

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188749

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

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Abbreviations

CBCEW	Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SFLG	St Francis Leprosy Guild
WHO	World Health Organization

Reference and administrative details for the year 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts. This is in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Board of Trustees

Mr Edward Reed (Chair of Trustees)

Mrs Clare Barton (Vice Chair)

Mr Michael Heathcote (Treasurer) (stood down March 2024)

Mrs Caroline Connolly-Newland (Treasurer) (appointed August 2024)

Mr Liam Allmark

Dr Margaret Burgess (stood down March 2024)

Very Reverend Father Michael Copps OFM (stood down October 2024)

Dr William Dibb

Mr Michael Forbes Smith (retired January 2024)

Professor Noel Gill

Dr Donal O'Sullivan (appointed August 2024)

Ms Sandra Pearce (appointed November 2024)

Ms Cecilia Taylor-Camara (term ended March 2024)

Director

Katharine Jones

Brief details about the current trustees are as follows:

Chair - Edward Reed. Edward is a solicitor and partner at Macfarlanes. He advises internationally mobile families on their asset structuring, personal tax, succession and philanthropic planning, wills and trusts.

Vice Chair - Clare Barton. Clare is a retired solicitor whose career included working for a major City law firm and as an in-house lawyer. She has done a range of voluntary roles, including being a school governor for many years. She is joint Safeguarding Lead for SFLG.

Treasurer - Caroline Connolly-Newland. Caroline is currently Head of Risk and Audit in a global engineering company, with a background of over 25 years in Finance and Audit in various global companies. She has three boys and enjoys running in her spare time.

Liam Allmark. Liam is Head of Communications, Advocacy and Fundraising at the Jesuit Refugee Service UK. Prior to this role, he was the lead international affairs advisor to the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. Throughout his career he has worked closely with Catholic charities in many countries including Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, Iraq, and Thailand.

Dr William Dibb. Bill is a retired consultant clinical microbiologist and infection control doctor. He was a Chair of Laboratories and Infection Prevention and Control for many years. He has wide experience with infection abroad, including in low and middle-income countries. He is a keen medical historian with a special interest in the history of infection.

Professor Noel Gill. Noel is an infectious disease epidemiologist and honorary professor at LSHTM. He worked at Public Health England's National Infectious Disease Surveillance Centre leading the HIV & STI team 1980-2020. After retirement he returned part-time from 2020 to 2021 to assist with the response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Dr Donal O'Sullivan. Donal has worked for almost forty years in Southeast London, first as a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, and more recently as a Consultant in Public Health. Donal currently teaches on the Master of Public Health course at King's College London. He is joint Safeguarding Lead for SFLG.

Sandra Pearce. Sandra had a significant background in journalism and publishing before moving into Fundraising. She worked as Senior Trusts and Foundations Advisor at The Leprosy Mission England and Wales for four years before joining Boxing Futures as Fundraising and Communications Manager. She lived for more than 25 years in Singapore and has a strong interest in international affairs.

Principal address

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Registered charity number: 1188749

Independent examiner

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About leprosy – a curable disease

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic, infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*. Leprosy affects the skin, peripheral nerves and the upper respiratory tract. Leprosy can affect anyone, at any age, but it is linked to poverty and malnutrition. Leprosy continues to be a threat to public health in low and middle-income countries. Despite the widespread fear that leprosy is highly contagious, it is in fact difficult to catch and 95% of us are resistant to developing the disease. It is thought that leprosy is spread by droplet infection (coughing and sneezing) during prolonged and close contact with untreated individuals who have the disease. People who lack access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, those with compromised immune systems or who are malnourished are also more likely to catch it. Leprosy is a disease of poverty.

Leprosy is challenging to diagnose, especially at the early stages. It attacks peripheral nerves, which destroys the ability to feel pain. The lack of sensation leads to trauma, ulcers and other localised infections. Left untreated, these infections can lead to permanent disability, disfigurement and amputations. Even those treated for leprosy and who are no longer infectious can still develop complications over their lifetime. Leprosy can also cause blindness, facial disfigurement and the clawing of hands and feet. The visible disability and disfigurement caused by leprosy over the years means the disease is greatly feared. Many leprosy-affected people (including their families and children) are subjected to stigma and discrimination and excluded from society. Since the earliest of times, fear and ignorance has meant society discriminates against and denies leprosy-affected people their right to a full and normal life.

In addition, outdated discriminatory laws mean that people with leprosy can be forcibly evicted from their homes, livelihoods, and places of work. In some parts of the world, leprosy can form grounds for divorce. Due to these terrible injustices, people with leprosy may not come forward for medical treatment, putting themselves, their families and communities at greater risk. A United Nations Special Rapporteur (operating under the aegis of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) is working to identify and repeal these laws.

Leprosy is curable today with a combination of antibiotics known as Multidrug Therapy (MDT) which first became available in 1981. MDT has been distributed free of charge worldwide to patients since 1991.

Following the introduction of MDT, around seventeen million people have been released from treatment for leprosy. However, since the early 2000s, the downwards trend of numbers diagnosed and treated has stagnated at around 200,000 per year. In addition, the number of people contracting the disease who are undiagnosed, or living with its effects, such as blindness, amputated limbs or the stigma and discrimination associated with it, is many millions.

