

**THE TRUSTEES OF
THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS
(Registered Charity No: 232532)**

TRUSTEES' REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2024

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees	Sr Patricia Jordan FSM Sr Eugenie (Thomas More) Roddy FSM Sr Valerie Anne Taylor FSM Sr Lisette Prele FSM Sr Dorothy A. Black FSM (appointed 22 July 2024) Sr Margaret McDermott FSM (deceased 28 June 2024)
Superior General	Sr Patricia Jordan FSM
Provincial Bursar	Sr Eugenie (Thomas More) Roddy FSM
Principal Office	Franciscan Convent Dalby Road Melton Mowbray Leicestershire, LE13 0BP
Charity Registration Number	232532
Governing Instrument	Trust Deed dated 28 May 1998
Auditors	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London, EC4R 1AG
Solicitors	Shakespeare Martineau 2 Colton Square Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 1QN Stone King 13 Queen Square Bath, BA12 HJ Paul Hughes Ashfield House 402 Sauchiehall Street Glasgow, G2 3JD Stephens Scown LLP Osprey House Malpas Road Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1UT
Principal Bankers	HSBC 17 High Street Melton Mowbray Leicester, LE13 OTY
Investment Managers	Brewin Dolphin 20 Colmore Circus Queensway Birmingham, B4 6AT HFB Financial Planning No.1 Mill The Wharf, Shardlow Derby, DE72 2GH
Investment Powers	Under the Congregation's Trust Deed it has no restrictions on its powers of investment.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Trustees of the Franciscan Sisters Minoress is an English Congregation whose Mother House is in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. The Superior General together with a Council of four Sisters administers the Congregation. The Superior General and the Council are elected every five years as was decided by the Congregation at the Chapter of 2013, to take effect from June 2017.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the Charitable Trust in which the assets of the Congregation are held. The Trust is governed by a Trust Deed and registered with the Charity Commission under the No. 232532.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The objects of the Charity are to apply the trust property either as capital or income in such a manner as the Trustees (with the approval of the Superior General) shall from time to time think fit for the promotion of religion and education and the relief of poverty and sickness in accordance with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, and for any other charitable purposes which shall advance the religious, educational and other charitable works for the time being carried on, directed or approved by the Congregation.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL/TRUSTEES AND KEY MANAGEMENT

The members of the General Council are the Trustees of the Charity. The Trustees consider that the key management of the charity consists of themselves and in particular the Superior General and the Provincial Bursar to whom much of the running of the day-to-day running operation devolves. As religious sisters, under a vow of poverty, the Trustees do not receive remuneration.

TRUSTEE TRAINING

The Trustees attend courses and conferences which are thought to be relevant to the exercise of their responsibilities to ensure good governance of the Charity. Specialist advice is sought from professional advisers where necessary.

The Trustees meet at least four times each year and will meet more frequently if circumstances require it. There is also a minimum of three meetings per annum with the Charity's fund managers and other advisers.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a priority for and the responsibility of all Trustees. ***“Even if some activities are delegated to a safeguarding lead or group, the trustees retain overall responsibility”.***

'Safeguarding for charities and trustees' (Published 17 November 2021)

Trustees are regularly made aware of Safeguarding updates and opportunities for training. There is a designated safeguarding lead / lead trustee for safeguarding.

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SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

We, the Franciscan Sisters Minoress are happy to comply fully with the guidelines and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) and the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS).

The CSAS has been established to be responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice. Its primary role is one of co-ordination, advice and support in respect of the wider job of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults (Agreement 01st July 2021 to 31st December 2024).

On the 18th February 2022 we (Franciscan Sisters Minoress in England) entered into a Services Agreement (and a Data Sharing Agreement) with the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS).

The RLSS's new dedicated safeguarding service has been created to replace the alignment arrangements with dioceses in England and Wales as well as ensuring national safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented in line with the 'One Church' strategy to Safeguarding.

