

Charity number: 1190396

Discovering Prayer CIO

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Discovering Prayer CIO

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Discovering Prayer CIO

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Principal office

Suite 261
266 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7DL

Status of Charity and Governing Document

Discovering Prayer CIO was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14 July 2020. The organisation was previously incorporated as a private limited company called Discoveringprayer.com Ltd (Company number 09177881) from 15 August 2014 until its dissolution in 2021. The charity registration number is 1190396.

Trustees and Office Bearers

Management of the charity remains with the trustees. The constitution requires a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 12 to serve at any time.

The trustees who served from the date of registration to the date of this report are:

Michelle Eyre
Robert Eyre
Daniel Heyward
Kate Jefferyes
Timothy Pottle

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee will be appointed for a period of three years by a resolution passed at a trustee meeting. Any person retiring as a charity trustee is then eligible for reappointment.

Objectives

The charity's objects, as laid out in its governing document, are:

'To advance or enlighten others about the Christian faith by encouraging people to explore prayer and spirituality in their lives, to deepen their relationship with God, but not limited to:

- The development and promotion of prayer resources, educational training materials and courses;
- The hosting and/or facilitation of prayer meetings;
- The hosting and/or facilitation of retreats; and
- The teaching of ancient practices of the Religious Life of Anglican and other Christian denominations in the UK and worldwide.'

Vision

Our vision is for everyone to have a joyful and fulfilling relationship with God.

Our goals are to:

1. Help people to deepen their relationship with God through prayer

Many people want to pray, but don't know how to get started. There is a wealth of experience and guidance available in prayer through the lives of Christian monks and nuns, and we aim to help people benefit from this daily.

Discovering Prayer CIO

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2022

Vision (continued)

2. Research and teach the best ways to help people learn to pray

We hope to glorify God in our teaching on prayer and that means learning the best, most evidence-based ways that we can help people to flourish in their walk with God. We will continue to develop best practice in researching what we do and teaching those in the church who are keen to learn more about fostering prayer in their communities.

3. Give generously to the worldwide community

We believe that prayer is always linked to action, in our homes, our communities and throughout the world. We pray for others and take action that supports communities that care for those in need.

Activities and achievements

We are delighted to report that, over the course of the year, we:

- Recorded and released 32 new guided prayer times and interviews with nuns and monks.
- Created and hosted the *NEW Rhythm of Grace* course. Each prayer time was designed to provide a space for people to bring others to God in prayer and hold them in his presence. The course included five inspirational short talks from Brother John and 100-year-old Brother Herbert from Turvey Abbey. 2,700+ registered to take part, and people reported notable improvements in their prayer life and mental wellbeing in a post-course survey. One participant, Rachel, wrote, *'My daily prayer time is increasing, and I feel more and more in touch with God and am finding it easier to put myself in God's presence. My intercessory prayers for other people are feeling more meaningful and deeper all the time.'*
- Invited 1,300+ to learn the practice of stopping and stilling themselves in prayer through the *Christ-Centred Mindfulness* course. This offered both Christian theory through inspiring daily interviews with mindfulness expert, Revd Shaun Lambert, and prayerful practice through daily guided meditations focusing on scripture and incorporating increasing periods of silence. 64% of respondents to a post-course survey rated it 'excellent'. Bernadette wrote, *'Thank you. Without this spiritual encounter, which was made possible by you, I was lost. It has touched my life in so many ways.'*
- Worked with app developer Fruto to create the design, functionality and pathways of an exciting new mobile app.
- Continued to provide a library of 200+ guided prayer times in a range of styles of Christian prayer.
- Diversified our funding streams, holding a successful major donor event and individual appeal for the first time.

Future plans

In the year to 31 August 2023, we will seek to help people find peace, strength and deeper communion with God through prayer, even in volatile and challenging circumstances. To do this, we aim to:

Build a transformational new prayer app

- We want to simplify and enrich people's experience of praying with us by building, testing, refining and launching a new mobile app.

Record new guided prayers

- We aim to record at least 30 more guided prayer times, with the ultimate goal of producing prayer times covering the whole of St John's Gospel.

Create a new course

- *Still Small Voice: 10 Ways to Go Deeper in Prayer* – we will host and widely promote a brand-new, foundational course which will include inspiring interviews with nuns and monks.

Discovering Prayer CIO

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2022

Future plans (continued)

Introduce more people to the riches of monasticism

- Enabling participants to ask nuns and monks questions about prayer and to benefit from their insights.
- Inviting people to go on retreats hosted by a range of religious communities.
- Equipping people to adopt a regular rhythm of prayer through morning, midday and evening guided prayer times.
- Encouraging individuals to consider the religious life and the testing of vocation.

Financial review

Results for the year

The financial statements for the year are set out on pages 5 to 8. The Receipts and Payments Account on page 4 reflects a new surplus for the year of £10,345 (2021: £14,397). Total reserves, including restricted funds, amounted to £24,742 (2021: £14,397).

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered. This currently equates to a working reserve policy of £15,000 which we have met at the year-end.

Thanks

The trustees are immensely grateful for the generosity of the religious communities, trusts, churches and individual donors who funded us during the year, and would specifically like to thank:

- Community of St Mary the Virgin
- Community of St John Baptist
- Community of All Hallows
- Pershore, Nashdom and Elmore Trust
- Christ the Saviour Monastic Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Gladiator Trust
- An anonymous religious community
- Individuals who gave generously to our app appeal

We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the volunteers who provide valuable support for Discovering Prayer's website development, administration, script editing and recordings.

