister Dominique the Councillor delegate for England and Ireland to celebrate 20 years of the "Chemin d'Emmaus" federation. With the help of a PowerPoint presentation, the sisters of both congregations were able to look back and give thanks for the achievements and collaboration of the last 20 years and to look forward to the future. The day ended with a prayerful celebration of thanksgiving. Everyone went back home happy with the day.



"A remarkable day full of rich encounters."

"It is important to take time to remember and give thanks"

Review of activities (continued)

Worship and prayer (continued)

This year, the Congregation was due to begin a year of celebration to mark the 200 years of its birth. As a result of lockdown and travel restrictions in France and the UK all celebrations and meetings had to be cancelled or hopefully postponed for a later date. The parish of St Anthony Kingshurst, Birmingham, had to cancel the celebration for the 50 years of presence of the sisters in the parish.

Social and pastoral work

Until lockdown in March the sisters continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual ministries. This work enables the sisters, and hence the charity, to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a very significant number of people.

Sister Mary Connor RIP

On Thursday 27 February 2020, sisters, family members, parishioners and many friends gathered together in the Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great Barnet to give thanks and celebrate Sister Mary's long and fruitful life.

"After her training in France Sister Mary back in London began her mission and for many years she was cook in St Gildas convent school. She loved the children and gave herself generously to catering for their needs. With that same generosity Mary later reached out to the sick, housebound and elderly, in Kingshurst Birmingham and in the parish of St Peter-in-Chains. She caused quite a stir and raised a few eyebrows when she took to riding a scooter; this was to enable her to reach a greater number of people.

Her insights into the needs of older people, especially their need to meet together and to grow spiritually, led her to start what was then known as the "Ascent Movement", which continues to this day under the title "Ascending Life". She was also sensitive to families who were coping with physically and mentally challenged people and young people, and so she started the "Hosanna" group to offer a place to share and to celebrate together. One of Mary's special gifts could be summed up in the word "Hospitality" understood in its broadest sense: seeing and welcoming God in friend and stranger alike.

Many have spoken of the warmth and generosity of her welcome, delighting in preparing enticing meals and helping people to feel wanted and at home...Mary has been a gift to our communities, a blessing for the multitudes that she visited, fed, welcomed, encouraged, and today we praise and thank God for her. Her spirit will live on in our hearts, our memories and in our own actions in favour of those less privileged."

Words spoken by Sister Anne Hogan at the funeral.

Sister Mary was due to celebrate with a number of others, 70 years of faithfulness to God in Religious Life.

Review of activities (continued)

Social and pastoral work (continued)

Sister Mary Connor RIP (continued)



Sister Mary with a member of the Barnet Ascending Life Group
At her Diamond Jubilee 2010

29 August 2020

In May, Sister Odile was due to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee of Religious life in the Mother House together with many others. The celebration having been cancelled/postponed, it was decided that as public worship on a small scale was allowed again Sister Odile would just renew her vows in front of the small group of the parish community at the Saturday evening Mass, on the actual anniversary of her profession and ask Father Sean for a special blessing. Many of those present appreciated it and found the simplicity of it moving and a good way of marking this important date and feeling part of it even if the social side was lacking. The next afternoon, the sisters from Barnet came to join in a celebration in community. *"A wonderful Spiritual experience"*.

Overseas missionary work

During the period, the charity continued to support the work and the personal and living costs of the sisters working in West Africa. This was done via the annual contribution to the Generalate and a special donation following the disposal of a property.



Children in TAMALE GHANA

Review of activities (continued)

Volunteers

During the period, the members of the Congregation gave their time to assist the poor and marginalised and those in need. The majority of members receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the CIO's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Congregation and the CIO. Without their contribution neither would be able to function effectively.

Details of the areas in which members gave their time during the year are shown in the table below:

Area	Number of sisters
Parish work	3
Hospital visiting	2
Housebound visiting	4
Working with other groups/organisations	3
Administration	2
Education	1

Some sisters carry out voluntary work in more than one area as part of their mission and apostolate. Some activities had to stop or were changed because of Covid-19.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Along with all other organisations which serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves. Where required under the terms of their ministries, sisters obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (BDS). The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS).

