



Missionaries' Children's Fund

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Number 220204

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

Corporate trustee: Echoes International

Charity registered number: 220204

Principal office: 124 Wells Road
BATH
BA2 3AH

Independent Examiner: Joshua Kingston BSc ACA
Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Flax Bourton
Bristol
BS48 1UR

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc
24-25 Stall Street
BATH
BA1 1QF

Solicitors: Hugh James
Two Central Square
Cardiff
CF10 1FS

Report of the trustee for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustee presents its annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Objects, mission and aims

The object is to care for the children of mission partners associated with Echoes International and particularly in assisting them in connection with their education.

The mission is:

- to assist mission partners with educational costs for their children, particularly when boarding is necessary due to their overseas location but not to relieve parents of their responsibility for the education of their children, and only after careful enquiry, each case being decided on its merits.
- to make the work of the Fund widely known through all United Kingdom assemblies and assembly agencies with whom the Fund will co-operate in cases where specific needs are brought to the attention of the Management Committee.

The aim of the Fund is to support the children of mission partners commended from UK assemblies to help with the educational expenses incurred, until further education, while their parents are serving in cross-cultural mission.

Grant making policy

Each year the Management Committee approves an annual distribution of funds to support the education of the children of families on the Echoes International Daily Prayer Guide. The amounts awarded to each family are based on an assessment of the known needs of each child. Each award is determined according to two broad categories:

- families who need to send their children to schools which charge fees or provide home schooling receive a contribution towards the annual school fee.
- families who send their children to non fee-paying local schools receive a one-off annual contribution towards books and uniform. The value depends upon whether the child attends a primary or secondary school.

The Management Committee may also approve extra grants towards the known special educational needs of the children of mission partners.

Nursery and pre-school education are not eligible for financial assistance from the Fund and no ongoing support is given in respect of children entering tertiary education.

The grant-making criteria are determined by the Management Committee, and are subject to review at their regular meetings.

Achievements and performance: how our activities delivered public benefit

The Trustee has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Fund contributes to the delivery of public benefit by supplying financial resources for the educational and associated needs of children whose parents are engaged in voluntary work overseas, often with very low levels of income. The support given by the Fund allows such parents to continue working in their chosen country as they provide a range of educational, medical, environmental, social, religious and other developmental assistance.

During 2023, the Fund made grants totalling £44,174 to 26 families in respect of 62 children in 13 countries. The letters and emails received from parents not only express appreciation for the grants from the Fund but often refer to the timeliness of the grant, arriving when needs are greatest.

Financial review

During the past year, the Fund received income totalling £47,368 and has distributed funds totalling £44,174. Administration costs amounted to £579, being the cost of fees and sundry bank charges.

The Charity's full financial position is set out in the attached financial statements. There are no contingent liabilities. The Fund owns no property and, as a matter of investment policy, all its assets are in funds with its bankers.

Risk management

The key risks for the Fund are a lack of incoming resources and payments to ineligible families or in respect of ineligible children.

The Fund welcomes the free-will gifts of assemblies, individuals and organisations but it does not, as a matter of policy, undertake fund-raising activities. Financial contributions to cover shortfalls in proposals for disbursements have always been provided by a committed source, and there is no reason to suppose this support will not continue.

To mitigate the risk of payments to ineligible families or in respect of ineligible children, the Management Committee reviews the financial needs for the education of each child each year on an annual basis to ensure that proposals for disbursements are based on up-to-date information.

Reserves policy

The Fund has no formal reserves policy as we distribute all the funds that are received from donors, and we have no long-term liabilities. Although our distributions help provide funds towards educational costs for families linked to Echoes International, there is no promise made or implied contract that guarantees support will continue if income is not received.

Plans for the future

Each year brings a new set of educational needs to the Management Committee and it intends to continue to identify, assess and support these needs.

Structure, governance and management

The Missionaries' Children's Fund, earlier registered as a charity in the name of "Missionaries' Children's Home", based at Bury St. Edmund's since 1913, was formed on 1 August 1966 possessed of the assets of the Missionaries' Children's Home which closed at the end of July in that same year. The Fund was registered as a Charity in England and Wales on 1 April 1964.

There is no overall governing document, the Charity being run upon guidelines which were established in May 1969 and revised in 2012.

The Management Committee members are appointed by the Corporate Trustee on the basis of their experience, skills and knowledge of the particular work of the Fund.

Members of the Management Committee continue to serve without any specific term of office.

New members of the Management Committee are given Minutes, Annual Reports and Accounts, and are invited to monitor Management Committee operations as their induction to the role.

Management Committee Members meet up to twice a year to discuss each case based on personal knowledge and correspondence that has been received. A decision is made on the known needs of the children at that time and the level of funds available.

Most of the money is distributed to the families through Echoes International. In exceptional circumstances a distribution is sent directly as a need arises.

The function of the office is to perform the day-to-day administration of the Fund and to receive, acknowledge and process donations from individuals, churches, trusts and legacies.

The charity has no direct relationship with any charity other than Echoes International.

