

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales · Charity number 219055

Details

Other names LIFEWORDS, SGM LIFEWORDS

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [00145932](#)

Registered 1964-10-23

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

Contact

Address Lifewords
1A The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY

Phone 02077302155

Email uk@lifewords.global

Website www.lifewords.global

Activities

Objects: TO CARRY ON BY ALL SUCH MEANS AS THE COUNCIL OF THE COMPANY MAY DEEM FIT THE MISSION WORK WHICH WAS FORMERLY CARRIED ON FOR AND ON BEHALF OF AN UNINCORPORATED SOCIETY KNOWN AS SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION AND TO SECURE THAT THE SAID MISSION WORK SHALL BE CARRIED ON IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCTRINAL BASIS (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 4 OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION).

Activities: A Christian organisation formed in 1888 for the advancement of the gospel worldwide primarily through sharing Christian Scripture. It also provides Bible-based programmes responding to specific needs, including the spiritual & emotional care of children-at-risk, and life-skills education for teenagers. The charity continues to research & develop creative responses to world needs, using the Bible

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Kenya
- New Zealand
- Northern Ireland
- Poland
- Scotland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,522,991	£1,556,599	£3,166,388	8
2023-12-31	£1,331,894	£1,544,325	£3,021,025	7
2022-12-31	£2,595,799	£1,446,909	£3,369,520	10
2021-12-31	£1,419,717	£1,372,784	£1,315,232	9
2020-12-31	£1,541,068	£1,493,834	£129,516	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Robin Andrew Howard Baker	Chair	2019-03-28
Danielle May Welch		2022-12-08
Joanne Margaret Jowett		2020-09-20
Joy Dawn Gascoigne		2025-03-26
Mark Robert William Hurley		2016-08-22
Rev Beverley Ann Thomas		2020-09-23

Linked charities

- THE FRANK HENMAN MEMORIAL FUND (219055-1)
- SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION STAFF RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS FUND (219055-2)

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales - Charity number 219055

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated)**

**Company number 145932
Charity number 219055**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report of the trustees, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006; the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Charity Number:	219055
Company Number:	145932
Operating Name:	Lifewords
Registered Office:	1A The Chandlery 50 Westminster Bridge Road LONDON SE1 7QY
Independent Auditor:	Forvis Mazars LLP 2 nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza Sutton Court Road Sutton SM1 4FS
Principal Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 9RH
Investment Manager	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd Client Service Centre, PO Box 366 DARLINGTON DL1 9RF

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

The Trustees of the charity are the Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are referred to as "the Board" or "the Trustees". Board members serving during the year were as follows:

Directors and Trustees	Robin Baker	(Chair – from July 2024)
	Liz Heyburn	(Chair – until July 2024, retired December 2024)
	Mark Hurley	
	Jo Jowett	
	Bev Thomas	
	Danielle Welch	
Company Secretary	Eduardo Juan Harris	(resigned November 2024)
	Jo Jowett	(appointed November 2024)

Key management personnel: Executive Team

Creative & Communications Director	Steve Bassett
Finance & Operations Director	Eduardo Juan Harris
Global Bible Resources Director	Jarek Jankowski

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Charity is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, formed to take the Christian gospel worldwide by the creation and predominantly free distribution of Scripture products and programmes. This is achieved through an International and UK Office in London, which also has close links with legally separate organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

AIMS

Working with partners around the world and with the church at large, the Charity works so that everyone, everywhere may have the opportunity to experience the Bible's life words as good news for their lives, and for the world. We do this by creating opportunities for life words to be shared and lived out. All our programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools invite people to explore the Bible for themselves – and to share life words with others. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways into the Bible's good news for all.

Our aims are achieved by:

- Creation and free (or for donation) distribution of Bible literature, providing ways into the Bible in many languages and for different audiences and cultures.
- Partnerships with a wide range of organisations to provide specialist Bible-based programmes, training, and resources for communities-at-risk.
- Provision of digital tools and resources to engage younger generations with the Bible's life words on a regular/daily basis, as a way of life and practice.
- Ongoing research and development of new resources and programmes to engage specific communities and cultures with the Christian scriptures, for positive change.
- Engagement with individuals, churches, trusts, and other organisations – providing ways for people to support the work of the Charity around the world.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty per the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

Our strategic objectives for 2024 were to be diligent stewards of the ministry and to outwork a vision for the mission of Lifewords that remains fruitful, transformative, and sustainable.

In delivering this strategy, we faced the ongoing challenges of finances, income generation, church activities, supporter engagement/nurture, and capacity, all in the context of global mission and Bible work. Our priority was always to nurture the most effective engagement with the Bible, the best collaborative partnerships, and the most appropriate infrastructure, with high-quality content and delivery. In 2024, we aimed to do this in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings.

Bible Resources

We are proud of our Scripture Gift Mission heritage of a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages that equips Christians all over the world in their evangelism, discipleship, and proclamation of the gospel. In line with this, we continued to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages while also investing in digital delivery to augment print. We worked to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages.

Digital

We strived to adapt to the dynamic changes in the digital and online environment, ensuring accessibility of our existing resources alongside new, authentic digital engagement with Scripture that engages youth and teen content creators with the Bible.

Marketing/communications

We planned to increase ministry awareness to uplift impact of our resources – extending profile through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We continued networking with churches, communities, and partners to raise awareness of the ministry within UK churches as a go-to producer of resources that bring the Bible's message to people in all walks of life, and as a ministry to global needs and contexts. We worked out of our heritage to continue producing materials that empower, equip, and engage people with the Bible's life words.

Bible Engagement projects

We refined our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seeking to identify practical and financial partners.

Pavement Project

We continued roll-out of the trainers' app and online training, alongside in-person counselling. The "train the trainers" model continued, with growth in more regions.

NINE BEATS

Our beatitudes-based project looked to more partnerships and networks, and to assess scale/funding opportunities and development. We connected with churches and the wider culture.

Funding

Seeking new funding sources, nurturing existing trusts and individual donors, and approaching new funders for the ministry across traditional, core, and new digital and "entrepreneurial" donors remained vital. We put effort into growing UK networks for impact and support; and worked with other Lifewords organisations outside the UK to engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRATEGIC REPORT

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

Providing ways into the Bible

2024 has been a year of looking ahead and laying foundations for our ongoing work, as well as strengthening both new and existing partnerships and connections with churches, organisations, chaplaincies, ministries and individuals.

This year we launched the Little Brick of Little Books as well as releasing both *Little Book of Joy* and *Little Book of Advent*.

Our resources have continued to be well-used this year. Our Global Bible Resources Team in Poland distributed over 362,000 printed booklets in 54 languages to 66 different countries. YouTube animations of these resources have now received over 2 million views. The team have a new resource, *Love in Many Languages*, ready to print at the beginning of 2025.

Through printed booklets, Pavement Project and digital resources, our colleagues in Brazil, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand continue to hold out the Bible's words of life in their unique context. We have particularly enjoyed visiting a number of ministries, chaplaincies and churches in person, as well as introducing our resources to people at events and networks.

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – core audiences

LITERATURE

Global ordering website

- **49 different Bible resources** produced in **15 languages**, including **5 new titles¹**, **12 revisions**, and **32 high-demand reprints**.
 - **2,062 orders** processed from **66 countries**.
 - **362,614 items** distributed in **54 languages**.
 - Most widely **distributed languages** included: English, French, Hindi, Italian, Polish, Portuguese Brazilian, Portuguese European, Romanian, Spanish, and Tamil.
 - Top ten **recipient countries** were Brazil, Colombia, France, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain.
- ⇒ 2024 was the first full year in which we were able to offer a comprehensive range of resources in 50 world languages, spoken by over five billion native speakers.
- ⇒ Focused advertising campaigns on Google introduced our resources to new audiences across the Spanish-speaking and French-speaking world.
- ⇒ The introduction of a more user-friendly donation system allowed for contributions in local currencies and via country-specific platforms.

“For many years I have had access to the prisons and there I have the opportunity to preach the good news. Your materials are very helpful to me in this mission. I can give them to people who come to meetings.”

Piotr, Poland

DIGITAL (GLOBAL)

- Animations of *An Invitation* and *Finding Hope* were played **over 2 million times** on YouTube.
- The most **popular language versions** were Gujarati, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Kannada, Portuguese Brazilian, Serbian, Telugu, and Urdu.

Life Changing Words (LCW)

- **129,568 new app installations** (a record year).
 - **72,945 interactions** (tags assigned by users to Bible verses).
 - **63,814 shares** (text messages and images, all channels).
 - **26,049 active users** (in **202 countries**) of the LCW email service.
- ⇒ Targeted promotional campaigns throughout 2024 led to record-breaking levels of engagement.
- ⇒ The rise in installations, interactions, and shares underscores the app’s growing role as both a personal devotional tool and an effective resource for sharing Scripture.

“Each message is a teaching for me. I am encouraged to hear the voice of God through your messages.”

Francisco, Mexico

¹ These figures for new resources include new translations of existing titles – e.g. “5 new titles” will include new languages for existing resources as well as new titles.

UK

- **344,883 Bible resources** distributed.
- Hosted or participated in **10 events and exhibitions**, building partnerships with churches, charities, church networks, existing partners and individuals.
- Distributed **412 Little Bricks of Little Books** to ministries, charities, churches, chaplaincies and individuals.
- Visited at least **10 partners and/or contexts** in which our resources are being used.
- **89,750 Christmas resources** distributed.

New resources in the UK

- ⇒ Over 26,000 copies of *Little Book of Joy* were distributed following the launch at the end of February, with a further 3,000 received as part of the Little Brick of Little Books.
- ⇒ After an initial print run of 30,000 copies of *Little Book of Advent*, the popularity of the resource required us to run a reprint before the beginning of December. Our downloadable guide, *Join the Advent/ure* also received significant engagement.

"I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for sending out your new Little Book of Advent. It had a profound impact on me, confirming things I felt God had already been speaking to me about. I'd even go so far as to say that the book changed the course of my life, allowing God to reveal more clearly where he is leading me."

Sharon Lee, Junction 42

Little Brick of Little Books

- ⇒ 470 Little Bricks distributed or awaiting recipients by the end of 2024.
- ⇒ Total income received specifically from those who requested to gift or order a Little Brick of Little Books during 2024 was over £13,000.
- ⇒ Launch of the Little Brick of Little Books provided a great opportunity to build new connections and strengthen existing partnerships.

"I've made a sort of library of Little Books in my cell. Lots of the men on my ward (which is designed to accommodate people with learning disabilities) really appreciate each one. When I bring back Little Books to the library, they are excited about each one."

Anon, HMP Dovegate

Easter and Christmas

- ⇒ Easter promotion of *Believe the Women* and *The Easter Journey*, alongside ongoing publicity around *Little Book of Joy*.
- ⇒ Christmas promotion of *Little Book of Advent* and a downloadable guide for the resource, *Join the Advent/ure*, alongside graphics and videos for social media and advertising.
- ⇒ Christmas promotion of four other Lifewords resources: *OUTSIDE/IN*, *The True Light*, *Meet the Cast* and *A Story for the Whole World*.

"This year, we intend to revisit the concept of OUTSIDE/IN and to give each family a copy of the Lifewords booklet. It will be good to remind people, and to share with new people, the message that everyone is included, everyone is invited into the Christmas story, and the good news of Jesus Christ."

Jan Smith, St Bartholomew's, Deeside

Partnerships

- ⇒ Met with a range of churches, networks and organisations.
- ⇒ Made new contacts and strengthened existing partnerships through attending events and exhibitions.
- ⇒ Built partnerships with chaplaincies in prisons, hospitals, army settings and a variety of unique contexts.
- ⇒ Met with a key funder in Northern Ireland, which led to a significant increase in funding.
- ⇒ Met with Boys' Brigade Northern Ireland and key representatives from the Diocese of Down and Dromore, Church of Ireland.
- ⇒ Visited a number of charities and chaplains who have been using Lifeworlds resources and the Little Brick of Little Books, including HMP Humber, Genesis Trust Bath, HMP Dovegate, Youth for Christ Tunbridge Wells, and Women on the Frontline Ministries.
- ⇒ Continued to build connection in and with Churches Together England. A representative from CTE attended the Little Brick launch and the organisation profiled the launch on their social media and website. Lifeworlds attended both in-person and online CTE forums and events throughout the year, building connections made with Churches in Wales, Methodist Church, Baptist "Light" College, Churches Together in Lincolnshire, Rural Mission, Christian Police Association, and several other member organisations.

Community-facing churches

- ⇒ Continued to strengthen existing relationships with churches and sought to connect with more churches and networks, to build new relationships, gain more supporters and reach more people.
- ⇒ Relationship with individual supporters continued to strengthen connections with church communities across the UK.
- ⇒ Matt Currey, Lifeworlds UK Development Manager, was invited again to speak at Christ Church Peckham.
- ⇒ Visited York Gateway Church and UnitedLife Church Sutton to strengthen partnerships, to share more about our resources and wider work, and to gather stories.
- ⇒ We continue to speak with, support or interview many church representatives over the phone or by email throughout the year.

"Thank you so much for sending us the Little Bricks of Little Books. They have been well received in our community café, with a number of people taking an interest or taking [booklets] away. The model of getting congregation members to buy them for us has also been very well received and has given us some inspiration for ways we could involve our congregation more in giving practical gifts to our ministry."

Sarah Hogben, Gateway Church, York

Chaplaincies

- ⇒ Continued to work with and provide resources to chaplains based in prisons, supported living communities, and a variety of healthcare contexts across the UK.

"I know that lives have literally been saved because of Lifeworlds resources because people have told me this. I've had some tell me: 'I was going to kill myself last night. But then I read this, and I can see that I have a future now. I have new value.' I wouldn't be able to do my job without your resources. I can talk to people, but they need something to take back into their cells, to read when they are alone."

Rev Matt Martinson, HMP Humber

Exhibitions and Church Networks

- ⇒ Exhibited at Big Church Festival and Baptist Assembly.

- ⇒ Attended 2:19 Forum for churches and organisations, The Independent Schools Christian Alliance (TISCA) National Conference, Christian Resources Exhibition, the Wise Women Awards, and Christians Against Poverty's London Conference.

Media

- ⇒ Interview on UCB following the releases of *Little Book of Joy* and *Little Book of Advent*.
- ⇒ Commissioned article for IDEA Magazine.
- ⇒ Three press releases featured by *Keep the Faith* magazine, including the Little Brick of Little Books, the WW1 Gospel and *Little Book of Advent*.
- ⇒ *Little Book of Joy* press release featured by Churches Together England.
- ⇒ *Little Book of Advent* also featured by Premier Christianity and Baptists Together.
- ⇒ Featured on e-newsletters throughout the year including 'The Resource'.

"I heard Elizabeth King speaking on UCB2 radio and I was inspired by her story about the Little Books. I think they will be a valuable resource for our church and people I know who are struggling with depression and anxiety about serious illness and need to make sense of it. These Little Books may be the answer along with friendship and prayerful support."

Sue Oxbury, Little Brick owner

UK digital and social media

- **YouTube:** 1,429 subscribers; 287 videos; 2,116,032 views.
 - **Facebook:** 2,087 (65 new) followers; 2,800 page visits, reached 6,400 people.
 - **Instagram:** 499 (96 new) followers, 657 page visits, reach of 9,800 individuals.
- ⇒ Revived Lifewords' presence on LinkedIn, and continued to build our presence on TikTok, posting 12 videos throughout the year, 10 of which received over 200 views.
 - ⇒ Published 25 blog posts on the Lifewords website, including 19 that shared stories from supporters and those using our resources, four that considered a specific resource in depth, and two wider or creative reflections.
 - ⇒ Expanded the churches hub section of Lifewords' website, and developed new pages for gifting, ordering and requesting the Little Brick of Little Books.

Other resources

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – unique mission opportunities

PAVEMENT PROJECT

- **490 educators** facilitated **9,016 Picture Me counselling sessions** with children from **434 partner organisations** in **20 countries**.
 - Lifewords continued to develop Pavement Project in **11 countries** through **75 new partners** and **195 new educators**.
 - **22 volunteer trainers** and 3 staff facilitating the **40 educators' training sessions** in **11 countries**.
- ⇒ Trainers have been training educators in other countries, using a local language in which they are fluent – an opportunity greatly facilitated by online training. In 2024, one trainer and three trainee trainers (under supervision) trained 16 educators from four foreign countries.
 - ⇒ Developed the green bag app for smartphones (already available for tablets). Venezuela now has eight newly trained workers thanks to the app's accessibility on smartphones, as tablets are not available in the country.

- ⇒ In partnership with Rede Mãos Dadas and Geração Elo, Pavement Project has been adapting an effective methodology (Kid Talk) to the Brazilian context, creating resources for facilitators to work with bereaved children. In 2024, we held four preparatory meetings with facilitators, covering key topics.

“One of the best trainings we’ve ever provided our staff was Picture Me. Pavement Project has become invaluable, allowing children to share their stories in ways we never imagined. We used to struggle to understand and break deep-seated behavioural patterns, but now we no longer have to guess. Pavement Project helps us identify specific traumas, enabling us to support children’s emotional healing more holistically. Thank you, Pavement Project team, for walking this journey with us.”

Jean, founder of Karuanillam Trust, Tamil Nadu.

LATIN AMERICA

Pavement Project

- **1,680 children were counselled by our partner organisations.**
- Active in **12 countries**: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela through **164 trained workers** from our **299 partner organisations**.

“At just six years old, Ivo struggled with intense anger, often lashing out at his peers. His parents’ separation and constant changes at home left him feeling lost and unsettled. During the Picture Me counselling, Ivo opened up about his pain, comparing himself to the lost sheep in the Bible story. Hearing how the sheep was found and cared for brought him comfort, and he left smiling, saying he would invite Jesus into his heart. Since then, Ivo has become calmer, fights less, and expresses his feelings more openly.”*

Pavement Project educator, Brazil

*name changed

AUSTRALIA

- **12 prisons** have incorporated Lifewords into their programmes.
- Chaplains in **21 hospitals** and ICU units have used Lifewords materials to support patients and families.
- **Over 5,000** chaplaincy resources given, with *Daily Strength* being the most popular.
- **3,100** students received *Little Book of Help*.
- **2,800** WW1 gospels were shared, with **500** at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
- Supported **18** churches through the *Ninefold Path*.
- **12** church leaders have completed *Ninefold Path* training.

- ⇒ Actively supporting chaplains in hospitals, schools, aged care facilities, and prisons, equipping them with resources to bring comfort and hope to some of the most vulnerable.

- ⇒ High school teachers and youth workers have introduced young people to the Bible through the *Little Book of Help* and the online *VerseFirst*, contributing to over 8,500 resources being shared, and tens of thousands of online engagements from young people.

- ⇒ Ongoing demand for *WW1 Gospel of John* during Anzac Day services, with the Australian War Memorial now displaying the original version and sharing copies during the 25th April memorial services, keeping this historical and spiritual connection alive.

“I’m currently incarcerated in the Maryborough Correctional Centre in QLD. I have a lot of spare time to read and learn as much as I can about my new faith in Jesus. I am so grateful for the Lifewords resources that are simple, and [which] encourage me to understand more. ... I thank God for you daily.”

Paul D, Maryborough Correctional Centre

AFRICA (KENYA)

Bible resources and partnerships

- **40,847 booklets distributed** in English, Swahili and local languages by partners in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- **Choose Life: 3 schools and 2 churches** started the Choose Life programme for grades 6,7 and 8.
- **RISE Bible Clubs:** Kingdom Connection leaders interacted with **6 high schools** and organised a school rally where **300 students** were in attendance.

“The books have changed my life, giving me hope and faith in Jesus. You Matter booklet stands out for me. I learnt to love, live in peace and harmony with others. I asked God to forgive me for anything I have done to devalue others. Through sharing words of life, I have impacted other students in my school.”
Emmanuel, 19 years old

Pavement Project Africa

- **3,299 children were counselled by our partner organisations.**
- Active in **5 countries:** DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, through **147 trained workers** from our **46 partner organisations.**
- Pavement Project is also active in Cape Verde (1 educator; 1 partner organisation) and Guinea Bissau (5 educators and 3 partner organisations) but these are coordinated by the Pavement Project team in Latin America.

“At a certain point, we stopped using the green bag, then we realised that during that period we did not succeed in our rehabilitation programme. ... After much discussion, we found out Pavement Project was the missing component in our ministry, and we needed the children to open up and share their traumatic experiences and find healing. We went back to actively being involved with Pavement Project and since then, we have never looked back. Pavement Project has helped us find out the traumatic experiences our children have gone through, and we are able to connect them to God through the Bible stories, where they find healing. ... All our three campuses are testifying to God's power in transforming lives through Pavement Project and more of our workers are asking how they can be trained through green bag to be part of what God is doing.”
Agape Children's Ministry

INDONESIA

- ⇒ Mobile missions connected with and trained different communities in how to use *The Visible Story*, flipcards, and other Lifewords resources, and also how to train others to use the material. The teams trained pastors, church leaders, Sunday school teachers and Bible college students, some from rural communities.
- ⇒ Lifewords Kids Ministry (now in 10 centres) continued to engage groups of children all over Indonesia – including with Muslim communities – with the Bible using games, songs, and Bible stories. The aim is to talk to the children about Jesus and encourage them to respond, while also investing in them for the future.

INDIA

Bible resources

- ⇒ Most Indian resources are ordered via the global ordering website; a small amount of stock is held for local distribution – 3,000 copies of literature in English, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada distributed for outreach programmes in offices, schools, migrant worker camps, and in malls by church groups and individuals.

“The quality and content of Lifewords booklets is unmatched. The youth that I meet like to read through the booklet and engage in discussions. One of my favourite booklets is You Matter. God bless Lifewords!”
Peter, an evangelist who uses Lifewords resources with young people.

Pavement Project India

- **3,989 children** counselled by **172 educators** working with **72 partner organisations**.
- **14 new partner organisations**.
- **9 training workshops** by 3 trainers in 4 languages.
- **42 workers trained** from **8 states**.
- **4 new trainers, 5 active trainers**.
- **2 new states**.
- **4 new languages** – Marathi, Odia, Kuki, Naga.

Manipur

- ⇒ We have been in discussion with churches and a few partner organisations to train volunteers to help the children and families affected with ethnic violence in India's north-eastern state of Manipur. With the help of benevolent supporters, we had the first training in the north-east region in Manipur. 11 educators have been trained to use Pavement Project among children.

“This training has been a real eye opener for me. I was raised in a strict environment. And I always thought that’s the way I should treat my children as well as the children I am ministering to. I am like a strict tuition master to my own kids. I have never spoken lovingly to my children nor the kids in the project. I am going back from this training as a transformed man. God’s love is to be expressed through words and actions. Thanks Pavement Project for changing me. The green bag is a miracle bag.”
Sankar, the first Pavement Project worker in Chhattisgarh state.

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – Reaching and engaging new generations

VERSEFIRST

- VerseFirst’s Christmas campaign had a **reach of 141,800**, received **539,000 views**, **500 content interactions** and **3,500 link clicks**, and generated **4,400 profile visits** (an increase of 653%) and **1,300 new followers** (an increase of 724%).
 - Highest performing VerseFirst Instagram post, centred on the theme of lament, received **586 likes** and the second highest, exploring radical love, received **525 likes**.
- ⇒ VerseFirst saw increased engagement, including an increased advertising of posts which extended the reach of content beyond established followers.
- ⇒ Hosted a series called “An Ordinary Life”, exploring what it means to be a Christian in the ordinary and mundane of every day.

- ⇒ The social media channels featured artwork from *Little Book of Joy* and *Believe the Women*, followed by a series of posts answering the question: “When the world feels shaky, what can we be sure of?”
- ⇒ A five-month campaign on Instagram and Facebook to encourage people to engage with the beatitudes, and to create content of their own in response. Across the campaign, VerseFirst saw a huge rise in views and interaction – well over 500%, an increase in followers, and an increase in engagement from both new and existing followers.
- ⇒ Designer Josiah-Sama (@yon_go) created two designs around the beatitudes following VerseFirst’s creative prompts on social media, and we are now exploring further opportunities to partner with them.

“This series has been so moving and engaging for me. Thank you for the opportunity.”

John Steven, involved in creating designs for the beatitudes series.

NINE BEATS

- ⇒ NINE BEATS offered 5/6 new reflections/articles from key individuals/partners on the beatitudes of Jesus.
- ⇒ NINE BEATS continued to prioritise diversity of collaboration, both in terms of people and content.
- ⇒ Steve Bassett and Rob Taylor spoke about creativity with pioneer leaders within the Methodist network, and United Reformed Church; meetings also took place with a variety of partners and connections, such as the CEO of Third Space Ministries, who was very positive about Lifewords and NINE BEATS.
- ⇒ Live events in the US with NINE BEATS member Heatherlyn were organised and rehearsals took place, but unfortunately these had to be postponed due to illness. Towards the end of the year preparations were made for a number of workshop type events in January 2025, as well as a significant time of collaboration with NINE BEATS member, Eric Leroy Wilson.

Ninefold Path

- ⇒ *Ninefold Path* continued to be promoted as a resource for churches and groups to encourage engagement with the words of Jesus.
- ⇒ A series of new articles on the beatitudes were commissioned and featured on the *Ninefold Path* website and social media channels, and the website was significantly renovated. NINE BEATS and *Ninefold Path* continue to provide a connection point for numerous networks and groups.
- ⇒ Churches Together in Oldham and Saddleworth engaged six groups across that area with *Ninefold Path* through Lent this year, and we hope more Churches Together England member groups will also engage with the resource.

“So excited about this @the_ninefoldpath!! ... I want to take everyone I know through this material.”

Matt Nash, via Instagram

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income from donations and grants was £735,901, a decrease of £68,533 on the previous year [2023: £804,434]. Total income was £1,522,991, an increase of £191,097 (+14%) on the previous year [2023: £1,331,894]. This reflects higher legacy income (an increase of £242,247 on the previous year). The financial statements show that 48% of income came from donations and grants [2023: 60%], 48% from legacies [2023: 37%], and 4% from literature sales, investments and other income [2023: 3%]. Total expenditure was £1,556,599 – an increase of £12,274 (+0.8%) on the previous year [2023: £1,544,325].

The Charity spent 91% of its total expenditure on developing, producing, and delivering products and programmes in the UK and overseas [2023: 92%]. 9% was spent on raising funds [2023: 8%].

During the past financial year there was a deficit on ordinary activities of £33,608 [2023: deficit of £212,431]. The net movement in funds in 2024, which includes other recognised gains and losses, produced a surplus on the total funds of £145,363 [2023: deficit of £348,495]. This surplus includes FRS102 actuarial gains on the defined benefit pension scheme of £132,000 [2023: actuarial losses of £190,000].

Reserves policy

The Board has a formal reserves policy which is to hold in reserve sums to cover nine months' planned expenditure (currently calculated at £1.5m) to respond to any (unforeseen) change in circumstances and levels of income. Through the approval and management of appropriate budgets the Charity also ensures it is in a position to maximise investment opportunities. Free reserves at 31 December 2024 (calculated as net assets, excluding restricted funds, the pension reserve, property & fixed assets and stock) were £2,018,493 [2023: £1,921,970]. This is above the reserves policy level (taking into account legacies recently notified, and plans for future use of Ministry Development funds) and is considered adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Investment policy and review

The Trustees pursue an investment policy on behalf of the Charity which provides a balance between income and capital growth, with a medium level of risk over the longer term, thereby enabling the Trustees to meet their objectives in respect of the requirements of the charity. Designated funds have been invested in the Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities in line with the above policy. The net performance of the Newton Fund during the year was 9.5% against the comparative index of 9.3% [2023: performance of 8.6% against the comparative index of 9.3%]. During the year the Fund outperformed its comparative index by 0.2% [2023: underperformed by 0.7%]. The fund remains ahead of the index over three, five and ten years. At the end of the year the investments in the Newton Fund showed cumulative unrealised gains of £595,403 [2023: unrealised gains of £526,432]. The Trustees are satisfied with the current return on capital.

Pension fund

The Charity has two pension schemes. One is a defined contribution scheme with Aegon which is currently open to new members and meets the requirements of auto-enrolment. The second is a defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, which has been closed to new members since 25 March 2003 and closed to new accrual since 23 May 2012; and which, for the purposes of FRS102, showed a funding deficit of £388,000 [2023: deficit of £666,000]. The corresponding asset / liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. In September 2014 the Trustees put in place a contingent asset security agreement with the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme (on a property currently valued at the book value of £678,506) to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer. During 2025 a full triennial actuarial valuation of the pension fund will be undertaken as of 6 April 2025. If necessary, the Recovery Plan will be adjusted to take account of the result of this valuation. Contributions to the pension scheme are met through additional contributions from the Charity. The pension liability is therefore excluded from the free reserves calculation. Details of the retirement benefit schemes are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We live in a world that has many problems, in which Bible ministry is presented with new challenges and opportunities every day. In this landscape, we plan ahead with the posture of being diligent stewards of the ministry, as we work out a mission vision that remains sustainable, fruitful and transformative.

Our core priorities for 2025 remain the management and application of our finances, income generation, expanding and deepening church activities, supporter engagement/nurture, all in the context of global

mission and Bible work that meets the needs of Christians and communities worldwide. We will do this through the best collaborative partnerships, most appropriate infrastructure, best content/delivery and most effective engagement with the Bible that we can muster. At the same time, we will constantly assess, review and respond to challenges in a considered and prayerful manner.

In 2025 we will do that in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings:

Bible Resources

In line with our Scripture Gift Mission heritage, we will continue to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages, while adding to this range and investing in digital delivery to augment print. Having completed our project to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages and achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print and digital versions) in fifty languages, we will look at new titles and opportunities in 2025.

Digital

We will continue to adapt to the ever-changing digital and online world. We will work to ensure accessibility of our existing resources in digital formats and create new digital engagement with Scripture, whilst assessing skillsets and capacity to do this effectively.

Marketing/communications

We will look for channels to increase ministry profile to uplift impact of our resources – extending profile through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We will continue networking with churches, communities, and partners to increase presence and profile within UK churches and church networks – presenting Lifewords as a ministry that brings the Bible's message to people in all walks of life. We will continue to position ourselves as a forward-looking 'heritage brand', producing materials that empower and equip, inspire, and engage people with the Bible's life words.

Bible Engagement projects

We will refine our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seek to identify partners, both practical and financial.

Pavement Project

The "train the trainers" model will continue, with anticipated growth in the regions where we provide the counselling resources to our partners who help vulnerable children.

NINE BEATS

We will continue to generate this broad collaboration sharing the beatitudes/Sermon on the Mount as a key text for our time through more partnerships and networks, and online/in person events. We will continue to assess scale/funding development within the overall work of Lifewords.

Funding

We will continue to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors, and approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, core, and new "entrepreneurial" donors. We will grow UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifewords organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30 December 1916, and altered by subsequent special resolutions, the most recent being dated 23 June 2011. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company and at the accounting date there were 55 members [2023: 57], each of whom agrees to contribute £1.05p in the event of the winding up of the Company.

Organisation

The Board administers the Charity and meets at least four times a year. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has established an International Executive Team to lead the Mission, who have authority, within terms of delegation from the Board, for operational matters including finance, employment, and programme-related activity. The International Executive Team consists of the international directors: Steve Bassett (Creative & Communications), John Harris (Finance & Operations), Jarek Jankowski (Global Bible Resources), Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project), and Dan Hardie (Australia/New Zealand). The day-to-day operations in the UK are overseen by Steve Bassett and John Harris with Jarek Jankowski in constant contact.

The Charity is the leading member of the Lifeworlds global family of organisations. The other members are separately incorporated companies in their respective countries. In 2024, there were agency agreements with member organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, India, Indonesia, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board or by Ordinary Resolution of members for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election on two successive occasions only. A trustee cannot serve for a period of more than nine years, save with approval by unanimous vote from the Board.

Trustee induction and training

An introductory pack for potential trustees is in use. A programme of preliminary meetings with the Executive Team and Board members (including the Chair) precedes an invitation to attend a Board meeting, prior to an invitation to join the Board. Trustees are offered the opportunity to attend trustee training courses such as those provided by the National Charity Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

Related parties

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifeworlds Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2024.

The Finance Director acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £320,000 [2023: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £9,400 for design services [2023: £7,150].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £1,555 [2023: £1,355].

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees (who are the Company Directors) and the senior staff with International Office responsibilities, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of

directing, controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely, and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in Note 9 of the financial statements.

The pay of all staff, including senior staff, is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with (CPI) inflation, if funds allow. If funding is under pressure, preference is given to lower-paid staff when making any pay awards. Senior staff pay is benchmarked against pay levels in similar organisations (religious/Christian charities of a similar turnover and size) using information from Third Sector pay surveys (published by ACEVO and Global Connections). The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. Salaries were last benchmarked in September 2019.

Fundraising practice

The Charity is committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical and godly manner. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres strictly to their Code of Fundraising Practice and all legal obligations. We proactively monitor revisions to this code to ensure all our fundraising activities remain fully compliant. We confirm that we received no complaints regarding our fundraising activities or practices during this year or the previous year. We do not sell or swap data with other charities or organisations or make any cold telephone calls to the general public. In 2024 the Charity did not contract the services of professional fundraisers as defined by section 58 of the Charities Act 1992. We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. If we become aware of any vulnerable people on our database, we ensure that they do not receive any appeals and ensure that any requests for details to be updated or deleted from our database are handled quickly. We have signed up to receive suppressions under the Fundraising Preference Service.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Board members are also cognisant of the requirement and responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and have taken steps towards the implementation of an ongoing process of risk assessment.

The risk management strategy includes:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should these risks materialise.

The key risks facing the charity are identified as (a) reliance on legacy income; (b) deficit position of the charity's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; (c) loss of key management personnel; and (d) loss or damage to reputation (and subsequent loss of support). The Trustees and senior staff have sought to address these risks in 2024 through ongoing review of long-term financial strategy; ongoing management of the Pension Scheme; ongoing development of local Boards and personnel in the associated organisations outside the UK (increasing capacity and reducing the risk of losing key personnel in the UK); and ongoing oversight of creative development, particularly in new areas, with a view to safeguarding reputation.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

DISCLOSURE

The Trustees confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and that they have taken all reasonable steps as charity trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:


Robin Baker (Mar 28, 2025 17:57 GMT)

Robin Baker
Chair of the Board
Date: 13th March 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In 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 Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime, and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 the financial statements.

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. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation

of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to use of restricted funds, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Nicola Wakefield (Mar 31, 2025 10:03 GMT+1)

**Nicola Wakefield (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4FS
Date: 31-Mar-2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		General Fund and Revaluation Reserve	Designated Funds			
Income		£		£	£	£
Donations and grants		320,317	-	415,584	735,901	804,434
Legacies		735,725	-	-	735,725	493,478
		1,056,042	-	415,584	1,471,626	1,297,912
Investment income	3	37,166	-	11,577	48,743	30,050
Other income	4	2,622	-	-	2,622	3,932
Total income		1,095,830	-	427,161	1,522,991	1,331,894
Expenditure	5					
Costs of raising funds		138,146	-	-	138,146	132,970
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Providing Bible resources		694,377	-	375,067	1,069,444	1,081,283
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need		81,577	-	237,094	318,671	301,972
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners		30,338	-	-	30,338	28,100
		806,292	-	612,161	1,418,453	1,411,355
Total expenditure		944,438	-	612,161	1,556,599	1,544,325
Net (expenditure)/income before gains and losses		151,392	-	(185,000)	(33,608)	(212,431)
Realised & unrealised losses on property assets	11	(22,000)	-	-	(22,000)	-
Realised & unrealised gains on investment assets	12	68,971	-	-	68,971	53,936
Net income/(expenditure)		198,363	-	(185,000)	13,363	(158,495)
Other recognised gains and losses						
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	19	132,000	-	-	132,000	(190,000)
Net movement in funds		330,363	-	(185,000)	145,363	(348,495)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward 1 January 2024		1,900,735	225,000	895,290	3,021,025	3,369,520
Funds carried forward 31 December 2024		2,231,098	225,000	710,290	3,166,388	3,021,025

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years are derived from continuing activities. There are no other recognised gains or losses relating to either year.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	10	802,020	823,556
Investment property	11	8,000	30,000
Investments	12	1,037,016	968,045
Total fixed assets		1,847,036	1,821,601
Current assets			
Debtors	14	927,250	1,472,474
Stock		15,585	16,209
Short-term deposits		697,321	253,972
Cash at bank and in hand		181,314	283,200
Total current assets		1,821,470	2,025,855
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(114,118)	(160,431)
Net current assets		1,707,352	1,865,424
Net assets excluding pension liability		3,554,388	3,687,025
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(388,000)	(666,000)
Total net assets		3,166,388	3,021,025
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	16	710,290	895,290
Unrestricted funds	16		
General fund		1,705,598	1,631,235
Designated funds		1,130,500	1,130,500
Revaluation reserve (property investment)		8,000	30,000
Pension scheme reserve deficit	19	(388,000)	(666,000)
Total unrestricted funds		2,456,098	2,125,735
Total charity funds		3,166,388	3,021,025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 13th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Robin Baker
Robin Baker (Mar 28, 2025 17:57 GMT)

Robin Baker
Chair of the Board
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated), Company number 145932
Date: 28-Mar-2025

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) as per SOFA		145,363	(348,495)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	10	23,424	31,825
(Gains)/losses on investments	11/12	(46,971)	(53,936)
Investment income	3	(48,743)	(30,050)
Decrease in debtors	14	545,224	167,122
Stock		624	8,219
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	15	(46,313)	78,690
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities		572,608	(146,625)
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	10	(1,888)	(14,163)
Investment income	3	48,743	30,050
Net cash provided by investing activities		46,855	15,887
Cashflows from financing activities			
Movement in defined benefit pension scheme	19	(278,000)	47,000
Net cash (used)/provided by in financing activities		(278,000)	47,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20	341,463	(83,738)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	537,172	620,910
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	878,635	537,172

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. At the accounting date there were 55 members [2023: 57]. Each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required in the event of the winding up of the Charity up to a maximum of £1.05 (one guinea) each.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to 31 December 2025 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ending 31 December 2025. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes of the Charity is to help people everywhere to experience the Bible as good news for their lives through programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools, the level of this needed expenditure is at the discretion of the Trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The Trustees have also considered the Charity's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. As a result of the foregoing the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available to use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects. There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme, giving a balance at year end of £nil [2023: £nil]. The second fund of £225,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2023: £225,000]. These designated funds were established following the surrender of the lease of the Charity's former offices in 2010. Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with restrictions expressed by donors, or which have been raised for specific purposes. The details of the appropriate funds in the accounting year are shown at Note 16.

c) Income

All income is reflected in the financial statements when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earliest date of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the Charity's charitable activities. Where possible, all direct costs have been allocated to the appropriate activity. All other costs have been assigned as support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and IT, premises and facilities, governance costs, and administration costs for the defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in Note 6.

f) Depreciation

The basis for charging depreciation is that assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful lives in the Charity's activities.