Donations and support of missionary work and ministry

Donations in support of the Congregation's work overseas are decided on by the trustees in consultation with the Generalate of the Congregation. In the main, the charity has supported the work of the Congregation in overseas countries. Broadly, the policy is to give to the most needy areas.

During the period, the trustees continued to give financial support to charities approved by the trustees and whose work is consistent with the objects of the charity.

Financial report for the period

Results for the period

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 21 of the attached accounts.

During the year to 31 August 2020, income amounted to £1,119,745 (2019 – £240,156). Income for the year includes a surplus on disposal of a property of £886,940 together with a surplus on the disposal of motor vehicles of £3,796. The other components of income are donations (including pensions receivable from members of the Congregation under Gift Aid or Deed of Covenant) of £148,039 and investment income and interest receivable of £80,970.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Results for the period (continued)

Expenditure totalled £375,121 (2019 – £246,102). Expenditure on maintaining the sisters and enabling them to carry out their work during the year amounted to £235,338 (2019 – £208,199). Charitable donations amounted to £121,316 (2019 - £19,288) and included a special donation of £100,000 (£88,069) paid to the Generalate from the surplus on the disposal of a property. The total donations given to the Generalate were £118,069 (2019 - £14,026).

Net income for the year was £744,624 (2019 – net expenditure of £5,945). Net investment losses for the year totalled £189,856 (2019 – £24,354 gain).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to eighteen to twenty-four months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in income flows, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £5,427,607 (2019 – £4,872,839). Of this, £1,867,230 (2019 – £2,165,358) represents the tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters.

The retirement reserve of £3,000,000 (2019 – £2,300,000) consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for the sisters in their retirement. Though calculated using actuarial principles, the fund itself is limited to the resources available and is unlikely to be sufficient to support completely the needs of an ageing community of sisters, particularly if specialist care is required.

At the balance sheet date, free reserves amounted to £560,377 (2019 – £407,481). The trustees consider this level of free reserves to be in accordance with their reserves policy and to be appropriate given the continuing volatility of the investment markets, Covid-19 and economic uncertainties generally.

Investment policy and performance

The charity had a portfolio of listed investments with a market value at the end of the period of £1,978,565 (2019 – £2,134,990). The portfolio achieved an income yield of 3.9% (2019 – 4%) and a negative capital yield of 9.2% (2019 – positive capital yield of 1%). At 31 August 2020, the investment managers were also holding cash awaiting investment of £28,549 (2019 – £80,447). The investments are managed by Charles Stanley and Company Limited, who operate within guidelines that are set and regularly reviewed by the trustees, who believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

Financial report for the period (continued)

Investment policy and performance (continued)

The policy of the charity is to achieve a combination of income and capital growth within acceptable levels of risk.

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest.

The performance of the portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed by the trustees who meet with the investment manager at least once a year. The trustees are content that their policy will be achieved in the medium to long term.

Future plans

The trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charity or its activities over the next two to five years. It is their intention to continue to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. Focus will continue to be given to assisting the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To continue to remain focussed on the importance of worship and prayer to the lives of the individual sisters and to the overall mission of the charity.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older, and if necessary to adapt the charity's plans in respect to property needs and the provision of care to elderly members.
- ◆ To support the Congregation's work in Africa in partnership with the Congregation's Generalate.

Governance, structure and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a Constitution agreed by the trustees on 30 May 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9 June 2017.

Liability of the member

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

In terms of Canon law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Superior General and her General Council in Nantes, France. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter or meeting of delegates of all the regions of the Congregation.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Since the 2017 General Chapter, England and Ireland are now a delegation with a General Councillor having overall responsibility and assisted by a Delegate living in England who works in close collaboration with the General Councillor. After consultation with the sisters of the delegation, the Superior General names the Delegate with the consent of her council.