The WHO monitors leprosy worldwide and has developed a global leprosy strategy, which is reviewed by experts every five years. The goal of the current strategy is to achieve *Zero Leprosy, which is a long-term vision of zero infection and disease, zero disability, zero stigma and discrimination*. The medium-term goal is the *elimination of leprosy, defined as interruption of transmission*. SFLG, along with the rest of the global leprosy community, is aligned with the WHO strategy. The final mile to ending leprosy is proving to be the toughest and most challenging. According to WHO, there are between two and five million undiagnosed leprosy-affected people worldwide. So, although we can see an end to this terrible and ancient disease, there remains plenty to be done to achieve Zero Leprosy. SFLG has existed for 130 years, but it is this ongoing challenge which keeps us focused.

St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG)

SFLG was founded on 23 October 1895. The moving spirit was Kate Marsden, a nurse who was determined to relieve the desperate plight of people affected by leprosy throughout the world. Until a cure for leprosy became widely available through the WHO in the 1980s, SFLG's primary activity was the compassionate support of leprosy villages, hospitals, clinics or communities that treat or care for people with leprosy and their dependants.

In 2017, SFLG embarked on "A Pilgrimage of Hope" combining a commitment to play our part in the WHO's developing strategies, currently (2021-30) "Towards Zero Leprosy", with a determination to increase the charity's professionalism and grow the voluntary income needed to meet that challenge.

As part of that process, SFLG became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2020. SFLG's key strategic focus is now the detection and diagnosis of people with leprosy as early as possible while maintaining the material support that it has provided to people affected by leprosy and their dependants for the past 130 years.

SFLG's activities and projects, particularly its focused, intensive Active Case-Finding programme, are now making an important contribution to ascertaining, diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating people with leprosy: making our contribution towards stopping the disease in its tracks and preventing lives from being destroyed. In addition, through its membership of the Leprosy Research Initiative, SFLG has contributed towards innovative applied research projects.

SFLG is a member of ILEP (The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) through which SFLG has a direct relationship with the relevant WHO and UN policy.

SFLG is the UK's only Roman Catholic leprosy charity. Although a charity under the patronage of His Eminence, Vincent, Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, SFLG has never made any distinction regarding the creed or denomination of our beneficiaries, nor of race, skin colour, gender or age. We are proud of our heritage and, conscious of the trust our benefactors and donors have placed in us, we are invigorated by the unique opportunity we have before us to play our part in ending leprosy for good.

We look forward to celebrating our 130th anniversary during the 2025 Jubilee Year, which also marks the penultimate in a series of Franciscan anniversaries, the 800th anniversary of the Canticum of the Creatures (the most well-known text written by SFLG's patron, St. Francis of Assisi, two years before he died). The Annual Mass and Assembly to mark our 130th anniversary will be held at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 4 October 2025.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our **Vision** is a leprosy-free world.

Our **Mission** is to end leprosy's devastating impact everywhere for everyone.

Our **Values** align with the Five Franciscan Values:

1. **Service** - to serve others, especially the most vulnerable.
2. **Respect for creation** - to honour all creation, especially ourselves and each other.
3. **Reverence** - to approach God and all creation in wonder and awe.
4. **Peace and justice** - to strive for a world where all people can live in peace and dignity.
5. **Humility** - to recognise our need of God, our dependence on God and our need for each other.

To achieve our vision and mission, we work with dedicated partners around the world:

- to help find and cure people with leprosy before they develop disabilities;
- to care for people living with leprosy's devastating impact, and
- to fund research into new ways to end leprosy.

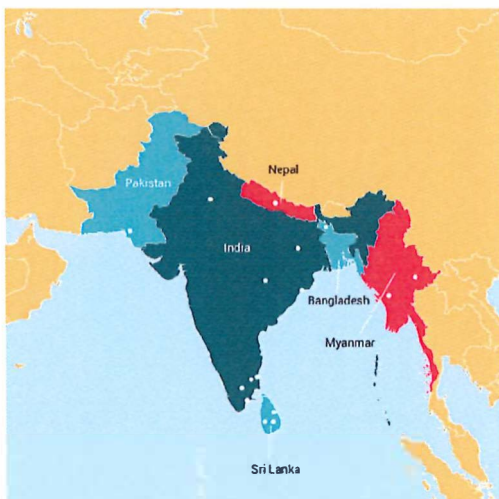
In 2024, SFLG worked in thirteen countries supporting over thirty centres, research activities and programmes.



Where we work in Africa



Where we work in Brazil



Where we work in Asia

Objectives and aims

SFLG's objectives are as follows:

1. funding organisations giving relief and assistance to persons with leprosy or disabled as a result of leprosy, their families, and dependants throughout the world;
2. funding activity towards prevention and control of the disease of leprosy, including relevant investigations and research of the causes, treatment, and prevention of this disease, and
3. carrying out or funding the professional education of those engaged in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of leprosy.

In our activities as described below, the trustees consider that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, including on public benefit.

Operational activities

Partnership Management

SFLG builds and maintains partnerships through diverse channels, including direct inquiries, responses to calls for proposals, and referrals from trusted local stakeholders. To ensure alignment with its mission, SFLG selects partners carefully based on strict criteria, including strong governance, a clear focus on leprosy-related work, regulatory compliance, sound financial practices, and a demonstrated commitment to patient care and safeguarding. Once partnerships are established, SFLG maintains high standards of accountability and impact through robust monitoring and evaluation methods. This approach includes regular financial audits, site visits and consistent reporting, ensuring effective use of donor funds and meaningful support for individuals affected by leprosy.