Office long-term lease – over 50 years
Office purchase costs and irrecoverable VAT – over 50 years
Leasehold improvements and refurbishment – over 10 years
Equipment, fixtures and fittings – over 5 years
Computers – over 4 years

g) Investment property

The investment property, which comprises a half-share in four freehold blocks of flats, is shown at the valuation date of December 2024 but with an impairment amount of £6,100 to reflect current market conditions (Note 11). At 31 December 2024 the investment property consists of the freehold, as all apartments have now been sold [2023: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. No depreciation is provided in respect of this property. The rental income from the investment has been shown net after expenses, in view of the immaterial amounts involved.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the accounting date. All unrealised gains and losses representing the change in value from the previous accounting date are charged against the appropriate fund.

i) Stock of Scriptures

Printing costs are charged to production costs at the date of purchase, but no account is taken of the stocks of completed or incomplete publications at the end of the accounting period, as these will be given away free of charge (Note 13).

j) Other stock

Stock of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

k) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain the lessor's, are charged against income as incurred.

l) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Charity has no liability to United Kingdom taxation on its charitable activities.

m) Pension

The Charity operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme based on final pensionable salary, which is now closed to new employees and to further accrual. This has been replaced by a defined contribution scheme with Aegon based on individual personal pension funds for new employees. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the above insurance companies. Contributions to both schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Charity. The contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined on the recommendation of a qualified actuary, and to the defined contribution scheme by agreement between the Charity and its employees.

In accordance with FRS102, the SOFA includes: the cost of benefits accruing during the year in respect of current service (charged against net income/(expenditure)); the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities arising from the passage of time (charged against net income/(expenditure)); and actuarial losses recognised in the pension scheme (shown within net movement of funds). In accordance with FRS102, the balance sheet includes the deficit in the scheme, taking assets at their year-end market values and liabilities at their actuarially calculated values discounted at year-end AA corporate bonds yield curve. Further details regarding the scheme are disclosed in Note 19.

n) Foreign currencies

Foreign currencies have been converted to £ sterling at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the Balance Sheet date.

o) Significant management judgements

The following are the management judgements in applying the policies of the Charity that have the most significant impact on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- **Accrued legacy income:** The Charity has made an assessment as to whether the conditions recognition of legacy income are met on a case-by-case basis, specifically in respect of the measurement of the amount due. In making these judgements, management considered the detailed criteria set out in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

The Charity's investment income of £48,743 [2023: £30,050] arises from dividends from fixed asset investments (£22,186 [2023: £22,560]) and interest-bearing deposit accounts (£26,557 [2023: £7,490]).

4 OTHER INCOME

The Charity's other income of £2,622 [2023: £3,932] arises from literature sales, some church display rack sales, and the sale of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources.

5 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Costs of raising funds	81,170	56,976	138,146	132,970
Total cost of raising funds	81,170	56,976	138,146	132,970
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Providing Bible resources	810,714	258,730	1,069,444	1,081,283
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	290,183	28,488	318,671	301,972
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	18,431	11,907	30,338	28,100
Total expenditure on charitable activities	1,119,328	299,125	1,418,453	1,411,355
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,200,498	356,101	1,556,599	1,544,325

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	General management	Premises, Finance & IT	DB pension admin, legal & finance	Depreciation	Governance costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising funds	12,747	25,060	9,349	3,748	6,072	56,976	48,214
Providing Bible resources	57,363	112,769	44,406	16,865	27,327	258,730	234,869
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	6,374	12,530	4,674	1,874	3,036	28,488	25,714
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	3,187	6,265	-	937	1,518	11,907	12,627
Total support costs	79,671	156,624	58,429	23,424	37,953	356,101	321,424

Cost allocation includes an element of judgement, and the Charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record-keeping. To ensure full cost recovery on projects, the Charity adopts a policy of allocating costs to the respective cost headings through the year. This allocation includes support costs where they are directly attributable. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. The

defined benefit pension administration and finance costs include elements from both the General Fund and the Defined Benefit Pension (FRS102) Fund.

7 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2024	Total 2023
GOVERNANCE COSTS	£	£
Auditors' fees	19,291	19,266
Professional and legal fees	6,822	3,900
Strategic management	10,473	10,820
Trustees' expenses	1,367	2,522
Total governance costs	37,953	36,508

Auditors' fees (including irrecoverable VAT) include £17,430 for Audit services [2023: £15,070] as well as £1,861 related to a prior year under-provision [2023: £4,196].

8 STAFF COSTS

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Staff costs	£	£
Salaries	352,358	307,989
Social security	28,159	25,955
Pension	40,011	31,779
Other staff costs related to staff based overseas	340,609	324,108
Total staff costs	761,137	689,831

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds. Other staff costs refer to staffing costs paid by Lifeworlds offices overseas. During the year, one employee [2023: two] received total employee benefits between £60,000 and £69,999 and one employee [2023: none] received total employee benefits between £70,000 and £79,999. Pension costs were £12,630 [2023: £12,089] in respect of these two employees.

The key management personnel of the Charity, comprise the Trustees, Creative Director, Finance Director and Global Bible Resources Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £200,833 [2023: £177,559].

The average number of employees during the year, calculated based on headcount, was as follows:

Staff (headcount)	2024	2023
UK staff	8	8
Staff based overseas	13	13
Total staff (headcount)	21	21

The average number of employees during the year, calculated based on full-time equivalents, was as follows:

Staff (full-time equivalents)	2024	2023
UK staff	7	7
Staff based overseas	11	11
Total staff (full-time equivalents)	18	18

In the way that our global family of organisations operates, senior staff (key management personnel) in the UK are also responsible for facilitating and supporting work in the other six Lifeworlds centres in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and USA. All other national or functional directors report to the International Executive Team, as part of a global leadership team. Together as a global family we have 20-25 volunteers outside of the UK making a significant contribution to training and coordinating our Bible programmes. A further 50+ volunteers serve as facilitators (peer mentors) for Pavement Project initiatives.

During the year the Charity transferred £172,347 to the defined pension scheme as part of the Recovery Plan [2023: £168,966] and £nil in respect of accrual of benefits [2023: £nil] in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions.

9 TRUSTEES

The Board members were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity during the year or previous year. The aggregated amount of expenses reimbursed to four Board members during the year was £1,367 [2023: three Board members £2,522]. No Board member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity during the year or previous year.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Office leasehold £	Total £
At 1 January 2024	101,431	1,084,553	1,185,984
Additions	1,888	-	1,888
Disposals and written off	(8,074)	-	(8,074)
Cost at 31 December 2024	95,245	1,084,553	1,179,798
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	96,802	265,626	362,428
Charge for the year	2,948	20,476	23,424
Disposals and written off	(8,074)	-	(8,074)
Depreciation at 31 December 2024	91,676	286,102	377,778
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	3,569	798,451	802,020
At 31 December 2023	4,629	818,927	823,556

All the above assets were used in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects.

The Trustees have granted a first legal charge over the office leasehold to the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer.

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2024 £	2023 £
UK property		
Value at 1 January	30,000	30,000
Revaluation	(22,000)	-
Value at 31 December	8,000	30,000

The investment property at 31 December 2024 consists of a half-share in four freehold blocks of flats [2023: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. The half-share freehold interest of the Charity was valued in December 2024 by Tim Dallimore BSc MRICS Registered Valuer at £14,100, but is shown with an impairment amount of £6,100 to reflect current market conditions. There are no charges over this property or restrictions on its use.

	2024 £	2023 £
Revaluation Reserve balance		
At original valuation at 31 December	-	-
Revaluation reserve balance (Note 16)	8,000	30,000

The original valuation was the market valuation at the date of death, as the property was acquired as a legacy.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	968,045	914,109
Change in value in the year	68,971	53,936
Market value at 31 December	1,037,016	968,045

Historical cost:

At 31 December	441,613	441,613
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Listed investments are represented by 584,992 units in Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities at a book value of £441,613 [2023: £441,613]. The cumulative unrealised gains on these investments are £595,403 [2023: £526,432].

13 STOCK OF SCRIPTURES

Stocks of Scripture publications held for future distribution, which have not been included in the assets on the Balance Sheet as these will be given away free of charge, have been valued by the Charity at 31 December 2024 at the sum of £85,443 [2023: £91,500]. This valuation has not been subject to audit.

14 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Legacy debtors (unrestricted)	874,077	547,224
Legacy debtors (restricted)	15,000	896,092
Taxation recoverable	2,464	5,497
VAT recoverable	1,536	-
Pre-payments and other	34,173	23,661
Total debtors	927,250	1,472,474

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	7,143	7,882
Trade creditors	17,314	29,551
VAT liability	-	41,496
Other creditors	89,661	81,502
Total creditors due within one year	114,118	160,431

16 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Investment Gains/(losses)	Actuarial Gains	Balance at 31 December £
Restricted funds							
Providing Bible resources	-	374,111	(374,111)	-	-	-	-
Choose Life	-	831	(831)	-	-	-	-
Pavement Project	895,290	52,094	(237,094)	-	-	-	710,290
NINE BEATS	-	125	(125)	-	-	-	-
	895,290	427,161	(612,161)	-	-	-	710,290
Unrestricted funds							
Designated							
Security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry development	225,000	-	-	-	-	-	225,000
Revaluation Reserve	30,000	-	-	-	(22,000)	-	8,000
General	1,870,735	1,095,830	(944,438)	-	68,971	132,000	2,223,098
	2,125,735	1,095,830	(944,438)	-	46,971	132,000	2,456,098
Total funds	3,021,025	1,522,991	(1,556,599)	-	46,971	132,000	3,166,388

The fund for providing Bible resources covers publications in a wide range of countries. Restricted income was also received and expended towards the development of the NINE BEATS project, aimed at engaging emerging generations with the Bible through the Beatitudes.

The funds for Choose Life and Pavement Project cover the current operation and ongoing development of these programmes (a values-based life-skills curriculum for teenagers, and the training & resourcing of workers in a Bible-based counselling process for children-at-risk, respectively).

There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme giving a balance at year end of £nil [2023: £nil]. The second fund of £225,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2023: £225,000].

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:					
Fixed assets	708,536	8,000	1,130,500	-	1,847,036
Current assets	1,111,180	-	-	710,290	1,821,470
Current liabilities	(114,118)	-	-	-	(114,118)
Total net assets before pension liability	1,705,598	8,000	1,130,500	710,290	3,554,388
Long term pension liability	517,500	-	(905,500)	-	(388,000)
Total net assets	2,223,098	8,000	225,000	710,290	3,166,388

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2024.

The Finance Director acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £320,000 [2023: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £9,400 for design services [2023: £7,150].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £1,555 [2023: £1,355].

19 PENSION

The Charity operates two pension schemes in the UK. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with separate insurance companies. One is a funded defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, and the other a defined contribution scheme with Aegon; the former having closed to new employees on 25 March 2003 and closed to further accrual on 23 May 2012, with the latter being open to all new employees. Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are assessed on the basis of the advice of qualified actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Pension costs charged were:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Defined benefit scheme (Recovery Plan)	172	169
Defined contribution scheme	40	32
Total	212	201

No amounts were owing at the year end [2023: £nil].

Additional FRS102 disclosures

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based upon the latest full actuarial valuation at 6 April 2022 and updated by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

%	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Rate of increase in salaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase for pensions in payment and deferred pension	3.00	3.00	3.05	3.15	2.85
Discount rate	5.50	4.60	4.85	1.85	1.25
Inflation assumption - retail price index increase	3.25	3.10	3.20	3.30	2.95

19 PENSION (continued)

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/24 %		2024 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/23 %		2023 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/22 %		2022 fair value £'000	
Legal & General funds												
Managed Funds	4.8		3,608		4.8		3,760		4.8		3,569	
Annuities	2.7		913		2.7		1,062		2.7		1,155	
Total market value of assets			<u>4,521</u>				<u>4,822</u>				<u>4,724</u>	
Present value of scheme liabilities			<u>4,909</u>				<u>5,488</u>				<u>5,343</u>	
Deficit in scheme being the net pension liability			(388)				(666)				(619)	

Analysis of the amount charged against operating income

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	-	-
Past service cost	-	-
Total operating charge	-	-

Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income or debited to other finance costs

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Expected return on pension scheme assets	219	121
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(245)	(147)
Net return	(26)	(26)

Re-measurements over the year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Losses on assets in excess of interest	(377)	(22)
Experience gains/(losses) on liabilities	22	(124)
(Losses)/gains from changes to demographic assumptions	(20)	106
Gains/(losses) from changes to financial assumptions	507	(150)
Re-measurements over the year	132	(190)

The movements on the scheme deficit during the period for FRS102 purposes are:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Deficit in the scheme at beginning of year	(666)	(619)
Movement in year		
Contributions	172	169
Interest on assets	219	121
Interest cost	(245)	(147)
Re-measurements over the year	132	(190)
Deficit in the scheme carried forward	(388)	(666)

19 PENSION (continued)**History of experienced gains and losses**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Difference between actual and expected return on scheme assets (£'000)	(377)	(22)	(1,927)	374	228	410
Percentage of scheme assets at end of year	(8.3)	(0.5)	(40.8)	5.7	3.7	6.8
Experience gains/(losses) on scheme liabilities (£'000)	22	(124)	(108)	-	45	40
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	0.4	(2.3)	(2.0)	-	0.5	0.5
Total amount recognised in SOFA (£'000)	132	(190)	947	976	(843)	(617)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	2.7	(3.5)	17.7	11.8	(9.3)	(7.6)

Volatility of FRS102

It should be noted that the methodology and assumptions prescribed for the purposes of FRS102 mean that these disclosures are inherently volatile, varying greatly according to investment market conditions at each accounting date.

20 NOTE TO THE CASH FLOW

	At 1 January 2024	Cash flows	At 31 December 2024
Cash at bank	283,200	(101,886)	181,314
Cash on deposit	253,972	443,349	697,321
	537,172	341,463	878,635
Net cash	537,172	341,463	878,635

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales - Charity number 219055

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated)

Company number 145932
Charity number 219055

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report of the trustees, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006; the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Charity Number:	219055
Company Number:	145932
Operating Name:	Lifewords
Registered Office:	1A The Chandlery 50 Westminster Bridge Road LONDON SE1 7QY
Independent Auditor:	Forvis Mazars LLP 2 nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza Sutton Court Road Sutton SM1 4FS
Principal Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 9RH
Investment Manager	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd Client Service Centre, PO Box 366 DARLINGTON DL1 9RF

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

The Trustees of the charity are the Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are referred to as "the Board" or "the Trustees". Board members serving during the year were as follows:

Directors and Trustees	Robin Baker Liz Heyburn (Chair) Mark Hurley Jo Jowett Bev Thomas Danielle Welch
Company Secretary	Eduardo Juan Harris

Key management personnel: Executive Team

Creative & Communications Director	Steve Bassett
Finance & Operations Director	Eduardo Juan Harris
Global Bible Resources Director	Jarek Jankowski

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Charity is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, formed to take the Christian gospel worldwide by the creation and predominantly free distribution of Scripture products and programmes. This is achieved through an International and UK Office in London, which also has close links with legally separate organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

AIMS

Working with partners around the world and with the church at large, the Charity works so that everyone, everywhere may have the opportunity to experience the Bible's life words as good news for their lives, and for the world. We do this by creating opportunities for life words to be shared and lived out. All our programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools invite people to explore the Bible for themselves – and to share life words with others. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways into the Bible's good news for all.

Our aims are achieved by:

- Creation and free (or for donation) distribution of Bible literature, providing ways into the Bible in many languages and for different audiences and cultures.
- Partnerships with a wide range of organisations to provide specialist Bible-based programmes, training, and resources for communities-at-risk.
- Provision of digital tools and resources to engage younger generations with the Bible's life words on a regular/daily basis, as a way of life and practice.
- Ongoing research and development of new resources and programmes to engage specific communities and cultures with the Christian scriptures, for positive change.
- Engagement with individuals, churches, trusts, and other organisations – providing ways for people to support the work of the Charity around the world.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty per the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

Our strategic objectives for 2023 were to be diligent stewards of the ministry and to outwork a vision for the mission of Lifewords that remains fruitful, transformative, and sustainable.

In delivering this strategy, we faced the ongoing challenges of finances, income generation, church activities, supporter engagement/nurture, and capacity, all in the context of global mission and Bible work. Our priority was always to nurture the most effective engagement with the Bible, the best collaborative partnerships, and the most appropriate infrastructure, with high-quality content and delivery. In 2023, we aimed to do this in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings.

Bible Resources

We are proud of our Scripture Gift Mission heritage of a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages that equips Christians all over the world in their evangelism, discipleship, and proclamation of the gospel. In line with this, we continued to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages while also investing in digital delivery to augment print. We worked to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages year-on-year to achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print and digital versions) in 50 languages by the end of 2023.

Digital

We strived to adapt to the dynamic changes in the digital and online environment, ensuring accessibility of our existing resources alongside new, authentic digital engagement with Scripture that engages youth and teen content creators with the Bible.

Marketing/communications

We planned to increase ministry awareness to uplift impact of our resources – extending profile through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We continued networking with churches, communities, and partners to raise awareness of the ministry within UK churches as a go-to producer of resources that bring the Bible's message to people in all walks of life, and as a ministry to global needs and contexts. We worked out of our heritage to continue producing materials that empower, equip, and engage people with the Bible's life words.

Bible Engagement projects

We refined our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seeking to identify practical and financial partners.

Pavement Project

We embedded a new trainers' app and online training, alongside in-person counselling. The "train the trainers" model continued, with growth in more regions.

NINE BEATS

Our beatitudes-based project looked to more partnerships and networks, and to assess scale/funding opportunities and development. We connected with churches and the wider culture.

Funding

Seeking new funding sources, nurturing existing trusts and individual donors, and approaching new funders for the ministry across traditional, core, and new digital and "entrepreneurial" donors remained vital. We put effort into growing UK networks for impact and support, and worked with other Lifewords organisations outside the UK to engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRATEGIC REPORT

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

Providing ways into the Bible

2023 was a year of moving forward and looking ahead. While there was still much despair in this world, we found hope and comfort in the Light that is far more powerful than the darkness.

In the UK, we introduced the *Little Book of Jesus* – the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection in the Bible's own words. We also started work on the next Little Book in the series for release in Q1/24, *Little Book of Joy*.

Our colleagues in Poland, Brazil, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand continued to hold out the Bible's words of life in their own contexts – through Pavement Project, printed booklets or digital resources. We have worked alongside and partnered with a variety of organisations and churches, and we have enjoyed meeting supporters and introducing our resources in person at events, assemblies, and celebrations. In October, our team in Poland completed our three-year 50 Languages project. By revitalising Bible resources in 50 pivotal global languages, we have created materials in languages that are spoken globally by over 5 billion native speakers, rising to 8 billion with second-language speakers. We give thanks for this tremendous – and potentially very impactful – milestone.

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – core audiences

LITERATURE

During the year our Global Bible Resources Team in Poland distributed over 421,000 printed booklets in 55 languages. Furthermore, over 340,000 printed booklets have been sent out in over 40 languages within the UK.

Global ordering website

- **44 different Bible resources** in **27 languages**, including **19 new titles¹**, **10 revisions**, and **15 high-demand reprints**.
- **2,420 orders** processed from **61 countries**.
- **421,790 items** distributed in **56 languages**.
- Compared to 2022, orders stay the same, countries 13% up, items sent 10% up, languages 6% up.

Impact and reach

In 2023, we printed 44 different Bible resources in 27 languages. This included 19 new titles, 10 revisions, and 15 high-demand reprints. We created and launched 38 new animations² in 19 languages.

Throughout the year, we processed 2,420 orders and distributed 421,790 printed Bible resources in 56 languages. The most widely distributed languages included: English, French, Hindi, Italian, Polish, Portuguese Brazilian, Portuguese European, Spanish, Tamil and Ukrainian. These resources were freely provided to individuals, churches, and mission organisations across 61 countries. The top ten recipient countries were Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

Partnership project with Missão Novas Tribos do Brasil (MNT)

Jesus Christ Has Power to Save Us was produced in Yanomami Xiriana language (in which only the Gospel of Mark exists) in partnership with Missão Novas Tribos do Brasil, who prepared the manuscript, while we typeset the booklet and provided the files. The title was printed locally in Brazil (MNT covered the print cost) and is ready for use among the Xiriana people.

“The Xiriana are a very remote people group living in the jungle. They have had very limited access to discipleship and evangelism, and are in desperate need of materials to help them grow spiritually and expand the reach of the gospel. We are extremely grateful to Lifewords and their partnership with us in reaching the Xiriana.” Missão Novas Tribos

50 languages

We completed our three-year 50 languages project to extend and refresh our catalogue of global Bible resources. The two core titles are *An Invitation*, a popular evangelistic resource, and *Finding Hope*, our global, pastoral “bestseller”. Both titles are available for the global audience as booklets and as digital animations for download (and use in individual digital outreach or online church presence), and on YouTube.

Other titles

Apart from *Finding Hope* and *An Invitation*, we offer other titles for global use in evangelism and pastoral ministry, available in selected core languages. The most popular are: *You Matter* (a conversation starter popular among younger audiences), *The Way to Life* (a popular outreach title) and *Day by Day* (a

¹ These figures for new resources include new translations of existing titles – e.g. “19 new titles” will include new languages for existing resources as well as new titles.

² See footnote 1.

devotional resource for new Bible readers). All titles were developed or redesigned especially for the global audience and with efficient global distribution in mind (so versions differ from the UK).

"We received your booklets with joy, and took them up to the north-east desert region of Brazil. It is a region with lots of illiterate people, and so the vibrant illustrations have been a blessing. Many people have actually heard the story, but to be able to show them the pictures, tell the story and then explain it, has been a blessing." Supporter who ordered from the Global Bible Resources website, Brazil

DIGITAL (GLOBAL)

- Animations of *An Invitation* and *Finding Hope* were played **1.3 million times** on YouTube.
- The most popular language versions were: **Bengali, Croatian, Czech, French, Gujarati, Italian, Malayalam, Marathi, Polish, and Spanish.**

Life Changing Words (LCW)

Life Changing Words has been delivering daily Bible passages in twelve world languages for 21 years as an email service and for 11 as an Android/iOS app. In 2023, we launched a brand-new app, refreshed the email service, and improved the website. The new app offers a more user-friendly experience, and more ways of interacting with the Bible.

With this change, user growth significantly increased – registering an average of 6,000 new installations per month. We also noted a monthly average of 3,400 interactions with the Bible text (tags assigned by users to the daily passages) and 6,000 shares of Bible verses on social media.

- **61,359 new app installations** (145,414 total number of all-time app installs).
- **47,687 interactions** (tags assigned by users to Bible verses).
- **56,771 shares** (text messages and images, all channels).
- **23,864 active users (in 202 countries)** of the LCW email service on the 31st December 2023.

UK

In the UK, we continued working with churches and organisations to resource them in their specific ministries. Our ongoing church engagement strategy saw us meeting with a range of churches, networks and organisations. We made new contacts and strengthened existing partnerships at events and exhibitions. Building partnerships with chaplaincies in prisons, hospitals, army settings and a variety of unique contexts was a developmental opportunity throughout 2023.

We distributed our new resource, *Follow Me*, and began work on new additions to our Little Book series. *Little Book of Jesus* was highlighted across supporter communications, media and social media.

The UK office welcomed two new members of staff to the Lifewords UK Team: Wing Lee, as Supporter Relations Assistant, and Clare Doughty, as Supporter and Communications Executive.

- **340,268 Bible resources** distributed.
- **3 new exhibitions**, building partnerships with Army Chaplains, the Church of God of Prophecy and the Baptist Union.
- **10 press releases**, gaining a variety of media coverage, including 5 radio interviews.
- **72,046 Christmas resources** distributed.
- In the 10 years since our replica *WW1 Active Service St John's Gospel* was released, **over 1 million (1,001,068) copies of the WW1 Gospels have been distributed.**

Partnerships

Lifewords became a member of Churches Together England (CTE) in October, opening opportunities to develop partnerships with churches, organisations and charities across this 750+ strong network. There is potential for our resources to be shared through CTE's communications, raising Lifewords profile among mission organisations.

Through attending the Baptist Assembly and the Church of God of Prophecy's 70th Jubilee Convocation, we engaged with a range of church contexts, bringing our resources into many local churches. We maintained and grew regular contact with other denominations and para-church organisations, including the United Reformed Church, the Evangelical Alliance, The Salvation Army and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

Community-facing churches

Our relationship with individual supporters continued to strengthen connections with church communities across the UK. For example, Matt Currey, Lifewords UK Development Manager, was invited to speak and share our resources at Christ Church Peckham. The church made a donation and ordered resources for use across a range of their ministries and outreach work.

"Many of the young Arabic-speaking mothers are some of the most socially isolated in our area, they often feel forgotten and alone, and many have found the [Who Cares About Me] booklet to be very moving." Paul Wilson, Parkhead Nazarene Church, working with refugees and asylum seekers

Army chaplaincies

We continued to work alongside army chaplains, padres, and Army Scripture Readers to provide Bible resources to individuals in the armed forces. In May, we attended the annual army chaplains' conference in Tidworth, Wiltshire, where 150 army chaplains gathered. We enjoyed good conversations with chaplains – some regular users of our materials, others discovering Lifewords for the first time.

One chaplain commented that *Daily Strength* was a vital and life-giving booklet during their training at Sandhurst. They continue to use it, with many soldiers finding it helpful and comforting. On a bigger scale, our friends at The Naval and Military Bible Society ordered 2,500 copies of *Daily Strength* to share across their network.

In 2023, 22,472 *WW1 Active Service St John's Gospels* were distributed, which is the most since 2019. In the 10 years since the resource was released, over 1 million (1,001,068) copies of the *WW1 Gospels* have been distributed in total.

"I'm always carrying around the WW1 Active Service John's Gospels and other resources like Little Book of Chaos in my pockets. It's great to have these resources with me and ready to use when the opportunity appears. Just as in 1914 many sailors, soldiers and airmen found peace when they were afraid, strength when they were under pressure, and comfort even in the face of death, so is the same hope shared through these little books today." ASR Gavin Dickson, The Soldiers & Aviators Scripture Readers Association (SASRA)

Hospital chaplaincies

We provide resources to hospital chaplains in a variety of UK healthcare situations. Our pastoral resources, along with booklets designed for specific contexts like *Little Book of Chaos*, proved particularly popular. The Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplains Association ordered 3,600 *Daily Strength* and a few hundred other booklets.

Our resources were made available in a number of mental health hospitals and services. Melissa Jack, a mental health chaplain with Kent and Medway Partnership Trust who has used Lifewords resources over the past three years, shared about the impact:

“These resources, which are available to stretched budgets for free, provide bite-sized comfort and reassurance for our patients, and are good talking points about faith and spirituality within their recovery. They are accessible at a time when people may feel too overwhelmed or confused to engage with larger texts. They allow individuals to engage at whatever level they are able to, and are perfectly aimed for those of our patients who are seeking a deeper meaning to life.”

Ministry opportunities

Our resources are regularly used in prisons, schools, hostels, among those working with homeless individuals, and in other ministry settings – encouraging conversations about the gospel and giving individuals something they can hold on to that shares the good news.

“As I meet with the 140 people living here and we talk together about their life experiences, hopes and fears, and personal faith, a Lifewords booklet invariably seems just right as a little reminder and stimulus for further personal exploration.” John, voluntary chaplain at One YMCA homeless hostel

Exhibitions and Church Networks

Big Church Festival

Our focus at Big Church Festival in May was *Ninefold Path*, and NINE BEATS. Our interactive display (including sweets, booklets and even an electric drum!) was popular.

Baptist Assembly

In June, the Baptist Assembly’s vision to talk about mission in the life of Baptist churches provided a good starting point to engage with our own mission and vision on our stand.

Church of God of Prophecy Convocation

In October, we attended the Church of God of Prophecy’s 70th Platinum Jubilee Convocation in the West Midlands. Lifewords trustee, Rev Bev Thomas, introduced us to this network and attended the event. We showcased Lifewords resources, and emphasised our wider work and mission – resulting in positive conversations and some potentially significant connections.

New resources in the UK

2023 saw the distribution of *Follow Me*, a new evangelistic booklet. Over 32,000 (32,212) copies were distributed in the year.

We introduced a new addition to the Little Book series, *Little Book of Jesus*. This resource seeks to engage people of all faiths and none with the life story of Jesus. Between August and December, 8,950 copies of *Little Book of Jesus* were distributed. A second print run was required to meet demand. Matt Currey was interviewed about the resource on UCB Radio.

“The new Follow Me booklet has proved extremely popular. It’s beautifully produced, both in its message and graphics. Brilliant!” Cathryn Read

Easter

For Easter, emphasis was placed on *Believe the Women* and *The Easter Journey*. We ran a promotional campaign with eden.co.uk to profile Lifewords and enable Eden customers to sign up for a Lifewords resources pack (which included *Believe the Women*, *Follow Me*, *Daily Strength*). We achieved 300 sign-ups for the pack within two weeks, and the overall campaign had a comparatively high sign-up rate of 2.12%. Easter resources were advertised in print alongside *Ninefold Path* in the *March Christianity Magazine* and *Woman Alive*.

Christmas

We promoted four Lifeworlds Christmas resources: *OUTSIDE/IN*, *The True Light*, *Meet the Cast* and *A Story for the Whole World*. We amplified reach by inviting audiences to share the Christmas story with their communities. 72,046 Christmas resources were distributed in 2023.

Alongside a new version of our *OUTSIDE/IN* animation, this time with subtitles, animated videos designed to publicise *Meet the Cast*, *The True Light* and *A Story for the Whole World* were posted on TikTok, and two videos digitising *Little Book of Jesus* were shared on Instagram, TikTok and Facebook. Four new blog posts relating to *Meet the Cast*, *The True Light*, *OUTSIDE/IN* and *Light Up* were published on the Lifeworlds website.

“Advent and Christmas bring the highest attendance in church by the general public, and we seize the opportunity to let everyone leave with a booklet as a memento of their visit.” Helen, St Paul’s Macclesfield

UK digital and social media

- **YouTube:** 1,160 subscribers; 287 videos; 2,069,485 views
- **Facebook:** 2,022 followers; 2,500 page visits
- **X (Twitter):** 1,317 followers
- **Instagram:** 403 followers, 350 page visits

During 2023, we revitalised the blog on the Lifeworlds website, publishing seven blog posts between September and December. This enabled us to further diversify our communications, to encourage more traffic to our website, and to communicate and partner with those using our resources. Upgrading the current website structure to gain deeper data and understanding of user engagement is something that will be prioritised, alongside accessibility, functionality and appearance, in the next redesign of the site.

Lifeworlds YouTube channel now has 1,160 subscribers and holds 287 videos. The videos currently on the channel have received over 2 million views (2,069,485).

We strengthened our social media content, building engagement with supporters and new audiences across Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and more recently, TikTok. On Facebook, X and Instagram we have 2,022, 1,317 and 403 followers respectively. Throughout 2023, Lifeworlds Facebook page received around 2,500 visits, while the page’s posts have reached over 100,000 people in total. The Facebook posts with the most engagement were an Armistice Day video (8,700 impressions and a reach of 4,700), and our post advertising vacancies in the UK office (7,900 impressions and a reach of 3,900), both of which were boosted as paid advertisements. Lifeworlds Instagram profile received significant engagement with 350 visits. Profile visits to both Lifeworlds Instagram and Facebook pages have increased significantly in comparison to 2022, with an increase of 86% on Instagram and almost 120% on Facebook.

Through building engagement we aimed to reach a younger audience. The distribution of TikTok users by age group appears to be the opposite of Lifeworlds current supporter demographics – this provided us with an opportunity to build a more diverse supporter demographic and to grow our understanding of how to best engage with younger audiences. During the Christmas period, a TikTok stop motion video based on *Meet the Cast* garnered 250 views, while a shorter “teaser” video for *The True Light* gained significant traction with 848 views, suggesting that short, sharp videos – that can be viewed with or without sound – perform better on this platform.

“Loving all of these posts during Advent my friends [@lifeworlds_uk](#)” @matthewnash1 on Instagram

Other resources

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – unique mission opportunities

PAVEMENT PROJECT

- Lifewords developed Pavement Project in **25 countries** through **325 partners** and **631 educators**.
- **5,207 counselling sessions** with at-risk children in 2023.
- **28 training sessions** in **14 countries** trained **151 workers** from **61 partner organisations**.
- **28 active trainers** and **15 trainee trainers** covering **12 countries**.

In addition to the bespoke resources used in the Pavement Project “green bag” activity, our partners (churches in the majority) used other Lifewords resources to share God's love and helped children (and families) make good choices in life using Choose Life in group settings.

“I waited ten years to learn how to use the green bag. ... I see the truth changing the child's life in each counselling session. It also transforms my life.” Ana Cristina, Mozambique

New regions

Amazonas

In July, we equipped our partner MEAP (Evangelical Mission of Assistance to Fishermen) to train ten missionaries who work in communities along the Purus River, one of the main tributaries of the Amazon. In December, the staff of three new partners, the Association of Riverside Women, The World for Christ Church in Nova Floresta, and the Methodist Church in Mutirão in the Amazonas were also trained.

Guinea-Bissau and Panama

We launched Pavement Project in two new countries where the need to alleviate children's suffering is significant. ALEM Guinea-Bissau (Wycliffe) and Iglesia Mision Visión Discipulado in Panama, successfully empowered their educators. So far, 34 children have been helped by Pavement Project.

Green bag app

We launched a new version of this app, its enhanced features giving a better experience for educators and children. This includes a new interactive screen and a dedicated page for securely recording, monitoring, and editing children's information. Educators were informed through video tutorials. Gradually, educators are transitioning from the old app to the new one. 2024 will see the release of a smartphone app, allowing broader access without requiring a tablet purchase.

New trainers

Three new trainers were welcomed: Nely Molina (Colombia), Noemí Zapata (Chile), and Jane Nyongesa (Kenya).

LATIN AMERICA (BRAZIL)

In Brazil, we continued to work with partners to reach young people and their families through Pavement Project. *Choose Life* was built on a successful pilot period, with more organisations using the resources to educate, mentor, and support young people.

Connecting with partners

Lifewords strengthened connections with partners supported by Mission Alliance in Rio de Janeiro. Casa Semente, Casa Cruzeiro and Pavement Project are three organisations in Rio de Janeiro that receive funding from Mission Alliance. They promote impact and transformation for children in two neighbourhoods dominated by trafficking and violence (Morro da Providência and Jardim Gramacho). Three meetings during the year brought together the three organisation's employees, volunteers, and council.