The Assistant Delegate communicates with the General Councillor responsible for the Delegation. Once or twice a year she meets with the Superior General and her Council to give an account of the progress and development of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged.

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a constitution dated 30 May 2017 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011 – Charity Registration No. 1173344. The trustees are appointed by the Superior General in her capacity as sole member of the CIO. As members of the Congregation, the trustees are aware of the work of the charity and of its structure. With the help of professional advisers, and through attendance at seminars, conferences etc, they update their knowledge of charity law and its requirements.

The names of the trustees are set out within the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts and brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at 31 August 2020 are given below.

Sister Anne Hogan

Sister Anne joined the Congregation in 1962. She is a qualified teacher but her main involvements have been in the areas of formation and administration. She has been responsible for novices both here in the UK and also in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She served as Regional Superior for twelve years and then as General Councillor for six years. As Regional Superior she was a trustee of the charity. Presently, Sister Anne is Assistant Delegate for England and Ireland.

Sister Elizabeth McNiff

Sister Elizabeth joined the Congregation 54 years ago. After training in child care she worked in the Social Services departments for Haringey, Solihull and Birmingham (1971-1996), caring for disadvantaged young people, mainly adolescents in the residential setting. She has been bursar in the Birmingham Community and is now bursar of the Barnet Community and continues to be actively involved in Parish life supporting people in need.

Sister Odile Mahé

Sister Odile is the Bursar for the Delegation with overall responsibility for the finances of the charity. She joined the Congregation 60 years ago and, after graduating and qualifying as a teacher, spent 20 years of her religious life in education. She was also Bursar of her community. Before taking up the post of Regional Bursar she did some further training in IT. Until lockdown she used both her IT and accounting skills in her work as volunteer at the Cardinal Hume Centre and St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these 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; and
- ◆ Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they 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 the trustees are members of the Congregation and, whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or key management personnel.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet when necessary to review the activities, possible developments, make important decisions and to seek advice and support from professional advisers including solicitors, investment managers, accountants and property consultants. They delegate the day to day management of the activities, and the implementation of policies, to members of the Congregation.

At the end of August the Delegation of England and Ireland comprises 12 sisters, 10 of whom live in England. The sisters live in three communities in London and Birmingham. The community houses are located in areas and parishes where their proximity to the people among whom they dwell, enables the sisters to respond most effectively to needs, either working alone, or in partnership with other organisations. As stated above, each community has a Leader appointed by the General Councillor Delegate.

St Gildas Schools in Yeovil and London, formerly the property of the Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas), are administered by the Dioceses of Clifton and Westminster respectively. The sisters continue to maintain an interest in the life of the schools and support their work.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications 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 to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the period, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Risk management

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks the Congregation currently faces and have reviewed the measures already in place to deal with them.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has clearly presented challenges and threats to the well-being of the charity and its activities which could not have been foreseen. The trustees recognise their responsibility for the management of risks faced by the charity and the sisters.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

They note above the financial and operational effects of Covid-19. Over and above these, the areas identified for particular attention within the charity's risk management strategy are:

Governance and management: looks at the risk of the Congregation, and hence the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members, and the good use of its resources.

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters shows that the average age at 31 August 2020 was 83 years. The trustees are aware that there is both a moral and legal obligation to care for the sisters. None of the sisters have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and any other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant.

As the age profile increases, so too does the need to provide care for the sisters. Key elements of the management of this risk are: a) ensuring that the charity has the available financial resources to finance this care both now and in the future by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles; and b) ensuring that processes are in place to review the ministries and needs of individual sisters encouraging those who need it to take on less demanding ministries and for identifying those who need extra care and help.

Operational: looks at the risks inherent in the activities of the charity, particularly pastoral care.

The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all whom the charity serves. This means that all sisters who are in any kind of ministry have obtained clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS).

The charity may not work with children, but does work with adults who may need help at particularly vulnerable moments in life.

Financial: looks at risks including those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, poor accounting and poor management of the investment portfolio.