In 2024, St Francis Leprosy Guild strengthened its partnerships in Nigeria through on-site evaluations of two key healthcare providers, St Patrick's Mile Four Hospital and St Benedict's Leprosy and Tuberculosis Rehabilitation Centre. These visits confirmed the partners' commitment to delivering comprehensive, patient-centred leprosy care, while also identifying areas for further support. The insights gained enabled SFLG to refine its project application and reporting tools, ensuring more accurate and relevant data collection. This work has enhanced our ability to monitor projects effectively, improve accountability, and align our support with partner needs, ultimately advancing our mission to reduce the burden of leprosy and support affected communities.

In 2024, SFLG continued to categorise its operating activities under the **TRACE** acronym.

Training	Supporting undergraduate and postgraduate leprosy-specific specialist skills through short or long-term training and learning opportunities for any grade of healthcare worker to develop their potential as future specialist leaders committed to Zero Leprosy.
Research	Supporting applied research into leprosy transmission, prevention, and care (in collaboration with the Leprosy Research Initiative).
Active Case-Finding	Detecting new leprosy cases by screening all members of at-risk populations.
Care	Supporting the care of people affected by leprosy and their contacts by providing inpatient and outpatient treatment, surgery, rehabilitation, and long-term care for people diagnosed with leprosy, their families, and others living in or near their households.
Emergency Support/ Equipment	Investing capital in leprosy-related equipment, maintenance of facilities and rebuilding. Maintaining an Emergencies Reserve to meet any needs that may arise due to adversity.

Training

It is difficult to recruit healthcare practitioners to work in a highly stigmatised disease area like leprosy. Leprosy treatment lacks the prestige and higher salaries of many medical disciplines. Our aim is to support opportunities to fill this deficiency gap and increase the leprosy care experience of healthcare professionals. For this reason, funding leprosy-specific training is part of SFLG's activity.

Historically, SFLG has funded short-term electives for students to spend time in leprosy-focused hospitals and healthcare facilities to develop their knowledge of leprosy. In 2024, SFLG funded Dominic Jarvis, a final year medical student at Cardiff University, to work at Green Pastures hospital, Pokhara, Nepal.

Research

SFLG is an Associate Member of the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI), a global joint venture of twelve leprosy NGOs with the shared goal of working together to achieve Zero Leprosy. LRI consolidates leprosy research worldwide and prioritises future projects to deliver the vision of a world free from leprosy. SFLG's membership of LRI ensures our research investment is distributed competitively, is independently peer-reviewed, and is expertly evaluated.

SFLG is funding three significant projects through this relationship:

1. In Ghana, we are supporting the engagement of persons affected by leprosy to become agents of change in their community by becoming leprosy peer mentors. They aim to support early case detection, disease management and disability inclusion, with a view to reducing stigma and improving mental health.
2. In India and Nigeria, we are supporting "*Capacity Building for Leprosy*" (*CapaBLE*), a research project aimed at strengthening healthcare workers' expertise through a blended learning approach. This research seeks to assess the impact of combining online and face-to-face training on the knowledge, skills and performance of health workers managing leprosy. By developing evidence-based, sustainable training models, the project aims to enhance early detection, treatment and care for those affected by leprosy, ultimately contributing to global efforts to eliminate the disease.

3. In India and Nepal, we are supporting the initiative *"Working Towards Mental Health Recovery Among Persons Affected by Leprosy."* This study seeks to enhance the lives of individuals affected by leprosy who are experiencing mental health challenges. By fostering empowerment and collaboration, it aims to develop locally grounded, meaningful and effective interventions.

Active Case-Finding

Leprosy is a highly stigmatised, insidious, transmissible disease. It has an incubation phase of three to twenty years making its transmission almost impossible to trace. Leprosy may not cause any pain and discomfort in the early stages, so people do not seek medical help. Once it is apparent, stigma or legal consequences frequently act as a powerful disincentive to seeking treatment. Yet early diagnosis and treatment would prevent the disability, stigma and disfigurement that can develop, and it would prevent others catching it.

To work towards the goal of Zero Leprosy, in 2020 SFLG began supporting selected partners to detect new cases of leprosy early by conducting door-to-door screening of all members of disadvantaged populations who are at a higher risk of leprosy. The aim of the population-based Active Case-Finding (PB-ACF) pilot programme is to screen all members of a target population over a three-year period, through a series of case-finding campaigns in local areas where the incidence of leprosy may be relatively high.

During 2021, SFLG supported the following six PB-ACF projects:

1. Dhanjuri Leprosy Centre (Bangladesh)
2. ALERT India
3. Bombay Leprosy Project (India)
4. The Leprosy Mission in Nepal
5. New Hope Rural Leprosy Trust (India) and
6. Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (Pakistan).

Building on this work, in 2022 SFLG invited partners to propose new PB-ACF projects. SFLG agreed to support three more projects, which launched between September and November 2022, in the following areas:

1. The Meherpur District, Bangladesh (with The Leprosy Mission of England and Wales)
2. Tamil Nadu, India (The Holy Family Hansensorium), and
3. The Yumbe and Zombo districts, Uganda (with The German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association).

In 2024, SFLG and its partners continued to implement the nine PB-ACF projects, each of which have delivered significant results. Since the launch of the PB-ACF programme, 855,031 screenings have been carried out in areas with limited access to healthcare and 677 new cases of leprosy were found. 110 skin camps were undertaken. Finding these cases early will prevent almost all from developing permanent disabilities. During this implementation period, over 500 healthcare workers were trained in the skills needed to spot the early signs of leprosy.