We held three online meetings for Pavement Project workers, with 109 participants from 11 Latin American countries. Trainers shared their experiences in training others to listen to children and introduce Jesus; they also heard the testimony of two young women counselled by Pavement Project as teenagers. The workers prayed together and shared the achievements of their organisations in the care and protection of children.

Choose Life

- **22 churches and social projects** used Choose Life with more than **620 children**.

"The majority of our children live in Mutirão, a very poor and violent place, close to our church. Some have parents and brothers in prison for different reasons. Alcoholism, drugs, unemployment ... leave them very vulnerable. The church has fought to provide a more dignified life for each of them using Choose Life. During the Choose Others module we realised that caring about others, and respecting and loving others and oneself are seeds being planted in their lives, minds and hearts. During classes and at the end of the module they showed more care and respect for their classmates, avoiding rude words; they listened to me more attentively when presenting the content as well." Cleide Alabarce, Baptist Church in Santa Cruz, Cascavel, in southern Brazil.

Kid Talk for Brazil

Kid Talk (a Lifeworlds partner) provides a methodology to support work done by faith communities and social projects linked to Pavement Project and others in Brazil. The programme helps children aged 6–12 deal with the pain of losing a close family member, with a focus on the emotional processes of the child. Using a mutual support approach, small groups of grieving children go through workshops guided by two facilitators following a specific curriculum. By the end, children undergo a "farewell process" that integrates emotional and spiritual support, a conscious understanding of losses, and empowerment to face life's challenges. They are able to express their emotions healthily, have gained knowledge about grief, and developed resilience skills. In 2024, we will conduct testing of the material that has been translated, adapted, and formatted to resonate well with the Brazilian target audience.

AUSTRALIA

Churches, and chaplains and ministries in hospitals, prisons and schools continued to order our pastoral resources. Work began on a new Plain English version of *Daily Strength* for Indigenous Australians.

- **10,260** pastoral resources distributed, 65% of these went to hospital and prison chaplains.
- **4,200** seasonal booklets distributed, including WW1 gospels which remain highly popular.
- **3,850** resources used with high school students – WW1 Gospels and *Little Book of Help*.
- **12** community Ninefold Path Learning Lab events

Aboriginal *Daily Strength*

This is a partnership project with Wycliffe to help Indigenous Australians to more easily access the Bible and read it in a way that is culturally meaningful. The newly translated Plain English Version (PEV) of *Daily Strength* will be shared across regional Australia.

"In juvenile justice, many boys carry heavy shame and low self-esteem. You Matter is a powerful story, and it is not complicated to read and understand the themes of acceptance, reconciliation and Jesus' grace. The prodigal son is so relevant. You Matter may have been designed for a younger audience, but our boys love it as it's easy to read. These booklets are our best way into conversations about Jesus." Mike Clark, prison chaplain, Cobham Youth Justice Centre, Sydney

AFRICA (KENYA)

The team in Kenya continued engaging people with the Bible through booklets, Pavement Project, and Choose Life. They also developed relationships with partners across Africa.

Bible resources and partnerships

- **50,293 copies of printed literature distributed** in English, Swahili and local languages in **13 African countries**: Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somali, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

"Through your prayers and support over 5,000 young people have been reached with a gospel booklet in Kenya and beyond. 'An Invitation' has been a powerful tool for evangelism to us. One remarkable testimony is that of a gang leader to whom I gave the tract a few months ago, little did I know the Holy Spirit would convict him to give his life to Christ. He is totally transformed and serves as an usher in one of the churches here in Nairobi. We give God all the glory!" Pastor Salano, Kenya

Pavement Project Africa

- **2,839 children were counselled by our partner organisations.**
- Active in **8 countries**: Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and DRC, through **196 trained workers** from our **88 partner organisations**.
- **9 Pavement Project trainers** conducted **6 training sessions**. They trained **39 new workers**.

"I invited Mary [14 years old] for a session with the [Pavement Project] green bag. Her response was a wide smile, she loved playing with the paper play and reading the Bible text on it. ... Mary trusts me with her issues, and she shares her challenges. ... Mary still lives in the [children's] centre. She worries about her family's safety and prays her mum could move from the risky place she lives. Mary has influenced her sister, and she, too, is in the rescue centre. Mary leads prayers and is the Christian Union leader in her school. She wants other girls to be helped too. She loves Pavement Project, and says, 'That bag spoke to me!'. Thanks for giving towards Pavement Project work! Many physically and emotionally wounded teenagers, like Mary, need to hear the voice of God. Your donation helps us to train more workers to find more Marys to exchange their tears of uncertainty for healing smiles."* Pavement Project worker in Kenya. *Name changed

Choose Life

- **866 young people** from Kenya went through the programme after engaging with the 5 booklets: *Choose Others, Choose Right, Choose Peace, Choose Love* and *Choose Freedom*. **571 young people** graduated by the end of 2023.
- **2 training sessions, 25 teachers trained**, including 1 new trainer for Western Kenya.

Chrisco Church School from Kibera in Kenya started the implementation of the Choose Life Curriculum with a new class of 120 pupils. They collected 120 copies of *Choose Others* booklets to start them off.

Story gathering

Creative Director Steve Bassett joined Clara Ngobolia and a local Kenya team to gather stories, testimonies, photographs and videos. They visited communities in Kariobangi and Dandora slums, witnessed an outreach to children and the sick, and visited street children in Dandora. They also joined the sports outreach ministry of Pastor Salano, attended the Street Children's Church, and witnessed a widows' group meeting led by Pastor Mary. All the activities offered us great interactions. Stories were released via *Interact*, video and online.

INDONESIA

The team continued to take mobile missions to several places, and to conduct Lifewords Kids Ministry, retreats, seminars, and conferences.

Mobile missions

The team connected with and trained different communities in how to use TVS, flipcards, and other Lifewords resources, and also how to train others to use the material. They have trained pastors, church leaders, Sunday school teachers and Bible college students, some from very rural communities.

Lifewords Kids Ministry

Lifewords Kids Ministry continues to engage groups of children all over Indonesia with the Bible using games, songs, and Bible stories. The aim is to talk to the children about Jesus and encourage them to respond, while also investing in them for the future.

INDIA

The many and regular inquirers for resources are generally guided to our global resources website. A small quantity is distributed from the India office, especially requests from rural areas and other urgent needs.

Bible resources

- **6,400 resources** distributed, including around 3,000 copies of old Tamil titles.
- Assisted in the **proofreading of animations** of *An Invitation* and *Finding Hope* of three Indian languages (Telugu, Tamil and Bengali).
- Coordinated the **translation and proofreading** of Telugu *Way to Life*.

"Lifewords provides me with the best booklets. People like to look at your books and it is easier to strike conversation with Lifewords booklets." John – hospital evangelist

Pavement Project India

- **1,279 children** were counselled by our partner organisations across **16 states** in **8 languages**.
- **60 partner organisations** with **138 active workers**.
- **5 training workshops** by 3 trainers in 4 languages.
- **37 workers trained** from 6 organisations.
- **3 trainers; 6 trainee trainers**.
- **Translation** of workers' resources in **2 languages – Telugu and Gujarati**.
- **Translation** of pocket cards and paper play in **Oriya**, initiated by one of our new partners.

New partnership with Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM)

IEM have had long time association with Lifewords for Bible resources and translations as they mainly work among unreached groups. They have 700 missionaries across India, with 42 daycare centres for children and vocational training centres for young adults and women. We reconnected with them during an India Forum of Bible Agencies (FOBA) meeting. IEM is keen to train their daycare centre staff, as well as local church volunteers. and so we started the training of four new trainee trainers.

Kannada resources

Unused 2004 Kannada Pavement Project resources were put to use by the children's ministry team of South India Assemblies of God (SIAG) – Karnataka and Goa region. They created an eight-week programme from which some 10,000 children from Karnataka and 2,000 children from Goa are estimated to benefit. The resources will then be passed on to other churches. 40 Kannada green bags for Karnataka and five English materials for Goa were handed over to the SIAG Children's Ministry team. The picture cards and

the coloured dividers from the Kannada bags were donated to Diyaghar, an NGO with nursery and daycare centres for children of migrant workers and children from the slums.

Pavement Project training

A third training session with Navajeevan Seva Mandal (NSM) took place in May in Chottagagiri, Jharkhand. 17 staff from 13 projects attended. Pavement Project will reach around 1,500 children through these 17 certified workers. It is good to work with NSM and their parent organisation, Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), in these remote places where there is minimal development. The children from the projects in Jharkhand are from two tribal communities – Santhal and Malto – that worship nature and follow their own religion. The children from all the projects belong to economically weaker sections and are living in vulnerable and unstable families.

“I have attended counselling courses in the past. I am simply amazed at how effective the Pavement Project is. The step-by-step process gives children the opportunity and the confidence to easily share their traumas and challenges. To see them confirming their true identity in Christ and being empowered is the most incredible quality of Pavement Project. I believe this is a programme directly from God.” Raju, Pavement Project worker, India

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – Reaching and engaging new generations

Lifewords continues to engage with different communities – including young people, those exploring the Christian faith and a wide variety of church contexts – through key projects and campaigns. Through VerseFirst, NINE BEATS and Ninefold Path we were able to reach new audiences through live events, digital platforms and media coverage.

- NINE BEATS presented the way of the beatitudes with the 6-location “Sunfire, Muscle and Bone” UK mini-tour working with local churches and faith communities, funded by a grant from Jerusalem Trust.
- The tour was featured across 7 media channels.
- 2 campaigns took place on VerseFirst’s Instagram and Facebook channels: “The Easter People” and “Christmas Journeys”.
- VerseFirst’s Christmas campaign had a reach of 405,000 and generated 9,000 profile visits.

VERSEFIRST

VerseFirst saw increased development in how it reaches new audiences on social media with a number of different strategies, including an increased advertising of posts which extended the reach of content beyond established followers.

- The best-performing VerseFirst post on Instagram received **3,967 likes** and 16 comments, was saved by 183 people, and had a reach of 78,911 people.
- The “Do you see this woman?” video, which was shared on VerseFirst’s social media channels on International Women’s Day, was **watched by 813 individuals**.

Campaigns

Alongside posting stand-alone verses throughout the year, we ran two campaigns in the build-up to Easter and Christmas, “The Easter People” and “Christmas Journeys: Travellers, Outcasts, Refugees and Kings...”. The aims of both campaigns included engaging an online audience with the Christmas and Easter stories, increasing engagement of the Bible with new social media followers, and continuing to build a new generation of supporters and donors.

“The Easter People” focused on characters on the edge of the story in a similar way to the Christmas resource *OUTSIDE/IN*. The Instagram post quoting Luke 21:1-3, “Out of her poverty put in all she had to

live on,” received 533 likes and another, captioned “Weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears,” was liked 818 times.

VerseFirst’s campaign “Christmas Journeys: Travellers, Outcasts, Refugees and Kings...”, performed particularly well. 10 posts highlighted the journeys and relationships of characters of the Christmas story, based on the culturally iconic “how it started/how it ended” social media meme. Some of the most popular Instagram posts focused on Jesus, Mary, Simeon, Elizabeth and Zechariah. The first two had a reach of 78,911 and 99,342 respectively. The post about Jesus received 3,967 likes and 183 saves, while the one about Simeon received 2,763 likes and 168 saves. The Zechariah post contributed to a total of 1,168 profile visits and 371 new followers. The response was overwhelmingly positive and we will seek to maintain similar levels of engagement in future campaigns.

“I just want to truly say thank you for investing creativity to make scriptures from the Bible become so impactful.” A new VerseFirst follower

NINE BEATS

Through NINE BEATS we continued to encourage engagement with the words of Jesus in the beatitudes, offering an accessible invitation to explore the wisdom of the Bible and the way of Jesus. 2023 saw live events through the “Sunfire, Muscle and Bone” UK Tour.

- NINE BEATS held **6 live performances** in a range of churches, music venues and cafés.
- The UK Tour was featured across **7 media channels** including 4 interviews: Premier Christian Radio, BBC Radio Sheffield, The Hopeful Activists and BCB Radio.
- In the month of September 2023, when the majority of social media publicity around the Sunfire, Muscle and Bone tour took place, **3,867 accounts were reached on Instagram**.
- The Instagram post with the most reach was the advertisement for the tour, which had a **reach of 2,726**, left 3,065 impressions and generated 17 website visits.

UK events

In the autumn, six NINE BEATS events took place, funded by Jerusalem Trust. These events saw us connecting with networks and groups keen to work out their faith through the exploration and application of “the beatitudes”. Together with events held in 2022, the Jerusalem Trust grant has enabled 10 events, including an online presentation.

The tour, featuring “music, spoken word, and thought-provoking conversation around the ancient spiritual wisdom of ‘the beatitudes’” made its way through Norwich, Leeds, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Sheffield, and London. Colorado-based contributor Heatherlyn joined UK Collective members, with practical support from UK staff.

The events were built on relationships nurtured either directly through NINE BEATS, Ninefold Path, or our church engagement networking. Each was tailored to the needs of the local community, very much a partnership that meshed local context, church and strategy. This is a good model for hybrid events and meant that some events were delivered by as few as two people, some by a full Collective roster.

“I’m beginning to realise that the Beatitudes are one of the only things that make sense in this crazy world.” Peter, one of the Sheffield organisers

“The event was absolutely brilliant! It was the first time I had heard the Collective live, and it was a baptism of explosive joy!” Noel Moules

Media

NINE BEATS Collective members Heatherlyn, Steve Bassett and Rob Taylor featured in broadcast interviews on a number of radio stations and podcasts, including BBC Radio Sheffield, Premier Christian Radio, The Hopeful Activists and BCB Radio. Two interviews were focused on the event in Leeds, one on the event in Sheffield, and one on the overall UK tour.

Social Media

NINE BEATS social media platforms increased engagement during 2023. The two Instagram posts that received the most response reached 32,200 individuals and 23,700 individuals respectively, with 263 and 168 likes. In September, when most social media publicity for the tour took place, posts reached 3,867 accounts on Instagram. On Facebook, there was a reach of 8,600 during this month, an increase of 195% on the previous month.

Church engagement, funding and partnerships

NINE BEATS and Ninefold Path continue to provide a connection point for numerous networks and groups. The tour also provided a great opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and to grow a number of new collaborations. We partnered with St Stephen's Church Norwich as part of their Community Festival, which was run by the church with support from Norfolk County Council.

"Thank you so much for bringing NINE BEATS to Norwich. I have heard nothing but positivity from those who were there. I think that many had not experienced such professional musicianship before and were simply bowled over, not only by the message of the beatitudes, but also the simply incredible music, singing and storytelling. Many thanks once again – it was a very special evening."

Ian Fifield, Curate at St Stephen's Norwich

Ninefold Path

The *Ninefold Path* resource continued to be promoted as a resource for churches and groups to encourage engagement with the words of Jesus. On-the-page and online ads were run with *Reform*, *Premier Christianity*, *Idea*, *Church Times*, *Keep the Faith* and Baptist Assembly. Two blogs were featured on Premier Christianity's website, as well as another on Premier's youth platform, NEXGEN.

The focus for Big Church Festival was *Ninefold Path*, which garnered a lot of interest as a different way of engaging communities around the Way of Jesus.

We used *Ninefold Path* during a visit to Christ Church Peckham to explore the beatitudes. A number of churches continue to use this resource for Bible studies and other church gatherings to encourage one another in engaging with the Bible and growing in their faith.

"It's a really helpful, easily accessible tool to get to deep things really quickly. I use the Ninefold Path learning lab guide every time I come to prepare services or small group discussions because there are loads of good nuggets of helpful, practical truth that are easy to share, especially with people who are new to faith or thinking what it means to be Christian." Vicki Price.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income from donations and grants was £804,434, a decrease of £117,953 on the previous year [2022: 922,387, an increase of £42,414 on 2021]. Total income was £1,331,894, a decrease of £1,263,905 (-49%) on the previous year [2022: increase of £1,176,082]. This reflects lower legacy income (a decrease of £1,147,211 on the previous year). The financial statements show that 60% of income came from donations and grants [2022: 36%], 37% from legacies [2022: 63%], and 3% from literature sales, investments and other income [2022: 1%]. Total expenditure was £1,544,325 – an increase of £97,416 (+7%) on the previous year [2022: increase of £74,125 on 2021]. The Charity spent 92% of its total expenditure on developing, producing, and delivering products and programmes in the UK and overseas [2022: 93%]. 8% was spent on raising funds [2022: 7%].

During the past financial year there was a deficit on ordinary activities of £212,431 [2022: surplus of £1,148,890]. The net movement in funds in 2023, which includes other recognised gains and losses, produced a deficit on the total funds of £348,495 [2022: surplus of £2,054,288]. This deficit includes FRS102 actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme of £190,000 [2022: actuarial gains of £947,000].

Reserves policy

The Board has a formal reserves policy which is to hold in reserve sums to cover nine months' planned expenditure (currently calculated at £1.3m) in order to respond to any (unforeseen) change in circumstances and levels of income. Through the approval and management of appropriate budgets the Charity also ensures it is in a position to maximise investment opportunities. Free reserves at 31 December 2023 (calculated as net assets, excluding restricted funds, the pension reserve, property & fixed assets and stock) were £1,921,970 [2022: £2,267,692]. This is above the reserves policy level (taking into account legacies recently notified, and also plans for future use of Ministry Development funds) and is considered adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Investment policy and review

The Trustees pursue an investment policy on behalf of the Charity which provides a balance between income and capital growth, with a medium level of risk over the longer term, thereby enabling the Trustees to meet their objectives in respect of the requirements of the charity. Designated funds have been invested in the Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities in line with the above policy. The net performance of the Newton Fund during the year was 8.6% against the comparative index of 9.3% [2022: performance of -5.3% against the comparative index of -6.7%]. During the year the Fund underperformed its comparative index by 0.7% [2022: outperformed by 1.4%]. The fund remains ahead of the index over three, five and ten years. At the end of the year the investments in the Newton Fund showed cumulative unrealised gains of £526,432 [2022: unrealised gains of £472,496]. The Trustees are satisfied with the current return on capital.

Pension fund

The Charity has two pension schemes. One is a defined contribution scheme with Aegon which is currently open to new members and meets the requirements of auto-enrolment. The second is a defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, which has been closed to new members since 25 March 2003 and closed to new accrual since 23 May 2012; and which, for the purposes of FRS102, showed a funding deficit of £666,000 [2022: deficit of £619,000]. The corresponding asset / liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. In September 2014 the Trustees put in place a contingent asset security agreement with the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme (on a property currently valued at the book value of £695,907) to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer. During the year the triennial valuation as of 6 April 2022 was finalised and a new Recovery Plan agreed (£170,000 per annum increasing on each 6 April by 2% until November 2033, replacing the previous Recovery Plan of £170,000 per annum increasing on each 6 April by 2% until July 2034). Contributions to the pension scheme are met through additional contributions from the Charity. The pension liability is therefore excluded from the free reserves calculation. Details of the retirement benefit schemes are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We live in a world that has many problems, in which Bible ministry is presented with new challenges and opportunities every day. In this landscape, we plan ahead with the posture of being diligent stewards of the ministry, as we work out a mission vision that remains sustainable, fruitful and transformative.

Our core priorities for 2024 remain the management and application of our finances, income generation, expanding and deepening church activities, supporter engagement/nurture, all in the context of global mission and Bible work that meets the needs of Christians and communities worldwide. We will do this

through the best collaborative partnerships, most appropriate infrastructure, best content/delivery and most effective engagement with the Bible that we can muster. At the same time, we will constantly assess, review and respond to challenges in a considered and prayerful manner.

In 2024 we will do that in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings:

Bible Resources

In line with our Scripture Gift Mission heritage we will continue to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages, while adding to this range and investing in digital delivery to augment print. Having completed our project to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages and achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print and digital versions) in fifty languages, we will look at new titles and opportunities in 2024.

Digital

We will continue to adapt to the ever-changing digital and online world. We will work to ensure accessibility of our existing resources in digital formats and create new digital engagement with Scripture, whilst assessing skillsets and capacity to do this effectively.

Marketing/communications

We will look for channels to increase ministry profile to uplift impact of our resources – extending profile through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We will continue networking with churches, communities, and partners to increase presence and profile within UK churches and church networks – presenting Lifeworlds as a ministry that bring the Bible's message to people in all walks of life. We will continue to position ourselves as a forward-looking 'heritage brand', producing materials that empower and equip, inspire, and engage people with the Bible's life words.

Bible Engagement projects

We will refine our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seek to identify partners, both practical and financial.

Pavement Project

We will embed a new educator's app and offer online counselling and training to complement our in-person counselling resources. The "train the trainers" model will continue, with anticipated growth in the regions where we provide the counselling resources to our partners who help vulnerable children.

NINE BEATS

We will continue to generate this broad collaboration sharing the beatitudes/Sermon on the Mount as a key text for our time through more partnerships and networks, and online/in person events. We will continue to assess scale/funding development within the overall work of Lifeworlds.

Funding

We will continue to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors, and approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, core, and new "entrepreneurial" donors. We will grow UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifeworlds organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30 December 1916, and altered by subsequent special resolutions, the most recent being dated 23 June 2011. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company and at the accounting date there were 57 members [2022: 61], each of whom agrees to contribute £1.05p in the event of the winding up of the Company.

Organisation

The Board administers the Charity and meets at least four times a year. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has established an International Executive Team to lead the Mission and who have authority, within terms of delegation from the Board, for operational matters including finance, employment, and programme-related activity. The International Executive Team consists of the international directors: Steve Bassett (Creative & Communications), John Harris (Finance & Operations), Jarek Jankowski (Global Bible Resources), Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project), and Dan Hardie (Australia/New Zealand). The day-to-day operations in the UK are overseen by Steve Bassett & John Harris with Jarek Jankowski in constant contact.

The Charity is the leading member of the Lifeworlds global family of organisations. The other members are separately incorporated companies in their respective countries. In 2023, there were agency agreements with member organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, India, Indonesia, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board or by Ordinary Resolution of members for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election on two successive occasions only. A trustee cannot serve for a period of more than nine years, save with approval by unanimous vote from the Board.

Trustee induction and training

An introductory pack for potential trustees is in use. A programme of preliminary meetings with the Executive Team and Board members (including the Chair) precedes an invitation to attend a Board meeting, prior to an invitation to join the Board. Trustees are offered the opportunity to attend trustee training courses such as those provided by the National Charity Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

Related parties

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifeworlds Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2023.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2022: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £7,150 for design services [2022: £5,075].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £1,355 [2022: £370].

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees (who are the Company Directors) and the senior staff with International Office responsibilities, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of

directing, controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely, and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in Note 9 of the financial statements.

The pay of all staff, including senior staff, is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with (CPI) inflation, if funds allow. If funding is under pressure, preference is given to lower-paid staff when making any pay awards. Senior staff pay is benchmarked against pay levels in similar organisations (religious/Christian charities of a similar turnover and size) using information from Third Sector pay surveys (published by ACEVO and Global Connections). The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. Salaries were last benchmarked in September 2019.

Fundraising practice

The Charity is committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical and godly manner. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres strictly to their Code of Fundraising Practice and all legal obligations. We proactively monitor revisions to this code to ensure all our fundraising activities remain fully compliant. We confirm that we received no complaints regarding our fundraising activities or practices during this year or the previous year. We do not sell or swap data with other charities or organisations or make any cold telephone calls to the general public. In 2023 the Charity did not contract the services of professional fundraisers as defined by section 58 of the Charities Act 1992. We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. If we become aware of any vulnerable people on our database, we ensure that they do not receive any appeals and ensure that any requests for details to be updated or deleted from our database are handled quickly. We have signed up to receive suppressions under the Fundraising Preference Service.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Board members are also cognisant of the requirement and responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and have taken steps towards the implementation of an ongoing process of risk assessment.

The risk management strategy includes:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should these risks materialise

The key risks facing the charity are identified as (a) reliance on legacy income; (b) deficit position of the charity's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; (c) loss of key management personnel; and (d) loss or damage to reputation (and subsequent loss of support). The Trustees and senior staff have sought to address these risks in 2023 through ongoing review of long-term financial strategy; ongoing management of the Pension Scheme; ongoing development of local Boards and personnel in the associated organisations outside the UK (increasing capacity and reducing the risk of losing key personnel in the UK); and ongoing oversight of creative development, particularly in new areas, with a view to safeguarding reputation.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

DISCLOSURE

The Trustees confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and that they have taken all reasonable steps as charity trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 9 July 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In 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 Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime, and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 22, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 the financial statements.

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. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation

of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to use of restricted funds, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nicola Wakefield (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4FS
Date: 10 July 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		General Fund and Revaluation Reserve	Designated Funds			
		£		£	£	£
Income						
Donations and grants		343,792	-	460,642	804,434	922,387
Legacies		397,386	-	96,092	493,478	1,640,689
		741,178	-	556,734	1,297,912	2,563,076
Investment income	3	30,050	-	-	30,050	22,274
Other income	4	3,932	-	-	3,932	10,449
Total income		775,160	-	556,734	1,331,894	2,595,799
Expenditure						
	5					
Costs of raising funds		132,970	-	-	132,970	95,337
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Providing Bible resources		488,078	150,000	443,205	1,081,283	1,034,060
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need		208,551	50,000	43,421	301,972	293,244
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners		28,100	-	-	28,100	24,268
		724,729	200,000	486,626	1,411,355	1,351,572
Total expenditure		857,699	200,000	486,626	1,544,325	1,446,909
Net (expenditure)/income before gains and losses		(82,539)	(200,000)	70,108	(212,431)	1,148,890
Realised & unrealised gains on property assets	11	-	-	-	-	30,000
Realised & unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	12	53,936	-	-	53,936	(71,602)
Net (expenditure)/income		(28,603)	(200,000)	70,108	(158,495)	1,107,288
Other recognised gains and losses						
Remeasurement (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	19	(190,000)	-	-	(190,000)	947,000
Net movement in funds		(218,603)	(200,000)	70,108	(348,495)	2,054,288
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward 1 January 2023		2,119,338	425,000	825,182	3,369,520	1,315,232
Funds carried forward 31 December 2023		1,900,735	225,000	895,290	3,021,025	3,369,520

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years are derived from continuing activities. There are no other recognised gains or losses relating to either year.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	10	823,556	841,218
Investment property	11	30,000	30,000
Investments	12	968,045	914,109
Total fixed assets		1,821,601	1,785,327
Current assets			
Debtors	14	1,472,474	1,639,596
Stock		16,209	24,428
Short-term deposits		253,972	152,411
Cash at bank and in hand		283,200	468,499
Total current assets		2,025,855	2,284,934
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(160,431)	(81,741)
Net current assets		1,865,424	2,203,193
Net assets excluding pension liability		3,687,025	3,988,520
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(666,000)	(619,000)
Total net assets		3,021,025	3,369,520
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	16	895,290	825,182
Unrestricted funds	16		
General fund		1,631,235	1,802,838
Designated funds		1,130,500	1,330,500
Revaluation reserve (property investment)		30,000	30,000
Pension scheme reserve deficit	19	(666,000)	(619,000)
Total unrestricted funds		2,125,735	2,544,338
Total charity funds		3,021,025	3,369,520

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 29 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 3rd July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated), Company number 145932
Date: 9 July 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net (expenditure)/income as per SOFA		(348,495)	2,054,288
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	10	31,825	30,236
(Gains)/losses on investments	11/12	(53,936)	41,602
Investment income	3	(30,050)	(22,274)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	14	167,122	(1,231,723)
Inventories	BS	8,219	672
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	78,690	(67,273)
Net cash (used)/provided by operating activities		(146,625)	805,528
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	10	(14,163)	2,039
Investment income	3	30,050	22,274
Net cash provided by investing activities		15,887	24,313
Cashflows from financing activities			
Movement in defined benefit pension scheme	19	47,000	(1,083,000)
Net cash provided by/(used) in financing activities		47,000	(1,083,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20	(83,738)	(253,159)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	620,910	874,069
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	537,172	620,910

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. At the accounting date there were 57 members [2022: 61]. Each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required in the event of the winding up of the Charity up to a maximum of £1.05 (one guinea) each.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to 31 December 2024 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ending 31 December 2024. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes of the Charity is to help people everywhere to experience the Bible as good news for their lives through programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools, the level of this needed expenditure is at the discretion of the Trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The Trustees have also considered the Charity's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. As a result of the foregoing the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available to use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects. There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme, giving a balance at year end of £nil [2022: £nil]. The second fund of £225,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2022: £425,000]. These designated funds were established following the surrender of the lease of the Charity's former offices in 2010. Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with restrictions expressed by donors or which have been raised for specific purposes. The details of the appropriate funds in the accounting year are shown at Note 16.

c) Income

All income is reflected in the financial statements when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earliest date of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the Charity's charitable activities. Where possible, all direct costs have been allocated to the appropriate activity. All other costs have been assigned as support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and IT, premises and facilities, governance costs, and administration costs for the defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in Note 6.

f) Depreciation

The basis for charging depreciation is that assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful lives in the Charity's activities.

Office long-term lease – over 50 years
Office purchase costs and irrecoverable VAT – over 50 years
Leasehold improvements and refurbishment – over 10 years
Equipment, fixtures and fittings – over 5 years
Computers – over 4 years

g) Investment property

The investment property, which comprises a half share in four freehold blocks of flats is shown at the valuation date of September 2022 (Note 11). At 31 December 2023 the investment property consists of the freehold as all apartments have now been sold [2022: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. No depreciation is provided in respect of this property. The rental income from the investment had been shown net after expenses, in view of the immaterial amounts involved.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the accounting date. All unrealised gains and losses representing the change in value from the previous accounting date are charged against the appropriate fund.

i) Stock of Scriptures

Printing costs are charged to production costs at the date of purchase, but no account is taken of the stocks of completed or incomplete publications at the end of the accounting period, as these will be given away free of charge (Note 13).

j) Other stock

Stock of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

k) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain the lessor's, are charged against income as incurred.

l) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Charity has no liability to United Kingdom taxation on its charitable activities.

m) Pension

The Charity operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme based on final pensionable salary, which is now closed to new employees and to further accrual. This has been replaced by a defined contribution scheme with Aegon based on individual personal pension funds for new employees. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the above insurance companies. Contributions to both schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Charity. The contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined on the recommendation of a qualified actuary and to the defined contribution scheme by agreement between the Charity and its employees.

In accordance with FRS102, the SOFA includes: the cost of benefits accruing during the year in respect of current service (charged against net income/(expenditure)); the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities arising from the passage of time (charged against net income/(expenditure)); and actuarial losses recognised in the pension scheme (shown within net movement of funds). In accordance with FRS102, the balance sheet includes the deficit in the scheme, taking assets at their year-end market values and liabilities at their actuarially calculated values discounted at year-end AA corporate bonds yield curve. Further details regarding the scheme are disclosed in Note 19.

n) Foreign currencies

Foreign currencies have been converted to £ sterling at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the Balance Sheet date.

o) Significant management judgements

The following are the management judgements in applying the policies of the Charity that have the most significant impact on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- **Accrued legacy income:** The Charity has made an assessment as to whether the conditions recognition of legacy income are met on a case-by-case basis, specifically in respect of the measurement of the amount due. In making these judgements, management considered the detailed criteria set out in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

The Charity's investment income of £30,050 [2022: £22,274] arises from dividends from fixed asset investments (£22,560 [2022: £20,514]) and interest-bearing deposit accounts (£7,490 [2022: £1,760]).

4 OTHER INCOME

The Charity's other income of £3,932 [2022: £10,449] arises from literature sales, some church display rack sales, and the sale of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources.

5 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs of raising funds	84,756	48,214	132,970	95,337
Total cost of raising funds	84,756	48,214	132,970	95,337
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Providing Bible resources	846,414	234,869	1,081,283	1,034,060
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	276,258	25,714	301,972	293,244
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	15,473	12,627	28,100	24,268
Total expenditure on charitable activities	1,138,145	273,210	1,411,355	1,351,572
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,222,901	321,424	1,544,325	1,446,909

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	General management £	Premises, Finance & IT £	DB pension admin, legal & finance £	Depreciation £	Governance costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs of raising funds	10,196	17,942	10,333	4,267	5,476	48,214	28,473
Providing Bible resources	48,941	86,118	53,041	20,483	26,286	234,869	182,672
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	5,438	9,568	5,511	2,276	2,921	25,714	16,611
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	3,399	5,981	-	1,422	1,825	12,627	9,527
Total support costs	67,974	119,609	68,885	28,448	36,508	321,424	237,283

Cost allocation includes an element of judgement and the Charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record-keeping. To ensure full cost recovery on projects, the Charity adopts a policy of allocating costs to the respective cost headings through the year. This allocation includes support costs where they are directly attributable. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. The defined benefit pension administration and finance costs include elements from both the General Fund and the Defined Benefit Pension (FRS102) Fund.

7 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2023	Total 2022
GOVERNANCE COSTS	£	£
Auditors' fees	19,266	11,453
Professional and legal fees	3,900	2,099
Strategic management	10,820	9,867
Trustees' expenses	2,522	651
Total governance costs	36,508	24,070

Auditors' fees include £15,070 for Audit services [2022: £11,453] as well as £4,196 related to a prior year under-provision [2022: £nil].

8 STAFF COSTS

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Staff costs	£	£
Salaries and contracted staff	377,833	359,962
Social security	25,955	32,172
Pension	31,779	31,195
Other staff costs related to staff based overseas	254,264	211,748
Total staff costs	689,831	635,077

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds. Other staff costs refer to staffing costs paid by Lifeworlds offices overseas. During the year, two employees (2022: none) received total employee benefits between £60,000 and £69,999, with pension costs being £12,089 [2022: £11,525] in respect of these two employees.

The key management personnel of the Charity, comprise the Trustees, Creative Director, Finance Director and Global Bible Resources Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £177,559 [2022: £162,744].

The average number of employees during the year, calculated based on headcount, was as follows:

Staff (headcount)	2023	2022
UK staff	8	8
Staff based overseas	13	13
Total staff (headcount)	21	21

The average number of employees during the year, calculated based on full-time equivalents, was as follows:

Staff (full-time equivalents)	2023	2022
UK staff	7	7
Staff based overseas	11	11
Total staff (full-time equivalents)	18	18

In the way that our global family of organisations operates, senior staff (key management personnel) in the UK are also responsible for facilitating and supporting work in the other six Lifeworlds centres in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and USA. All other national or functional directors report to the International Executive Team, as part of a global leadership team. Together as a global family we have 20-25 volunteers outside of the UK making a significant contribution to training and coordinating our Bible programmes. A further 50+ volunteers serve as facilitators (peer mentors) for Pavement Project initiatives.

During the year the Charity transferred £168,966 to the defined pension scheme as part of the Recovery Plan [2022: £165,648] and £nil in respect of accrual of benefits [2022: £nil] in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions.

9 TRUSTEES

The Board members were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity during the year or previous year. The aggregated amount of expenses reimbursed to three Board members during the year was £2,522 [2022: one Board member £651]. No Board member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity during the year or previous year.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Office leasehold £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	105,269	1,072,864	1,178,133
Additions	2,474	-	2,474
VAT adjustments	-	11,689	11,689
Disposals and written off	(6,312)	-	(6,312)
Cost at 31 December 2023	101,431	1,084,553	1,185,984
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	99,955	236,960	336,915
Charge for the year	3,159	28,666	31,825
Disposals and written off	(6,312)	-	(6,312)
Depreciation at 31 December 2023	96,802	265,626	362,428
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	4,629	818,927	823,556
At 31 December 2022	5,314	835,904	841,218

All the above assets were used in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects.

The Trustees have granted a first legal charge over the office leasehold to the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer.

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2023 £	2022 £
UK property		
Value at 1 January	30,000	30,000
Revaluation	-	-
Value at 31 December	30,000	30,000

The investment property at 31 December 2023 consists of a half share in four freehold blocks of flats [2022: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. The freehold was valued in September 2022 by C Hennessy MRICS Registered Valuer. There are no charges over this property or restrictions on its use. The trustees consider the value of £30,000 in September 2022 to be a true value as at 31 December 2023.

	2023 £	2022 £
Revaluation Reserve balance		
At original valuation at 31 December	-	-

Revaluation reserve balance (Note 16)	30,000	30,000
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The original valuation was the market valuation at the date of death, as the property was acquired as a legacy.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	914,109	985,711
Change in value in the year	53,936	(71,602)
Market value at 31 December	968,045	914,109

Historical cost:

At 31 December	441,613	441,613
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Listed investments are represented by 584,992 units in Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities at a book value of £441,613 [2022: £441,613]. The cumulative unrealised gains on these investments are £526,432 [2022: £472,496].

13 STOCK OF SCRIPTURES

Stocks of Scripture publications held for future distribution, which have not been included in the assets on the Balance Sheet as these will be given away free of charge, have been valued by the Charity at 31 December 2023 at the sum of £91,500 [2022: £110,000]. This valuation has not been subject to audit.