The 'One Church' approach to safeguarding is a commitment by the Dioceses and Religious Congregations in England and Wales to using the same policies, procedures, standards and systems in relation to safeguarding and to providing data to support monitoring of performance.

Both Dioceses and Religious Congregations are bound by Charity Law making the protection of people and safeguarding responsibilities a governance priority. Trustees are responsible for taking all reasonable steps to protect from harm the people who come into contact with the charity.

Our Sisters keep up to date with the developments in safeguarding practices and arrangements and know what is expected of us as Religious as we continue our ministry both within our Congregation / communities and in the wider community of the Parish and or Diocese. Sisters take advantage of Safeguarding Training opportunities when they arise.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND AIMS

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on by the Congregation in the main areas of Education, Nursing and Pastoral Formation and Missionary Work in England, Scotland & South Africa.

VISION STATEMENT

In union with Mary, our Mother, to live joyfully the Gospel Life of conversion, in humility, poverty and contemplation as sisters to all of creation, after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

MISSION STATEMENT

Like our foundress, Mother Francis, we, the Franciscan Sisters Minoress, with prophetic faith and trusting in Divine Providence, journey together, through conversion, poverty and humility, to be instruments of God's loving and transforming presence by making our communities places of contemplation, hospitality and outreach, especially to the most needy, creating peace and fraternity with our brothers and sisters and with the whole of creation, wherever the Spirit of God leads us.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

EDUCATION

St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray

The Congregation still owns St Francis Primary School in Melton Mowbray. The School has always had a Franciscan Sister as Principal until July 2000 when Sister Thomas More Roddy retired. Although retired from teaching Sister Thomas More continues to support the School and has a keen interest in all aspects of the School and its pupils. Sister Valerie was appointed a Foundation Governor (01/10/2021). A highly educated team of Governors together with the local Education Authority and the Diocesan Education service support the School.

'In Jesus we will do our best as we love, pray, learn and play because this is the St Francis Way' The Mission of Saint Francis Catholic Primary School is to prepare all members of our community for tomorrow's world, in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.

As a Congregation we see this as a very important aspect of teaching and training young people who are threatened with so many problems, difficulties and dangers in society today. They need to be strong in faith and hope with love and reverence for each other and for all with whom they come into contact throughout their lives as citizens of tomorrow.

The School has been inspected at various intervals over the past years under the 1992 Education Act as part of the National Programme of School Inspection. On each occasion the results have been good and the last OFSTED inspection was 16th and 17th February 2023.

Saint Francis Catholic Primary School continues to be a good school.

Recommendations : What does the school need to do to improve? (Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Some pupils do not behave well at lunchtime. This means that, sometimes, poor behaviour disrupts this time for other pupils. Leaders have started to address this. Leaders should ensure that they review how they deal with behaviour incidents at unstructured times so that pupils meet the same high standards as they do in lessons.
- Some parents feel that the school does not communicate well with them. As a result, some parents are not always clear about how the school supports their child. Leaders should ensure that communication is effective by considering how they meaningfully engage with parents

The last DCI inspection was 11th February 2020

The overall grade was Good with Catholic Life judged as Outstanding.

The Catholic Life of St Francis' is outstanding. The mission statement, 'In Jesus we will do our best as we love, pray, learn and play, because this is St Francis' way' is clearly in evidence and reflects the school's Catholic ethos.

The Sisters in the Convent close by are involved in various charitable activities in the area of Melton Mowbray, visiting the elderly in their homes and numerous other necessary tasks that need to be done to help the people around us especially the elderly and housebound.