Towards the end of 2024, SFLG's first six pilot PB-ACF projects concluded, providing a valuable opportunity for our programmes team, partners and technical advisors to reflect on the results before shaping the next phase of our work. This period of learning and evaluation was essential, helping us to understand which approaches are most effective, where interventions have the greatest impact, and how we can best support our partners in reaching people affected by leprosy. While fewer live activities in 2024 meant a temporary reduction in PB-ACF spending, this careful assessment ensures that every donor contribution is used to create the greatest possible impact. With the benefit of these insights, SFLG is excited to launch new PB-ACF projects in 2025, building on the successes of the past five years and reaching even more people affected by leprosy.

Care

SFLG's principal activity since 1895 has been supporting treatment and rehabilitation for people with leprosy, together with awareness campaigns to combat stigma and remove the fear and misunderstanding surrounding the disease. Leprosy-affected individuals require a range of support including reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy, social rehabilitation and training in new skills, and, in some cases (where individuals have been rejected by their communities), lifelong care is needed. SFLG supports the holistic care of people affected by leprosy and their contacts through the provision of inpatient and outpatient treatment and care. Our partners include hospitals, clinics, leprosy villages and community-based rehabilitation organisations.

In 2024, SFLG supported twenty-five partner organisations in ten countries reaching 16,754 people through care-focused interventions. The objective of all these interventions is to enable people affected by leprosy to return to their communities and make their contribution to their family life and society. In addition, our partners diagnosed 1,629 new cases of leprosy in 2024.

Some of SFLG's key projects include:

- Continuing our long-standing partnership with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Sri Lanka to ensure that elderly leprosy patients are not forgotten, providing them with essential supplies and access to critical healthcare.
- Expanding our support for Dr. Tony Gonzalez and her hospital boat, which brings vital healthcare, leprosy testing and treatment to remote communities along a tributary of the Amazon River that cannot be reached by road.
- Partnering with the Poorna Suka Leprosy Project in India to provide life-changing community-based support, including self-care groups, medication assistance and income-generating opportunities for people affected by leprosy.
- Funding and supporting St. Patrick's Mile Four Hospital in Abakaliki, Nigeria, a leading leprosy hospital that delivers lifesaving treatment and surgery, while also helping patients to recover and reintegrate into their communities.

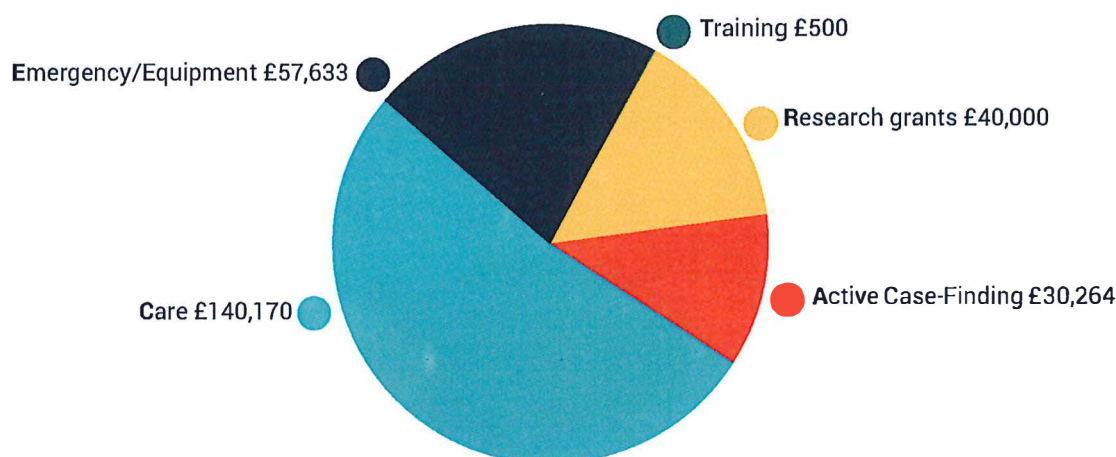
Emergency Support/Equipment

We maintain an Emergencies Reserve to enable us to respond quickly to crises such as natural disasters that impact our partners or people affected by leprosy. In 2024, SFLG provided critical support to St Joseph's Leprosy Hospital in India after severe flooding destroyed a significant portion of their supplies and equipment, ensuring they had the essentials to resume operations. We also assisted Anandaban Hospital in Nepal: after devastating floods that severely damaged its buildings, we supplied electrical cables to help restore essential services. Our ability to respond swiftly in times of crisis helps to ensure that these vital hospitals can continue their lifesaving work without delay.

Expenditure by TRACE (unaudited) 2024

We aim to increase our TRACE expenditure every year. In 2024 our TRACE expenditure was, however, decreased to £268,567 from £383,152 in 2023.

In 2023, due to significant legacy income received in 2022, we were able to increase TRACE expenditure to £383,152. At the start of 2024, however, against a difficult background for fundraising for small charities and substantially reduced legacy income, the trustees took the view that we should take a cautious approach, with the result that both TRACE and non-TRACE expenditure were reduced in 2024.