14 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Legacy debtors (unrestricted)	547,224	775,224
Legacy debtors (restricted)	896,092	800,000
Taxation recoverable	5,497	8,799
VAT recoverable	-	34,032
Pre-payments and other	23,661	21,541
Total debtors	1,472,474	1,639,596

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	7,882	7,351
Trade creditors	29,551	32,422
VAT liability	41,496	-
Other creditors	81,502	41,968
Total creditors due within one year	160,431	81,741

16 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Investment Gains/(losses)	Actuarial Gains	Balance at 31 December £
Restricted funds							
Providing Bible resources	-	418,242	(418,242)	-	-	-	-
Choose Life	-	834	(834)	-	-	-	-
Pavement Project	803,790	134,921	(43,421)	-	-	-	895,290
NINE BEATS	21,392	2,737	(24,129)	-	-	-	-
	825,182	556,734	(486,626)	-	-	-	895,290
Unrestricted funds							
Designated							
Security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry development	425,000	-	(200,000)	-	-	-	225,000
Revaluation Reserve	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
General	2,089,338	775,160	(857,699)	-	53,936	(190,000)	1,870,735
	2,544,338	775,160	(1,057,699)	-	53,936	(190,000)	2,125,735
Total funds	3,369,520	1,331,894	(1,544,325)	-	53,936	(190,000)	3,021,025

The fund for providing Bible resources covers publications in a wide range of countries. Restricted income was also received and expended towards the development of the NINE BEATS project, aimed at engaging emerging generations with the Bible through the Beatitudes.

The funds for Choose Life and Pavement Project cover the current operation and ongoing development of these programmes (a values-based life-skills curriculum for teenagers, and the training & resourcing of workers in a Bible-based counselling process for children-at-risk, respectively).

There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme giving a balance at year end of £nil [2022: £nil]. The second fund of £225,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2022: £425,000].

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:					
Fixed assets	661,101	30,000	1,130,500	-	1,821,601
Current assets	1,130,565	-	-	895,290	2,025,855
Current liabilities	(160,431)	-	-	-	(160,431)
Total net assets before pension liability	1,631,235	30,000	1,130,500	895,290	3,687,025
Long term pension liability	239,500	-	(905,500)	-	(666,000)
Total net assets	1,870,735	30,000	225,000	895,290	3,021,025

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2023.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2022: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £7,150 for design services [2022: £5,075].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £1,355 [2022: £370].

19 PENSION

The Charity operates two pension schemes in the UK. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with separate insurance companies. One is a funded defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, and the other a defined contribution scheme with Aegon; the former having closed to new employees on 25 March 2003 and closed to further accrual on 23 May 2013, with the latter being open to all new employees. Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are assessed on the basis of the advice of qualified actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Pension costs charged were:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Defined benefit scheme (Recovery Plan)	169	166
Defined contribution scheme	32	31
Total	201	197

No amounts were owing at the year end [2022: £nil].

Additional FRS102 disclosures

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based upon the latest full actuarial valuation at 6 April 2022 and updated by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

%	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Rate of increase in salaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase for pensions in payment and deferred pension	3.00	3.05	3.15	2.85	2.90
Discount rate	4.60	4.85	1.85	1.25	2.05
Inflation assumption - retail price index increase	3.10	3.20	3.30	2.95	3.00

19 PENSION (continued)

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/23 %		2023 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/22 %		2022 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/21 %		2021 fair value £'000	
Legal & General funds												
Managed Funds	4.8		3,760		4.8		3,569		4.8		5,112	
Annuities	2.7		1,062		2.7		1,155		2.7		1,478	
Total market value of assets			<u>4,822</u>				<u>4,724</u>				<u>6,590</u>	
Present value of scheme liabilities			<u>5,488</u>				<u>5,343</u>				<u>8,292</u>	
Deficit in scheme being the net pension liability			(666)				(619)				(1,702)	

Analysis of the amount charged against operating income

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	-	-
Past service cost	-	-
Total operating charge	-	-

**Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income
or debited to other finance costs**

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Expected return on pension scheme assets	121	121
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(147)	(151)
Net return	(26)	(30)

Re-measurements over the year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Losses on assets in excess of interest	(22)	(1,927)
Experience losses on liabilities	(124)	(108)
Gains from changes to demographic assumptions	106	2
(Losses)/gains from changes to financial assumptions	(150)	2,980
Re-measurements over the year	(190)	947

The movements on the scheme deficit during the period for FRS102 purposes are:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Deficit in the scheme at beginning of year	(619)	(1,702)
Movement in year		
Contributions	169	166
Interest on assets	121	121
Interest cost	(147)	(151)
Re-measurements over the year	(190)	947
Deficit in the scheme carried forward	(666)	(619)

19 PENSION (continued)**History of experienced gains and losses**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Difference between actual and expected return on scheme assets (£'000)	(22)	(1,927)	374	228	410	(253)
Percentage of scheme assets at end of year	(0.5)	(40.8)	5.7	3.7	6.8	(4.7)
Experience gains/(losses) on scheme liabilities (£'000)	(124)	(108)	-	45	40	-
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(2.3)	(2.0)	-	0.5	0.5	-
Total amount recognised in SOFA (£'000)	(190)	947	976	(843)	(617)	159
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(3.5)	17.7	11.8	(9.3)	(7.6)	2.3

Volatility of FRS102

It should be noted that the methodology and assumptions prescribed for the purposes of FRS102 mean that these disclosures are inherently volatile, varying greatly according to investment market conditions at each accounting date.

20 NOTE TO THE CASH FLOW

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
Cash at bank	468,499	(185,299)	283,200
Cash on deposit	152,411	101,561	253,972
	620,910	(83,738)	537,172
Net cash	620,910	(83,738)	537,172

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales - Charity number 219055

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated)

Company number 145932
Charity number 219055

LIFEWORDS
www.lifewords.global

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006; the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Charity Number:	219055
Company Number:	145932
Operating Name:	Lifewords
Registered Office:	1A The Chandlery 50 Westminster Bridge Road LONDON SE1 7QY
Independent Auditor:	Mazars LLP 2 nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza Sutton Court Road Sutton SM1 4FS
Principal Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 9RH
Investment Manager	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd Client Service Centre, PO Box 366 DARLINGTON DL1 9RF

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

The Trustees of the charity are the Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are referred to as "the Board" or "the Trustees". Board members serving during the year were as follows:

Directors and Trustees	Robin Baker Liz Heyburn (Chair) Mark Hurley Jo Jowett Bev Thomas Danielle Welch (from 6 December 2022)
Company Secretary	Eduardo Juan Harris

Key management personnel: Executive Team

Creative & Communications Director	Steve Bassett
Finance & Operations Director	Eduardo Juan Harris
Global Bible Resources Director	Jarek Jankowski

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Charity is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, formed to take the Christian gospel worldwide by the creation and predominantly free distribution of Scripture products and programmes. This is achieved through an International and UK Office in London, which also has close links with legally separate organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

AIMS

Working with partners around the world and with the church at large, the Charity works so that everyone, everywhere may have the opportunity to experience the Bible's life words as good news for their lives, and for the world. We do this by creating opportunities for life words to be shared and lived out. All our programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools invite people to explore the Bible for themselves – and to share life words with others. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways into the Bible's good news for all.

Our aims are achieved by:

- Creation and free (or for donation) distribution of Bible literature, providing ways into the Bible in many languages and for different audiences and cultures.
- Partnerships with a wide range of organisations to provide specialist Bible-based programmes, training, and resources for communities-at-risk.
- Provision of digital tools and resources to engage younger generations with the Bible's life words on a regular/daily basis, as a way of life and practice.
- Ongoing research and development of new resources and programmes to engage specific communities and cultures with the Christian scriptures, for positive change.
- Engagement with individuals, churches, trusts, and other organisations – providing ways for people to support the work of the Charity around the world.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty per the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

Alongside widespread distribution of resources, and provision of programmes with partners, in 2022 our strategic objectives were:

Bible Resources

In line with our Scripture Gift Mission heritage of a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages that equips hundreds of thousands of Christians all over the world in their witness, evangelism, discipleship, and proclamation of the gospel, we will continue to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages, while adding to this range and investing in digital delivery to augment print. We will continue our project to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages year-on-year, and achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print and digital versions) in fifty languages by 2023.

Digital

We will continue to apply learning of the migration to online that was experienced through the pandemic. Both in ensuring accessibility of existing resources and in working to create new, authentic digital engagement with Scripture. We will invest in digital development and invite supporters to partner in a new initiative to produce new “digital-first” engagement and innovation with Scripture with youth and teen content creators.

Marketing/communications

We will respond to capacity and mission needs by assessing and making any necessary changes/adjustments. We will increase ministry profile and impact of resources – working to extend profile of/through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We will continue networking as churches and opportunities open up. We will keep working to increase presence, profile and positioning within UK churches across marketing, communications, promotions, events and church partnerships.

Bible Engagement projects

We will refine our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seek to identify partners, both practical and financial. Pavement Project will continue to develop the learning from the experience of 2020/21 to embed app and online training and counselling in addition to renewed in-person counselling when possible/safe. The “train the trainers” model continues, with growth in other territories anticipated. NINE BEATS will similarly apply online learning and resume live events to further connect with churches and the culture at large.

Funding

We will continue to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors, and approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, core and new digital and entrepreneurial donors. Again, we will prioritise the development of UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifewords organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRATEGIC REPORT

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

Providing ways into the Bible

After the tough times of recent years, we caught our breath in 2022. Still, we faced challenges and again had to be agile in our response to finances, world events and the needs of Christians. When Russia invaded Ukraine at the beginning of the year, our team in Poland rallied to print and distribute Bible resources for churches and organisations in Poland and beyond who welcomed Ukrainian refugees. We had a great response to our appeal to make this happen. We received close to £50,000 which enabled us to produce many resources across a range of languages. It has also been a privilege to resource organisations, like Hope Lebedyn, who are based in Ukraine, and who work tirelessly to provide shelter, food, and hope to thousands as the conflict continues.

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – core audiences

LITERATURE

2022 saw a high distribution of printed resources – the global ordering website saw a 68% increase on 2021. The high distribution resulted from a huge demand for resources in Ukrainian after the outbreak of the war and from our quick reaction to it. An additional factor supporting the growing distribution was the post-Covid reopening of many churches and a new enthusiasm for sharing the gospel seen in many communities around the world. Our growing offer of our materials was also attracting more orders and increasing the number of languages distributed.

Global ordering website

- **2,400 orders** (precisely: 2,443) processed from **54 countries**.
- **384,000 items** (precisely: 384,103) distributed in **52 languages**.
- Compared to 2021, the above statistics look as follows: orders 5% up, countries 10% down, items sent 68% up, languages 8% up.

Ukraine

When war broke out in Ukraine at the beginning of 2022, the demand for Ukrainian resources suddenly became enormous – we started getting a lot of orders and our stock reserves started to disappear quickly. We reacted immediately by revising our publishing priorities and preparing to print a new version of *Finding Hope* in Ukrainian (originally not planned for this year). Together with three other titles (also unplanned for this year), it quickly went to print. Within three weeks, we had processed over 100 orders from all parts of Poland and the high demand continued as we were one of the few sources of Ukrainian Bible resources in that part of Europe, and the only one to offer resource that was specially created as a pastoral tool for crisis situations. Because of the war, there was no single order from Ukraine, but we reached those in Ukraine via the *Finding Hope* animation. Our Facebook campaign, which started immediately after the Russian invasion in February, was played 152,000 times in its first month.

New evangelistic title

We were also pleased to introduce a new evangelistic booklet resource, *Follow Me*. Through a series of Scripture episodes, people from different life experiences, are challenged by, or are drawn into Jesus' invitation to "follow me" – an invitation to eternal life and a life of active discipleship.

50 languages

2022 was the second year of the 50 languages project. During the year we published 29 new global titles, 10 revisions, five reprints and 27 animations (increasing our digital offer to 76 animations in 38 languages).¹ Just like in 2021, some of the new resources were the first Lifewords products published in a particular language this century.

The languages published in 2022 included:

- Printed resources:
 - New: Albanian, Bengali, Croatian, Danish, Hungarian, Malayalam, Norwegian, Punjabi Indian, Portuguese European, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Ukrainian
 - Revisions: Bengali, English, Polish, Portuguese Brazilian, Portuguese European, Spanish, Swahili Union, Ukrainian
 - Reprints: Polish, Portuguese European, Spanish, Ukrainian
- Digital resources (all new): Albanian, Arabic, Dari, Danish, Gujarati, Hungarian, Kannada, Norwegian, Persian, Portuguese European, Serbian, Slovak, Sundanese, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu

One of our newly offered languages is Portuguese European – demand for these materials has exceeded our expectations. We printed a small volume to test the waters, and it turned out that not even a month had passed and we had to plan reprinting, despite not having yet managed to promote these new resources. In August, Portugal was the third top country in terms of the highest distribution.

New resources in minority languages

Lifewords has had a very long and good partnership with SIL. In recent years we have been supporting SIL and other organisations in preparing reprints or print runs of new materials for other ethnic minorities. In

¹ These figures for new resources include new translations of existing titles – ie. "29 new global titles" will include new languages for existing resources as well as new titles. Similarly, "76 animations in 38 languages" means that there are two animations that have been translated and typeset for 38 languages.

some cases, we help them prepare/typeset/re-create publications for local production, in others we simply authorise the partner organisations to do the reprints. In April 2022, we received a report on the publication of “Follow” booklet in Kaku – the language of Kaku people in Cameroon. Also in April, we authorised SIL to publish “Jesus is the Saviour of the World” in Kanuri, Fulfulde, Waci and Mia. We partnered with a local missionary from Niger to produce “Power to Save” series in Hausa Ajami. We typeset the booklets and provided the partner with print-ready files.

DIGITAL (GLOBAL)

During the year we were actively promoting two animations (*Finding Hope* and *An Invitation*) in 22 languages on Facebook (44 animations in total). In parallel with Facebook, the same two animations were also available on YouTube in 36 languages (72 animations in total). However, YouTube only accounted for 2,000 plays.

- **8.8 million unique users** were reached by posts that included the animations.
- Animations were played **2.9 million times** (44% more than in 2021) resulting in **1.1 million users’ reactions**.
- **Ukrainian** was the most popular language, representing 37% of the year’s digital traffic.
- Apart from Ukrainian materials, the top ten languages with highest reach were: **Kannada, Urdu, Dari, Portuguese Brazilian, Arabic, Gujarati, Portuguese European, Persian, Hausa, and Polish**.

While our printed resources in Ukrainian were reaching war refugees in several countries, the digital materials were bringing hope also to those who stayed in Ukraine. The virtual products – unstoppable by borders or war zones – turned out to be a great tool for this difficult time and worked extremely well.

Apart from the social media platforms, the digital resources are offered on our global website. During the year people from 29 countries downloaded 771 digital products in 30 languages. An animation, once downloaded from our website, is often used several times, reaching many people. Some churches use the animations for their services (or online presence), some individuals share them via their networks of contacts, in which case the resources play a similar role to printed materials used in outreach.

Life Changing Words (LCW)

The increased level of app installations, observed in 2021, continued in 2022.

- **17,000 new users** for the LCW app (84,000 total number of all-time app installs, with Android remaining the fastest growing platform).
- **13,000 shares** from the app and **67,000 responses/votes** from both the app and LCW emails. Text message has remained the most popular channel for sharing the verses, followed by Facebook.
- At the end of the year we had over **24,000 active email subscribers** from **202 countries**, receiving the LCW verses on a daily basis. This is a 5% decline compared with December 2021 – a smaller decrease than anticipated in the face of the growing popularity of the app.
- LCW widget (another form of using the LCW) was displayed in 11 languages on various websites **475,000 times** during 2022.

We conducted a user survey of those who receive the LCW email. The results showed that many people remain attached to the email service and appreciate its simplicity.

At the end of 2022, we were completing final tests of the new app. Its staged launch is planned for early 2023, which is a double anniversary year for the LCW project (20 years of the email service, 10 years of the app). The new version of the app offers a totally new look and engine, coded from scratch to ensure compatibility with today’s technological environment, and more features including sharing the verses with attractive graphic backgrounds, making the experience more engaging and the app more useful for social media.

UK

In the UK, we continued working with churches and organisations to resource them in their specific ministries, and added new partnerships to our database. We also connected with partners and supporters at exhibitions and events, and we published new resources for Easter and Christmas.

- **353,000** items distributed in the UK.

Church engagement/networking

We have continued to outwork our church engagement strategy through a varied approach of face-to-face meetings, phone calls, events and exhibitions, emails, and wider digital engagement. We also began to lay the foundations for the way we engage with churches and organisations, and the need to make connections with groups and organisations that reach into multiple churches and church leaders. The climate of Covid-recovery and the cost-of-living crisis meant that some of our engagement had to be adapted.

We had 25 meetings with a range of churches, networks and organisations. These are active and live contacts where we are exploring ongoing connection and partnership. We have also continued to make strong connections through attending events/exhibitions and via a range of communications (in person and online) with churches, networks and organisations.

Prison ministry

Prison chaplains are some of our most engaged audiences. They share how they are grateful for the way the resources are presented and the fact that they are freely available at the point of need. This year, two organisations who work directly with prison chaplains across the country have used our resources in prisons – Junction 42 and Sixty-One. Junction 42 used *Encounters with Jesus* with the 20,000 prisoners they come in contact with through chaplains. Sixty-One have taken 900 copies of *OUTSIDE/IN* to give to inmates across three prisons in Bristol. The groundwork we have done in developing partnerships with organisations like these will inform our work with prison chaplains in 2023 and both of these organisations will be invaluable partners and contacts in that sector.

The Message Trust in Manchester used 7,500 copies of *OUTSIDE/IN* as part of a Christmas gift pack for prisoners across 10 prisons. We are in conversation about ongoing and future partnership, especially in connection with our plans for 2023 prison ministry work. The Message Trust donated £1,500 for the resources.

"Thank you so much for your faithful ministry that provides us with such wonderful resources for our residents. I can't tell you how much they are appreciated. Thank you and may God bless your ministry." Rev Gail Miller, chaplaincy team, HMP Preston

2:19 Teach to Reach

We were invited to 2:19 Teach to Reach's national networking conference where new connections with churches and organisations emerged. 2:19 Teach to Reach equips and resources churches, helping them welcome and integrate speakers of other languages into their communities. One of the ways they do this is through establishing conversation classes that help improve English language skills, as well as building connections and sharing the gospel. The classes use Lifewords resources as tools to spark conversations and explore new vocabulary.

"I use One Friday with higher-level learners because of the beautiful use of language, straight from the Bible, but also because each page carries a theme that lends itself to further exploration – torture, powerlessness, forgiveness." Maura, using our resources in her work with those learning English

Trafalgar Road Baptist Church, Horsham

Trafalgar Road based their Christmas services and outreach around OUTSIDE/IN. They used the content over a 4-week series, in their carols by candlelight service, when out carol singing, and also in gift packs to the community.

“We as a church really like the resources Lifewords produce. OUTSIDE/IN and its message of welcome and invitation was so well suited to how we wanted to create a welcome into the Christmas story for our community.” John White, pastor

Community-facing churches

We resourced Churches Together in Lymington & Pennington, Glendale, and Heaton for community-facing events during the summer months. These are ongoing and growing partnerships with churches who are working to benefit and contribute to their communities. They are partnerships built on a strong foundation of mutual understanding of both ministries, and they have potential for story gathering and increased income. This year has been the first connection point, and we intend to build on this.

Exhibitions

We attended the CRE National event in October 2022 and had lots of good conversations and connections with churches, organisations, and individuals. Some churches and individuals have followed up and been added to the welcome process.

We also attended Big Church Day Out – the first time since the outbreak of Covid – running a youth-facing exhibition stand and campaign. The focus this year was on the “best of VerseFirst”. We used the opportunity to do some market research among the young people who were attending the festival, asking them what they liked and how they engage with the Bible. The stand was interactive and stood out from others in the exhibition space because we seemed to be the only one there specifically for young people.

Easter

We published a new card for Easter this year: *Finished/Risen*. Also, *The Easter Journey* booklet that came out in 2021 was released closer to Easter than we would usually do a new resource – due to uncertainty around the pandemic – so 2022 was the first year for some groups to use the resource. On social media, VerseFirst ran the campaign: Do You See This Woman? – a series of images and accompanying text.

Christmas

We published a new Christmas booklet: *A Story for the Whole World* whose design uses different cultural patterns to highlight how the common human yearning for meaning, hope, and love are met in Jesus’ coming. Over 30,000 copies were sent out, and many churches used it as part of their Christmas services and outreach.

UK digital

We ran a competition asking for young people to present the Bible digitally in a way that was relevant to them. Rosie Brighton’s animation on the book of Job was chosen as the winner. The competition didn’t have as wide a reach as we would have liked, so work needs to be done on extending our reach and expanding our audience.

Other resources

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – unique mission opportunities

PAVEMENT PROJECT

The online counselling that started in 2020 as an emergency alternative during the pandemic was released in August 2022 for indefinite use. The new Pavement Project app continued to be tested and rolled out,

offering workers greater flexibility in how and where they connect with vulnerable young people and their families.

- **4,088 counselling sessions** in 2022 (making a total of 93,248 counselling sessions).
- **30 training sessions:** 13 online, 17 face-to-face; 12 countries; 20 trainers; 91 partner organisations; 144 certified workers; 9 languages.
- **16 trainer meetings:** 11 online in Brazil, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda; 5 face-to-face in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania.
- **Church engagement:** 10 in-person meetings with partners and workers; 11 online meetings with partners.
- **Online meetings to present Lifeworlds Pavement Project to potential partners:** 54 Compassion partner leaders from northeast Brazil; 9 church leaders who work with “quilombolas”, riverside, “sertaneja” and indigenous children.

Aura, from Ecuador is a teenager who was very closed in her emotions, hardly expressing herself. During counselling with the Pavement Project, she opened her heart, saying how she felt guilty about her parents' separation – she believed she was responsible for her father leaving home. However, after being counselled, her self-esteem changed, understanding that God was not holding her responsible for that situation. The relationship between mother and daughter grew and they grew closer.

“Empowering people to use the green bag represented a prayer answer for me. Venezuela is going through a very critical situation that prevents children from developing well, and Pavement Project has been an outstretched hand of help.” Ruthmari, Venezuela

Green bag panel and new app

In October, first versions of the green bag panel and app were launched. The app has been developed by Holdapp, an agency in Poland; the panel by Piotr and Adam, volunteers from Poland. Testing was conducted with the help of trained workers. We have 169 workers and 117 partner organisations with access to the new app in 15 languages. We shared a launch video with our partners and PP workers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT_J3u3INsY.

Online counselling

A study into online counselling was conducted with 104 children from 6 countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico) counselled by 33 PP workers. 96% of the children had their self-worth increased, as signs of the start of healing and a journey with God. The online workers' training resources were finalised and made available to all Portuguese and Spanish-speaking trainers. Translations into Indonesian and English are in process.

New website

The Brazilian team developed a new Lifeworlds Pavement Project website which is available in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish and English.

Child protection policy

We conducted three online “A safe place” workshops in Brazil with 55 participants from 12 organisations to raise awareness of the need to have a written protection policy, to be followed by all involved with children. Five organisations have already produced their own policy and are implementing it.

BRAZIL

Brazil continued to work with partners to reach young people and their families through Pavement Project. Choose Life built on a successful pilot period with more organisations taking the resource and using it to educate, mentor, and support young people.

Pavement Project

- **14 churches or projects** who serve riverside dwellers, “sertanejos”, “quilombolas”, and adolescents in conflict with the law were equipped with Pavement Project through the **training of 21 workers**.

Pavement Project reached children considered “invisible” in Brazil (due to the violation of several of their rights), including groups of riverside dwellers, “sertanejos” (living in semi-arid areas), “quilombolas” (descended from African slaves) and adolescents in conflict with the law.

“The reality of poverty among children in the semi-arid is cruel. But the work of our organisation, with Pavement Project, has been to help them recognise their emotions in the face of the suffering they experience. I have noticed a transformation in the lives of children counselled with the green bag, they are happier, they feel precious, and they are enjoying the new opportunities that our organisation offers. The reality of children is changing.” Camila Albuquerque, whose organisation serves children in the semi-arid area of Pernambuco, Brazil

Choose Life

- At least **490 children reached**.

The children reflected on everyday topics such as: resolving conflicts, prioritising others, cultivating healthy friendships, deciding between right and wrong, as well as wanting to know more about God. These experiences and good choices are being encouraged through Choose Life meetings.

“For the Project C3 teachers it has been a unique experience to use Choose Life with our children. The children were very involved in the modules, they were very focused and participative. Following the guidelines in the manual, we had some internal and external dynamics, always encouraging our children to reflect on everyday situations in which a simple attitude can change a person’s entire day. We thank Lifewords for providing us with this high quality, productive content and for partnering with us.” Hélio Cout, the director of the C3 Project in Teresópolis, Brazil

AUSTRALIA

Chaplains, churches and ministries are back to pre-COVID activity with orders for our pastoral range of resources increasing, mostly from chaplains in hospitals, care facilities, aged services and schools. The WW1 Gospels had renewed interest, and we reconnected with many youth ministries via *Little Book of Help* and *Little Book of Chaos*.

A number of national gatherings that have not been possible over the past two years are re-emerging, including The Australian forum of Bible Agencies, The Surrender/Justice Conference and the Converge Network for youth outreach and research.

Work with chaplains and churches

Prison chaplains are ordering resources and sending prayer points to us; hospital chaplains are ordering pastoral literature; schools are ordering Little Books and WW1 gospels. Lifewords continued to be a resource to chaplains, ministries, and churches. Chaplain John is a retired truck driver whose roadside “truck chapel” is often stationed at Mittagong Service Centre. During Covid, John was not allowed to have his chapel open, but since reopening there has been great opportunity for sharing *Daily Strength*, *The Way to Life*, and other resources.

Examples of how our resources integrate into existing church outreach include a church women’s craft group that made up dozens of care packages for other women in flood areas in Northern NSW. Each box

included a *Daily Strength* booklet. One woman had been living in a caravan for the past six months, her home uninhabitable from flood damage. She said, “This care pack made us feel seen and valued. The little books spoke to us, and although I’m not religious, I found the words comforting and helpful”. This led to further conversations and support.

WW1 Gospels

ANZAC day and remembrance events continue to be a time for WW1 gospels to be used.

“The WW1 Gospels have been a staple part of our ministry for years now. It is the only Bible resource that many take on tour, and it is the first offer I make to those I’m working with. While spirituality may be in decline nationally, it is a significant part of the armed services and I am finding that many are turning to the Lord for comfort, healing, understanding, and purpose.”
Padre Wade, Armed Service Chaplain

“Thank you so much for producing such a thoughtful resource. These are so poignant and fantastic”. Elise, Army Cadet

Working with indigenous communities

Rob Reeve, Chair of Lifewords Australia, has been working with David Glasgow (long-term indigenous Pastor and translator) on the creation of resources for indigenous communities. This project had stalled through Covid, but we are meeting again and pushing forward. This project is set to feature and develop more in 2023.

Ninefold Path

A good amount of effort has been put into learning labs facilitated by Mark Scandrette, equipping young leaders with extra skills in how to take people through a meaningful engagement with Scripture.

“...one small group ... had 20 people attend to work through The Way of Trust and taking on Worry / Anxiety. People opened up like they’ve never seen before. The small group leader has been leading for nine years and said this was by far one of the most impactful weeks they’ve experienced.” Daniel, participant.

With nearly 200 different people participating in learning labs and events in Australia over the past two years, such impact underlines the fruitfulness of this journey in and through the beatitudes – and our ability to resource people. Dozens of churches are now involved and Australia Director Dan Hardie took a retreat with a group of pastors where he shared the resources with them. Each lead churches of very different styles and sizes, and most have indicated that they are planning to take their churches through the series. Churches were provided with welcome packs so they could connect with the broader Lifewords work.

“The beatitudes are such a great theme for our church to rally around. I’ve been looking for ways to unify and boost our connectedness after two difficult years. ... The group guide and individual notebooks will really help us go deep and do the practices together.” Philip, COC pastor, Sydney

AFRICA (KENYA)

The team in Kenya continued engaging people with the Bible through booklets, Pavement Project, and Choose Life. They also developed relationships with partners across Africa.

Bible resources and partnerships

- **52,981 copies of printed literature distributed** in English, Swahili and local languages in **13 African countries:** Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, DRC and Ethiopia.

- **52 meetings for partnerships and distribution:** 40 online and 12 in-person.
- **52 new partnerships** for programmes and Bible resources.
- **Partnership meetings (online and face-to-face) with partners from 14 African countries** for partnership for programmes and Bible resources: (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Malawi, DRC, Ethiopia, and South Africa.)

“The mission to Nakuru and Nyahururu Counties was such a big success! Thanks to Lifewords Bible Resources from Kenya office which enabled us to reach out to over 500 pastors. The two host bishops expressed a desire to have more of Little Book of Help in Kikuyu as it spoke to the hearts of their leaders and congregants. As we come towards the end of 2022, our local church has reached over 15,000 people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zanzibar using the inspiring and enriching materials of Lifewords. Allow me to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all who have sacrificially given so that people in Kenya and beyond are encouraged and inspired by the living Word of God. God bless and again thanks.” Rev. Kennedy Salano

Pavement Project

- **21 meetings with partners:** 10 in-person, 11 online.
- **10 hybrid meetings for partnership interactions and feedback**, this involved PP partners from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- **1 worker training**, involving 12 workers certified, 6 partnerships (3 of which were new).
- **14 meetings with trainers:** 9 online with trainers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; 5 in-person with trainers from Kenya, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

A 15-year-old boy in Tanzania who had been rejected by his parents felt very sad and worthless. He compared himself to a sad young man who has given up because he cries all the time. He picked the Light card when given an opportunity to choose a pocket card because he now wanted God to be the light in his life so that he doesn't again get lost. And at the end of the session, he compared himself to a diamond because he could see himself as very worthy.

Choose Life

- **6 online mentorship meetings** for 2 Choose Life trainers.
- **176 Sunday school teachers from 62 churches** were equipped to implement the Choose Life programme in Kenya. The trainings were done in 4 locations: Mombasa, Nairobi, Bungoma and Malaba by 2 trainers: Jane and Daniel.
- **5,000 copies** of the children booklets printed.
- **2,000 children** were introduced to the first module, Choose Others.

Sabine Museve is one of the teachers trained in Choose Life from Kimilili, Bungoma, Kenya in 2008. She has been consistently using the Choose Life programme through her organisation, Christian Mission International where they have a childcare programme, reaching out to orphans and supporting them in their education, as well as their other physical, psychological and spiritual needs. She says the Choose Life programme has been a viable tool in equipping the young people with moral values, and therefore enabling them to make the right choices in life. During the last school holidays, she reached out to us for more children booklets and later engaged them using the Choose Right module during a holiday camp. She was excited to see the children open up, share some of the wrong choices they have made as they later at the end committed to change, to Choose Right.

Three years ago, we shared a story of our work with schools and churches in West Pokot, a region where female genital mutilation (FGM) cultural practice is rampant. Through the Choose Life programme, the young girls are being helped to change their attitudes and make different choices.

School and Sunday school teachers began to use the curriculum as a mentorship tool to help the girls caught up in the dilemmas with FGM practices.

During our follow up with Susan, the chairperson of the women's network in Kacheliba, she reported having rescued 60 girls who were facing the risk of FGM in their homes. The network is housing them in their centres as they go to school. She said many of them no longer think it is something to be proud of and are making more informed choices concerning the rites of passage options in their culture. The women from the network are thankful to God for the opportunities to introduce the Choose Life programme to their community. Pray that the girls and families affected will experience healing from their trauma as they engage them through the Bible.

INDONESIA

Over the year the team have continued to take mobile missions to several places, conducting The Visible Story (TVS) and flipcard training, booklet distribution, Lifewords Kids Ministry, retreats, seminars, and conferences.

- Mobile missions to **South East Timor** (Naibonat, Kupang, SoE (Timor Island)); **Ba'a** (Rote Island); **Kalabahi** (Alor Island); **North Sulawesi** (Manado, Tomohon, Tondano (Sulawesi Island)); **Central Java** (Banyumas, Purwokerto, Cilacap, Solo, Klaten (Java Island)); **East Java** (Malang, Tulungagung, (Java Island)); **West Java** (Bogor, Bandung, Bekasi. (Java Island)); **West Kalimantan** (Pontinak, Landak, Sanggau, Ketapang); **Banten** (Tangerang, Baduy – Serang (Java Island)); **Jogyakarta** (Java Island).
- **650** pastors, church leaders, seminary students, Sunday school teachers joined TVS and flipcard training.
- **4,500 children** and **2,750 adults** reached.
- **54 locations** for Lifewords Kids Ministry.

Mobile missions

Throughout the year, the team travelled across Indonesia to connect with and train different communities in how to use TVS, flipcards, and other Lifewords resources, and also how to train others to use the material. They have trained pastors, church leaders, Sunday school teachers and Bible college students, some from very rural communities. Sometimes the communities they are visiting are facing poverty, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, so the team often give groceries and food parcels to those in need.

"The first time I received TVS I was very happy because this is the material that I have been looking for. Very simple, colourful, easy to use, and it helps all children to focus and listen to the Bible story. So this why I use TVS for every moment, for Sunday school, for birthday parties, and to reach our children." Jimmy, from Manado, North Sulawesi, one of the Sunday school teachers who joined the TVS training.

Lifewords Kids Ministry

Lifewords Kids Ministry continues to engage groups of children all over Indonesia with the Bible using games, songs, and Bible stories. The aim is to talk to the children about Jesus and encourage them to respond, while also investing in them for the future.

Another aspect to Lifewords Kids Ministry is responding to local needs. There are three people from Pelita Dunia Seminary's Alumni who serve in Naibonat, which is home to refugees from East Timor. Lifewords Kids Ministry opened Rainbow Kindergarten to reach some of the many children who had not had any formal education due to lack of government support for refugees from East Timor. Many children have had opportunity to study in this school and now most of them can read and write. There are plans to train all teachers, pastors, and church leaders so that they can help children to recover from their trauma, and also for their parents as they deal with the aftermath of the conflict that they have faced for many years.

“It was wonderful to see all the children change. Two years ago almost every child did not go to school, and their parent also did not ask their children to go to school, because for many of them education is not important. I have visited them every day and encouraged them to go to school, and praise the Lord now almost all children in Naibonat go to school.”

INDIA

Bible resources continued to be widely used in India. Pavement Project continued to be a large part of Lifewords India’s ministry with training and translation work continuing in 2022. New potential partnerships were explored via three online gatherings.

Bible resources

- India office helped in the translation and review of Bible Resources in **6 languages**.
- **More than 1,200** copies of *Can You Believe It* and *Finished/Risen* were distributed after a small print run in March.
- **6,000** copies of Christmas resources distributed in December. Resources were used by individuals and churches for Christmas programmes and outreach during the Christmas season.

Christian Medical College in Tamil Nadu has been using Lifewords resources to share the good news with their patients coming from all over India. The ministry team from the hospital regularly keep in touch with and update the resources. Students from two Bible Colleges in Andhra Pradesh are using Lifewords Bible resources for their outreach as they share the gospel and establish churches in 10 villages. NLAG Church in Chennai invited 100 non-Christian students from IIT, Chennai on 21 May and contacted Lifewords for resources. Later Vijay, one of the organisers, shared that around 80 non-believer students came for the programme. They heard the gospel for the first time and Lifewords resources (*You Matter*, *Finding Hope* and *Little Book of Character*) were shared with them. One Church, Pune, used English and Hindi *You Matter* to minister to techies in Pune. This church focuses on reaching out to individuals working in corporate companies. Annette from One Church says, “*You Matter* is one of the best booklets that we have used to help youth.” Evangelists in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal also use our resources regularly in sharing the good news.

Pavement Project

- **5 training workshops** – 3 in Kerala, 1 in Andhra Pradesh and 1 in Gujarat, using 3 languages: Malayalam, Telugu, Gujarati.
- **39 workers trained** from the states of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- **1 trainer certified** to train others – Biju Kannan can train in 2 languages: English and Malayalam.
- **Translation** of workers resources in Telugu and Gujarati in process.

10 couples who are children’s home wardens from Gujarat and Maharashtra were trained in November 2022. Pavement Project India will reach around 1,000 children with the green bag through this group. Most of the children are from tribal communities from rural areas of Gujarat.

Two Pavement Project workers from Sri Lanka that we trained in 2017 give regular updates about their activities and use of the green bag. The workers themselves are from economically difficult backgrounds and they have been tirelessly working among the community conducting activities for children. Through the children they reach out to the families. In December, we raised funds to give gifts for 150 children and for programme expenses. The children and the couple were greatly blessed and have expressed their special gratitude and thanks to Lifewords.