Our 2 schools, St Francis in Melton Mowbray Leicestershire and St Elizabeth's school in Belper, Derbyshire converted to Academies in September 2019 in accordance with a request from Bishop McKinney of Nottingham. The school in Melton now belongs to the St Thomas Aquinas Academy and that in Belper to the St Ralph Sherwin Academy. New Lease and Licence documents were drawn up by Stephens Scown Solicitors to protect and clarify the ownership and conditions of use of the Congregations buildings and land. These documents apply to both St Francis School and land in Melton Mowbray and St Elizabeth's School and Land in Belper.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

EDUCATION (continued)

St Elizabeth's School, Belper, Derbyshire

There is no longer a Sister teaching in the School but there are two Sisters on the Governing Body. They visit the School regularly and are keenly interested in the welfare of the children. They support the staff and parents whenever they can.

The mission statement at St Elizabeth's Catholic Voluntary Academy, 'Be like Jesus, be your best, be safe, be caring,' alongside the seven Franciscan values of joy, forgiveness, faith, respect, service, peace and stewardship, are at the heart of the school community.

The values of St Elizabeth's School are exactly the same as that of St Francis School Melton Mowbray, working with parents, the Parish Community and the Local Authority to develop the full potential of each child spiritually, academically and socially in order to prepare them to take their place in society, living as children of God and eventually reaching the place prepared for them in heaven.

The most recent Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection took place in March 2023. The overall grade was Good. "The school has a well-developed sense of community where all are cared for and supported. Parents say, "We feel our children are loved and nurtured at St Elizabeth's. Staff are great role models and it is clear that children are encouraged to be respectful and caring to each other." "The sense of community across the school is strong." "Staff know pupils well and these relationships are nurtured carefully."

HEALTHCARE

St Francis Care Home, Govan, Glasgow

The Congregation's Nursing Home in the Govan area of Glasgow cares for the sick and elderly of the community and is separately registered as a charity in Scotland (no. SC023725). It became a Limited Company on 31st July, 2018 and is now known as St Francis Care Home.

It is a comparatively new Home which was completed and officially opened in March 1996. It comprises forty en-suite rooms, several lounges plus kitchen and laundry facilities. It also has a beautiful Chapel at the entrance where services are held frequently for the Residents who wish to attend. Sister Lisette is the Matron. The Home has a very good Nursing Staff who treat the elderly with dignity, reverence and respect. It is well maintained and frequently refurbished. There is a very happy atmosphere between staff and patients. It is well supported by a Board of Professionals on the Governing Body. The Health Board carries out Inspections at regular intervals. The Nursing Home always receives an excellent report. Part of the Bowling Green area adjacent to the Nursing Home which we bought a few years ago has now been used to extend the car park. This has been a great improvement for ambulances, delivery vans and people visiting their relatives and friends in the Home.

Glasgow City Council owned part of the land on which the Care Home is built. It was decided to negotiate with the Council to buy out this land to give the Congregation full ownership. This has now been successfully negotiated.

We have the support of a group of professionals on the Governing Body. They are:-

Chairman	Mr Frank Walker
Solicitor	Mr Frank McCormick
Accountant	Mr Frank Walker
Matron	Sister Lisette Prele
Assistant Matron	Ms Sally Joseph
Administrator	Ms Margaret Prele

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

HEALTHCARE (continued)

The Philosophy of the Home

The Apostolic Mission of the Church has been entrusted to the Franciscan Minoress Sisters who provide hospitality to the aged, poor and vulnerable of our society. We welcome all denominations and beliefs with respect and dignity.

We Uphold

in conformity with Christian values and the teaching of the Catholic Church, the sacredness of human life in all its stages i.e. from conception to natural death.

We believe

in fidelity to the Charismatic inspiration of St Francis, that elderly people are an important part of society as any other individual.

We believe

that disabilities resulting from age are accepted all the more readily when those around who surround the elderly, take care of them with love, esteem and affection, trying to compensate for their disabilities, making them easier to bear, even combating them and halting their progression.

We have at heart

to respond to the desires and aspirations of the residents, in recognition of their dignity, desire of being respected, esteemed and loved and the longing to feel themselves useful.

We Uphold

their apprehension of solitude together with a wish for independence and privacy and their need for security in health as in sickness until death.