TRACe expenditure	2023	2024
Training	£2,410	£500
Research	£60,020	£40,000
Active Case-Finding	£108,650	£30,264
Care	£212,072	£140,170
Emergency or Equipment	£0	£57,633
Total	£383,152	£268,567

Partner Due Diligence

SFLG's Executive team carried out due diligence on any partners to ensure:

- the identity of the beneficiary
- that funds are applied in accordance with SFLG's charitable purposes
- that funds are not knowingly used for:
 - money laundering, in accordance with the operative Anti-Money Laundering (AML) regulations governed by the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)
 - terrorism financing, in accordance with the Terrorism Act 2000
 - bribery, in accordance with the Bribery Act 2010.

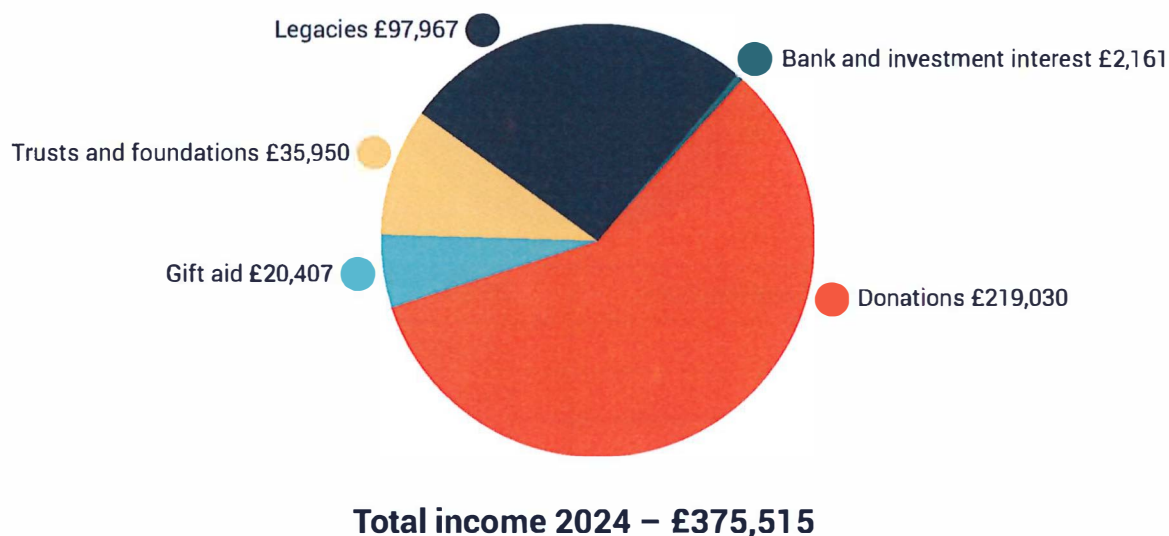
SFLG's Executive team also adopts a risk-rated approach to due diligence. Risk factors include:

- funding contributed
- the country of residence of the recipient
- the geographical location in which the funding will be applied
- the nature of the relationship between the charity and the applicant
- the capacity of the partner organisations.

The results of any due diligence do not last indefinitely. In cases where beneficiaries are supported for a significant period, additional due diligence is undertaken if there is a change of circumstances that might impact the partner or, in any case, every two years.

Fundraising and performance

In 2024, SFLG generated a total income of £375,515 compared to £391,407 raised in 2023. In 2024, aware of the necessity to reduce our reliance on legacy income, we focused our fundraising on individual giving. The trustees also approved the engagement of a fundraising expert to diversify our fundraising, develop our donor base and increase our income.



Individual giving (donations and Gift Aid)

SFLG issued five direct mail appeals in 2024: Easter, Spring (including a new Spring newsletter), a late summer appeal (including the Annual Review for 2023); an autumn appeal (including the Autumn Newsletter), and a Christmas appeal in support of our centres in Nigeria. All direct mail appeals in 2024 were well-supported.

We also receive donations in the form of regular giving every month or year which form the backbone of our support. Some donors have been exceptionally generous in 2024 in giving larger one-off amounts. To these donors and all our donors, we offer our thanks.

Donations from direct mail and regular giving increased in 2024 to £219,030 from £218,528 in 2023.

Legacies

SFLG was fortunate to receive generous support from its benefactors. In 2024, SFLG received four legacies totalling £97,967 (compared with £141,712 in 2023).

The details of SFLG's legators are captured in a Book of Remembrance and prayed for regularly. In addition, the names of legators are recorded in SFLG's online Garden of Remembrance.

Trusts

Fundraising from trusts recommenced in 2024. A fundraiser was engaged to drive our fundraising activities from trusts and foundations. A promising start has been made and £35,950 was raised from our trust pipeline in 2024.

Investment income

Investment income (bank interest, dividend income, losses and gains in investments) decreased to £2,161 in 2024, compared with £31,167 in 2023. The decrease was mainly due to less interest paid on reduced cash balances.

SFLG is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with its standards. No complaints were received about any aspect of fundraising in the reporting period. SFLG is compliant with the GDPR in all its activities and no data is sold to other organisations.

Annual Mass and Assembly

The Annual Mass and Assembly celebrating SFLG's 129th anniversary took place at Westminster Cathedral, London, SW1, on 4 October 2024. The Mass was celebrated by (then) Bishop John Sherrington (now Archbishop of Liverpool) and was followed by an Assembly afterwards at The Passage. The Annual Mass and Assembly is a great opportunity for SFLG to meet its supporters and the team and the trustees were delighted to be able to thank our supporters in person. On this occasion, £1,650 was raised.