Alice is a 14-year-old girl. Her parents left her in a children's home a few years ago and never returned. Alice felt very sad and compared herself to a kitten, who doesn't have anyone to take care of her and who wanders around and has to live at the mercy of others. As she heard the Bible stories from the green bag, she said that she felt happy that Jesus cares for her. She chose the 'Protecting Hands' pocket card and said, "God will protect me because he cares for me". At the end she compared herself to a bird, which is the pet of a loving home. The worker shared that Alice left the room happier knowing that Jesus loves her and cares for her. * Name has been changed.*

WAYS INTO THE BIBLE – Reaching and engaging new generations

VERSEFIRST

In 2022, VerseFirst saw increased development in how it reaches new audiences on social media, with a number of different strategies, including increased advertising of posts which meant it reached beyond its established followers; experimenting with video content to keep up with the algorithm; market research among teenagers at Big Church Day Out; a design competition to encourage young people in their engagement and presentation of the Bible.

- **614,794 accounts reached** by our Instagram posts, an increase of 84% on the previous year.
- **7,902 profile views**, an increase of 44% from 2021.
- **336 new followers**.
- **Top "liked" VerseFirst post:** "Don't get side tracked; keep your feet from following evil" (Proverbs). Liked by 1,068 people, 56% of whom were in our target age range of 18–24.

Campaigns

Through the year we posted stand-alone verses as usual, and also had three special campaigns:

- Easter – Do You See This Woman?
- Summer – StorySharers competition.
- Christmas – 4 specially designed posts and 4 reels.

We learned from each of these campaigns, not least avoiding the trap of our own age-based bias in terms of design and tone. The StorySharers campaign was a great start at reaching new, creative audiences, and has given us a base to build on.

Target audience

The target for VerseFirst has been to reduce the age of the audience to re-align the project with the original audience of teenagers. In January, a post-boost caused a spike in the number of accounts we were shown to, and one 14-year-old commented this:

"Thank you so much. I'm 14 and only started reading the Bible regularly recently. I needed this. Praise the Lord! I also think that this verse can help my friends a lot."

The largest age group we are reaching is still 25–54, but we are down from 40.5% to 35.8%, which is in line with our target from last year to reduce the age range of our audience. The next largest age group is 18–24, which is currently at 27.8%.

Our Facebook reach is healthy, but the age of people typically using that platform is higher than our target audience on Instagram, so we don't focus on Facebook. Engagement of any kind on Instagram is a struggle because the algorithm favours sales posts and influencers. Our plans for 2023 are to continue to reduce the age range of followers and engaged accounts.

In-person activity

In May we exhibited at Big Church Day Out with the intention of canvassing the opinion of young people who were attending the festival – see information above.

NINE BEATS

Work on next steps and future re-shaping of NINE BEATS continued as live events slowly became more prevalent, though still tentative. Through the year, we maintained presence online and in person, and explored how we might best provide the environment and trajectory for the project to reach more of its potential in the church and beyond.

Live events

Two live events (sponsored by Jerusalem Trust) were held in October. We will carry over the remaining grant for this to later in 2023. At Ascension Church in Hulme and Inclusive Gathering, Birmingham, we shared the beatitudes with a mix of music, spiritual formation, storytelling, liturgy, beatitudes teaching, spoken word and more. Some general attendee feedback:

“It was just a beautiful, beautiful afternoon. It really reflected our values as a community and what we’re trying to be here in this space ... it was a real thrill ... so I am really, really grateful and I’m hoping we can do more together.”

“It was really phenomenal, and we could really experience God’s presence in many ways, and the music, and the band was awesome. It included everyone, it was inviting, and it’s really good to be here.”

“First time here. Loved music and communion. Found the experience very uplifting.”

“Thank you for bringing such joy to our Sunday. It was lovely to feel so uplifted, yet real – plus relevant issues were discussed.”

A small spike owing to the two events only confirmed that activity is key to the nature of the engagement. Small increments, up to 1,676 followers on Instagram, around 1,000 on Facebook – but a focussed push needs to be implemented when live events allow, as this is the main gateway for engagement in this realm.

Church engagement, funding and partnerships

Since we have been initiating our church engagement strategy over the past few years, NINE BEATS and Ninefold Path have been a connection point for numerous networks/groups. In 2022, conversations with several were initiated, including: Heartedge Network – both core and five churches/communities linking NINE BEATS/Music & Spiritual formation; St Stephens Church Norwich; Top Church Dudley; St James, Clerkenwell & The Pitch; The Crosby Collective, and several more. We also began developing a link with Churches Together in England (CTE), and exploring other avenues for partnerships.

At a leadership meeting in June, we decided that the best opportunity to deliver and grow the project was to maximise seeking funding and partnerships from external sources, rather than from Lifewords alone. This began a careful process, as any integration with our church relationships needed to be kept in mind as we continued to seek external funding and partnerships, while maintaining the benefit already evident for our internal church engagement. Our goal is to honour the investment made by Lifewords and generate future opportunities for a project that is appreciated in several spaces within the Christian mission world, in as much as it aligns with Lifewords mission, vision, and direction in a rapidly changing missional and cultural environment.

A three-day developmental workshop was held with key collective members in Pepperdine University, USA to scope out what collateral was needed to create and use in meetings seeking support, funding, and partnerships in 2023. The USA side of the project is a very different cultural and religious space than

UK/Europe and has potential for a different level of development. Subsequent conversations have indicated some substantive sources of potential funding. The aim is to get us in front of the right people and organisations in order to assess potential by the end of 2023. It is also worth recognising that one of the prime components of the project is the diversity of the collaboration (people and content): our conversations sought to maintain and develop this aspect in and of itself, and to reach a more diverse audience, in the medium and long term.

Ninefold Path

During April we completed the stipendiary relationship with Mark Scandrette with a spring OMS Learning Lab – sharing our gratitude for the co-creation (with Danielle Welch) and initial delivery in UK, USA, Kenya and Australia.

A reminder of the impact of the curriculum came from participants in the lab:

“This is a beautiful opportunity to steep in the words of Jesus, allow them to do deep work in you, and move you from contemplation to action. This methodology is highly commendable and is causing me to re-evaluate some of the methods we use in ministry!”

“It is amazing that meeting just once a week to look at the Ninefold Path and taking part in the labs actually embeds the teaching into everyday life. Very powerful learning too.”

The door is ajar should particular groups require (and fund) the live curriculum labs. The content is also an ongoing component in the broader presentation and events context. The Ninefold Path resource began to be promoted more primarily as a group booklet resource/series for churches and groups, in line with original concepts – starting in Australia and in UK at the start of 2023. The switch of structure allows us to bring other voices to the fore and widen the way NINE BEATS/Ninefold Path is presented and perceived by audiences.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income was £2,595,799, an increase of £1,176,082 (+83%) on the previous year [2021: decrease of £121,351]. This reflects higher donations and grants (an increase of £42,414 on 2021) and higher legacy income (an increase of £1,145,823 on 2021). The financial statements show that 36% of income came from donations and grants [2021: 62%], 63% from legacies [2021: 35%], and 1% from literature sales, investments and other income [2021: 3%]. Total expenditure was £1,446,909 – an increase of £74,125 (+5%) on the previous year [2021: decrease of £121,050]. The Charity spent 93% of total expenditure on developing, producing, and delivering products and programmes in the UK and overseas [2021: 93%]. 7% was spent on raising funds [2021: 7%].

During the past financial year there was a surplus on ordinary activities of £1,148,890 [2021: surplus of £46,933]. The net movement in funds in 2022, which includes other recognised gains and losses, produced a surplus on the total funds of £2,054,288 [2021: surplus of £1,185,716]. This surplus includes FRS102 actuarial gains on the defined benefit pension scheme of £947,000 [2021: actuarial gains of £976,000].

Reserves policy

The Board has a formal reserves policy which is to hold in reserve sums to cover nine months’ planned expenditure (currently calculated at £1.5m) in order to respond to any (unforeseen) change in circumstances and levels of income. Through the approval and management of appropriate budgets the Charity also ensures it is in a position to maximise investment opportunities. Free reserves at 31 December 2022 (calculated as net assets, excluding restricted funds, the pension reserve, property & fixed assets and stock) were £2,267,692 [2021: £2,065,702]. This is above the reserves policy level (taking into account legacies recently notified, and also plans for future use of Ministry Development funds) and is considered adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Investment policy and review

The Trustees pursue an investment policy on behalf of the Charity which provides a balance between income and capital growth, with a medium level of risk over the longer term, thereby enabling the Trustees to meet their objectives in respect of the requirements of the charity. Designated funds have been invested in the Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities in line with the above policy. The performance of the Newton Fund during the year was -4.7% against the comparative index of -6.7% [2021: performance of 19.2% against comparative index performance of 13.3%]. During the year the Fund outperformed its comparative index by 2% [2021: outperformed by 5.9%]. The fund remains ahead of the index over three, five and ten years. At the end of the year the investments in the Newton Fund showed cumulative unrealised gains of £472,496 [2021: unrealised gains of £544,098]. The Trustees are satisfied with the current return on capital.

Pension fund

The Charity has two pension schemes. One is a defined contribution scheme with Aegon which is currently open to new members and meets the requirements of auto-enrolment. The second is a defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, which has been closed to new members since 25 March 2003 and closed to new accrual since 23 May 2012; and which, for the purposes of FRS102, showed a funding deficit of £619,000 [2021: deficit of £1,702,000]. The corresponding asset / liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. In September 2014 the Trustees put in place a contingent asset security agreement with the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme (on a property currently valued at the book value of £713,303) to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer. A full triennial actuarial valuation of the pension fund as of 6 April 2022 is currently under way. If necessary, the Recovery Plan will be adjusted to take account of the result of this valuation. Contributions to the pension scheme are met through additional contributions from the Charity. The pension liability is therefore excluded from the free reserves calculation. Details of the retirement benefit schemes are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As always, our desire is to be diligent stewards of the ministry and to work out of a vision for the mission and work of Lifewords that remains sustainable, fruitful and transformative.

While Covid has eased as a “clear and present danger”, finances, income generation, church activities, supporter engagement/nurture, capacity, all in the context of global mission and Bible work, continue to be our challenge. Our priorities are always to foster outcomes that nurture the best collaborative partnerships, most appropriate infrastructure, best content/delivery and most effective engagement with the Bible.

In 2023 we will do that in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings:

Bible Resources

In line with our Scripture Gift Mission heritage of a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages that equips hundreds of thousands of Christians all over the world in their witness, evangelism, discipleship, and proclamation of the gospel; we will continue to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages, while adding to this range and investing in digital delivery to augment print. We will complete our project to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages year-on-year and achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print and digital versions) in fifty languages by (or before) end 2023.

Digital

We will continue to learn, develop, adapt to and be aware of the ever-changing digital and broader online environment, working to ensure accessibility of our existing resources in digital formats and create new, authentic digital engagement with Scripture. We will keep on exploring and investing in digital development and innovation to engage Scripture with youth and teen content creators.

Marketing/comms

We will increase ministry profile to uplift impact of our resources – extending profile through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement

We will continue networking with churches, communities, and partners to increase presence, profile and positioning within UK churches – positioning Lifeworlds as a vibrant, go-to producer of resources, projects and programmes that bring the Bible’s message to people in all walks of life. We will continue to position ourselves as a forward-looking heritage brand, producing materials that empower and equip, inspire, and engage people with the Bible’s life words.

Bible Engagement projects

We will refine our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape, and seek to identify partners, both practical and financial.

Pavement Project

We will embed a new trainers’ app and online training, alongside in-person counselling. The “train the trainers” model will continue, with growth in more regions.

NINE BEATS

Our beatitudes-based project will look to more partnerships and networks, and continue to assess scale/funding opportunities and development. We will further connect with churches and the culture at large, both through the Ninefold Path curriculum and live events as appropriate. We will continue to foster the broad collaboration around the beatitudes/Sermon on the Mount as a key text for our time.

Funding

We will continue to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors, and approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, core, and new digital and “entrepreneurial” donors. We will grow UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifeworlds organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30 December 1916, and altered by subsequent special resolutions, the most recent being dated 23 June 2011. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company and there are currently 61 members [2021: 64], each of whom agrees to contribute £1.05p in the event of the winding up of the Company.

Organisation

The Board administers the Charity and meets at least four times a year. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has established an International Executive Team to lead the Mission and who have authority, within terms of delegation from the Board, for operational matters including finance, employment, and programme-related activity. The International Executive Team consists of the international directors: Steve Bassett (Creative & Communications), John Harris (Finance & Operations), Jarek Jankowski (Global

Bible Resources), Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project), and Dan Hardie (Australia/New Zealand). The day-to-day operations in the UK are overseen by Steve Bassett & John Harris with Jarek Jankowski in constant contact.

The Charity is the leading member of the Lifeworlds global family of organisations. The other members are separately incorporated companies in their respective countries. In 2022, there were agency agreements with member organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, India, Indonesia, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board or by Ordinary Resolution of members for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election on two successive occasions only. A trustee cannot serve for a period of more than nine years, save with approval by unanimous vote from the Board.

Trustee induction and training

An introductory pack for potential trustees is in use. A programme of preliminary meetings with the Executive Team and Board members (including the Chair) precedes an invitation to attend a Board meeting, prior to an invitation to join the Board. Trustees are offered the opportunity to attend trustee training courses such as those provided by the National Charity Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

Related parties

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifeworlds Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2022.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2021: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £5,075 for design services [2021: £1,125].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £370 [2021: £363].

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees (who are the Company Directors) and the senior staff with International Office responsibilities, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely, and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in Note 9 of the financial statements.

The pay of all staff, including senior staff, is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with (CPI) inflation, if funds allow. If funding is under pressure, preference is given to lower-paid staff when making any pay awards. Senior staff pay is benchmarked against pay levels in similar organisations (religious/Christian charities of a similar turnover and size) using information from Third Sector pay surveys (published by ACEVO and Global Connections). The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. Salaries were last benchmarked in September 2019.

Fundraising practice

The Charity is committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical and godly manner. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres strictly to their Code of Fundraising Practice and all legal obligations. We proactively monitor revisions to this code to ensure all our fundraising activities remain fully compliant. We confirm that we received no complaints regarding

our fundraising activities or practices during this year or the previous year. We do not sell or swap data with other charities or organisations or make any cold telephone calls to the general public. In 2022 the Charity did not contract the services of professional fundraisers as defined by section 58 of the Charities Act 1992. We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. If we become aware of any vulnerable people on our database, we ensure that they do not receive any appeals and ensure that any requests for details to be updated or deleted from our database are handled quickly. We have signed up to receive suppressions under the Fundraising Preference Service.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Board members are also cognisant of the requirement and responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and have taken steps towards the implementation of an ongoing process of risk assessment.

The risk management strategy includes:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should these risks materialise

The key risks facing the charity are identified as (a) reliance on legacy income; (b) deficit position of the charity's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; (c) loss of key management personnel; and (d) loss or damage to reputation (and subsequent loss of support). The Trustees and senior staff have sought to address these risks in 2022 through ongoing review of long-term financial strategy; ongoing management of the Pension Scheme; ongoing development of local Boards and personnel in the associated organisations outside the UK (increasing capacity and reducing the risk of losing key personnel in the UK); and ongoing oversight of creative development, particularly in new areas, with a view to safeguarding reputation.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

DISCLOSURE

The Trustees confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and that they have taken all reasonable steps as charity trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 14 August 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In 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 Directors' Report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime, and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

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.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation, anti-money laundering regulations.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the charity is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax legislation, pension legislation, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to income recognition and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Nicola Wakefield (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4FS
Date: 16 August 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General Fund	Designated Funds			
Income		Revaluation Reserve				
		£		£	£	£
Donations and grants		436,271	-	486,116	922,387	879,973
Legacies		840,689	-	800,000	1,640,689	494,866
		1,276,960	-	1,286,116	2,563,076	1,374,839
Investment income	3	22,274	-	-	22,274	20,978
Other income	4	10,449	-	-	10,449	23,900
Total income		1,309,683	-	1,286,116	2,595,799	1,419,717
Expenditure	5					
Costs of raising funds		95,337	-	-	95,337	100,497
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Providing Bible resources		532,046	25,000	477,014	1,034,060	1,006,153
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need		231,387	25,000	36,857	293,244	245,391
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners		24,268	-	-	24,268	20,743
		787,701	50,000	513,871	1,351,572	1,272,287
Total expenditure		883,038	50,000	513,871	1,446,909	1,372,784
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses		426,645	(50,000)	772,245	1,148,890	46,933
Realised & unrealised gains on property assets	11	30,000	-	-	30,000	27,183
Realised & unrealised (losses)/gains on investment assets	12	(71,602)	-	-	(71,602)	135,600
Net income/(expenditure)		385,043	(50,000)	772,245	1,107,288	209,716
Other recognised gains and losses						
Remeasurement gains on defined benefit pension scheme	19	947,000	-	-	947,000	976,000
Net movement in funds		1,332,043	(50,000)	772,245	2,054,288	1,185,716
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward 1 January 2022		787,295	475,000	52,937	1,315,232	129,516
Funds carried forward 31 December 2022		2,119,338	425,000	825,182	3,369,520	1,315,232

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years are derived from continuing activities. There are no other recognised gains or losses relating to either year.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2022

		2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	10	841,218	873,493
Investment property	11	30,000	-
Investments	12	914,109	985,711
Total fixed assets		1,785,327	1,859,204
Current assets			
Debtors	14	1,639,596	407,873
Stock		24,428	25,100
Short-term deposits		152,411	151,799
Cash at bank and in hand		468,499	722,270
Total current assets		2,284,934	1,307,042
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(81,741)	(149,014)
Net current assets		2,203,193	1,158,028
Net assets excluding pension liability		3,988,520	3,017,232
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(619,000)	(1,702,000)
Total net assets		3,369,520	1,315,232
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	16	825,182	52,937
Unrestricted funds	16		
General fund		1,802,838	1,583,795
Designated funds		1,330,500	1,380,500
Revaluation reserve (property investment)		30,000	-
Pension scheme reserve deficit	19	(619,000)	(1,702,000)
Total unrestricted funds		2,544,338	1,262,295
Total charity funds		3,369,520	1,315,232

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 30 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 14 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 14 August 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income as per SOFA		2,054,288	1,185,716
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	10	30,236	32,736
Losses/(gains) on investments	11/12	41,602	(162,783)
Investment income	3	(22,274)	(20,978)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	(1,231,723)	98,270
Inventories	BS	672	(2,936)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	15	(67,273)	57,287
Net cash provided by operating activities		805,528	1,187,312
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	10	2,039	(7,601)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	11	-	70,683
Investment income	3	22,274	20,978
Net cash provided by investing activities		24,313	84,060
Cashflows from financing activities			
Movement in defined benefit pension scheme	19	(1,083,000)	(1,127,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		(1,083,000)	(1,127,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20	(253,159)	144,372
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	874,069	729,697
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	620,910	874,069

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. At the accounting date there were 61 members [2021:64]. Each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required in the event of the winding up of the Charity up to a maximum of £1.05 (one guinea) each.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to 31 December 2024 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ending 31 December 2023. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes of the Charity is to help people everywhere to experience the Bible as good news for their lives through programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools, the level of this needed expenditure is at the discretion of the Trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The Trustees have also considered the Charity's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. As a result of the foregoing the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available to use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects. There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme, giving a balance at year end of £nil [2021: £nil]. The second fund of £425,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2021: £475,000]. These designated funds were established following the surrender of the lease of the Charity's former offices in 2010. Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with restrictions expressed by donors or which have been raised for specific purposes. The details of the appropriate funds in the accounting year are shown at Note 16.

c) Income

All income is reflected in the financial statements when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earliest date of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the Charity's charitable activities. Where possible, all direct costs have been allocated to the appropriate activity. All other costs have been assigned as support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and IT, premises and facilities, governance costs, and administration costs for the defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in Note 6.

f) Depreciation

The basis for charging depreciation is that assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful lives in the Charity's activities.

Office long-term lease – over 50 years
Office purchase costs and irrecoverable VAT – over 50 years
Leasehold improvements and refurbishment – over 10 years
Equipment, fixtures and fittings – over 5 years
Computers – over 4 years

g) Investment property

The investment property, which comprises a half share in four freehold blocks of flats is shown at the valuation date of September 2022 (Note 11). At 31 December 2022 the investment property consists of the freehold as the last remaining apartment was sold during the prior year [2021: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. No depreciation is provided in respect of this property. The rental income from the investment had been shown net after expenses, in view of the immaterial amounts involved.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the accounting date. All unrealised gains and losses representing the change in value from the previous accounting date are charged against the appropriate fund.

i) Stocks

Printing costs are charged to production costs at the date of purchase, but no account is taken of the stocks of completed or incomplete publications at the end of the accounting period, as these will be given away free of charge (Note 13).

j) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain the lessor's, are charged against income as incurred.

k) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Charity has no liability to United Kingdom taxation on its charitable activities.

l) Pension

The Charity operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme based on final pensionable salary, which is now closed to new employees and to further accrual. This has been replaced by a defined contribution scheme with Aegon based on individual personal pension funds for new employees. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the above insurance companies. Contributions to both schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Charity. The contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined on the recommendation of a qualified actuary and to the defined contribution scheme by agreement between the Charity and its employees.

In accordance with FRS102, the SOFA includes: the cost of benefits accruing during the year in respect of current service (charged against net income/(expenditure)); the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities arising from the passage of time (charged against net income/(expenditure)); and actuarial losses recognised in the pension scheme (shown within net movement of funds). In accordance with FRS102, the balance sheet includes the deficit in the scheme, taking assets at their year-end market values and liabilities at their actuarially calculated values discounted at year-end AA corporate bonds yield curve. Further details regarding the scheme are disclosed in Note 19.

m) Foreign currencies

Foreign currencies have been converted to £ sterling at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the Balance Sheet date.

n) Significant management judgements

The following are the management judgements in applying the policies of the Charity that have the most significant impact on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- **Accrued legacy income:** The Charity has made an assessment as to whether the conditions recognition of legacy income are met on a case by case basis, specifically in respect of the measurement of the amount due. In making these judgements, management considered the detailed criteria set out in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

The Charity's investment income of £22,274 [2021: £20,978] arises from dividends from fixed asset investments (£20,514 [2021: £20,308]), interest bearing deposit accounts (£1,760 [2021: £670]).

4 OTHER INCOME

The Charity's other income of £10,449 [2021: £23,900] arises from HMRC employment allowance (£5,000 [2021: £4,000]), HMRC Job Retention Scheme (£nil [2021: £16,189]), literature sales, some church display rack sales, and the sale of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources (£5,449 [2021: £3,711]).

5 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs of raising funds	66,864	28,473	95,337	100,497
Total cost of raising funds	66,864	28,473	95,337	100,497
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Providing Bible resources	851,388	182,672	1,034,060	1,006,153
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	276,633	16,611	293,244	245,391
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	14,741	9,527	24,268	20,743
Total expenditure on charitable activities	1,142,762	208,810	1,351,572	1,272,287
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,209,626	237,283	1,446,909	1,372,784

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	General management £	Premises, Finance & IT £	DB pension admin, legal & finance £	Depreciation £	Governance costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs of raising funds	4,930	11,415	5,612	3,628	2,888	28,473	38,856
Providing Bible resources	31,225	72,293	37,882	22,979	18,293	182,672	198,318
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	2,876	6,659	3,274	2,117	1,685	16,611	15,542
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	2,054	4,757	-	1,512	1,204	9,527	6,331
Total support costs	41,085	95,124	46,768	30,236	24,070	237,283	259,047

Cost allocation includes an element of judgement and the Charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record-keeping. To ensure full cost recovery on projects, the Charity adopts a policy of allocating costs to the respective cost headings through the year. This allocation includes support costs where they are directly attributable. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. The defined benefit pension administration and finance costs include elements from both the General Fund and the Defined Benefit Pension (FRS102) Fund.

7 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2022	Total 2021
GOVERNANCE COSTS	£	£
Auditors' fees	11,453	10,173
Professional and legal fees	2,099	498
Strategic management	9,867	1,787
Trustees' expenses	651	-
Total governance costs	24,070	12,458

Auditors' fees include £11,453 for Audit fee and irrecoverable VAT on fee [2021: £9,600] and £nil for other services [2021: £573].

8 STAFF COSTS

	Total 2022	Total 2021
Staff costs	£	£
Salaries	300,915	352,185
Social security	32,172	34,532
Pension	31,195	35,889
Total staff costs	364,282	422,606

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 during the year or previous year. Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds. During the prior year one staff post was made redundant, with a statutory termination payment of £5,440, all of which has been paid.

The key management personnel of the Charity, comprise the Trustees, Creative Director, Finance Director and Global Bible Resources Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £162,744 [2021: £161,895].

The average monthly head count was 10 staff [2021: 10 staff]. At year-end the charity had 4 full-time staff [2021: 4 full-time staff] and 3 part-time staff [2021: 4 part-time staff]. The average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was 7 [2021: 9].

In the way that our global family of organisations operates, senior staff (key management personnel) in the UK are also responsible for facilitating and supporting work in the other six Lifewords centres in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and USA. All other national or functional directors report to the International Executive Team, as part of a global leadership team. Together as a global family we employ a further 20-25 staff outside of the UK, and have about the same number again of volunteers making a significant contribution to training and coordinating our Bible programmes. A further 50+ volunteers serve as facilitators (peer mentors) for Pavement Project initiatives.

During the year the Charity transferred £165,648 to the defined pension scheme as part of the Recovery Plan [2021: £186,396] and £nil in respect of accrual of benefits [2021: £nil] in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions.

9 TRUSTEES

The Board members were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity during the year or previous year. The aggregated amount of expenses reimbursed to one Board member during the year was £651 [2021: £nil]. No Board member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity during the year or previous year.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Office purchase, refurbishment & VAT costs £	Office leasehold £	Total £
At 1 January 2022	127,536	207,349	869,880	1,204,765
Additions	2,326	-	-	2,326
VAT adjustments	-	(4,365)	-	(4,365)
Disposals and written off	(24,593)	-	-	(24,593)
Cost at 31 December 2022	105,269	202,984	869,880	1,178,133
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	119,940	72,151	139,181	331,272
Charge for the year	4,608	8,232	17,396	30,236
Disposals and written off	(24,593)	-	-	(24,593)
Depreciation at 31 December 2022	99,955	80,383	156,577	336,915
Net book value				
At 31 December 2022	5,314	122,601	713,303	841,218
At 31 December 2021	7,596	135,198	730,699	873,493

All the above assets were used in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects.

The Trustees have granted a first legal charge over the office leasehold to the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer.

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2022 £	2021 £
UK property		
Value at 1 January	-	43,500
Revaluation	30,000	27,183
Disposals during year		(70,683)
Value at 31 December	30,000	-

The investment property at 31 December 2022 consists of a half share in four freehold blocks of flats [2021: freehold]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. The freehold was valued in September C Hennessy MRICS Register Valuer. There are no charges over this property or restrictions on its use.

	2022 £	2021 £
Revaluation Reserve balance		
At original valuation at 1 January	-	6,293
Disposals during year	-	(6,293)
At original valuation at 31 December	-	-
Revaluation reserve balance (Note 16)	30,000	-

The original valuation was the market valuation at the date of death, as the property was acquired as a legacy.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	985,711	850,111
Change in value in the year	(71,602)	135,600
Market value at 31 December	914,109	985,711

Historical cost:

At 31 December	441,613	441,613
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Listed investments are represented by 584,992 units in Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities at a book value of £441,613 [2021: £441,613]. The cumulative unrealised gains on these investments are £472,496 [2021: £544,098].

13 STOCK OF SCRIPTURES

Stocks of Scripture publications held for future distribution, which have not been included in the assets on the Balance Sheet as these will be given away free of charge, have been valued by the Charity at 31 December 2022 at the sum of £110,000 [2021: £119,000]. This valuation has not been subject to audit.

14 DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Legacy debtors (unrestricted)	775,224	373,422
Legacy debtors (restricted)	800,000	-
Taxation recoverable	8,799	12,728
VAT recoverable	34,032	-
Pre-payments and other	21,541	21,723
Total debtors	1,639,596	407,873

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxation and social security	7,351	9,295
Trade creditors	32,422	51,570
VAT liability	-	16,705
Other creditors	41,968	71,444
Total creditors due within one year	81,741	149,014

16 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Investment Gains/(losses)	Actuarial Gains	Balance at 31 December £
Restricted funds							
Providing Bible resources	17,937	449,572	(467,509)	-	-	-	-
Choose Life	-	777	(777)	-	-	-	-
Pavement Project	5,000	835,647	(36,857)	-	-	-	803,790
NINE BEATS	30,000	120	(8,728)	-	-	-	21,392
	52,937	1,286,116	(513,871)	-	-	-	825,182
Unrestricted funds							
Designated							
Security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry development	475,000	-	(50,000)	-	-	-	425,000
Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
General	787,295	1,309,683	(883,038)	-	(71,602)	947,000	2,089,338
	1,262,295	1,309,683	(933,038)	-	(41,602)	947,000	2,544,338
Total funds	1,315,232	2,595,799	(1,446,909)	-	(41,602)	947,000	3,369,520

The fund for providing Bible resources covers publications in a wide range of countries. Restricted income was also received and expended towards the development of the NINE BEATS project, aimed at engaging emerging generations with the Bible through the Beatitudes.

The funds for Choose Life and Pavement Project cover the current operation and ongoing development of these programmes (a values-based life-skills curriculum for teenagers, and the training & resourcing of workers in a Bible-based counselling process for children-at-risk, respectively).

There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme giving a balance at year end of £nil [2021: £nil]. The second fund of £425,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2021: £475,000].

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:					
Fixed assets	424,827	30,000	1,330,500	-	1,785,327
Current assets	1,459,752	-	-	825,182	2,284,934
Current liabilities	(81,741)	-	-	-	(81,741)
Total net assets before pension liability	1,802,838	30,000	1,330,500	825,182	3,988,520
Long term pension liability	286,500	-	(905,500)	-	(619,000)
Total net assets	2,089,338	30,000	425,000	825,182	3,369,520

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2022.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2021: £350,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £5,075 for design services [2021: £1,125].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £370 [2021: £363].

19 PENSION

The Charity operates two pension schemes in the UK. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with separate insurance companies. One is a funded defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, and the other a defined contribution scheme with Aegon; the former having closed to new employees on 25 March 2003 and closed to further accrual on 23 May 2013, with the latter being open to all new employees. Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are assessed on the basis of the advice of qualified actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Pension costs charged were:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Defined benefit scheme (Recovery Plan)	166	162
Defined benefit scheme (additional transfer)	-	24
Defined contribution scheme	31	36
Total	197	222

No amounts were owing at the year end [2021: £nil].

Additional FRS102 disclosures

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based upon the latest full actuarial valuation at 6 April 2019 and updated by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

%	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Rate of increase in salaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase for pensions in payment and deferred pension	3.05	3.15	2.85	2.90	3.10
Discount rate	4.85	1.85	1.25	2.05	2.90
Inflation assumption - retail price index increase	3.20	3.30	2.95	3.00	3.20

19 PENSION (continued)

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/22 %		2021 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/21 %		2020 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/20 %		2019 fair value £'000	
Legal & General funds												
Managed Funds	4.8		3,569		4.8		5,112		4.8		4,575	
Annuities	2.7		1,155		2.7		1,478		2.7		1,664	
Total market value of assets			<u>4,724</u>				<u>6,590</u>				<u>6,239</u>	
Present value of scheme liabilities			<u>5,343</u>				<u>8,292</u>				<u>9,068</u>	
Deficit in scheme being the net pension liability			(619)				(1,702)				(2,829)	

Analysis of the amount charged against operating income

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Current service cost	-	-
Past service cost	-	-
Total operating charge	-	-

Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income or debited to other finance costs

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Expected return on pension scheme assets	121	77
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(151)	(112)
Net return	(30)	(35)

Re-measurements over the year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
(Losses)/gains on assets in excess of interest	(1,927)	374
Experience losses on liabilities	(108)	-
Gains from changes to demographic assumptions	2	5
Gains from changes to financial assumptions	2,980	597
Re-measurements over the year	947	976

The movements on the scheme deficit during the period for FRS102 purposes are:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deficit in the scheme at beginning of year	(1,702)	(2,829)
Movement in year		
Contributions	166	186
Interest on assets	121	77
Interest cost	(151)	(112)
Re-measurements over the year	947	976
Deficit in the scheme carried forward	(619)	(1,702)

19 PENSION (continued)**History of experienced gains and losses**

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Difference between actual and expected return on scheme assets (£'000)	(1,927)	374	228	410	(253)	190
Percentage of scheme assets at end of year	(40.8)	5.7	3.7	6.8	(4.7)	3.4
Experience gains/(losses) on scheme liabilities (£'000)	(108)	-	45	40	-	3
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(2.0)	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.0
Total amount recognised in SOFA (£'000)	947	976	(843)	(617)	159	(67)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	17.7	11.8	(9.3)	(7.6)	2.3	(0.9)

Volatility of FRS102

It should be noted that the methodology and assumptions prescribed for the purposes of FRS102 mean that these disclosures are inherently volatile, varying greatly according to investment market conditions at each accounting date.

20 NOTE TO THE CASH FLOW

	At 1 January 2022	Cash flows	At 31 December 2022
Cash at bank	722,270	(253,771)	468,499
Cash on deposit	151,799	612	152,411
	874,069	(253,159)	620,910
Net cash	874,069	(253,159)	620,910

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales - Charity number 219055

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated)**

**Company number 145932
Charity number 219055**

LIFEWORDS
www.lifewords.global

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006; the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Charity Number:	219055
Company Number:	145932
Operating Name:	Lifewords
Registered Office:	1A The Chandlery 50 Westminster Bridge Road LONDON SE1 7QY
Independent Auditor:	Mazars LLP 2 nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza Sutton Court Road Sutton SM1 4FS
Principal Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 9RH
Investment Manager	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd Client Service Centre, PO Box 366 DARLINGTON DL1 9RF

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

The Trustees of the charity are the Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are referred to as "the Board" or "the Trustees". Board members serving during the year were as follows:

Directors and Trustees	David Morgan	(Chair until 18 March 2021, retired 1 July)
	Robin Baker	
	Liz Heyburn	(Chair from 18 March 2021)
	Mark Hurley	
	Jo Jowett	
	Bev Thomas	
Company Secretary	Eduardo Juan Harris	

Key management personnel: Executive Team

Creative & Communications Director	Steve Bassett
Finance & Operations Director	Eduardo Juan Harris
Global Bible Resources Director	Jarek Jankowski

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Charity is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, formed to take the Christian Gospel worldwide by the creation and predominantly free distribution of Scripture products and programmes. This is achieved through an International and UK Office in London, which also has close links with legally separate organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

AIMS

Working with partners around the world and with the church at large, the Charity works so that everyone, everywhere may have the opportunity to experience the Bible's life words as good news for their lives, and for the world. We do this by creating opportunities for life words to be shared and lived out. All our programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools invite people to explore the Bible for themselves – and to share life words with others. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways into the Bible's good news for all.

Our aims are achieved by:

- Creation and free (or for donation) distribution of Bible literature, providing ways into the Bible in many languages and for different audiences and cultures.
- Partnerships with a wide range of organisations to provide specialist Bible-based programmes, training, and resources for communities-at-risk.
- Provision of digital tools and resources to engage younger generations with the Bible's life words on a regular/daily basis, as a way of life and practice.
- Ongoing research and development of new resources and programmes to engage specific communities and cultures with the Christian Scriptures, for positive change.
- Engagement with individuals, churches, trusts, and other organisations – providing ways for people to support the work of the Charity around the world.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty per the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2021

Alongside widespread distribution of resources, and provision of programmes with partners, in 2021 our strategic objectives were:

- Globally, to resource churches and individuals for personal evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care, through provision of Bible resources in 20+ key strategic languages. Increase the range of resources available in our 22 key languages: fund translation and production of key booklets in more languages.
- To ENGAGE with Churches and new/existing audiences; DELIVER excellent projects *'in print, in person, and online'* (especially new resources and digital projects); ELEVATE supporter relations; and RAISE funds, profile and support.

In particular, we aimed to:

- Encourage UK churches to share the Bible with their local communities and continue to engage existing UK supporters as 'sharers' of life words, as prayer partners, and financial donors. We will in part achieve this through implementation of our Church Engagement Strategy.
- Provide ways into the Bible (and specifically to the way of Jesus) for young people and young adults in the UK and global culture, so that they might experience life words as good news that makes a difference in their lives and in the world.