The principal asset of the charity comprises listed investments, the value of which is dependent on movements in UK and world stock markets. The investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly with the investment managers and the manager's performance and that of the portfolio are monitored. The investment strategy is assessed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate to the charity's needs both now and in the future. During the current Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to communicate with our investment managers and, whilst there are concerns over the volatility in world stock markets, we acknowledge also that we are long term investors. As such, the charity will be able to wait for markets to stabilise over time whilst we, as trustees, keep a watching brief.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Reputational: looks at possible damage to the Congregation and hence the reputation of the charity.

Laws, regulations, external and environment: looks at the effect of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations in so far as they are applicable to the Congregation's activities.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Working with other organisations

The charity has worked closely with other charities and public bodies in the fields of social and pastoral care and education, including working with the vulnerable and the marginalised. One sister receives a salary, while the others work on a voluntary basis. In all cases, working together enables the sisters to be more effective and avoid duplication of effort in providing services to the people they serve. Examples of the organisations for which members have worked and with which the charity has co-operated during the period are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Ascent Movement in Westminster and Birmingham;
- ◆ Justice and Peace Link;
- ◆ Churches Together;
- ◆ SVP; and
- ◆ Caritas Westminster.

Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation

The members of the Congregation continue to give unsparing service and dedication to all the Congregation's works and the trustees wish to record their appreciation.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 15 February 2021

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Sisters of Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant 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 August 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- ◆ the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- ◆ the trustees have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

25 February 2021

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	1	148,039	151,189
Investments and interest receivable	2	80,970	88,963
Other income			
. Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets - freehold property and motor vehicles		890,736	—
. Miscellaneous income		—	4
Total income		1,119,745	240,156
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
. Investment management costs		18,467	18,615
Charitable activities			
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	3	235,338	208,199
. Charitable donations	4	121,316	19,288
Total expenditure		375,121	246,102
Net income (expenditure) for the year before investment (losses) gains		744,624	(5,946)
Net investment (losses) gains		(189,856)	24,354
Net income and net movement in funds		554,768	18,408
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2019	14	4,872,839	4,854,431
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2020		5,427,607	4,872,839

The statement of financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses recognised in the year.

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

All of the charity's funds were unrestricted in the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		1,867,230		2,165,358
Investments	9		2,007,114		2,215,437
			3,874,344		4,380,795
Current assets					
Debtors	10	2,739		3,014	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,614,195		557,328	
		1,616,934		560,342	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(63,671)		(68,298)	
Net current assets			1,553,263		492,044
Total net assets			5,427,607		4,872,839
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Unrestricted funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	12		1,867,230		2,165,358
. Designated funds	13		3,000,000		2,300,000
. General funds			560,377		407,481
			5,427,607		4,872,839

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees:

O. Mahé

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 15 February 2021

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(194,168)	(60,543)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income and interest received		81,404	89,286
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		223,123	113,350
Purchase of investments		(256,554)	(60,193)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,576)	(30,983)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		1,165,740	—
Net cash provided by investing activities		1,199,137	111,460
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,004,969	50,917
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2019		637,775	586,858
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2020	B	1,642,744	637,775

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2020

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	554,768	18,408
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	37,700	34,056
Gains on investments	189,856	(24,354)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(890,736)	—
Investment income and interest receivable	(80,970)	(88,963)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(159)	859
Decrease in creditors	(4,627)	(549)
Net cash used in operating activities	(194,168)	(60,543)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,614,195	557,328
Cash held by investment managers	28,549	80,447
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,642,744	637,775

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

These accounts have been prepared for the year ended to 31 August 2020 with comparative information provided in respect to the year ended 31 August 2019.

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 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) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where such judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating accrued expenditure;
- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of calculating the depreciation charge;
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds including the determination of the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement reserve; and
- ◆ estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

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.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of the world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of the social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of our control. The full impact on the charity's income and expenditure and financial position following the emergence of the global Covid-19 pandemic is still unknown.