Volunteers

SFLG is very privileged to have a committed, volunteer Board of Trustees, many of whom are leaders in their fields. Its trustees gave extensively of their time in 2024. The total value of the trustees' time cannot be estimated under normal measures but by any assessment it is of considerable value.

Overview of operations

Director

In May 2024, at the AGM, in recognition of her contribution to SFLG's operations since becoming Acting Director in April 2023, the trustees appointed Katharine Jones as Director. She remained in this role throughout 2024.

Accounting

In 2024, the trustees continued to outsource accounting to Waugh & Co. Chartered Accountants. Edmund Chavasse of Waugh & Co has handled the charity's day-to-day accounts since May 2023.

Data Management

In 2024, the trustees continued to engage an experienced data manager to manage our donor data and Customer Relations Management system, Donorfy. The trustees believe that high quality data handling, security and GDPR compliance are imperative. Data initiatives carried out during 2024 included the automation of Gift Aid collection, donor conversions/upgrades (to direct debits) and encouraging donors to sign up for Gift Aid.

Donor relationships and donor data

Between July 2021 and March 2024, an external agency provided donation handling and banking services to SFLG. In 2023, the trustees decided that these activities could be dealt with more efficiently in-house. In November 2023, an experienced bookkeeper was engaged to manage the charity's donor relationships, process all donations and update data on Donorfy. She has continued in this role throughout 2024. This approach contributes to the integrity of the charity's data and strength of its donor relationships.

Policy

Throughout 2024, SFLG has updated its policies in line with Charity Commission best practices.

Fundraising

During 2024, the charity issued five direct mail appeals which were well-supported by its donors. A new initiative to encourage Catholic parishes to support SFLG was also started. The trustees also approved the engagement of a fundraising expert to diversify our fundraising, develop our donor base and increase our income in 2025. The results of this work will be reported in next year's Annual report.

In 2024, a second fundraiser was engaged to raise funds from corporates and Donor Advised Funds. Although this work was tackled appropriately and rigorously, it did not prove successful in the difficult corporate fundraising environment. The fundraiser was therefore re-engaged to drive our fundraising from trusts and foundations. A promising start has been made and £35,950 has been raised from our trust pipeline so far.

In 2024, SFLG rebranded its corporate identity and updated its website. A new section of the website has been developed to reflect the charity's Catholic identity.

Cardinal's Episcopal Message

Our Patron, His Eminence, Vincent, Cardinal Nichols, recorded two videos and a Christmas message in support of our fundraising campaigns for Christmas and our forthcoming jubilee and for World Leprosy Day. We are very grateful to the Cardinal.

Social Media

In 2024, to raise and increase the charity's profile through its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter/X), the trustees continued to hire a social media expert to maintain our output.

Executive and extended teams

At the end of 2024, the charity had two full-time employees (Charlotte John, Programmes Manager, and Rosanna Threakall, Secretariat Manager) and a full-time Director. Part-time contractors provided all other operational requirements.

The trustees would like to thank the commitment of the Executive team and the extended team of contractors who, between them, have continued to transform SFLG's operations during 2024.

Operating Costs

SFLG pays close attention to the control, and, where possible, reduction, of its annual operating costs.

In 2024, the costs of employing staff (pension, taxes and wages) decreased to £69,706 from £190,137 in 2023. The decreased payroll expenses were the result of a staff restructuring which took place in 2023 which has enabled SFLG to streamline its operations.

In 2024, other operating costs (which comprised the director's fees, data management fees, legal and professional fees and social media fees) totalled £122,415. These fees totalled £111,775 in 2023.

Support costs

Rent and utilities decreased in 2024 to £8,161 from £11,751 in 2023. Postage and stationery costs decreased in 2024 to £1,947 from £5,017 in 2023. Insurance increased in 2024 to £2,114 from £1,809 in 2023. Travel costs increased in 2024 to £7,283 from £5,498 in 2023. IT, software and website costs increased in 2024 to £8,557 from £6,371 in 2023. Membership subscriptions increased in 2024 to £8,656 from £4,775 in 2023. These and other support costs totalled £60,607 in 2024. Other support costs totalled £47,854 for 2023.

Costs of generating voluntary income

The costs of maintaining our donor relationships and handling donations, fundraising and implementation decreased to £124,635 in 2024, from £145,889 in 2023.

Safeguarding

SFLG's employees have little direct contact with people with leprosy, vulnerable adults or children, but the prime purpose of the partner organisations it supports is the daily care of such people. The Board of Trustees requires that all those conducting projects on SFLG's behalf comply with SFLG's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct. All the partner organisations that SFLG worked with in 2024 confirmed in writing that they were in full compliance with both documents. Compliance with SFLG's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct will continue to be an absolute requirement for any future potential partner organisations. We continue to work closely with our partners to ensure safeguarding is prioritised and mainstreamed into our programmes and projects.

Following the resignation of Dr Margaret Burgess as a trustee in March 2024, Dr Donal O'Sullivan was appointed as a trustee in August 2024 and took over from Dr Burgess as joint Safe Guarding Lead.

Accounting practice

These accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis.

Reserves policy

As at 31 December 2024, SFLG held unrestricted reserves of £703,290.

Trustees have reviewed the activities and commitments of the charity and determined that, to ensure continuity of activities and honour contractual liabilities, a level of free reserves should be maintained at between £250,000 and £750,000.