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 5 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Michelle Eyre
Trustee

Discovering Prayer CIO

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees *for the year ended 31 August 2022*

I report to the trustees on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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.

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.

Alison Franks

Alison Franks CA
Director
Cornerstone Accounting

11 Erngath Road
Bo'ness
EH51 9DP

Date: 5 December 2022

Discovering Prayer CIO

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £
Receipts						
<i>Subscriptions</i>						
One-off	600	-	600	580	-	580
Annual	7,860	-	7,860	8,864	-	8,864
Monthly	1,549	-	1,549	1,776	-	1,776
Bursary	213	-	213	171	-	171
<i>Donations</i>						
Personal	568	2,593	3,161	420	-	420
Grant income	43,539	12,858	56,397	40,000	7,858	47,858
Fundraising income	-	13,933	13,933	-	-	-
Transfer from Discoveringprayer.com Ltd	-	-	-	18,843	-	18,843
Total receipts	54,329	29,384	83,713	70,654	7,858	78,512
Payments						
<i>Fundraising costs</i>						
Marketing and social media costs	2,303	1,685	3,988	6,157	-	6,157
Fundraising dinner	-	720	720	-	-	-
Donation collection fees	369	-	369	329	-	329
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Salary costs	32,274	3,856	36,130	33,233	12,775	46,008
Contractor costs	15,524	-	15,524	-	-	-
Other staff costs	-	-	-	947	-	947
Personal customer service	1,465	-	1,465	1,663	-	1,663
Conferences and retreats	442	-	442	150	-	150
Expert Reviewer costs	-	-	-	25	2,400	2,425
Recording costs	663	-	663	235	-	235
App design costs	-	7,500	7,500	-	-	-
Resources	280	-	280	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence	393	-	393	371	-	371
Insurance	319	-	319	311	-	311
IT and website costs	3,491	-	3,491	1,578	-	1,578
Equipment costs	-	-	-	760	-	760
Business address	435	-	435	400	-	400
Administration costs	434	-	434	45	-	45
Legal fees	-	-	-	2,250	-	2,250
Bank charges	33	-	33	29	-	29
Accounting costs	482	-	482	457	-	457
Independent examiner's costs:						
Accounts production	400	-	400	-	-	-
Independent examination	300	-	300	-	-	-
Total payments	59,607	13,761	73,368	48,940	15,175	64,115
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(5,278)	15,623	10,345	21,714	(7,317)	14,397
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) after transfers	(5,278)	15,623	10,345	21,714	(7,317)	14,397
Total funds brought forward	21,714	(7,317)	14,397	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	16,436	8,306	24,742	21,714	(7,317)	14,397

The notes on pages 7 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Discovering Prayer CIO

Statement of Balances

As at 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022			2021		
		Opening balance £	Surplus for year £	Closing balance £	Opening balance £	Surplus for year £	Closing balance £
Cash at bank and in hand							
Current account		14,397	10,345	24,742	-	14,397	14,397
Total cash at bank and in hand		14,397	10,345	24,742	-	14,397	14,397
Represented by:							
Unrestricted fund	2						
General fund				16,436			21,714
				16,436			21,714
Restricted funds	3						
Out of the Cloister fund				-			(7,317)
App fund				8,306			-
NEW Rhythm of Grace fund				-			-
				8,306			(7,317)
Total funds				24,742			14,397
Statement of assets at 31 August 2022				2022			2021
				£			£
Reclaim due from HMRC				-			887
				-			887
Statement of liabilities at 31 August 2022				2022			2021
				£			£
Accounting and independent examination fees				600			600
App design fee due				7,500			-
Charitable donation to Christian Aid (due for 2022)				1,020			-
PAYE payable				266			-
Pension payable				247			215
				9,633			815

The financial statements on pages 5 to 8 were approved by the trustees on 5 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:



Trustee

The notes on pages 7 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Discovering Prayer CIO

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments account as shown on page 5, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise donations, grants and other income received for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the charity and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

2. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1.9.21 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.8.22 £
General fund	21,714	54,329	(59,607)	-	16,436
Total unrestricted funds	21,714	54,329	(59,607)	-	16,436

Explanation of funds

The *General fund* represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.

3. Restricted funds

	Balance at 1.9.21 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.8.22 £
Out of the Cloister fund	(7,317)	7,858	(541)	-	-
App fund	-	16,526	(8,220)	-	8,306
NEW Rhythm of Grace fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	(7,317)	29,384	(13,761)	-	8,306

Explanation of funds

The *Out of the Cloister fund* represents funds received towards a six-month project to create the 14-Day Prayer Challenge.

The *App fund* represents funds received towards the development of a new mobile application for guided prayers.

The *NEW Rhythm of Grace fund* represents funds received towards the production of a new guided prayer resource.

4. Donated facilities and services

We are grateful for the office space at St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford, which allows us to be at the heart of this prayerful community. We also acknowledge the contribution of an amazing team of volunteers who contribute to audio design, editorial guidance, bookkeeping as well as our wonderful trustees who contribute their expertise in prayer, website design, finance, HR, marketing and fundraising.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

5. Trustee and related party remuneration and expenses

Michelle Eyre, who is a trustee, is employed by the Charity as Chief Executive. The remuneration paid, including pension costs, in the financial year was £34,070 (2021: £27,539).

There were no remuneration or expenses paid to any of the other trustees or their related parties during the period ending 31 August 2022 (2021: nil), other than the reimbursement of direct costs paid on behalf of the charity.