The charity's investment income may be adversely affected because of the volatility in listed investments as stock markets have reacted to the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the commercial sector in particular. In terms of expenditure, it is anticipated that there will be a rise in living expenses due to rise in cost of living during the crisis and the difficulties in obtaining food locally at a good price but such increases will be offset by a reduction in motor and travel costs. The trustees will continue to keep both income and expenditure under review but do not anticipate that the impact on the charity's finances will be material or impact on the charity's going concern.

With regard to the next accounting period (i.e. the year ending 31 August 2021), the most significant areas that may affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the level of investment return and the performance of the investment markets (see the investment policy and the risk management sections of the trustees' report for more information).

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, legacies, investment income, interest receivable and income from other sources including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets. Income also includes the fair value of the net assets transferred from the Charitable Trust.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of religious individuals received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, 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.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Income recognition (continued)

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or income has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

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.

Any surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

All other income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be measured reliably. It is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition

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. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The majority of expenditure is directly attributable and any apportionment between headings is negligible.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the listed investments.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities and includes:

- ◇ Expenditure on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. Such expenditure enables the members to carry out the work of the charity in the areas of the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith, the advancement of education and the provision of social and pastoral work.

Expenditure recognition (continued)

- ◇ The provision of charitable donations relating, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Charitable donations are made where the trustees believe there is a real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year commitments. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any donations approved but unpaid at the end of the financial period.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

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.

All expenditure on support and governance is allocated to the charitable activities of care of members of the Congregation and enabling their ministry as any costs in relation to provision of donations or raising funds is considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

◆ Freehold land and buildings

Non-specialised buildings are those designed as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. They are stated at cost, or, in the case of older properties where cost is not available, at a trustees' valuation made in 1996 based on market value for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 September 2014, the value assigned to those properties valued in 1996 is now deemed to be cost. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Specialised buildings comprise a large residential convent stated at cost. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the building off over its estimated useful economic life to the Congregation.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

◆ Motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment

Expenditure on the purchase of motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over a four year period on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

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.

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. 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.

Funds structure

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

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Details of these are provided in note 13.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Operating leases

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

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant or Gift Aid	148,039	150,208
Other donations	—	981
	148,039	151,189

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	2020 £	2019 £
Income from listed investments		
UK equities	42,640	46,313
Overseas equities	8,918	9,004
Fixed interest securities	9,621	13,809
Unit trusts	18,548	17,169
	79,727	86,295
Interest receivable		
Bank interest	1,243	2,668
	80,970	88,963

3 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	2020 £	2019 £
Premises (excluding depreciation)	105,657	69,859
Sisters' living and personal expenses	64,699	67,385
Education, training and spiritual renewal	9,997	11,276
Depreciation	37,700	34,056
Support costs		
. Governance (professional fees)	11,510	12,634
. Other costs	5,775	12,989
	235,338	208,199

4 Expenditure on: Charitable donations

The donations payable during the year were to institutions and were for the following purposes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Support of the Congregation's work overseas	967	1,419
Support of the Congregation's Generalate	118,069	14,026
The Catholic Trust for England and Wales	—	1,100
Other donations of less than £1,000 each	2,280	2,743
	121,316	19,288

5 Net income (expenditure) for the year before investment (losses) gains

This is stated after charging:

	2020 £	2019 £
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	10,890	10,270
.. Previous period	330	800
. Taxation services		
.. Previous period	—	1,564
Depreciation	37,700	34,056
Operating lease payments		
. Land and buildings	7,800	1,300
. Office equipment	2,784	2,784

6 Staff costs, key management personnel and Trustees' remuneration

As members of the Congregation, the trustees' living and personal expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees or as members of key management during the year.

The charity did not have any employees during the year (2019 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

None of the trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the charity. During the year, a total of £41,255 (2019 – £40,219) was donated by the trustees to the charity.