Investment policy and objectives

The trustees are eager to generate a level of returns from reserves without taking on unacceptable risk. Their approach is to accept a level of medium risk, with a balance sought between realising a target income and achieving capital growth. Investments are divided among equities, bonds, cash and alternatives. The portfolio is externally managed by investment managers who are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Updates on the value of the portfolio are provided to SFLG quarterly. At least once a year the Board of Trustees discusses the performance of the investments with SFLG's investment manager, as well as the prevailing and anticipated economic conditions and a forecast of future trends. Trustees review the level of risk annually and look at future cash requirements to be funded by the investments. In the implementation of this policy, the trustees follow the Charity Commission guidance for the investment of charitable funds.

Our investment and reserves policy governs our funding strategy and future three-year strategy.

Asset Management

In July 2024, the trustees moved SFLG's asset portfolio from Brewin Dolphin to Waverton Investment Management. Between 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022 the realised gain was £39,727.

Risk assessment

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, those related to the governance, operations and finances of SFLG, as well as those relating to the external economic environment and the regulatory framework in which SFLG operates. The trustees review these risks on a regular basis and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks from within SFLG.

Structure, governance, and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Constitution of St Francis Leprosy Guild of 14 May 2020.

Charity constitution

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that was established on 25 March 2020.

Charitable structure

SFLG changed its charitable status from an Unincorporated Association to a Charitable Incorporated (Foundation) Organisation (CIO) on 25 March 2020.

Appointment of trustees

Under SFLG's constitution, up to twelve trustees may be appointed for up to three terms of three years but may not be reappointed for a fourth term until after an interval of at least one year. Trustees are appointed based on suitable qualifications and experience. They are briefed on the activities of SFLG and their responsibilities as trustees by the existing trustees and the executive team. They manage the affairs of the CIO and exercise individually and jointly the powers set out in the Constitution. CBCEW nominates a trustee to represent them.

In 2024, five trustees retired or stood down from the Board: Michael Forbes Smith, Michael Heathcote (Treasurer), Dr Maggie Burgess, Cecilia Taylor-Camara and the Very Reverend Father Michael Copps OFM (Spiritual Director). SFLG is very grateful for their long and valuable contribution. In 2024, Caroline Connolly-Newland, Dr Donal O'Sullivan and Sandra Pearce joined the Board as trustees. Mrs Connolly-Newland took over from Michael Heathcote as Treasurer.

The trustees' skills audit is up to date.

All trustees give their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests at each meeting.

Trustees' responsibility statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution of SFLG require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 26.06.2025 signed on its behalf by:



Edward Reed, Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Francis Leprosy Guild

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis Leprosy Guild (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

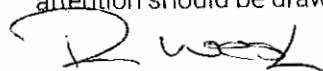
Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul West FCA

**PKW Accountancy Ltd Second Floor
1 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1AE**

Date: 11/7/2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	373,354	0	373,354	360,240
Investments	4	2,161	0	2,161	31,167
Total Incoming Resources		<u>375,515</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>375,515</u>	<u>391,407</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Raising Funds	5	261,734	0	261,734	329,020
Charitable activities	6	384,003	0	384,003	552,289
Total Resources Expended		<u>645,737</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>645,737</u>	<u>881,309</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>-270,222</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-270,222</u>	<u>-489,902</u>
OTHER RECOGNISED GAIN					
Other gains/(losses)		59,339		<u>59,339</u>	<u>11,064</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-210,883	0	-210,883	-478,838
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>914,173</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>914,173</u>	<u>1,393,010</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>703,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>703,290</u>	<u>914,172</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 23-29 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	0		0	200
Investments	8	637,981	0	637,981	748,254
		<u>637,981</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>637,981</u>	<u>748,454</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,694	0	1,694	18,116
Cash at bank		92,387	0	92,387	201,578
		<u>94,081</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>94,081</u>	<u>219,694</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year					
	10	-28,772	0	-28,772	-53,976
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>65,309</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>65,309</u>	<u>165,718</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>703,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>703,290</u>	<u>914,172</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	11	<u>703,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>703,290</u>	<u>914,172</u>

The notes on pages 23-29 form part of these financial statements.

Signed on behalf of
the Board of Trustees

Edward Reed

Edward Reed
Chair of Trustees

Approved by the Trustees on

26.06.2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

St Francis Leprosy Guild is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1188749.

The address of the registered office is 73 St Charles Square, London W10 6EJ.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting conventions and basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Trust's governing document as well as:

(a) FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102))

(b) The Charities Act 2011

(c) the historic cost basis of accounting, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the entity.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

There are no restricted funds in the charity.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts and grants and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance of the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of expenditure:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Governance and support costs have been allocated on a 50:50 basis between raising funds and grant allocations. The support costs for grant allocations are allocated on a grant payable basis.

Cash flow

As a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirements to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 'Cash flow statements'.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tax recoverable

Tax recoverable relating to Gift Aid income is taken into account in the year in which the donation is received.