- Globally, extend the reach of our existing Bible programmes and increase the impact in local communities, by:
 - Equipping more partner organisations to use Pavement Project with children-at-risk through ‘training trainers’, plus a tablet app and other online developments.
 - Maintaining delivery of our Bible resources in a range of relevant languages – recognising our core competence in printed resources, whilst upgrading existing and developing more digital outputs to augment print.
 - Continuing to work towards achieving our ‘50 languages’ goals of producing at least two core titles (print & digital versions) in fifty languages by 2023. This in addition to any needs that come to us as language priorities outside the ‘list’.
 - Delivering and developing NINE BEATS/Ninefold Path as part of reaching global youth/young adult culture.
 - Continuing with ‘training trainers’ for Pavement Project in the locations where we are currently based; continuing to develop online, taking the learning from 2020 to embed app and online training and counselling in addition to in-person counselling as protocols allow.
 - Expanding digital reach, content creation and outreach to add to our youth/teen material.
 - Reviewing existing marketing/communications & supporter engagement – implementing any change/adjustments, adding capacity where required.
 - Implementing Church Engagement strategy, increasing presence /profile within UK churches.
 - Continuing to work to increase income generation, nurture existing trusts and individual donors and approach new funders and funding sources. Prioritising development of UK networks for impact and support.

STRATEGIC REPORT

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

Providing ways into the Bible

2021 was a real rollercoaster of a year. Out of the depths of 2020’s Covid lockdowns came the early promise of churches meeting together in person again, the easing of lockdowns and the slow return to a more familiar landscape. However, this brief opening was soon dashed, as the threats and challenges of new variants meant plans were once again put in flux.

Over Christmas 2020 we had reminded ourselves that many – like the magi of Scripture – were looking for Jesus, perhaps asking “*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?*” (Mt 2:2, NIV). How timely then, that we began 2021 affirming that for Lifewords, our mission is to provide the light, like that star the magi tracked, that points towards Jesus, to light up where and how he can be found. Through Bible resources, programmes, projects, and missional activities, we invite people to follow where the Bible leads – confident it will lead them to discover Jesus, and to live their lives in the afterglow of that meeting.

So, we regrouped and endeavoured to continue to offer a mix of Bible resources in print, in person and online. It has not been easy – as the impact of the pandemic deepened, finances have tightened, we have had to continually adapt our work, and we have faced uncertainty like everyone. And yet, we are grateful to share encouragements with you.

Ways into the Bible – ‘core’ audiences

Literature

Throughout the pandemic, partners continued to use Lifewords resources online and where possible, in live contexts - sharing the Bible through church events, personal evangelism, and outreach work; with families, refugees, and the elderly; with exploited women, at-risk children and people with disability; and through chaplains in hospitals and prisons, drop-in centres and schools – bringing God’s Word in the midst of trauma.

Overall, in 2021 Lifeworlds freely provided a total of 540,000 copies of printed resources (individuals, churches, and organisations) around the world (2020: 553,000). This comprised 228,000 via our global Resources programme, 258,000 in the UK and 54,000 in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Kenya. Overall, we reached 61 countries in 49 languages [2020: 52 countries in 44 languages].

Our Global Bible Resources programme run from Poland reported growing distribution and widening scope. We responded to needs of people around the world with strategically chosen resources in a core of 22 key global languages – as well as in other languages with specific needs. Even as new threats emerged, nonetheless in 2021 we still freely fulfilled 2,324 orders (3,242 in 2020) generating 228,000 physical resources for 60 countries in 48 languages. The total volume was about 6% higher than in 2020. Also, the scope of all our global distribution (from Poland and UK/the rest of the world) was wider than a year ago.

The growing distribution and higher number of countries is a result of more regions resuming postal services and thus becoming available for deliveries after lockdowns, while the higher number of languages resulted from new Bible resources published during the year. In 2021 the global ordering website attracted 87k unique visitors (314k page views). The average age of new people ordering resources on the global website in 2021 was 34.5, with 53% of those placing orders being women.

2021 saw 67 new global resources – the most intensive and fruitful year since the turn of the century in terms of product development. 2021 was the first year of the ‘50 languages’ project. During the year the Poland office printed 39 new global resource titles (including 26 new titles and two revisions) and produced 28 animations. On top of that we advanced work on 18 other animations, to be published early in 2022. In many cases, the new resources are first Lifeworlds products published in the languages in this century. The languages covered in 2021 for printed resources include (New): Amharic, Bulgarian, Czech, Dari, German, Gujarati, Hausa, Indonesian, Javanese, Sundanese Marathi, Pashto, Persian, and Swahili. (Revisions): Polish, Russian. There were also reprints in English, French, Persian, Polish, Portuguese Brazilian, and Ukrainian.

“I work on the street, and I need to evangelize my clients with quality material. I've known you for years and I can't find anything similar with quality for individual evangelization.” (Brazil)

“I am among the members of the biblical group of Madagascar, we did an evangelization with college, high school in our city, and after we will distribute the leaflets to the students.” (Madagascar)

“Arabic-speaking people from the border with Belarus come to our country... I have a family near the border with Belarus. Your booklets may be useful. I want to prepare myself for the possibility of sharing the Word of God and the Gospel, even if only by means of material help. Thank you for your help and the materials.” (Polish person ordering Lifeworlds booklets for refugees)

UK

Church engagement/networking

We started implementing our church engagement strategy, moving from research and digital connecting to the beginning of in-person meetings. Visits with churches and networks in Manchester, Malvern, Newcastle and Oxford took place as restrictions slowly eased later in the year. We were encouraged by positive reaction to our range of resources, literature, projects, and programmes. Responses to a survey sent to churches and supporters will also inform future action.

Easter

An Easter campaign re-promoted four resources covering print, digital and downloadable formats, each one highlighting part of the Bible narrative so that together they told the whole story. We re-launched *Witness: Easter voices* and *One Friday*. Five new digital animations were added to our promotion of *Day Three: Believe the Women* (featured on Premier Radio), and we updated *The Easter Journey* to release it as a booklet for the first time. With churches largely in restricted mode, we expected online take-up along with perhaps reduced physical distribution. Encouragingly Easter distribution during January - April reached 27k – up 4k on 2020.

"Thank you so much for sharing. I can't express the amount of love that I have for the Saviour, and this Palm Sunday will definitely grow my love for Him only exponentially! Thank you!" (anon., UK)

Christmas

Christmas resources included an updated version of *The True Light* (with supporting animation), *Meet the Cast* (our 'family favourite' for children's groups, schools' events, and family services), and *OUTSIDE/IN*, with font size increased to RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) standards: accompanying animations featured a British Sign Language version. A planned version in Makaton (an alternative communication system) was postponed due to Covid, but we intend to follow through on this in 2022. These additions to the range were in line with our goal to improve accessibility, especially in the area of D/deaf access.

Across the full range, 74,902 Christmas resources were ordered in the UK (up from 66,695 in 2020).

1,400 prisoners in Bristol received *Outside/In* from us through an organisation called Sixty-One.

Christ Church Tunbridge Wells said that they ordered samples of all the Christmas resources they could find to see what was on offer and there was nothing that compared with *Outside/In*: *"We found it to be so inclusive. Everyone reading it, no matter what their background, life circumstances or understanding of faith, is welcomed into the Christmas story. There is no Christian jargon, the text is well spaced out with beautiful images. We looked at lots of other options and are really pleased to have chosen 'Outside In'."* (Naomi Hutchison)

Digital

Our Life-changing Words app attracted 19,523 new users – more than tripling our 2020 result (6,234). The total number of all-time installs has grown from 47,329 in 2020 to 66,852 by the end of 2021. In 2021 we recorded 18,967 shares from the app and 74,844 responses/votes from both the app and LCW emails. On 31 December we had 25,633 active email subscribers receiving LCW verses daily, in 202 countries. This is about 1k less than at the end of 2020. Email subscriptions have been gradually declining since the introduction of the LCW app, but the tail-off is much slower than expected. LCW widget (another form of using the LCW) was displayed on various websites 472,787 times during 2021. During the year the LCW website attracted 33k unique visitors (73k page views). The total outcome of the LCW project in 2021 was very encouraging and inspiring in our work on the new LCW app planned for 2022 (which will offer even more features).

2021 was the best year in the Lifewords' history for our digital distribution. In 2021, two million people around the world watched our booklet animations. We actively promoted 31 animations in 16 languages. Our Facebook posts reached over 8m people, and the animations were played over 2 million times. It means we have more than doubled the scope achieved in 2020 (885k). Between January and December 2021, we recorded 193,543 reactions and 9,469 shares - much better than expected. The most popular language was Indonesian, closely followed by Hindi and Swahili. Apart from animations promoted on Facebook, we recorded 4,517 plays of 38 animations in 19 languages on YouTube.

Maria (Poland): *I still believe in a beautiful other side of life. The Good Father will not let suffering be both sides of our life.*

Sonia (Brazil): *What a beautiful video, so real, so congratulations I loved it.*

Eliana (Brazil): *Lord, who can change my life story, only [you] Lord can help me. I accept you with all my heart.*

Jadwiga (Poland): *It touches all the senses: God bless the people who made it available.*

Modeste (Zambia): *I have accepted this invitation without a doubt.*

Olga (Colombia): *We open the doors of our hearts and he is our healing father.*

Lifewords UK digital

In 2020 Lifewords' Facebook page likes (people who have liked the page and now follow Lifewords on Facebook) went up by 44% and through 2021 growth in following and page likes across all our platforms continued to steadily increase. Facebook now has c.2K page likes and follows, with page views rising by

62%. Page likes has also increased by 67% (i.e. the frequency of new people liking/following the Facebook page has gone up). Our peak was early July, with some paid-for promotion for our 'Together Again' campaign. Instagram following also went up by 1.2% (310). The Instagram following has stayed consistent, without any unfollows. Our next goal is to expand beyond our existing audience, where dynamic and interactive content will help to gain momentum for extended reach.

Other resources

Ways into the Bible - unique mission opportunities

Pavement Project

Though a challenging year, it was exciting, with partners, trainers, workers and children encouraging us that we are still responding to their needs. With continued obstacles to travel and in-person counselling, we decided to develop online training resources for workers, based on the positive experiences from online counselling of children in 2020. We tested this in April in Portuguese and Spanish, through 12 online training sessions, involving 14 trainers (8 in the training process) from Brazil, Mozambique, Ecuador, Chile, and Paraguay.

46 workers participated in the training sessions, from 26 new organisations in seven countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mozambique and Cape Verde. The workers' learning was successful (91% certified) and the response of the 102 children they counselled showed an 85% increase in their self-esteem, with positive decisions around relationships, future and walking with Jesus.

Following this we trained all Portuguese and Spanish speaking trainers in new training resources so that in 2022 they will confidently start training people and helping organisations/churches to serve children better.

A Worker's Guide was finalised along with other worker's resources for the app in 10 languages, including four Indian languages (Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil & Kannada) plus English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Bahasa, Arabic, Lingala, Wolof, Creole, Kechi and Telegu.

The app development started in the second half of the year: in 2022 we will release an app that is more modern with greater durability, offer a better data collecting system, works in 10 languages and 5 extra languages for the children's resources only. This will allow us to reach children in need in many territories through the trainers we have been training and certifying around the world.

"Agustín is 14 and lives with his family in a neighbourhood of scarce resources . . . he told me of the fear he felt for his father and grandfather to be contaminated with Covid. "Do you know when you spin a roulette wheel? That's how I feel, not knowing what's going to happen". I told Agustín the stories of God's love ... at the end of [our] virtual encounter, Agustín told me that ... he felt like 'a swing', adding "God will do his part protecting me, but I have to do mine too". Oh, if I could [take the] Green Bag in every home where there is a child afraid of the coronavirus and bring them hope ..." (Leticia Ramirez, Mexico)

"... an excellent convergence between psychological tools and the Word of God. For years, I tried to prepare similar material... but nothing like what came to me through the Green Bag. I am so grateful to God that in learning to use this tool, I have had renewed hope of what we can do, even in the midst of the pandemic. Infinite gratitude to the Lord." (Fabiola Nogales, new trained worker in Chile)

It is vital to attend to our workers themselves in this stressful time. In August, we held the 3rd 'Caring for the Caregivers' workshop with 14 workers from 11 partner organisations from the five regions of Brazil.

"I feel privileged to participate in this project, so welcoming. It is great to have a team that supports us." (Elaine, Rio de Janeiro, Southeast)

"Pavement Project was a trigger, guided me, directed me ... to take the theology course. Lifeworlds in my life has made a difference." (Geovani, Brasília, Midwest)

Online ministry continues to be effective, as children and trainers/workers report:

"God lights up my walk, He gives me light of life."

"I am like a sunflower. The sunflower is always towards the sun, so am I now, always towards God and his care, I feel happy because I believe that God takes care of me and will always be for me." (from children counselled)

It was a year of two significant milestones. We celebrated 21 years of Pavement Project with many volunteers, board members and supporters live online, sending messages of affection and congratulations. It was seen by over 700 people. We also marked 25 years since, after nearly a century of working actively with partners in Brazil, Lifewords finally established national representation in Brazil - facilitating access to quality publications and faithful biblical content, and initiating transformation programmes, not only for Brazil, but for several countries in Latin America. Thousands have had their personal encounter with Jesus through a Lifewords publication, or through counselling with Pavement Project's 'green bag'.

BRAZIL

As well as working on Pavement Project for Brazil, Latin America and the rest of the world, our office in Rio de Janeiro facilitates Lifewords wider ministry and in 2021 we were delighted to launch *Choose Life* for the first time outside of Africa.

Since the beginning of 2021, partners at the MEAP project in Piauí have been using *Choose Life* to help children make good choices. All the children participate a lot, by talking about the content and relating their own experiences. The children understand well the concepts taught, for example in response to The Good Samaritan:

"We need to help and have compassion for others."

"We shouldn't help, thinking that people will see or help us too."

"When we love others, we will feel God's love for us too."

(via Débora, missionary of MEAP Piauí)

AUSTRALIA

Covid impact was immense through 2021. Churches, ministries, chaplains and partners were all affected by more than 5 months of forced closures and government mandated lockdown. This had a significant effect on our distribution, events, and donations, though government support brought some short-term financial relief. Despite this, we accomplished missional objectives in four key areas:

Printed Bible resources: Despite Covid lockdowns, 5,455 replica WW1 Active Service Gospels were shared at Cadet groups, schools, churches, war memorial locations, and events in late 2021. 1,280 Christmas products were distributed. Though our "lightest" Christmas ever, there was still demand for older titles for church and events audiences. 2,420 of the *Little Book* series were shared, mostly in the last quarter as prison chaplains and hospital chaplains were allowed back into their respective places of ministry. One key supporter funded the reprint of 1,600 large print of *Words of Comfort* in the King James/Authorised version - helping the elderly connect to their own faith journey and to Scriptures they recognise from their youth.

In 2021 the impact of our Easter offerings was in some very unique settings. *Day Three: Believe the Women* received several pieces of feedback for how helpful this has been in seeing a God of love.

"I've never seen a Bible product written from the perspective of 'Believe the women'. This is unique and affirming, as God values women. We've been able to share this among women in our DV shelters, in our street ministries and even within our own church..." (Lee-Anne, Mission Director)

The Ninefold Path – formation & leadership groups: 98 Church Leaders trained with 120 other group participants in online Ninefold Path Learning Lab. In April-May, September-October, and November-

December, over 30 pastors and ministry leaders participated in weekly Zoom Sessions. Mark Scandrette and Dan Hardie facilitated. Numerous leaders went on to facilitate their own groups.

"These are perfect resources for our ministry. I was so excited to receive the package as I know there are people suffering and needing some hope and healing. These are the best quality we've found and will be used widely." (Marina, Chaplain at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional Hospitals)

Support raising: the impact of Covid meant that our Annual Appeal and Christmas Appeal were significantly down. However, Lifewords continued to receive some of the Government support package aimed at helping business and charities during the pandemic.

Research & development: Insight into Australia's Youth spiritual research: We have been involved with the Converge Oceania network on a research project on youth engagement with Scripture and Christianity. Although hampered by Covid lockdowns, the research is now resumed and will be useful data for many of the partners.

Bible for Indigenous People: Working with David Glasgow and Indigenous Leaders on providing Scripture translations for tribal groups. Our booklet style has been requested as the format for first products in certain language groups.

AFRICA (Kenya)

2021 saw a third wave of Covid-19 in Kenya. New lockdown measures contributed greatly to an increase in online interactions, with many requests for digital resources especially the Swahili animation of *Finding Hope*. We had a significant increase in the number of visits on our social media pages.

Tragedy occurred when staff member Judy Murugi died of Covid at just 29, leaving husband Nixon and two babies (see 'in memoriam' below). This took a great toll, but by the grace of God, and support both locally and globally from Lifewords, the team was able to continue.

Bible Resources: 29,430 printed literature items were distributed in English, Swahili and local languages.

"While in Lodwar, I shared You Matter and Finding Hope with children of Canopy School from class 6 to 8 of the boarding section. It was wonderful and a joyful time as they read together. There was a time of prayer, committing their lives to Jesus and time of fellowship." (evangelist, Northern Kenya)

2,000 copies of *Little Book of Character* went to the Kenya Defense Force to equip soldiers on the Somalia / Kenya Border. An estimated 29,000 military in Kenya experience serious mental issues.

"The Little Book of Character has encouraged and equipped those on the Somali border to face challenges in the field with hope in the presence and intervention of God." (Col. Lelei)

Choose Life: 300 children from 10 churches in Western Kenya 'graduated' after going through *Choose Life* for a full year. 15,000 copies of *Choose Others* booklets were printed, and 500 *Choose Life* manuals.

Pavement Project: Counselling sessions continued despite the pandemic, with over 3,000 children counselled.

Partnerships: FOBA Kenya, FOCUS, VIVA Network and ICM Kenya offered great opportunities for Lifewords visibility through participation in their events. Through such interactions, we developed 24 new partners, mainly involved with Bible Resources distribution in 2021.

INDONESIA

Lifewords continued sharing good news with ex-refugees, farmers, fishermen, students, teachers, pastors, evangelists, people of other faiths, unreached people groups, prisoners, and many thousands of children in the world's largest Muslim nation of Indonesia.

The work revolves mainly around *The Visible Story* training for pastors, Sunday School teachers, Bible students and church leaders; training to use our 'flip card' Bible story resource in 'one minute evangelism' with children; distribution of booklets (more than 10,000 in 2021 including *Why Me?*, *Who Cares About Me?*, *Little Book Series*, *Finding Hope*, *An Invitation*); and 'mobile mission' in multiple areas, bringing the Bible to unreached people groups, areas of low literacy and poverty, and training and equipping church pastors with vital resources. Also, *Finding Hope* animations in Bahasa were being viewed in increasing numbers – something we will monitor in 2022.

Also, Lifewords 'Kids Ministry' re-opened, reaching several new places such as a church in Naibonat Timor that allows us to use their premises for Lifewords activities. Parents ask us to start Lifewords Kids Ministry in their villages and – responding to the need – we plan to launch work in two of them in 2022. West Kalimantan: Despite flooding, new children attended every week, typically listening to Bible stories from Lifewords booklets, playing games and other activities. Kalimantan churches and Pelita Dunia Seminary were very supportive with volunteers - and the seminary delegated one full-time worker.

To respond to serious social problems caused by the pandemic (closed businesses, lost jobs) and to offer spiritual and practical help, Lifewords Indonesia joined hands with Damaris Foundation offering food aid to many street children and homeless people. 500 people were reached in October alone. Beside food packages, people hear the Good News and receive Lifewords booklets. In Manado, North Sulawesi, 100 leaders/pastors were trained in the use of *The Visible Story* and flip cards to reach children with the gospel. Most of the children were affiliated to the local Sunday School, but some were from Buddhist/Muslim backgrounds. The connection with leaders/pastors is a key part of the work in Indonesia.

Gunar Sahari was a featured speaker for the online International Mission Conference, discussing "How Asian missions can be modified after the indigenous principle" with 400 influential participants.

INDIA

As a second Covid wave raged, Lifewords joined other mission organisations to help the pandemic situation. We led a voluntary team lending emotional support to families suffering from Covid and the loss of loved ones. Lifewords resources (*Finding Hope* and *Living with Loss*) were used in sharing the love & hope of Christ. We served other teams by providing provisions for needy families and children's homes, and by raising funds for meals for patients waiting in ambulances for hours to find beds in hospitals, etc.

Thousands of children were orphaned during the second wave and there were many messages in WhatsApp for adopting these children. This was an opportunity for traffickers to prey on the vulnerable. Lifewords along with two other child rights organisations, was able to bring the issue to the notice of the Child Welfare Committee and help stop the illegal adoption messages, helping to protect children.

In partnership with Deborah Rise Movement, Lifewords organised Freedom Sunday Service on 20th September with focus on prevention of trafficking of girls & child labour. 46 participants from different parts of India attended.

Our Christmas resources were again used to share the gospel, including with 400 Engineering college students in Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) and 200 students of an International School in Bangalore.

In Pavement Project we completed translation, proofreading and typesetting of the new App resource in four Indian languages - Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada.

There has been a 66% increase in addiction of games, pornography and related mental health issues among children & youth in India. In partnership with Bible Education Services & Hope International School, we conducted two webinars (in Malayalam & Tamil) for teenagers and parents on game addiction. More than 200 young people joined for both the webinars. To help further, we set up a 24/7 helpline along with our partners. Five Pavement Project workers from Kerala were given special training to give necessary counselling through the helpline.

Ways into the Bible - Reaching and engaging new generations

VerseFirst

We are continually looking at ways to develop this youth digital engagement project. On Instagram, our Easter designs were positively received. The official NIV Bible account reposted our 'It is finished' post on their social media accounts and 'liked' all of our images. They continue to engage frequently with our content. Our 'It is finished' post reached over 84.7k people and was the most popular post with 1.7k likes and almost 2k interactions (likes, saves, shares, comments). On Facebook, post engagement rose significantly, with our overall posts reaching 152,559 people. The 'It is finished' post also did well on Facebook with 689 likes, 55 comments and 78 shares. Post interaction has gone up by 76.7%, along with an increase in our Facebook story engagement with an average of 80 people responding or reacting to our stories in part due to a slight increase in the 25-34 age group following and new Facebook layout encouraging people to view 'stories'.

Our follower stats continue to shift towards a younger audience with our larger bracket following now residing within the 25-34 age range (up slightly from 39.9% at the end of 2020 to 40.5% by the end of 2021). VerseFirst page views have gone up by 43% to 137 visits in the last quarter of the year, and our Facebook following and pages likes both stand at 7,732. Our average post account reach averaged at 8,354 with 3,019 of that reach being non-followers, by the end of 2021. This shows that we have a consistent algorithm, especially with content being pushed to new audiences. In 2022 we will seek to reach the younger end of the audience.

NINE BEATS

In September, we took part in a 'virtual celebration of the counter-cultural values of Jesus found in the beatitudes', curated by Shane Claiborne / Red Letter Christians. International ministries (including Stu G's beatitudes project, Danielle Strickland, 24/7 Prayer, Common Hymnal, etc.) provided about one hour long contributions. It was a good partnership for which we ran 3 items: *Liturgy from Wild Goose festival, USA* with reflections on the beatitudes through prayer, story, and song. *Between a story and a dream*: how the beatitudes touch our lives: music, story, spoken word and thought-provoking conversation/reflection, from Birmingham, UK; and, *The Ninefold Path: a manifesto for life*: the impact of an experiential journey through the Beatitudes.

"Thanks for inviting 'strangers' like me to join in your intimate sharing and be blessed." (Dianne Wheeler)

"I love it. I am crying out for the truth to be shared. For our loss to be mourned; For human trafficking to stop. For child abuse to end. For families to be repaired, for relationships to grow, for the financially rich who feel empty in their heart, for people who do not have enough to feel fed. (...) For the body of Christ which is arising." (Bô Kim)

Later in the year, Mark Scandrette released his book *'The Ninefold path – Hidden wisdom of the beatitudes'* (IVP). Mark wrote our *Ninefold Path Notebook* (with Danielle Welch) and *Learning Lab Leaders Guide*, so his new book is a valued companion to our own resources. Readers will find links to and extracts from our original resources' themes.

Other online learning labs included: Formation Experience in Australia – (see above); Learning Lab Coaching session with Helen Stacey (Oxford); Westmont College, USA – (16 students, 18-22yrs); Ecuador teaching trip including Ninefold Path material – Mark Scandrette.

"It is very exciting and stimulating to see people - some with a faith background and some without - discovering for themselves what God is like and how they can live well. Thank you for starting us off on this path!" (Judith Layzell, Wellspring Aldershot)

"... an opportunity to really focus on the way of life that Jesus invites us into ... introducing me to recognizing the ways in which to participate in the kingdom of God, in the here, as well as the not yet. Spaces that offer me time to reassess and consider what the Jesus way really is..." (Participant, anon)

"The sense of creative conversation ... is palpable ... To watch the Collective at work is to see something more than inspiring musicians and writers in impressive collaboration, though there's certainly that; it's also to glimpse a joyful Christian exploration where every emotion and every individual has their place." (Extract from URC Reform magazine feature by Laurence Wakeling)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income was £1,419,717, a decrease of £121,351 (-8%) on the previous year [2020: decrease of £441,181]. This reflects lower donations and grants (a decrease of £39,350 on 2020) and lower legacy income (a decrease of £73,751 on 2020). The financial statements show that 62% of income came from donations and grants [2020: 60%], 35% from legacies [2020: 37%], and 3% from literature sales, investments and other income [2020: 3%]. Total expenditure was £1,372,784 – a decrease of £121,050 (-8%) on the previous year [2020: decrease of £317,147]. The Charity spent 93% of total expenditure on developing, producing, and delivering products and programmes in the UK and overseas [2020: 92%]. 7% was spent on raising funds [2020: 8%].

During the past financial year there was a surplus on ordinary activities of £46,833 [2020: surplus of £47,234]. The net movement in funds in 2021, which includes other recognised gains and losses, produced a surplus on the total funds of £1,185,716 [2020: deficit of £800,330]. This surplus includes FRS102 actuarial gains on the defined benefit pension scheme of £976,000 [2020: actuarial losses of £843,000].

Reserves policy

The Board has a formal reserves policy which is to hold in reserve sums to cover nine months' planned expenditure (currently calculated at £1.5m) in order to respond to any (unforeseen) change in circumstances and levels of income. Through the approval and management of appropriate budgets the Charity also ensures it is in a position to maximise investment opportunities. Free reserves at 31 December 2021 (calculated as net assets, excluding restricted funds, the pension reserve, property & fixed assets and stock) were £2,065,701 [2020: £1,905,191]. This is above the reserves policy level (taking into account legacies recently notified, and also plans for future use of Ministry Development funds) and is considered adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Investment policy and review

The Trustees pursue an investment policy on behalf of the Charity which provides a balance between income and capital growth, with a medium level of risk over the longer term, thereby enabling the Trustees to meet their objectives in respect of the requirements of the charity. Designated funds have been invested in the Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities in line with the above policy. The performance of the Newton Fund during the year was 19.2% against the comparative index of 13.3 [2020: performance of 2.2% against comparative index performance of 1.1%]. During the year the Fund outperformed its comparative index by 5.9% [2020: outperformed by 1.1%]. The fund remains ahead of the index over three, five and ten years. At the end of the year the investments in the Newton Fund showed cumulative unrealised gains of £544,098 [2020: unrealised gains of £408,498]. The Trustees are satisfied with the current return on capital.

Pension fund

The Charity has two pension schemes. One is a defined contribution scheme with Aegon which is currently open to new members and meets the requirements of auto-enrolment. The second is a defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, which has been closed to new members since 25 March 2003 and closed to new accrual since 23 May 2012; and which, for the purposes of FRS102, showed a funding deficit of £1,702,000 [2020: deficit of £2,829,000]. The corresponding asset / liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. In September 2014 the Trustees put in place a contingent asset security agreement with the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme (on a property currently valued at the book value of £730,699) to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer. A full triennial actuarial valuation of the pension fund as of 6 April 2022 is currently under way. If necessary, the Recovery Plan will be adjusted to take account of the result of this valuation. Contributions to the pension scheme are met through additional contributions from the Charity. The pension liability is therefore excluded from the free reserves calculation. Details of the retirement benefit schemes are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Our overarching approach will be to work towards ensuring that the mission and work of Lifeworlds remains sustainable, fruitful and transformative. As we navigate the impact of Covid across the organisation and its supporters, responding to the challenges across finances, income generation, supporter audiences, church activities, capacity and global mission and Bible work, we will be assessing and working on those priorities and outcomes that nurture the best collaborative partnerships, most appropriate infrastructure, best content/delivery and most effective engagement with the Bible.

In 2022 we will do that in part by maintaining the ongoing development, growth and delivery of our core, regular mission offerings:

Bible Resources: In line with our Scripture Gift Mission heritage of a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages that equips hundreds of thousands of Christians all over the world in their witness, evangelism, discipleship, and proclamation of the Gospel, we will again continue to deliver Bible resources in relevant languages, whilst adding to this range and investing in digital delivery to augment print. We will continue our project to refresh our existing library and extend the range of languages year-on-year and achieve our initial target of at least two core titles (print & digital versions) in fifty languages by 2023.

Digital: Continue to apply learning of the migration to online experienced through the pandemic. Both in ensuring accessibility of existing resources and in working to create new, authentic digital engagement with Scripture. We will invest in digital development and invite supporters to partner in a new initiative to produce new 'digital-first' engagement and innovation with Scripture with youth and teen content creators.

Marketing/comms: Respond to capacity and mission needs by assessing and making any necessary change/adjustments. Looking to increase ministry profile and impact of resources – working to extend profile of/through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement: Continue networking as churches and opportunities open up. Keep working to increase presence, profile and positioning within UK churches across marketing, communications, promotions, events and church partnerships.

Bible Engagement projects: Refine our larger scale projects and programmes (Bible Resources, Pavement Project and NINE BEATS), ensuring the most fit-for-purpose shape and seeking to identify partners, both practical and financial. **Pavement Project** will continue to develop the learning from the experience of 2020/21 to embed app and online training and counselling in addition to renewed in-person counselling when possible/safe. The 'train-the-trainers' model will continue, with growth in other territories anticipated. **NINE BEATS** similarly will apply the online learning and resume 'live' events to further connect with churches and the culture at large.

Funding: Continue to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors and to approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, 'core' and new digital and 'entrepreneurial' donors. Again, we will prioritise the development of UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifeworlds organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

We will also explore such new opportunities, partnerships and mission contexts in the UK and around the world as we either initiate ourselves or identify as 'missional imperatives'.

In memoriam (2020/21)

We lament the passing of staff and workers around the world: Judy Murugi, Kenya – a tragic loss at just 29 years of age, leaving behind husband Nickson and two babies, 2-year-old Sifa and 3-month old Nissi; Vivian Subramoney – ex-Chair of SGM Lifeworlds South Africa and Pavement Project Coordinator for South Africa (Vivian's son also died of Covid around the same time); Martha Hernandez and Fabiola Ruiz in

Puebla, Mexico, mother and daughter, and Marcia de Janon in Colombia - three Pavement Project workers; Dennis, typesetter in India, passed away In July. Choose Life Trainer Jane Wamaitha from Nyumbani Children's home passed away.

We thank God for all those friends and colleagues around the world who were called Home in 2021. Their contribution to the ministry will have eternal impact.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30 December 1916, and altered by subsequent special resolutions, the most recent being dated 23 June 2011. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company and there are currently 64 members [2020: 69], each of whom agrees to contribute £1.05p in the event of the winding up of the Company.

Organisation

The Board administers the Charity and meets at least four times a year. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has established an International Executive Team to lead the Mission and who have authority, within terms of delegation from the Board, for operational matters including finance, employment, and programme-related activity. The International Executive Team consists of the international directors: Steve Bassett (Creative & Communications), John Harris (Finance & Operations), Jarek Jankowski (Global Bible Resources), Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project), and Dan Hardie (Australia/New Zealand). The day-to-day operations in the UK are overseen by Steve Bassett & John Harris with Jarek Jankowski in constant contact.

The Charity is the leading member of the Lifewords global family of organisations. The other members are separately incorporated companies in their respective countries. In 2021, there were agency agreements with member organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, India, Indonesia, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland. Orders from USA are processed from the UK or Poland.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board or by Ordinary Resolution of members for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election on two successive occasions only. A trustee cannot serve for a period of more than nine years, save with approval by unanimous vote from the Board.

Trustee induction and training

An introductory pack for potential trustees is in use. A programme of preliminary meetings with the Executive Team and Board members (including the Chair) precedes an invitation to attend a Board meeting, prior to an invitation to join the Board. Trustees are offered the opportunity to attend trustee training courses such as those provided by the National Charity Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

Related parties

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2020.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2020: £332,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £1,125 for design services [2020: £7,725].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £363 [2020: £128].

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees (who are the Company Directors) and the senior staff with International Office responsibilities, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely, and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in Note 9 of the financial statements.

The pay of all staff, including senior staff, is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with (CPI) inflation, if funds allow. If funding is under pressure, preference is given to lower-paid staff when making any pay awards. Senior staff pay is benchmarked against pay levels in similar organisations (religious/Christian charities of a similar turnover and size) using information from Third Sector pay surveys (published by ACEVO and Global Connections). The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. Salaries were last benchmarked in September 2019.

Fundraising practice

The Charity is committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical and godly manner. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres strictly to their Code of Fundraising Practice and all legal obligations. We proactively monitor revisions to this code to ensure all our fundraising activities remain fully compliant. We confirm that we received no complaints regarding our fundraising activities or practices during this year or the previous year. We do not sell or swap data with other charities or organisations or make any cold telephone calls to the general public. In 2021 the Charity did not contract the services of professional fundraisers as defined by section 58 of the Charities Act 1992. We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. If we become aware of any vulnerable people on our database, we ensure that they do not receive any appeals and ensure that any requests for details to be updated or deleted from our database are handled quickly. We have signed up to receive suppressions under the Fundraising Preference Service.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Board members are also cognisant of the requirement and responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and have taken steps towards the implementation of an ongoing process of risk assessment.

The risk management strategy includes:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should these risks materialise

The key risks facing the charity are identified as (a) reliance on legacy income; (b) deficit position of the charity's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; (c) loss of key management personnel; and (d) loss or damage to reputation (and subsequent loss of support). The Trustees and senior staff have sought to address these risks in 2021 through ongoing review of long-term financial strategy; ongoing management of the Pension Scheme; ongoing development of local Boards and personnel in the associated organisations outside the UK (increasing capacity and reducing the risk of losing key personnel in the UK); and ongoing oversight of creative development, particularly in new areas, with a view to safeguarding reputation.

Brexit

Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020 and the end of the Implementation Period on 31 December 2020, the Trustees have considered the economic impact Brexit may have on the Charity in setting strategic plans and have taken steps to address risk with appropriate budgetary restraint and other measures. Forecasting models show that although Brexit may slow the Trustees' progress towards achieving its objectives, the going concern of the Charity is not believed to be under threat.

COVID-19

The surge of variants like Delta and Omicron stunted the anticipated return to a more 'usual' operational outlook. Adaptation, innovation and application therefore continued to mark our approach throughout 2021. Long-term impact on our supporter base, funding and new opportunities is a factor that we are both monitoring and seeking to mitigate/plan for. The position continues to be kept under constant review and the Trustees will as required take necessary steps to ensure the Charity continues as a going concern.

Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has already shaped 2022, affected millions and has led to an increase in economic uncertainty around the world. The trustees will continue to monitor the situation and take necessary steps to minimise any adverse effects. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have had to leave their homes, whose families and lives have been devastated. For the loss of life and livelihood. For the trauma and sorrow. Of course, it has also re-shaped our work and our next annual report will share stories of how we have endeavoured to respond to the situation.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

DISCLOSURE

The Trustees confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and that they have taken all reasonable steps as charity trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 31 May 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In 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 Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime, and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 the financial statements.