7 Taxation

The Sisters of the Christian Instruction (St. Gildas) 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
	Specialised £	Non-specialised £	Motor vehicles £	£	£
Cost or deemed cost					
At 1 September 2019	1,578,817	920,342	51,827	30,983	2,581,969
Additions	—	—	14,576	—	14,576
Disposals	—	(275,000)	(41,077)	—	(316,077)
At 31 August 2020	<u>1,578,817</u>	<u>645,342</u>	<u>25,326</u>	<u>30,983</u>	<u>2,280,468</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	362,309	—	51,822	2,480	416,611
Charge for the year	31,576	—	3,644	2,480	37,700
On disposals	—	—	(41,073)	—	(41,073)
At 31 August 2020	<u>393,885</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>14,393</u>	<u>4,960</u>	<u>413,238</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2020	<u>1,184,932</u>	<u>645,342</u>	<u>10,933</u>	<u>26,023</u>	<u>1,867,230</u>
At 31 August 2019	<u>1,216,508</u>	<u>920,342</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>28,503</u>	<u>2,165,358</u>

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

9 Investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 September 2019	2,134,990	2,163,793
Additions at cost	256,554	60,193
Disposals at book value (see below)	(243,662)	(109,981)
Net unrealised investment (losses) gains	(169,317)	20,985
Market value at 31 August 2020	1,978,565	2,134,990
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	28,549	80,447
	2,007,114	2,215,437
Cost of listed investments at 31 August 2020	1,639,902	1,596,698

Disposals at book value included above one made up of the following:

	2020 £	2019 £
Proceeds	223,123	113,350
Losses (gains)	20,539	(3,369)
	243,662	109,981

Listed investments held at 31 August 2020 comprised the following:

	2020 £	2019 £
UK equities	783,578	954,700
Overseas equities	368,393	350,846
Fixed interest	565,492	313,996
Unit trusts	261,102	515,448
	1,978,565	2,134,990

At 31 August 2020 there were no individual holdings deemed material when compared with the overall portfolio valuation as at that date.

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

10 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Investment income receivable	171	605
Prepayments and other debtors	2,568	2,409
	2,739	3,014

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts held on behalf of individual members of the Congregation	52,338	52,338
Accruals	10,933	15,560
Other creditors	400	400
	63,671	68,298

12 Tangible fixed assets fund

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September 2019	2,165,358	2,168,431
Net movement in the year	(298,128)	(3,073)
At 31 August 2020	1,867,230	2,165,358

The tangible fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. It has been identified separately in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are required for the charity's work and are not available as a reserve to fund day to day activities or meet future contingencies.

13 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated fund which had been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Retirement reserve:		
At 1 September 2019	2,300,000	2,300,000
Designated in the year	700,000	—
At 31 August 2020	3,000,000	2,300,000

The retirement reserve is calculated using actuarial principles and was created in order to assist in providing for the Sisters in their retirement.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

At 31 August 2020, the fund balances are represented by the following assets and liabilities:

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,867,230	—	1,867,230
Investments	—	—	2,007,114	2,007,114
Net current assets	560,377	—	992,886	1,553,263
Total net assets	560,377	1,867,230	3,000,000	5,427,607

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund £	Designated funds £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	2,165,358	—	2,165,358
Investments	—	—	2,215,437	2,215,437
Net current assets	407,481	—	84,563	492,044
Total net assets	407,481	2,165,358	2,300,000	4,872,839

The total unrealised gains at 31 August 2020 constitute revaluation of listed investments and the movements on the unrealised gains are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Unrealised gains included above on listed investments		
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2020	338,663	538,292
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains		
Total unrealised gains at 1 September 2019	538,292	509,777
In respect to disposals in the year	(30,312)	7,530
Net (losses) gains arising on revaluation in the year	(169,317)	20,985
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2020	338,663	538,292

15 Operating leases

At 31 August 2020, the charity had total future commitments under a non-cancellable operating lease in respect to certain assets as follows:

Operating lease payments payable:	Equipment		Land and buildings	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts due within one year	2,784	2,784	2,600	2,600
Amounts due between two and five years	3,016	5,800	—	—
	5,800	8,584	2,600	2,600

16 Ultimate control and liability of the member

The Superior General of the Congregation for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be ex officio the sole member of the CIO. The sole member is responsible for the appointment of the trustees.

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.