Valuation of investments

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at current valuation.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their very nature will rarely equal the related actual outcome.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Donations and gifts	254,980	0	254,980	199,537
Legacies receivable	97,967	0	97,967	141,712
Gift Aid	20,407	0	20,407	18,991
	<u>373,354</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>373,354</u>	<u>360,240</u>
Total charitable activities	<u>373,354</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>373,354</u>	<u>360,240</u>

4. INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
Income from listed investments	-	19,208
Interest receivable	2,161	11,959
	<u>2,161</u>	<u>31,167</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

	2024	2023
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Marketing	124,635	145,889
Online costs	1,255	404
Depreciation	200	3,725
Support costs	115,436	169,138
	<u>241,526</u>	<u>319,156</u>
Investment management	20,208	9,864
Raising Funds total	<u>261,734</u>	<u>329,020</u>
<u>Investment management</u>		
Investment charges	20,208	9,864
	<u>20,208</u>	<u>9,864</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
6. RESOURCES EXPENDED - CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Training Funds (T)	Research Funds (R)	Active Case Finding (A)	Care grants (C)	Emergency or Capital grants (E)	Total 2024	Total 2023
Activities undertaken directly							
TRACE acronym							
Grant funding of activities	500	40,000	30,264	140,170	57,633	268,567	383,152
Share of support and governance costs	215	17,193	13,008	60,248	24,772	115,436	169,137
Total charitable activities	<u>715</u>	<u>57,193</u>	<u>43,272</u>	<u>200,418</u>	<u>82,405</u>	<u>384,003</u>	<u>552,289</u>

RESOURCES EXPENDED - GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<u>Support</u>				
Staff costs	69,706		69,706	190,137
Consultancy	55,500		55,500	63,588
Rent, utilities and telephone	8,161		8,161	11,751
Postage and stationery	1,947		1,947	5,017
IT support costs	43,103		43,103	6,371
Insurance	2,114		2,114	1,809
Travelling and events	7,283		7,283	5,498
Training	319		319	309
Bank charges	944		944	853
Sundries	9,425		9,425	4,755
Professional fees	28,326		28,326	32,623
	<u>226,828</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>226,828</u>	<u>322,201</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<u>Governance</u>				
Legal advice	1,950	0	1,950	13,680
Independent examination services	2,094	0	2,094	2,394
Trustees expenses	0	0	0	0
	<u>4,044</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,044</u>	<u>16,074</u>

Total	<u>230,872</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>230,872</u>	<u>338,275</u>
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Analysed between

Fundraising	115,436	0	115,436	169,138
Charitable activities	115,436	0	115,436	169,137

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Computers	Total
Cost at 1/1/2024 and 31/12/2024	9229	9229
Depreciation at 1/1/2024	9029	9029
Depreciation charge for the year	200	200
At 31/12/2024	9229	9229
NBV at 31/12/2024	0	0
NBV at 31/12/2023	200	200

8. INVESTMENTS VALUATION

	Listed	Cash in portfolio	Total
Market Value at 1 January 2024	719,069	29,185	748,254
Additions	17,288	-	17,288
Disposals	-150,000	-17,288	-167,288
Net realised investment gain/(loss)	39,727	-	39,727
Market Value at 31 December 2023	626,084	11,897	637,981

The investment was transferred from Brewin Dolphin to Waverton in 2024.

The Charity's investment policy is to maximise income, whilst protecting the capital value of any investments.

9. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Prepayments	-	2,012
Gift Aid	1,694	16,104
	<u>1,694</u>	<u>18,116</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Accruals	13,618	53,976
Trade creditors	15,154	
Other taxation and social security	-	-
	<u>28,772</u>	<u>53,976</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2023
Investments	637,981	-	637,981	748,454
Net current assets	<u>65,309</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,309</u>	<u>165,718</u>
	<u>703,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>703,290</u>	<u>914,172</u>

SUNDRY NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEMES

Defined contribution scheme

The Trust operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £1,758 (2023 - £4,183).

13. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The designation of funds was discontinued after 2023. A comparative note can be found overleaf in note 17.

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

15. TRUSTEES

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Trust during the year.

There were no trustee expenses incurred in the year (2023 - none).

16. EMPLOYEES

	2024	2023
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	2	4

Employment costs

	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	67,948	145,789
Other pension costs	1,758	4,183
Redundancy costs	-	40,165
	69,706	190,137

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises the trustees and the Director.

The Director is not employed directly, therefore there is no key management personnel remuneration to report (2023 - £23,847), or pension contributions (2023 - £751), or employers' national insurance (2023 - £2,872).

	2024	2023
The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:	0	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17. Designated funds (comparative note of previous year)

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

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Resources expended £	Transfers 1 £	Balance at January 2023 £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Active Case-Finding funding	240,000	(140,807)	9,458	108,651	(108,651)	0	0
Maintenance projects / Assisi funding	0	0	214,466	214,466	(214,466)	0	0
Emergency funding	30,000	(30,000)	0	0	0	0	0
Recruitment / fundraising	143,000	(143,000)	0	0	0	0	0
Training	10,000	(1,201)	(8,799)	0	0	0	0
Capital projects	15,000	(15,000)	20,000	20,000	(20,000)	0	0
Support	0	0	10,504	10,504	(5,498)	(5,006)	0
	<u>438,000</u>	<u>(330,008)</u>	<u>245,629</u>	<u>353,621</u>	<u>(348,615)</u>	<u>(5,006)</u>	<u>0</u>

The designated funds are:

Active Case-Finding funding

This is a designated fund for finding new projects that are considered worth funding.

Maintenance Projects / Assisi funding

This designated fund is to ensure that annual grant commitments can be met for the following year.

Emergency funding

This designated fund is to ensure that emergency grants are available to those that require urgent assistance

Recruitment/fundraising

This designated fund is to ensure there are funds available to cover the next twelve months costs.

Training

This designated fund has been set aside for training costs.

Capital Projects

This designated fund has been set aside for capital projects.

Support

This designated fund has been set aside for international membership fees and travel costs for partner projects.