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. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to COVID-19, and we

considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to use of restricted funds, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.
- Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:
- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Nicola Wakefield (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4FS

Date: 13 June 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		General Fund Revaluation Reserve	Designated Funds			
Income		£		£	£	£
Donations and grants		414,242	-	465,731	879,973	919,323
Legacies		494,866	-	-	494,866	568,617
		909,108	-	465,731	1,374,839	1,487,940
Investment income	3	20,978	-	-	20,978	17,517
Other income	4	23,900	-	-	23,900	35,611
Total income		953,986	-	465,731	1,419,717	1,541,068
Expenditure	5					
Costs of raising funds		100,497	-	-	100,497	122,623
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Providing Bible resources		605,598	-	400,555	1,006,153	1,108,298
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need		119,119	25,000	101,272	245,391	241,707
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners		20,743	-	-	20,743	21,206
		745,460	25,000	501,827	1,272,287	1,371,211
Total expenditure		845,957	25,000	501,827	1,372,784	1,493,834
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses		108,029	(25,000)	(36,096)	46,933	47,234
Realised & unrealised gains on property assets	11	27,183	-	-	27,183	-
Realised & unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	12	135,600	-	-	135,600	(4,564)
Net income/(expenditure)		270,812	(25,000)	(36,096)	209,716	42,670
Other recognised gains and losses						
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension	19	976,000	-	-	976,000	(843,000)
Net movement in funds		1,246,812	(25,000)	(36,096)	1,185,716	(800,330)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward 1 January 2021		(459,517)	500,000	89,033	129,516	929,846
Funds carried forward 31 December 2021		787,295	475,000	52,937	1,315,232	129,516

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years are derived from continuing activities. There are no other recognised gains or losses relating to either year.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	10	873,493	898,628
Investment property	11	-	43,500
Investments	12	985,711	850,111
Total fixed assets		1,859,204	1,792,239
Current assets			
Debtors	14	407,873	506,143
Stock		25,100	22,164
Short-term deposits		151,799	151,189
Cash at bank and in hand		722,270	578,508
Total current assets		1,307,042	1,258,004
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(149,014)	(91,727)
Net current assets		1,158,028	1,166,277
Net assets excluding pension liability		3,017,232	2,958,516
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(1,702,000)	(2,829,000)
Total net assets		1,315,232	129,516
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	16	52,937	89,033
Unrestricted funds	16		
General fund		1,583,795	1,426,776
Designated funds		1,380,500	1,405,500
Revaluation reserve (property investment)		-	37,207
Pension scheme reserve deficit	19	(1,702,000)	(2,829,000)
Total unrestricted funds		1,262,295	40,483
Total charity funds		1,315,232	129,516

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 31 May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 31 May 2022

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) as per SOFA		1,185,716	(800,330)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	10	32,736	32,813
(Gains)/losses on investments	11/12	(162,783)	4,564
Investment income	3	(20,978)	(17,517)
Decrease in debtors	14	98,270	370,392
Inventories	BS	(2,936)	1,862
Increase in creditors	15	57,287	8,580
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		1,187,312	(399,636)
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	10	(7,601)	(3,652)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	11	70,683	-
Investment income	3	20,978	17,517
Net cash provided by investing activities		84,060	13,865
Cashflows from financing activities			
Movement in defined benefit pension scheme	19	(1,127,000)	738,000
Net cash (used in) / provided by financing activities		(1,127,000)	738,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20	144,372	352,229
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	729,697	377,468
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	874,069	729,697

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. At the accounting date there were 64 members [2020:69]. Each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required in the event of the winding up of the Charity up to a maximum of £1.05 (one guinea) each.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to 30 June 2023 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ended 31 December 2022. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes of the Charity is to help people everywhere to experience the Bible as good news for their lives through programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools, the level of this needed expenditure is at the discretion of the Trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The Trustees have also considered the Charity's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. Although the net assets are below the reserves level, the pension deficit is a long-term liability and therefore does not have a direct impact on the day-to-day operations of the charity. As a result of the foregoing the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available to use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects. There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme, giving a balance at year end of £nil [2020: £nil]. The second fund of £475,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2020: £500,000]. These designated funds were established following the surrender of the lease of the Charity's former offices in 2010. Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with restrictions expressed by donors or which have been raised for specific purposes. The details of the appropriate funds in the accounting year are shown at Note 16.

c) Income

All income was reflected in the financial statements when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earliest date of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the Charity's charitable activities. Where possible, all direct costs have been allocated to the appropriate activity. All other costs have been assigned as support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and IT, premises and facilities, governance costs, and administration costs for the defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in Note 6.

f) Depreciation

The basis for charging depreciation is that assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful lives in the Charity's activities.

Office long-term lease – over 50 years
Office purchase costs and irrecoverable VAT – over 50 years
Leasehold improvements and refurbishment – over 10 years
Equipment, fixtures and fittings – over 5 years
Computers – over 4 years

g) Investment property

The investment property, which comprises a half share in four freehold blocks of flats is shown at the valuation date of June 2014 (Note 11). At 31 December 2021 the investment property consists of the freehold as the last remaining apartment was sold during the year [2020: freehold and one apartment]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. No depreciation is provided in respect of this property. The rental income from the investment had been shown net after expenses, in view of the immaterial amounts involved.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the accounting date. All unrealised gains and losses representing the change in value from the previous accounting date are charged against the appropriate fund.

i) Stocks

Printing costs are charged to production costs at the date of purchase, but no account is taken of the stocks of completed or incomplete publications at the end of the accounting period, as these will be given away free of charge (Note 13).

j) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain the lessor's, are charged against income as incurred.

k) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Charity has no liability to United Kingdom taxation on its charitable activities.

l) Pension

The Charity operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme based on final pensionable salary, which is now closed to new employees and to further accrual. This has been replaced by a defined contribution scheme with Aegon based on individual personal pension funds for new employees. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the above insurance companies. Contributions to both schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Charity. The contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined on the recommendation of a qualified actuary and to the defined contribution scheme by agreement between the Charity and its employees.

In accordance with FRS102, the SOFA includes: the cost of benefits accruing during the year in respect of current service (charged against net income/(expenditure)); the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities arising from the passage of time (charged against net income/(expenditure)); and actuarial losses recognised in the pension scheme (shown within net movement of funds). In accordance with FRS102, the balance sheet includes the deficit in the scheme, taking assets at their year-end market values and liabilities at their actuarially calculated values discounted at year-end AA corporate bonds yield curve. Further details regarding the scheme are disclosed in Note 19.

m) Foreign currencies

Foreign currencies have been converted to £ sterling at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the Balance Sheet date.

n) Significant management judgements

The following are the management judgements in applying the policies of the Charity that have the most significant impact on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- **Accrued legacy income:** The Charity has made an assessment as to whether the conditions recognition of legacy income are met on a case by case basis, specifically in respect of the measurement of the amount due. In making these judgements, management considered the detailed criteria set out in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

The Charity's investment income of £20,978 [2020: £17,517] arises from dividends from fixed asset investments (£20,308 [2020: £16,701]), interest bearing deposit accounts (£670 [2020: £816]).

4 OTHER INCOME

The Charity's other income of £23,900 [2020: £35,611] arises from HMRC employment allowance (£4,000 [2020: £4,000]), HMRC Job Retention Scheme (£16,189 [2020: £23,328]), literature sales, some church display rack sales, and the sale of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources (£3,711 [2020: £8,283]).

5 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Costs of raising funds	61,641	38,856	100,497	122,623
Total cost of raising funds	61,641	38,856	100,497	122,623
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Providing Bible resources	807,835	198,318	1,006,153	1,108,298
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	229,849	15,542	245,391	241,707
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	14,412	6,331	20,743	21,206
Total expenditure on charitable activities	1,052,096	220,191	1,272,287	1,371,211
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,113,737	259,047	1,372,784	1,493,834

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	General management £	Premises, Finance & IT £	DB pension admin, legal & finance £	Depreciation £	Governance costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Costs of raising funds	5,031	19,847	7,199	4,910	1,869	38,856	42,843
Providing Bible resources	25,495	100,558	37,917	24,880	9,468	198,318	218,696
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	2,012	7,939	2,880	1,964	747	15,542	17,136
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	1,006	3,969	-	982	374	6,331	6,936
Total support costs	33,544	132,313	47,996	32,736	12,458	259,047	285,611

Cost allocation includes an element of judgement and the Charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record-keeping. To ensure full cost recovery on projects, the Charity adopts a policy of allocating costs to the respective cost headings through the year. This allocation includes support costs where they are directly attributable. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. The defined benefit pension administration and finance costs include elements from both the General Fund and the Defined Benefit Pension (FRS102) Fund.

7 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2021	Total 2020
GOVERNANCE COSTS	£	£
Auditors' fees	9,600	8,442
Professional and legal fees	1,071	2,887
Strategic management	1,787	1,780
Trustees' expenses	-	58
Total governance costs	12,458	13,167

Auditors' fees include £9,600 for Audit fee and irrecoverable VAT on fee [2020: £7,760] and £573 for other services [2020: £682].

8 STAFF COSTS

	Total 2021	Total 2020
Staff costs	£	£
Salaries	352,185	380,825
Social security	34,532	37,873
Pension	35,889	38,206
Total staff costs	422,606	456,904

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 during the year or previous year. Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds. During the year one staff post was made redundant [2020: one], with a statutory termination payment of £5,440 [2020: 4,842], all of which has been paid.

The key management personnel of the Charity, comprise the Trustees, Creative Director, Finance Director and Global Bible Resources Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £161,895 [2020: £162,326].

The average monthly head count was 10 staff [2020: 10 staff]. At year-end the charity had 4 full-time staff [2020: 5 full-time staff] and 4 part-time staff [2020: 4 part-time staff]. The average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was 9 [2020: 9].

In the way that our global family of organisations operates, senior staff (key management personnel) in the UK are also responsible for facilitating and supporting work in the other six Lifewords centres in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and USA. All other national or functional directors report to the International Executive Team, as part of a global leadership team. Together as a global family we employ a further 20-25 staff outside of the UK, and have about the same number again of volunteers making a significant contribution to training and coordinating our Bible programmes. A further 50+ volunteers serve as facilitators (peer mentors) for Pavement Project initiatives.

During the year the Charity transferred £186,396 to the defined pension scheme as part of the Recovery Plan [2020: £151,216] and £nil in respect of accrual of benefits [2020: £nil] in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions. In addition, during the year the Charity also transferred an additional £24,000 [2020: £nil] towards the pension scheme deficit.

9 TRUSTEES

The Board members were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity during the year or previous year. The aggregated amount of expenses reimbursed to one Board members during the year was £nil [2020: one member, £58]. No Board member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity during the year or previous year.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Office purchase, refurbishment & VAT costs £	Office leasehold £	Total £
At 1 January 2021	131,673	203,408	869,880	1,204,961
Additions	3,660	3,941	-	7,601
Disposals and written off	(7,797)	-	-	(7,797)
Cost at 31 December 2021	127,536	207,349	869,880	1,204,765
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	121,970	62,579	121,784	306,333
Charge for the year	5,767	9,572	17,397	32,736
Disposals and written off	(7,797)	-	-	(7,797)
Depreciation at 31 December 2021	119,940	72,151	139,181	331,272
Net book value				
At 31 December 2021	7,596	135,198	730,699	873,493
At 31 December 2020	9,703	140,829	748,096	898,628

All the above assets were used in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects.

The Trustees have granted a first legal charge over the office leasehold to the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer.

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2021 £	2020 £
UK property		
Value at 1 January	43,500	43,500
Revaluation	27,183	-
Disposals during year	(70,683)	-
Value at 31 December	-	43,500

The investment property at 31 December 2021 consists of a half share in four freehold blocks of flats [2020: freehold and one apartment]. Ground rent is being received in respect of the 16 apartments already sold. The investment property is being held jointly with another charity. The properties had been valued in June 2014 by C C Johnson Chartered Surveyor. There are no charges over this property or restrictions on its use.

	2021 £	2020 £
Revaluation Reserve balance		
At original valuation at 1 January	6,293	6,293
Disposals during year	(6,293)	-
At original valuation at 31 December	-	6,293

Revaluation reserve balance (Note 16)	-	37,207
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The original valuation was the market valuation at the date of death, as the property was acquired as a legacy.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	850,111	854,675
Change in value in the year	135,600	(4,564)
Market value at 31 December	985,711	850,111

Historical cost:

At 31 December	441,613	441,613
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Listed investments are represented by 584,992 units in Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities at a book value of £441,613 [2020: £441,613]. The cumulative unrealised gains on these investments are £544,098 [2020: £408,498].

13 STOCK OF SCRIPTURES

Stocks of Scripture publications held for future distribution, which have not been included in the assets on the Balance Sheet as these will be given away free of charge, have been valued by the Charity at 31 December 2021 at the sum of £119,000 [2020: £131,000]. This valuation has not been subject to audit.

14 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Legacy debtors	373,422	463,037
Taxation recoverable	12,728	24,919
VAT recoverable	-	436
Pre-payments and other	21,723	17,751
Total debtors	407,873	506,143

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Taxation and social security	9,295	8,512
Trade creditors	51,570	19,099
VAT liability	16,705	-
Other creditors	71,444	64,116
Total creditors due within one year	149,014	91,727

16 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Investment Gains	Actuarial Gains	Balance at 31 December £
Restricted funds							
Providing Bible resources	-	417,430	(399,493)	-	-	-	17,937
Choose Life	-	974	(974)	-	-	-	-
Pavement Project	59,033	47,239	(101,272)	-	-	-	5,000
NINE BEATS	30,000	88	(88)	-	-	-	30,000
	89,033	465,731	(501,827)	-	-	-	52,937
Unrestricted funds							
Designated							
Security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry development	500,000	-	(25,000)	-	-	-	475,000
Revaluation Reserve	37,207	-	-	(64,390)	27,183	-	-
General	(496,724)	953,986	(845,957)	64,390	135,600	976,000	787,295
	40,483	953,986	(870,957)	-	162,783	976,000	1,262,295
Total funds	129,516	1,419,717	(1,372,784)	-	162,783	976,000	1,315,232

The fund for providing Bible resources covers publications in a wide range of countries. Restricted income was also received and expended towards the development of the NINE BEATS project, aimed at engaging emerging generations with the Bible through the Beatitudes.

The funds for Choose Life and Pavement Project cover the current operation and ongoing development of these programmes (a values-based life-skills curriculum for teenagers, and the training & resourcing of workers in a Bible-based counselling process for children-at-risk, respectively).

There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme giving a balance at year end of £nil [2020: £nil]. The second fund of £475,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2020: £500,000].

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:					
Fixed assets	478,704	-	1,380,500	-	1,859,204
Current assets	1,254,105	-	-	52,937	1,307,042
Current liabilities	(149,014)	-	-	-	(149,014)
Total net assets before pension liability	1,583,795	-	1,380,500	52,937	3,017,232
Long term pension liability	(796,500)	-	(905,500)	-	(1,702,000)
Total net assets	787,295	-	475,000	52,937	1,315,232

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2021.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock Trust CIO which gave grants to the Charity during the year totalling £350,000 [2020: £332,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £1,125 for design services [2020: £7,725].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £363 [2020: £128].

19 PENSION

The Charity operates two pension schemes in the UK. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with separate insurance companies. One is a funded defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, and the other a defined contribution scheme with Aegon; the former having closed to new employees on 25 March 2003 and closed to further accrual on 23 May 2013, with the latter being open to all new employees. Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are assessed on the basis of the advice of qualified actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Pension costs charged were:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Defined benefit scheme (Recovery Plan)	162	151
Defined benefit scheme (additional transfer)	24	-
Defined contribution scheme	36	38
Total	222	189

No amounts were owing at the year end [2020: £nil].

Additional FRS102 disclosures

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based upon the latest full actuarial valuation at 6 April 2019 and updated by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

%	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Rate of increase in salaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase for pensions in payment and deferred pension	3.15	2.85	2.90	3.10	3.10
Discount rate	1.85	1.25	2.05	2.90	2.60
Inflation assumption - retail price index increase	3.30	2.95	3.00	3.20	3.20

19 PENSION (continued)

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/21 %	2021 fair value £'000	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/20 %	2020 fair value £'000	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/19 %	2019 fair value £'000
Legal & General funds						
Managed Funds	4.8	5,112	4.8	4,575	4.8	4,348
Annuities	2.7	1,478	2.7	1,664	2.7	1,673
Total market value of assets		<u>6,590</u>		<u>6,239</u>		<u>6,021</u>
Present value of scheme liabilities		<u>8,292</u>		<u>9,068</u>		<u>8,112</u>
Deficit in scheme being the net pension liability		(1,702)		(2,829)		(2,091)

Analysis of the amount charged against operating income

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current service cost	-	-
Past service cost	-	5
Total operating charge	-	5

Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income or debited to other finance costs

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Expected return on pension scheme assets	77	122
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(112)	(163)
Net return	(35)	(41)

Re-measurements over the year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Gains on assets in excess of interest	374	228
Experience gains on liabilities	-	45
Gains from changes to demographic assumptions	5	15
Gains/(losses) from changes to financial assumptions	597	(1,131)
Re-measurements over the year	976	(843)

The movements on the scheme deficit during the period for FRS102 purposes are:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Deficit in the scheme at beginning of year	(2,829)	(2,091)
Movement in year		
Past service cost	-	(5)
Contributions	186	151
Interest on assets	77	122
Interest cost	(112)	(163)
Re-measurements over the year	976	(843)
Deficit in the scheme carried forward	(1,702)	(2,829)

19 PENSION (continued)**History of experienced gains and losses**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Difference between actual and expected return on scheme assets (£'000)	374	228	410	(253)	190	461
Percentage of scheme assets at end of year	5.7	3.7	6.8	(4.7)	3.4	8.6
Experience gains/(losses) on scheme liabilities (£'000)	-	45	40	-	3	50
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.0	0.7
Total amount recognised in SOFA (£'000)	976	(843)	(617)	159	(67)	(766)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	11.8	(9.3)	(7.6)	2.3	(0.9)	(11.0)

Volatility of FRS102

It should be noted that the methodology and assumptions prescribed for the purposes of FRS102 mean that these disclosures are inherently volatile, varying greatly according to investment market conditions at each accounting date.

20 NOTE TO THE CASH FLOW

	At 1 January 2021	Cash flows	At 31 December 2021
Cash at bank	578,508	143,762	722,270
Cash on deposit	151,189	610	151,799
	729,697	144,372	874,069
Net cash	729,697	144,372	874,069

SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

England & Wales - Charity number 219055

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020
Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated)**

**Company number 145932
Charity number 219055**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006; the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Charity Number:	219055
Company Number:	145932
Operating Name:	Lifewords
Registered Office:	1A The Chandlery 50 Westminster Bridge Road LONDON SE1 7QY
Independent Auditor:	Mazars LLP 2 nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza Sutton Court Road Sutton SM1 4FS
Principal Banker:	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 9RH
Investment Manager	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd Client Service Centre, PO Box 366 DARLINGTON DL1 9RF

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

The Trustees of the charity are the Directors for the purposes of company law and throughout this report are referred to as "the Board" or "the Trustees". Board members serving during the year were as follows:

Directors and Trustees	David Morgan	(Chair until 18 March 2021)
	Robin Baker	
	Liz Heyburn	(Chair from 18 March 2021)
	Mark Hurley	
	Jo Jowett	(appointed 23 September 2020)
	Bev Thomas	(appointed 23 September 2020)
Company Secretary	Eduardo Juan Harris	

Key management personnel: Executive Team

Creative & Communications Director	Steve Bassett
Finance & Operations Director	Eduardo Juan Harris
Global Bible Resources Director	Jarek Jankowski

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Charity is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, formed to take the Christian Gospel worldwide by the creation and predominantly free distribution of Scripture products and programmes. This is achieved through an International and UK Office in London, which also has close links with legally separate organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland.

AIMS

Working with partners around the world and with the church at large, the Charity works so that everyone, everywhere may have the opportunity to experience the Bible's life words as good news for their lives, and for the world. We do this by creating opportunities for life words to be shared and lived out. All our programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools invite people to explore the Bible for themselves. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways in to the Bible's good news for all.

Our aims are achieved by:

- Creation and free distribution of Bible literature, providing ways in to the Bible in many languages and for different audiences and cultures.
- Partnerships with a wide range of organisations to provide specialist Bible-based programmes, training, and resources for communities-at-risk.
- Provision of digital tools and resources to engage younger generations particularly with the Bible's life words on a regular/daily basis, as a way of life and practice.
- Ongoing research and development of new resources and programmes to engage specific communities and cultures with the Christian Scriptures, for positive change.
- Engagement with individuals, churches, trusts, and other organisations – providing ways for people to support the work of the Charity around the world.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty per the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2020

Alongside widespread distribution of resources, and provision of programmes with partners, in 2020 our particular strategic objectives were:

- Globally, to resource churches and individuals for personal evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care, through provision of Bible resources (print and digital) in 20+ key strategic languages. Increase the range of resources available in our 22 key languages: fund translation and production of key booklets in more languages, e.g. *The Way to Life* in several languages.
- In the UK, to encourage churches to share the Bible with their local communities at key 'mission moments' in the year (Christmas and Easter especially) and in specific contexts – e.g., mental health.
- To provide effective ways into the Bible (and specifically to the way of Jesus) for young people and young adults in the UK and global culture, so that they might experience life words as good news that makes a difference in their lives and in the world.
- Globally, to extend the reach of our existing Bible programmes and to increase the impact of life words in local communities.
 - Equip more partner organisations to use Pavement Project with children-at-risk through a 'training of trainers' approach, plus an app. and other online developments.
 - Maintain ability to deliver quality Bible resources in a range of relevant languages – recognising our core competence in printed resources, but also looking to develop more digital output.
 - Review and develop our Life-changing Words (LCW) app.

- Continue to develop our digital reach, content creation and outreach to add to our youth/teen material.
- Continue to engage existing UK supporters as partners; as ‘sharers’ of life words, as prayer partners, and financial donors.
- Prioritise the development of UK networks for impact and support to increase profile and engagement with UK Christians.
- Review existing communications & supporter engagement with a view to improved performance.
- As part of our commitment to reach young people and young adults in global culture, continue growth and development of NINE BEATS – positioning the ‘curriculum’ side of the project (The Ninefold Path) as a ‘core’ Lifewords offering to churches and groups.
- Continue to shape Pavement Project with the ‘training of trainers’ model in the locations where we are currently based. The shift to use of a digital app and online resources will continue apace through the year. Our vision is to establish enough trainers to allow us to scale down our own training programme and allow partners to take training forward in these locations. Our aim is to make training easier, less reliant on our capacity to deliver in-person workshops and follow-up, and more accessible to a wider range of people – increasing the potential reach and impact of Pavement Project. We will continue to manage and deploy options strategically.

STRATEGIC REPORT

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DURING THE YEAR

Providing ways in to the Bible

*“... and they will call him **Immanuel** (which means “**God with us**”)” Mt. 1:23 NIV*

2020 became an unforgettable, extraordinary year. A year when COVID-19 turned everything upside down, when ministry plans were scuppered in the midst of loss, grief and uncertainty. It meant digging in and holding on to what became our Christmas message, that God is with us, Immanuel, and *nothing* can separate us from the saving love that Jesus came to show us. That Jesus was “*a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief*” (Is. 53:3 RSV) was - and is - our comfort. Indeed, we are not alone.

With the Coronavirus pandemic - together with natural disasters, the cry for Racial Justice, call for Climate Change urgency and more, all happening at the same time, the challenge of 2020 for us at Lifewords was to live up to our name: to speak and offer Life from the Bible’s words in the face of death, and solace in the anguish of grief, hopelessness and pain – and to reach out to those we minister to – bringing them words of life wherever they found themselves.

Original plans were continually in flux as new challenges emerged almost daily: postal services around the world disrupted, face-to-face counselling and evangelism more difficult, fewer and fewer church group meetings, financial challenges, and most of all dealing with the impact of COVID-19 amongst ministry partners, colleagues and ourselves. We hope that you will be encouraged that the work continued despite everything: our Bible booklets were still widely used, and our resources and interaction grew online to reach the world and serve the church as people looked to other ways of sharing the Gospel and having fellowship.

Still, we continued to work out of our 132-year heritage of Bible and mission to serve the church and to reach the world. We did this through our core range of literature, through supporting resources both online and physical, through unique mission, through innovative contemporary projects, and through partnership with our supporters. And by adapting to the situation and crisis that enveloped us all. All our work in creating ways into the Bible is rooted in responses to strategic needs, mission contexts, the equipping of the church, and the needs of the world at large: 2020 was a year that tested all of this.

Specifically, our 2020 activity comprised of Bible literature and resources; our work with children and teens through Pavement Project and Choose Life; online platforms such as Life Changing Words; projects for youth and young adults (VerseFirst and NINE BEATS), and our ongoing development of church supporter relationship, and most of all, our response to the unique mission challenges of COVID-19.

Ways in to the Bible – ‘core’ audiences

Literature

Overall, in 2020 Lifeworlds freely provided 553,000 copies of printed resources (individuals, churches, and organisations) around the world [2019: 1,073,000]. This reached 52 countries in 44 languages [2019: 70 countries in 44 languages]. All our resources provide people with a way in to the Bible’s life words for themselves. Partners once again used Lifeworlds resources to share the Bible through church events, personal evangelism, and outreach work; with families, refugees, and the elderly; with exploited women, at-risk children and people with disability; and through chaplains in hospitals and prisons, drop-in centres and schools – and as the year progressed, to bring God’s Word in the midst of new trauma.

Despite the severe restrictions and delays of global post systems, and impact of the pandemic on mission work as a whole, our **Global Bible Resources** programme managed to respond to needs of people around the world with strategically chosen resources in a core of 22 key global languages – as well as in other languages with specific needs. Despite everything, in 2020 we still freely fulfilled 3,242 orders (3,928 in 2019) generating 216,008 physical resources for 49 countries in 41 languages – compared to 2019’s 493,064 resources for 67 countries in 40 languages.

Our team in Poland under Jarek Jankowski did a sterling job in the face of Covid-induced, huge distribution challenges affecting global postal systems. For many months the postal service in several countries was suspended or severely limited. In the second part of the year, the situation gradually improved, but many regions remained unavailable or only reachable via more expensive priority mail services. This all resulted in a 55% decrease in annual distribution. Still, this was a very good result when taking into account the circumstances. The decrease in orders was expected, but not perhaps as big as feared - nearly 20% fewer parcels were sent in 2020. Again, a very good result when keeping in mind the fact that several regions were not accessible, many outreach actions/events were cancelled, and church activity was reduced around the world.

While 2020 distribution was lower, we did not pause our product development, preparing for when things improve. 23 new titles and revisions were printed, including five high-demand reprints, six new titles and twelve reworked and reformatted titles, amongst which were 5 *Choose Life* booklets prepared with the Brazilian team for partnership distribution in Brazil. The list included versions in Arabic, English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.

“Since it is the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, will be using these to share with friends and colleagues for the Glory of God.” (India)

“Our planned activities in Coffee House are ready. The parcels are almost complete, each one, apart from sweets, various items, disinfectants, etc., also includes your One of us leaflet. Good things are happening now also thanks to Lifeworlds. Praise God for all changes in people’s lives and God’s grace.” (Poland)

Across our ministry, although physical numbers were expected to drop, the interesting counterpoint is in our digital and online reporting – details follow below.

UK

Easter resources

For Easter, we ran an online project telling the Easter narrative ‘in real time’ – with posts framed as if events were happening that day. This was in part an experiment but showed enough promise for us to continue looking in to how we create engaging Bible resources in digital spaces.

“I never really thought about this before, thank you so much for sharing. I can’t express the amount of love that I have for the Saviour, and this Palm Sunday will definitely grow my love for Him only exponentially! Thank you!” (anon., UK)

Christmas resource

A new resource responding to the loss and grief of the pandemic was released for Christmas 2020. Both a physical booklet and digital resource, *The True Light* offered a message of hope in the extraordinary situation, and an encouragement to 'fear not' in these difficult times. 28k were distributed and across the entire Christmas range, 68k. With Scripture episodes from the Nativity narrative, bookended by John 1, and framed with contemporary collages, it gave people an opportunity to journal and reflect on how *The True Light* found them at Christmas. Online animations also engaged viewers. Public responses can be viewed at <https://www.lifewords.global/projects/christmas-2020/>

Media coverage included Cross Rhythms Radio, Premier Christian Radio, Revival FM Radio plus advertorial in Keep the Faith and Christianity magazines.

"... a beautifully designed telling of the nativity 'where hope meets real lives' – its hugely enriching. Love the images here". (Corin Pilling @ The Sanctuary)

"We love using Lifewords publications because they seem to speak into people's lives in accessible ways. This is the beauty of these publications - how can we speak into the troubles of today yet convey sensitively yet sincerely the love of God which is available to all . . . They are a great nudge and we trust that God will do the rest." (Jenny Bourne – The Ark Bus)

"I think the tone of The True Light was just right." (Anne Loudon, The Mission, Aberdeen)

Digital

We carried out planned developmental work on our long-serving Life-changing Words app., improving functionality and user interface. 6,234 new people installed the LCW app, taking the total number of *all-time* installs to 47,329. There were thousands of interactions with the Bible verses – 18,240 shares and 68,297 verse/category responses. By the end of 2020, 26,522 people, representing over 200 countries, were receiving the LCW email daily from all our digital sources.

Throughout 2020, as churches increasingly operated online, we began creating short, simple animations of booklets. In December alone, these animations were displayed 3.5m times on Facebook, and 445,670 people watched the full (short) video - recording 19,965 reactions and 9,966 shares. In total, since August (when we launched the first version) until December the animations were displayed 7.3m times on Facebook, and 885,385 people watched them fully (this resulted in 52,702 reactions and 15,169 shares). In the difficult year of reduced physical distribution, electronic versions of the booklets have reached nearly 900k people. Apart from Facebook, which is our major channel for distributing the animations, they are also available on YouTube where 3,789 people had watched them by the end of the year. Both animations (*An Invitation* and *Finding Hope*) are currently available in nine languages. More animations of key range titles and more languages will follow.

More broadly, in response to increased interest in our digital resources we made digital resources part of the global catalogue. Now, people can order digital materials in exactly the same way as printed materials. Apart from watching our animations on Facebook or YouTube, people can receive the animation files and share them with friends on WhatsApp, show them during online events, or use during face-to-face meetings/services (when available). This change means a new promotion/distribution channel for our growing portfolio of digital materials.

"Beautiful message, ravishing words ... See it for yourself!" Krystyna (Poland)

Josette (Madagascar): *"Yes, when everything collapses in life, don't panic, God is there to lift everything up and put everything in place. Let's trust He does not abandon us, amen. "*

"It is necessary to read God's Word. God is our refuge, our fortress, He can provide us with real security, because He is superior to anything that might threaten us. You just need to trust Him." Alicja (location unknown)

Lifewords digital

In the UK, our work in improving digital content has contributed to increased visibility, algorithm and reach expansion on Instagram and Facebook. Our most engaged-with post was an animation of *The True Light* on Instagram – notching up 1,182 likes and 5,432 views, with our followers increasing to more than 300. Our reach went from 150 people via paid-for promotion to 46,000+. Similarly, our Facebook following rose 44% to 1.8k. All of which indicates encouraging progression, albeit with much more to do.

Other resources

Ways into the Bible - unique mission opportunities

Pavement Project

COVID-19 restrictions have made it too risky for workers to visit with vulnerable children. Perhaps the biggest accelerated impact of the pandemic on the project was to implement counselling via Zoom, reaching children in their own homes, which are often not safe places in this crisis. The development and launch of the Pavement Project 'app' accelerated and was piloted. Online counselling started in Brazil and in Spanish speaking countries where we trained workers already using the app. 34 workers from 9 countries were cleared to help children from 9 years old, young people, and their adult relatives – with equally effective results – making a huge difference to children.

The tumultuous year of 2020 also saw Pavement Project's 20th anniversary! Celebrations will resume when restrictions ease, especially when churches can gather. However, an online celebration was held, and stories of transformation shared from 9 countries.

Apart from the virtual initiatives, an in-person training took place in Paraguay (six new educators trained to use the Green Bag app). It was the first and only session carried out in the midst of the pandemic so far (all Covid protocols were applied).

During the pandemic period, our team participated in many virtual activities, bringing knowledge about the care and protection of children, in support of various organisations and partners. These included starting a family abuse prevention campaign in response to the problem which has increased during the pandemic as a result of stay-at-home policy. Initiatives included: *Care, Protection and Rights* – a Facebook and Instagram series with content for Brazilian workers and family members, focusing on protection and restoration of children (over 6k views and over 500 reactions). Other measures included *Protective Families* – a meeting held in partnership with Viva Network Colombia to help families protect children from the dangers during the pandemic. *Actions to Protect Children and Adolescents Against abuse* – an online forum organised by Ação Voluntária and Associação PEDE Brasil; a virtual workshop on how to self-protect against sexual abuse. The content directed to the public has stimulated the search for Lifewords Pavement Project and its resources.

Since 2017, Lifewords has been invited to speak to YWAM missionaries in their Discipleship Training School (*ETED*) on the theme "Children at Risk". In 2020 we ministered virtually to the group of young missionaries who are working in Roraima, North of Brazil, with Venezuelan refugees.

In July, actions were taken to meet the needs of interned teenagers at DEGASE (General Department of Socio-Educational Actions for teenagers in conflict with the law in Rio). With the financial support of Mission Alliance, books, material for handicrafts, personal hygiene and cleaning kits were donated to four units, reaching approximately 700 interns.

Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project Director) contributed a chapter to a new multi-author book 'Understanding God's Heart for Children: With the Child in the Midst'. It is an exciting publishing opportunity led by Viva Network UK. Lifewords contribution brings together practice and academic reflection.

"I am immensely grateful to the creators of the green bag for this extraordinary tool. Jonathan's first encounter with the God of the Bible, in one of the most difficult moments of his childhood, gave him the assurance, in his small and receptive heart, that he would never be lost in the hands of God."

Margarita, Acapulco, Mexico

AUSTRALIA

At the start of 2020, huge bushfires provoked requests for pastoral resources. Lifewords Australia ran an online fundraising campaign and a more traditional appeal to provide resources to chaplains and those who support victims of the bush fires.

"I work with emergency services and Ambulance Officers all around Sydney... It is often the personal issues that overshadow the things we might assume to be touchpoints. The gentle approach of the Lifewords' resources is appealing to me and the receiver... They see the resources as supportive and kind. That's what we're looking for." [Bruce, Ambulance Chaplain NSW]

A Ninefold Path 'Learning Lab' project saw 124 people spend 8 weeks together in an online Leadership Training group experience, focused on the beatitudes. Many are looking to take their own groups through The Ninefold Path. Already, nearly a dozen Churches of Christ groups in Adelaide have planned their own Learning Lab training. A 30-event tour with Mark Scandrette (largely in/around Sydney & Adelaide), connected Lifewords with numerous churches, and a network of pastors who are wrestling with better ways to lead churches into practicing communities of faith.

With over 80 new database connections and 30 "welcome packs" with resources and broader introduction to our work sent out, this represented what would usually take a significant marketing effort to get new (interested) subscriptions and collaboration.

AFRICA

Digital resources helped us reach people and our online activities significantly increased; throughout the year, we continued to receive numerous stories of impact as we creatively interacted with our audience.

"Every aspect of my life has changed, and God has become my first priority... My family and friends have also noticed the transformation that has taken place in my life." Elizabeth, RISE Bible Club.

"[Life-changing words] is a wonderful tool that helps a child to memorise scripture and also to pray every day inspired by God's word." Children's Pastor, Nairobi

"Finding Hope booklet has helped me so much . . . I find the booklet sensitive to my reality of sufferings as well as pointing me to hope and healing in my God." Marion, Nairobi

Despite the restrictions to visit prisons in Kenya, our digital resources are easily and conveniently finding their way both to the officers and inmates - among them *Daily Strength*, *Finding Hope* and *Inspiring Prayer*.

4,000 copies of resources were distributed to Kenyatta National Hospital, used by the COVID-19 patients in the isolation rooms and in quarantine centres. We maximised the use of downloadable resources to reach thousands daily with the life changing words of the Gospel.

We entered a partnership with the Kenya Defence Force (KDF) to use Lifewords' Bible Resources and programmes in the outreach to their camps and communities. A bespoke version of *The Little Book of Character* – the cover of which bears their uniform – is now printed and ready for their use.

Choose Life partner Samaritan's Purse in Kilifi are reaching out in the coastal area. Their water and sanitation programme presented an opportunity to speak the message of Choose Life through the epidemic, making use of the Swahili translations to integrate the message with their mission. Pastor Daniel is running a programme online, offering spiritual nourishment to prepare the young generation for the future.

Other innovative partnerships in response to COVID-19 include one with the Young Mentors Initiative in Kibera, Nairobi - reaching out to the community through basic safety measures like soap and running water and supplying food stuffs, masks and sanitisers for 50 most vulnerable families. And in Zimbabwe with Viva Network Zimbabwe, we assisted 1,500 children with counselling and healing from traumatic experiences and provided workers with PPE.

INDONESIA

Ex-Refugees, farmers, fishermen, students, teachers, pastors, evangelists, people of other faiths, unreached people groups, prisoners, and perhaps most of all, thousands of children - the list goes on, and Lifeworlds is sharing good news with them all in the world's largest Moslem nation of Indonesia.

National Director, Gunar Sahari successfully moved a number of activities to digital formats and channels. Over 400 children joined Lifeworlds for a day-long online web festival national Children's Rally. A webinar "Children Today, Leaders Tomorrow" was joined by 250 pastors and Church leaders - introducing them to Lifeworlds' resources for children, sharing inspiring videos and training them in using our materials (The Visible Story, flip cards, etc).

In September, October and November, a weekly webinar, "New Normal, New Inspiration", promoted Lifeworlds' ministry and trained people in using our booklets/resources. The webinars were attended by 50 pastors, Sunday School teachers, and church leaders from different denominations, seminars and organisations based in various parts of the country. More regular web-based events are planned, and we are exploring options for online Pavement Project training.