Key management personnel remuneration

The members of the Management Committee comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity, as well as others who provide educational and financial advice. All members of the Management Committee give of their time freely; no remuneration is paid to them and there are no paid employees.

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Registration

The Missionaries' Children's Fund is registered with the Charity Commission, reference 220204.

Trustees

Echoes International are the Corporate Trustees, of whom the Trustees are:

S R Durrant	A H Smith
F M McPhail	S Prince
S Shaw	D Brown
Paul Coxall	N McQuoid

Management Committee

Mr Jim Armstrong, Chairman	Miss Debbie Scott
Mr Bogi Vang (retired 14 June 2024)	Mr Rupert Abbott
Miss Rachel Daws	Mrs Angie Dodds
Miss Hilary Millard	Mrs Michelle Munro (appointed 14 June 2024)

Principal Address

Missionaries' Children's Fund, Echoes International, 124 Wells Road, Bath, BA2 3AH

Independent Examiner

Burton Sweet Ltd, The Clock Tower, 5 Farleigh Court, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton, Bristol, BS48 1UR

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, City of Bath Branch, 24-25 Stall Street, Bath, BA1 1QF

Trustee's responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustee is responsible for preparing a trustee's annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustee to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustee on 2 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Simon Prince

Chair of the Corporate Trustee

Independent Examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Missionaries' Children's Fund (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Joshua Kingston

Joshua Kingston BSc ACA
Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 2 August 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	2	47,336	68,018
Investments		32	37
Total income		47,368	68,055
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	3	44,753	46,252
Total expenditure		44,753	46,252
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds	5	2,615	21,803
Total funds at start of year	10	51,063	29,260
Total funds at end of year	10	53,678	51,063

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results of the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the Charity are related to unrestricted funds in both years and are classed as continuing.

Balance Sheet

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	8	53,227	23,524
Cash at bank and in hand		2,886	29,974
		<u>56,113</u>	<u>53,498</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(2,435)	(2,435)
Net current asset		<u>53,678</u>	<u>51,063</u>
Net assets		<u>53,678</u>	<u>51,063</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		53,678	51,063
Designated funds		-	-
Total funds		<u>53,678</u>	<u>51,063</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2 August 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Simon Prince
Chair of the Corporate Trustee

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102. The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties affecting the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income

Income from donations is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- I. When donors specify that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods;
- II. When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

Legacies are included on a receivable basis where charity is entitled to the income, it can be measured reliably and receipt is probable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is not included in income but is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Investment income is included on a receivable basis.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Charitable activities

Grants awarded are allocated to charitable activities.

Grants awarded are treated as expenditure and a liability in the accounts as soon as they become legal or constructive obligations. In the case of multi-year grant awards, the funding for all years is immediately recognised unless there are conditions which need to be met by the recipient to enable the release of subsequent years' funding.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within support costs.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to general funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in note 10 of the financial statements.

2. Income from: Donations and legacies

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations	45,611	66,491
Gift Aid Refund	1,725	1,527
	47,336	68,018

3. Expenditure on: Charitable activities

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Grants for the education of missionaries' children	44,174	44,681
<i>Support costs</i>		
Bank charges	9	11
Governance costs (Note 4)	570	1,560
	<u>44,753</u>	<u>46,252</u>

4. Governance costs

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Accountant's fees	570	570
Publication cost	-	990
	<u>570</u>	<u>1,560</u>

5. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

No Trustees have been reimbursed for their out of pocket travel expenses (2022: None). No Trustee received any remuneration during the year.

Aggregate donations from Trustees, key management personnel, and other related parties was £nil (2022: £nil).

6. Staff costs and numbers

There were no employees in the current or prior year. Key management personnel of the charity are the Trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £nil (2022: £nil). No trustee received any remuneration during both the current and prior year.

7. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

8. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due in less than one year:		
Trade debtors	52,527	22,824
Tax reclaimable under Gift Aid	700	700
	<u>53,227</u>	<u>23,524</u>

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,025	1,025
Accruals and deferred income	1,410	1,410
	<u>2,435</u>	<u>2,435</u>

10. Movement in funds

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	At 1 Jan				At 31 Dec
	2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
Missionary funds	-	-	(44,174)	44,174	-
General funds	51,063	47,368	(579)	(44,174)	53,678
	<u>51,063</u>	<u>47,368</u>	<u>(44,753)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,678</u>
Total funds	<u>51,063</u>	<u>47,368</u>	<u>(44,753)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,678</u>

Missionary Funds – Grants for the education of missionaries' children

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	At 1 Jan				At 31 Dec
	2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
Missionary funds	-	-	(44,681)	44,681	-
General funds	29,260	68,055	(1,571)	(44,681)	51,063
	<u>29,260</u>	<u>68,055</u>	<u>(46,252)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,063</u>
Total funds	<u>29,260</u>	<u>68,055</u>	<u>(46,252)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,063</u>

11. Related party transactions

There are no transactions with the trustees or other related parties other than those disclosed as required by the SORP elsewhere in the financial statements.