Working within COVID-19 protocols, nonetheless Gunar was able to report about 420 Pastors and church leaders, Sunday School teachers, students joining training; about 300 children using our material (most professing faith in Jesus); 5 new clusters for children's ministry; 'mobile mission' visiting 5 new areas; 4 new partners; distribution of 2,500 packages of groceries to help those people affected by the pandemic, plus 500 food parcels for street children.

With a volunteer team, Lifeworlds celebrated birthdays with some children: many have never experienced a birthday celebration in their life. This small touch makes ministry personal, loving, and life-changing – even in the midst of a pandemic.

"Every Sunday School teacher and all volunteers commit to tell Bible Stories and through that story they can invite children to make a decision to receive – and follow - Christ!" Gunar Sahari (Indonesia)

INDIA

In lockdown, the church and mission organisations acted to address some of the pressing socio-economic needs and issues for which the government didn't take action. Lifeworlds was involved in setting up helplines to address emotional trauma – one in Bangalore and the other a nationwide helpline. Teenagers, youth, women & men are assisted through this helpline for emotional healing.

At the beginning of the pandemic there was a big exodus of migrant workers from cities to rural areas as most of them had lost their livelihoods. Thousands of men, women and children started walking back to their villages hundreds of kilometres away. Lifeworlds, along with other agencies under the banner of "#Help Migrant Workers" helped raise funds, logistics and sent provisions to be distributed among vulnerable communities in North India. With the help of partner organisations, Lifeworlds also helped

arrange shelter for young girls who were out on the streets until they were able to safely board trains to reach their homes.

Lifewords was given Certificates of Appreciation by the State government and the Ministry of Health for the work in helping the COVID-19 affected community in Bangalore during the months of June to September.

A Christian group in an IT firm were excited to share our Bible resources including *The True Light* as a Christmas gift with 180 of their non-Christian colleagues who had registered for their Christmas programme.

Impact India, in partnership with Evangelical Fellowship, conducted a Medical Camp in Sonagachi in December. Sonagachi is Asia's largest red-light district in Kolkata, West Bengal, with several hundred multi-storeyed brothels and an estimated 7,000 sex workers along with more than 10,000 children. 3,000 Lifewords Bible resources in Bengali, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu were used to share the good news during the camp.

Ways in to the Bible - Reaching and engaging new generations

VerseFirst

As part of our Easter range, the 'real time' re-telling of the Easter narrative detailed above was a learning experience that yielded good engagement. On Facebook we had a total of 437 shares, likes and comments. On Instagram we monitored total engagement of over 1,000 shares, likes and comments in total. Our most popular post received 301 likes and 19 comments and another one of the posts received 4,175 impressions. Overall, the campaign totalled just under 20k impressions.

"I never really thought about this before, thank you so much for sharing. I can't express the amount of love that I have for the Saviour, and this Palm Sunday will definitely grow my love for Him only exponentially! Thank you!" – Anon

Then, we had prepared a season of *VerseFirst* posts under the title *EarthFirst* – exploring the Bible and climate Justice. The digital reach of this cycle, plus the digital aspect of the Christmas resource *The True Light* was excellent. One of our *EarthFirst* posts on Instagram reached 101,200 people. *EarthFirst* also generated the most engagement, with likes averaging 1k and saves per post of 175 – demonstrating the way that the climate / Scripture interface connected with the audience. We are improving steadily and will push on further with this developmental work in 2021.

Overall, since 2019, we have been shifting the age demographic of the majority audience downwards. Our majority following now is in the 25-34 bracket (39%) followed by 18-24 (23%). A small but significant shift has seen our 13-17 audience grow to 11%. Thus, almost 73% of the audience is under 34.

NINE BEATS

With COVID-19 massively impacting 'live' gatherings, our ongoing lead outreach to young people and young adults consolidated online to further our vision to see people from diverse walks of life inspired and transformed by the life changing words of Jesus found in the Beatitudes.

In addition to events in Australia (detailed above), six Ninefold Path Online Learning Labs – 5/6 days each lab – were run with leaders from Europe, USA, Australia, and UK (including partnership with Order of the Mustard Seed, a monastic community in the UK, and Fresh Expressions) – approx. 100 attendees in total. An online 'master class' over two days with 19 leaders from Europe, USA, and UK enabled us to set up 'cascade' training as people were trained in facilitating a practice-based formation group. Three NINE BEATS webinars were released – linking a beatitude to contemporary cultural issues, and featuring the voices of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic speakers. On the arts/music side of the project, three online streaming events featuring music, conversation and teaching garnered c.3k views on Facebook (excluding late watchers).

A revision of 'The Ninefold Path Notebook' was published (smaller in size with same core content) and sold in packs of five, making it more akin to a 'classic' Lifewords style resource.

"It's not a Bible study, it's not just a good chat, it's applied theology, it's practice, it's useful, it's a way of life!" – Jamie Sweet, USA

"The Ninefold Path is an interactive and deeply thought-provoking exploration of how to live the way of Jesus not just learn more about it. Learning in community with others feels like sitting around a campfire on the journey and finding new truths together." – Belinda Norrington, UK

"A phenomenal discipleship resource and transformational experience of the radical Way of Jesus." – Erik Jespersen, OMS

To keep momentum up through the lockdowns, a 4-track EP by Collective member, Heatherlyn, was released digitally. *"1st time you hear 'When Dies the Day' you gasp with amazement as It's so beautiful. A lament with a Celtic flavour was instantly replayed by this reviewer."* (UK Review)

Press, PR and promotion included on-the-page print ads along with digital ads placed with CRE, Keep the Faith Magazine, Premier Christianity Magazine, Women Alive, CCC/CARE Outreach, LouderThanMusic (one of the largest UK Christian Contemporary music websites) and NeverForNothing (CCM newsletter), and a campaign to 250 radio stations.

We have found a genuine connection between Lifewords church engagement strategy and growing opportunities to network with key leaders and influencers across the church in the UK with Ninefold Path. For example, a conversation began in 2020 with the Learning Network within the Methodist Church, in North-West UK leading to an invitation to introduce NINE BEATS into their work in 2021. Such opportunities will be a focus for UK development post-COVID-19.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income was £1,541,068, a decrease of £441,181 (-22%) on the previous year [2019: decrease of £27,728]. This reflects lower donations and grants (a decrease of £6,842 on 2019) and lower legacy income (a decrease of £441,835 on 2019). The financial statements show that 60% of income came from donations and grants [2019: 47%], 37% from legacies [2019: 51%], and 3% from literature sales, investments and other income [2019: 2%]. Total expenditure was £1,493,834 – a decrease of £317,147 (-18%) on the previous year [2019: decrease of £63,004]. The Charity spent 92% of total expenditure on developing, producing, and delivering products and programmes in the UK and overseas [2019: 91%]. 8% was spent on raising funds [2019: 9%].

During the past financial year there was a surplus on ordinary activities of £47,234 [2019: surplus of £171,268]. The net movement in funds in 2020, which includes other recognised gains and losses, produced a deficit on the total funds of £800,330 [2019: deficit of £330,488]. This deficit includes FRS102 actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme of £843,000 [2019: actuarial losses of £617,000].

Reserves policy

The Board has a formal reserves policy which is to hold in reserve sums to cover six to nine months' planned expenditure (currently calculated at £1m-£1.5m) in order to respond to any (unforeseen) change in circumstances and levels of income. Through the approval and management of appropriate budgets the Charity also ensures it is in a position to maximise investment opportunities. Free reserves at 31 December 2020 (calculated as net assets, excluding restricted funds, the pension reserve, property & fixed assets and stock) were £1,905,191 [2019: £1,985,549]. This is above the reserves policy level (taking into account legacies recently notified, and also plans for future use of Ministry Development funds) and is considered adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Investment policy and review

The Trustees pursue an investment policy on behalf of the Charity which provides a balance between income and capital growth, with a medium level of risk over the longer term, thereby enabling the Trustees to meet their objectives in respect of the requirements of the charity. Designated funds have been invested in the Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities in line with the above policy. The performance of the Newton Fund during the year was 2.2% against the comparative index of 1.1% [2019: performance of 19.1% against comparative index performance of 16.7%]. During the year the Fund outperformed its comparative index by 1.1% [2019: outperformed by 2.4%]. The fund remains ahead of the index over three, five and ten years. At the end of the year the investments in the Newton Fund showed cumulative unrealised gains of £408,498 [2019: unrealised gains of £413,061]. The Trustees are satisfied with the current return on capital.

Pension fund

The Charity has two pension schemes. One is a defined contribution scheme with Aegon which is currently open to new members and meets the requirements of auto-enrolment. The second is a defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, which has been closed to new members since 25 March 2003 and closed to new accrual since 23 May 2012; and which, for the purposes of FRS102, showed a funding deficit of £2,829,000 [2019: deficit of £2,091,000]. The corresponding asset / liability does not result in an immediate cash flow impact on the Charity. In September 2014 the Trustees put in place a contingent asset security agreement with the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme (on a property currently valued at the book value of £748,096) to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer. During the year the 2019 triennial valuation was finalised and a new Recovery Plan agreed (£160,000 per annum increasing on each 6 April by 2% until April 2034, replacing the previous Recovery Plan of £120,000 per annum increasing on each 6 April by 2% until July 2029). Contributions to the pension plan are met through additional contributions from the Charity. The pension liability is therefore excluded from the free reserves calculation. Details of the retirement benefit schemes are disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

In summary, our priorities for 2021 are to ENGAGE with Churches and new/existing audiences more and better; DELIVER great projects online, in print and 'live' (especially innovative new resources and digital-first projects); ELEVATE internal and external profile of supporter relations; and RAISE funds, churches profile and support.

Bible Resources: We will continue to maintain our core delivery of Bible resources in relevant languages whilst adding to this range and investing in digital delivery of this ministry to augment print. Scripture Gift Mission was built on a core range of Bible literature in multiple languages – equipping hundreds of thousands of Christians all over the world in their witness, evangelism, discipleship and proclamation of the Gospel. We are especially known for our work in more than 200 'pioneer' languages. Today, we offer a range of literature in over 20 languages. In 2021, we will begin a project that will refresh our existing library and start to extend the range of languages year-on-year, building up to at least two core titles (print & digital versions) in fifty languages by 2023. This will be an incremental project, and we will be inviting donors to partner with us, beginning with the first batch of translations. This in addition to any needs that come to us as language priorities outside the 'list'.

Digital: Continue to apply learning of the migration to online experienced through the pandemic. Both in ensuring accessibility of existing resources and in working to create new, authentic 'digital-first' engagement with Scripture. We will invest in digital development and invite supporters to partner in that process – e.g., by gathering young digital creatives and curators to release the potential of life words online.

Marketing/comms: We will complete our review of all communications channels and further implement necessary change/adjustments – adding capacity where required. Looking to increase ministry profile and range/efficacy of resources available – working to increase reach and profile of/through church-focused and culture-facing resources/programmes/projects/initiatives.

Church engagement: Complete strategy revision and move further into implementation, increasing presence, profile and positioning within UK churches. This will range across marketing, communications, promotions, events and church partnership development.

Bible Engagement projects: We will continue to refine our larger ‘scale’ projects and programme such as Pavement Project and NINE BEATS, maximising connections and drawing in partners who will take on ‘heavy lifting’ aspects on these projects, both practical and in terms of financial burdens.

Pavement Project will continue to develop online, taking the learning and application from the experience of 2020 to embed app and online training and counselling in addition to renewed in-person counselling when protocols allow. The ‘train-the-trainers’ model will continue. with growth in other territories anticipated.

NINE BEATS similarly will apply the online learning and also resume ‘live’ events to further connect with churches and the culture at large.

Funding: Our ongoing task continues to seek new funding sources, nurture existing trusts and individual donors and to approach new funders for the ministry across traditional, ‘core’ and new digital and ‘entrepreneurial’ donors. Again, we will prioritise the development of UK networks for impact and support, and work with other Lifeworlds organisations outside the UK to better engage more people in this work of sharing the Bible around the world.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 30 December 1916, and altered by subsequent special resolutions, the most recent being dated 23 June 2011. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the Company and there are currently 69 members [2019: 70], each of whom agrees to contribute £1.05p in the event of the winding up of the Company.

Organisation

The Board administers the Charity and meets at least four times a year. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has established an International Executive Team to lead the Mission and who have authority, within terms of delegation from the Board, for operational matters including finance, employment, and programme-related activity. The International Executive Team consists of the international directors: Steve Bassett (Creative & Communications), John Harris (Finance & Operations), Jarek Jankowski (Global Bible Resources), Clenir dos Santos (Pavement Project), and Dan Hardie (Australia/NZ). The day-to-day operations in the UK are overseen by Steve Bassett & John Harris with Jarek Jankowski in constant contact.

The Charity is the leading member of the Lifeworlds global family of organisations. The other members are separately incorporated companies in their respective countries. In 2020, there were agency agreements with member organisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, India, Indonesia, and USA. Our Global Bible Resources programme is managed and run from Poland.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the Board or by Ordinary Resolution of members for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election on two successive occasions only. A trustee cannot serve for a period of more than nine years, save with approval by unanimous vote from the Board.

Trustee induction and training

An introductory pack for potential trustees is in use. A programme of preliminary meetings with the Executive Team and Board members (including the Chair) precedes an invitation to attend a Board meeting, prior to an invitation to join the Board. Trustees are offered the opportunity to attend trustee training courses such as those provided by the National Charity Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

Related parties

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2020.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock (Eccleston Hall) Trust; until October 2020 he was also a trustee of Childs Charitable Trust. Both of these charities gave grants to the Charity during the year, the aggregate total of which was £342,000 [2019: £369,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £7,725 for design services [2019: £3,020].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £128 [2019: £956].

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees (who are the Company Directors) and the senior staff with International Office responsibilities, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running, and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely, and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in Note 9 of the financial statements.

The pay of all staff, including senior staff, is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with (CPI) inflation, if funds allow. If funding is under pressure, preference is given to lower-paid staff when making any pay awards. Senior staff pay is benchmarked against pay levels in similar organisations (religious/Christian charities of a similar turnover and size) using information from Third Sector pay surveys (published by ACEVO and Global Connections). The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles. Salaries were last benchmarked in September 2019.

Fundraising practice

The Charity is committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical and godly manner. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres strictly to their Code of Fundraising Practice and all legal obligations. We proactively monitor revisions to this code to ensure all our fundraising activities remain fully compliant. We confirm that we received no complaints regarding our fundraising activities or practices during this year or the previous year. We do not sell or swap data with other charities or organisations or make any cold telephone calls to the general public. In 2020 the Charity did not contract the services of professional fundraisers as defined by section 58 of the Charities Act 1992. We encourage all feedback, whether positive or negative, and we regularly monitor and analyse what people tell us to make sure we are continuously improving our procedures. If we become aware of any vulnerable people on our database we ensure that they do not receive any appeals and also ensure that any requests for details to be updated or deleted from our database are handled quickly. We have signed up to receive suppressions under the Fundraising Preference Service.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Board members are also cognisant of the requirement and responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and have taken steps towards the implementation of an ongoing process of risk assessment.

The risk management strategy includes:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should these risks materialise

The key risks facing the charity are identified as (a) reliance on legacy income; (b) deficit position of the charity's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; (c) loss of key management personnel; and (d) loss or damage to reputation (and subsequent loss of support). The Trustees and senior staff have sought to address these risks in 2020 through ongoing review of long-term financial strategy; ongoing management of the Pension Scheme; ongoing development of local Boards and personnel in the associated organisations outside the UK (increasing capacity and reducing the risk of losing key personnel in the UK); and ongoing oversight of creative development, particularly in new areas, with a view to safeguarding reputation.

Brexit

Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020 and the end of the Implementation Period on 31 December 2020, the Trustees have considered the economic impact Brexit may have on the Charity in setting strategic plans and have taken steps to address risk with appropriate budgetary restraint and other measures. Forecasting models show that although Brexit may slow the Trustees' progress towards achieving its objectives, the going concern of the Charity is not believed to be under threat.

COVID-19

As documented above, the impact of the pandemic has been deep. Both as an organisation, and as individuals, 2020 presented some intense challenges. For Lifeworlds, there is our organisational response (detailed above), and our place in the overall ministry of Bible and Mission work. The year impacted this in ways that we will begin to work through in 2021 and beyond. As the vaccination process rolls out through 2021, there is some hope that there will be opportunity to re-engage with physical as well as digital ministry methodology. Adaptation, innovation and application will be part of our approach as we emerge from restrictions through 2021. We are still assessing the long-term impact on our supporter base, funding and indeed new opportunities. The Trustees have considered the possible risks and have put in place measures to monitor income and reduce future expenditure if required. The position will be kept under constant review and the Trustees will as required take necessary steps to ensure the Charity continues as a going concern.

Lifeworlds response to Racism

In light of the call for Racial Justice, we take our part seriously and released a statement on our main website <https://www.lifeworlds.global/about/let-justice-roll/> making clear our stance and intentions. However, as has been highlighted before, we need to work harder at diverse representation across the UK part of the organisation. We will continue to review and make changes in this respect.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

DISCLOSURE

The Trustees confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and that they have taken all reasonable steps as charity trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 9 June 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION (INCORPORATED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scripture Gift Mission (Incorporated) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In 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 Strategic Report or the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 17, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 the financial statements.

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. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to COVID-19, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to use of restricted funds, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed:

Vincent Marke (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4FS

Date: 29 June 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
		General Fund Revaluation Reserve	Designated Funds			
Income		£		£	£	£
Donations and grants		435,179	-	484,144	919,323	926,165
Legacies		568,617	-	-	568,617	1,010,452
		1,003,796	-	484,144	1,487,940	1,936,617
Investment income	3	17,517	-	-	17,517	24,300
Other income	4	35,611	-	-	35,611	21,332
Total income		1,056,924	-	484,144	1,541,068	1,982,249
Expenditure	5					
Costs of raising funds		122,623	-	-	122,623	166,424
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Providing Bible resources		557,113	150,000	401,185	1,108,298	1,387,000
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need		182,799	25,000	33,908	241,707	235,049
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners		21,206	-	-	21,206	22,508
		761,118	175,000	435,093	1,371,211	1,644,557
Total expenditure		883,741	175,000	435,093	1,493,834	1,810,981
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses		173,183	(175,000)	49,051	47,234	171,268
Realised & unrealised (losses)/gains on investment assets	12	(4,564)	-	-	(4,564)	115,244
Net income/(expenditure)		168,619	(175,000)	49,051	42,670	286,512
Other recognised gains and losses						
Remeasurement losses on defined benefit pension scheme	19	(843,000)	-	-	(843,000)	(617,000)
Net movement in funds		(674,381)	(175,000)	49,051	(800,330)	(330,488)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward 1 January 2020		214,864	675,000	39,982	929,846	1,260,334
Funds carried forward 31 December 2020		(459,517)	500,000	89,033	129,516	929,846

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years are derived from continuing activities. There are no other recognised gains or losses relating to either year.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	10	898,628	927,789
Investment property	11	43,500	43,500
Investments	12	850,111	854,675
Total fixed assets		1,792,239	1,825,964
Current assets			
Debtors	14	506,143	876,535
Stock		22,164	24,026
Short-term deposits		151,189	150,581
Cash at bank and in hand		578,508	226,887
Total current assets		1,258,004	1,278,029
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(91,727)	(83,147)
Net current assets		1,166,277	1,194,882
Net assets excluding pension liability		2,958,516	3,020,846
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(2,829,000)	(2,091,000)
Total net assets		129,516	929,846
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	16	89,033	39,982
Unrestricted funds	16		
General fund		1,426,776	1,363,157
Designated funds		1,405,500	1,580,500
Revaluation reserve (property investment)		37,207	37,207
Pension scheme reserve deficit	19	(2,829,000)	(2,091,000)
Total unrestricted funds		40,483	889,864
Total charity funds		129,516	929,846

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 24 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 7 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Liz Heyburn
Chair of the Board
Date: 9 June 2021

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net expenditure as per SOFA		(800,330)	(330,488)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	11	32,813	32,043
Losses/(gains) on investments	12	4,564	(115,244)
Investment income	3	(17,517)	(24,300)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	14	370,392	(541,836)
Inventories	BS	1,862	2,268
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	8,580	(37,222)
Net cash used in operating activities		(399,636)	(1,014,779)
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	11	(3,652)	(6,361)
Investment income	3	17,517	24,300
Net cash provided by investing activities		13,865	17,939
Cashflows from financing activities			
Movement in defined benefit pension scheme	19	738,000	608,000
Net cash provided by /(used in) financing activities		738,000	608,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20	352,229	(388,840)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	377,468	766,308
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	729,697	377,468

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. At the accounting date there were 69 members [2019:70]. Each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required in the event of the winding up of the Charity up to a maximum of £1.05 (one guinea) each.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to 30 June 2022 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ended 31 December 2021. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes of the Charity is to help people everywhere to experience the Bible as good news for their lives through programmes, resources, literature, and digital tools, the level of this needed expenditure is at the discretion of the Trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The Trustees have also considered the Charity's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. Although the net assets are below the reserves level, the pension deficit is a long-term liability and therefore does not have a direct impact on the day-to-day operations of the charity. As a result of the foregoing the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available to use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects. There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme, giving a balance at year end of £nil [2019: £nil]. The second fund of £500,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2019: £675,000]. These designated funds were established following the surrender of the lease of the Charity's former offices in 2010. Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with restrictions expressed by donors or which have been raised for specific purposes. The details of the appropriate funds in the accounting year are shown at Note 16.

c) Income

All income was reflected in the financial statements when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earliest date of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the Charity's charitable activities. Where possible, all direct costs have been allocated to the appropriate activity. All other costs have been assigned as support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and IT, premises and facilities, governance costs, and administration costs for the defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in Note 6.

f) Depreciation

The basis for charging depreciation is that assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful lives in the Charity's activities.

Office long-term lease – over 50 years
Office purchase costs and irrecoverable VAT – over 50 years
Leasehold improvements and refurbishment – over 10 years
Equipment, fixtures and fittings – over 5 years
Computers – over 4 years

g) Investment property

The investment property, which comprises a half share in four freehold blocks of flats is shown at the valuation date of June 2014 (Note 11). The properties are being held jointly with another charity pending vacant possession. At 31 December 2020 the investment property consists of one remaining apartment [2019: one apartment] on which rental income is being received; along with the right to receive ground rent in respect of 15 properties already sold. No depreciation is provided in respect of this property. The rental income from the investment is shown net after expenses, in view of the immaterial amounts involved.

h) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the accounting date. All unrealised gains and losses representing the change in value from the previous accounting date are charged against the appropriate fund.

i) Stocks

Printing costs are charged to production costs at the date of purchase, but no account is taken of the stocks of completed or incomplete publications at the end of the accounting period, as these will be given away free of charge (Note 13).

j) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain the lessor's, are charged against income as incurred.

k) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Charity has no liability to United Kingdom taxation on its charitable activities.

l) Pension

The Charity operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme based on final pensionable salary, which is now closed to new employees and to further accrual. This has been replaced by a defined contribution scheme with Aegon based on individual personal pension funds for new employees. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with the above insurance companies. Contributions to both schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Charity. The contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined on the recommendation of a qualified actuary and to the defined contribution scheme by agreement between the Charity and its employees.

In accordance with FRS102, the SOFA includes: the cost of benefits accruing during the year in respect of current service (charged against net income/(expenditure)); the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities arising from the passage of time (charged against net income/(expenditure)); and actuarial losses recognised in the pension scheme (shown within net movement of funds). In accordance with FRS102, the balance sheet includes the deficit in the scheme, taking assets at their year-end market values and liabilities at their actuarially calculated values discounted at year-end AA corporate bonds yield curve. Further details regarding the scheme are disclosed in Note 19.

m) Foreign currencies

Foreign currencies have been converted to £ sterling at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the Balance Sheet date.

n) Significant management judgements

The following are the management judgements in applying the policies of the Charity that have the most significant impact on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- **Accrued legacy income:** The Charity has made an assessment as to whether the conditions recognition of legacy income are met on a case by case basis, specifically in respect of the measurement of the amount due. In making these judgements, management considered the detailed criteria set out in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

The Charity's investment income of £17,517 [2019: £24,300] arises from dividends from fixed asset investments (£16,701 [2019: £23,098]), interest bearing deposit accounts (£816 [2019: £1,202]).

4 OTHER INCOME

The Charity's other income of £35,611 [2019: £21,332] arises from HMRC employment allowance (£4,000 [2019: £14,000]), HMRC Job Retention Scheme (£23,328 [2019: £nil]), literature sales, some church display rack sales, and the sale of NINE BEATS albums, merchandise, and Ninefold Path resources (£8,283 [2019: £7,332]).

5 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Costs of raising funds	79,780	42,843	122,623	166,424
Total cost of raising funds	79,780	42,843	122,623	166,424
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Providing Bible resources	889,602	218,696	1,108,298	1,387,000
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	224,571	17,136	241,707	235,049
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	14,270	6,936	21,206	22,508
Total expenditure on charitable activities	1,128,443	242,768	1,371,211	1,644,557
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,208,223	285,611	1,493,834	1,810,981

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	General management £	Premises, Finance & IT £	DB pension admin, legal & finance £	Depreciation £	Governance costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Costs of raising funds	8,314	19,462	8,165	4,927	1,975	42,843	71,391
Providing Bible resources	42,121	98,602	43,000	24,966	10,007	218,696	292,300
Enabling programmes for communities-in-need	3,325	7,784	3,266	1,971	790	17,136	23,797
Strengthening capacity of branches & partners	1,663	3,893	-	985	395	6,936	9,129
Total support costs	55,423	129,741	54,431	32,849	13,167	285,611	396,617

Cost allocation includes an element of judgement and the Charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record-keeping. To ensure full cost recovery on projects, the Charity adopts a policy of allocating costs to the respective cost headings through the year. This allocation includes support costs where they are directly attributable. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. The defined benefit pension administration and finance costs include elements from both the General Fund and the Defined Benefit Pension (FRS102) Fund.

7 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2020	Total 2019
GOVERNANCE COSTS	£	£
Auditors' fees	8,442	7,335
Professional and legal fees	2,887	653
Strategic management	1,780	19,847
Trustees' expenses	58	566
Total governance costs	13,167	28,401

Auditors' fees include £7,760 for Audit fee and irrecoverable VAT on fee [2019: £7,335] and £682 for other services [2019 £ nil].

8 STAFF COSTS

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Staff costs	£	£
Salaries	380,825	346,199
Social security	37,873	32,573
Pension	38,206	35,958
Past service costs on defined benefit pension scheme	-	226,000
Total staff costs	456,904	640,730

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 during the year or previous year. Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds. During the year one staff post was made redundant [2019: nil], with a statutory termination payment of £4,842, all of which has been paid.

The key management personnel of the Charity, comprise the Trustees, Creative Director, Finance Director and Global Bible Resources Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £162,326 [2019: £150,716].

The average monthly head count was 10 staff [2019: 10 staff]. At year-end the charity had 5 full-time staff [2019: 5 full-time staff] and 4 part-time staff [2019: 5 part-time staff]. The average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was 9 [2019: 9].

In the way that our global family of organisations operates, senior staff (key management personnel) in the UK are also responsible for facilitating and supporting work in the other six Lifewords centres in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya and USA. All other national or functional directors report to the International Executive Team, as part of a global leadership team. Together as a global family we employ a further 20-25 staff outside of the UK, and have about the same number again of volunteers making a significant contribution to training and coordinating our Bible programmes. A further 50+ volunteers serve as facilitators (peer mentors) for Pavement Project initiatives.

During the year the Charity transferred £151,216 to the defined pension scheme as part of the Recovery Plan [2019: £124,236] and £nil in respect of accrual of benefits [2019: £nil] in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions. In addition, in the prior year the Charity also transferred £150,000 which was allocated towards the estimated amount of £226,000 of past service costs on the defined benefit pension scheme relating to Late Retirement Factors.

9 TRUSTEES

The Board members were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity during the year or previous year. The aggregated amount of expenses reimbursed to one Board members during the year was £58 [2019: one member, £566]. No Board member received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity during the year or previous year.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Equipment, fixtures and fittings £	Office purchase, refurbishment & VAT costs £	Office leasehold £	Total £
At 1 January 2020	128,728	204,440	869,880	1,203,048
Additions	4,684	(1,032)	-	3,652
Disposals and written off	(1,739)	-	-	(1,739)
Cost at 31 December 2020	131,673	203,408	869,880	1,204,961
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	117,107	53,764	104,388	275,259
Charge for the year	6,602	8,815	17,396	32,813
Disposals and written off	(1,739)	-	-	(1,739)
Depreciation at 31 December 2020	121,970	62,579	121,784	306,333
Net book value				
At 31 December 2020	9,703	140,829	748,096	898,628
At 31 December 2019	11,621	150,676	765,492	927,789

All the above assets were used in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects.

The Trustees have granted a first legal charge over the office leasehold to the trustees of the defined benefit pension scheme to strengthen the employer covenant and to give the pension trustees greater financial security over the assets of the employer.

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2020 £	2019 £
UK property		
Value at 1 January	43,500	43,500
Disposals during year	-	-
Value at 31 December	43,500	43,500

The investment property at 31 December 2020 consists of one remaining apartment [2019: one apartment] on which rental income is being received; along with the right to receive ground rent in respect of 15 properties already sold. The investment amount of the properties was valued in June 2014 by C C Johnson Chartered Surveyor. The investment represents a half-share in the four freehold blocks of flats. There are no charges over this property or restrictions on its use.

	2020 £	2019 £
Revaluation Reserve balance		
At original valuation at 1 January	6,293	6,293
Disposals during year	-	-
At original valuation at 31 December	6,293	6,293

Revaluation reserve balance (Note 16)	37,207	37,207
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The original valuation was the market valuation at the date of death, as the property was acquired as a legacy.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	854,675	739,431
Change in value in the year	(4,564)	115,244
Market value at 31 December	850,111	854,675

Historical cost:

At 31 December	441,613	441,613
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Listed investments are represented by 584,992 units in Newton Growth & Income Fund for Charities at a book value of £441,613 [2019: £441,613]. The cumulative unrealised gains on these investments are £408,498 [2019: £413,061].

13 STOCK OF SCRIPTURES

Stocks of Scripture publications held for future distribution, which have not been included in the assets on the Balance Sheet as these will be given away free of charge, have been valued by the Charity at 31 December 2020 at the sum of £131,000 [2019: £120,000]. This valuation has not been subject to audit.

14 DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Legacy debtors	463,037	845,128
Taxation recoverable	24,919	3,828
VAT recoverable	436	4,827
Staff loans	-	4,373
Pre-payments and other	17,751	18,379
Total debtors	506,143	876,535

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Taxation and social security	8,512	8,857
Trade creditors	19,099	30,120
Other creditors	64,116	44,170
Total creditors due within one year	91,727	83,147

16 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Losses	Actuarial Gains	Balance at 31 December £
Restricted funds						
Providing Bible resources	-	400,455	(400,455)	-	-	-
Choose Life	-	1,107	(1,107)	-	-	-
Pavement Project	9,982	81,852	(32,801)	-	-	59,033
NINE BEATS	30,000	730	(730)	-	-	30,000
	39,982	484,144	(435,093)	-	-	89,033
Unrestricted funds						
Designated						
Security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry development	675,000	-	(175,000)	-	-	500,000
Revaluation Reserve	37,207	-	-	-	-	37,207
General	177,657	1,056,924	(883,741)	(4,564)	(843,000)	(496,724)
	889,864	1,056,924	(1,058,741)	(4,564)	(843,000)	40,483
Total funds	929,846	1,541,068	(1,493,834)	(4,564)	(843,000)	129,516

The fund for providing Bible resources covers publications in a wide range of countries. Restricted income was also received and expended towards the development of the NINE BEATS project, aimed at engaging emerging generations with the Bible through the Beatitudes.

The funds for Choose Life and Pavement Project cover the current operation and ongoing development of these programmes (a values-based life-skills curriculum for teenagers, and the training & resourcing of workers in a Bible-based counselling process for children-at-risk, respectively).

There are two designated funds, the first of which is a fund of £905,500 with a corresponding long-term liability of the same amount designated as security against the deficit of the defined benefit pension scheme giving a balance at year end of £nil [2019: £nil]. The second fund of £500,000 is a capital fund for new ministry development [2019: £675,000].

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:					
Fixed assets	349,532	37,207	1,405,500	-	1,792,239
Current assets	1,168,971	-	-	89,033	1,258,004
Current liabilities	(91,727)	-	-	-	(91,727)
Total net assets before pension liability	1,426,776	37,207	1,405,500	89,033	2,958,516
Long term pension liability	(1,923,500)	-	(905,500)	-	(2,829,000)
Total net assets	(496,724)	37,207	500,000	89,033	129,516

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has two wholly owned dormant subsidiary companies in which the share capital is unpaid. Only Lifewords Ltd is likely to be used for the purpose of servicing future commercial needs. This company remained dormant during 2020.

The Finance Director and Company Secretary acts as trustee for the charity Radstock (Eccleston Hall) Trust; until October 2020 he was also a trustee of Childs Charitable Trust. These charities gave grants to the Charity during the year, the aggregate total of which was £342,000 [2019: £369,000].

Jadan Reeves-Bassett, son of the Creative Director, was paid £7,725 for design services [2019: £3,020].

The aggregated total amount of donations received without conditions from key management personnel during the year was £128 [2019: £956].

19 PENSION

The Charity operates two pension schemes in the UK. The assets of both schemes are held separately from those of the Charity, being invested with separate insurance companies. One is a funded defined benefit scheme invested with Legal & General and administered by Barnett Waddingham LLP, and the other a defined contribution scheme with Aegon; the former having closed to new employees on 25 March 2003 and closed to further accrual on 23 May 2013, with the latter being open to all new employees. Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are assessed on the basis of the advice of qualified actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Pension costs charged were:	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Defined benefit scheme (Recovery Plan)	151	124
Defined benefit scheme (additional transfer)	-	150
Defined contribution scheme	38	36
Total	189	310

No amounts were owing at the year end [2019: £nil].

Additional FRS102 disclosures

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based upon the latest full actuarial valuation at 6 April 2019 and updated by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

%	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Rate of increase in salaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase for pensions in payment and deferred pension	2.85	2.90	3.10	3.10	3.15
Discount rate	1.25	2.05	2.90	2.60	2.90
Inflation assumption - retail price index increase	2.95	3.00	3.20	3.20	3.30

19 PENSION (continued)

The assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/20 %		2020 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/19 %		2019 fair value £'000		Long-term rate of expected return at 31/12/18 %		2018 fair value £'000	
Legal & General funds												
Managed Funds	4.8		4,575		4.8		4,348		5.6		3,738	
Annuities	2.7		1,664		2.7		1,673		4.5		1,662	
Total market value of assets			6,239				6,021				5,400	
Present value of scheme liabilities			9,068				8,112				6,883	
Deficit in scheme being the net pension liability			(2,829)				(2,091)				(1,483)	

Analysis of the amount charged against operating income

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Current service cost	-	-
Past service cost	5	226
Total operating charge	5	226

**Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income
or debited to other finance costs**

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Expected return on pension scheme assets	122	157
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(163)	(196)
Net return	(41)	(39)

R-emeasurements over the year

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Gains/(losses) on assets in excess of interest	228	410
Experience gains on liabilities	45	40
Gains from changes to demographic assumptions	15	-
(Losses)/gains from changes to financial assumptions	(1,131)	(1,067)
Re-measurements over the year	(843)	(617)

The movements on the scheme deficit during the period for FRS102 purposes are:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Deficit in the scheme at beginning of year	(2,091)	(1,483)
Movement in year		
Past service cost	(5)	(226)
Contributions	151	274
Interest on assets	122	157
Interest cost	(163)	(196)
Re-measurements over the year	(843)	(617)
Deficit in the scheme carried forward	(2,829)	(2,091)

19 PENSION (continued)

History of experienced gains and losses

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Difference between actual and expected return on scheme assets (£'000)	228	410	(253)	190	461
Percentage of scheme assets at end of year	3.7	6.8	(4.7)	3.4	8.6
Experience gains/(losses) on scheme liabilities (£'000)	45	40	-	3	50
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	0.5	0.5	-	0.0	0.7
Total amount recognised in SOFA (£'000)	(843)	(617)	159	(67)	(766)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(9.3)	(7.6)	2.3	(0.9)	(11.0)

Volatility of FRS102

It should be noted that the methodology and assumptions prescribed for the purposes of FRS102 mean that these disclosures are inherently volatile, varying greatly according to investment market conditions at each accounting date.

20 NOTE TO THE CASH FLOW

	At 1 January 2020	Cash flows	At 31 December 2020
Cash at bank	226,887	351,621	578,508
Cash on deposit	150,581	608	151,189
	377,468	352,229	729,697
Net cash	377,468	352,229	729,697