We take note

of all inspections and recommendation of the Board to comply with their wishes as soon as possible. We feel privileged to take care of the elderly and helpless people in our care.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

House of Formation, St Clare's Convent Clay Cross

Here our young Sisters are trained to carry on the Apostolate of the Congregation for the future. This training takes almost ten years before completion and Final Profession.

The Sisters appointed to this work are specifically trained for Formation. They work as a team. They also work continually in Vocation promotion. Two Sisters were appointed to this work last year and they still continue this important work for the Congregation.

Our Lady of the Angels Portiuncula

The facility at Clay Cross named the Portiuncula is where we seek to provide an opportunity for a lived experience of prayer and solitude. This is a unique expression of the call to solitude which was keenly felt by St Francis and is part of our Franciscan Spirituality. It is offered to anyone, religious or secular who feels drawn to this experience, either for a short time or an extended time. We find that there is an attraction, and a need, for this within today's hectic pace of life.

The rhythm of life at the Portiuncula is contemplation and compassion. The centre is love lived out in relationship with God, others, oneself and the whole created reality in God. Time is needed to discover and savour the harmony and integration that is envisaged in the solitude experience.

The Peace Garden captures something very special to St Francis: his love of creation and his mission of peace. A central figure is a statue of our Lady who is Mother and Queen of Peace. There are also representations of St Francis and St Clare representing peace. Towards the centre of the Garden there is a labyrinth based on the model of the Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral. For many people a labyrinth is a healing experience leading to deep inner peace.

In the Portiuncula there are five Hermitages and each person has his/her own Hermitage as a sacred and personal space. There is also a wheelchair access and disabled toilet and shower facilities.

Many people from all walks of life, as well as the Sisters, have experienced a period of prayer and solitude in the Portiuncula. Many too have experienced great healing of mind and body. People who come to the Portiuncula often ask to be accompanied in their prayer life. The Sisters who live there are part of the Team and are trained for this work.

Sister Patricia Jordan FSM is the Director of the Portiuncula. Sister has a Masters Degree and a Doctorate in Franciscan Spirituality. The Sisters at St Clares work as a team involving spiritual accompaniment, catering, hospitality, cleaning and secretarial work. There is a website where they can be contacted as follows: - website - www.franciscansm.org/Portiuncula.

Parish work in Alfreton

Since 2016, when the Parish Priest in Alfreton was taken ill and the Sisters took a leading role in the smooth running of the parish and so it was decided to change our plans for Alfreton. We withdrew the sale of the Convent and use it as a centre for Vocation Promotion. The age and illness of the Sisters and the restrictions of the pandemic made it impossible to continue this ministry. It was decided to sell the property. However, when we heard that another Religious Community were in need of a temporary home, we offered our Convent to the Sisters on a temporary basis with signed Agreements as to the terms and length of use.

On 11th August 2021 Mother Damien contacted Sister Patricia confirming that the Bulwell Poor Clares definitely wished to take over San Damiano Convent, Alfreton. Sister Patricia distributed an Agreement between the Franciscan Minoreesses and the Poor Clare Colletines (Bulwell) for the occupation of the St. Damiano Convent, 1 Hall Street, Alfreton. DE55 7BT. It was agreed to offer this temporary accommodation rent free to the Sisters.

In May 2023 the Sisters moved out of San Damiano Convent. We decided to respond to the plight of refugees from Ukraine by offering this Convent to the St John of God (SJOG) community, known as Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, in support of their Charity project 'Homes for Ukraine '. This transfer/donation of the property was completed in December 2023.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REVIEW OF THE YEAR (continued)

Overseas work of the Congregation – Republic of Ireland

The Congregation has no activities in Ireland. There is still one Sister there but she is now in a Nursing Home.

Overseas work of the Congregation – Republic of South Africa

The work of the Congregation in South Africa is not carried on under the auspices of this charity but the charity does provide financial support. During the year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024, grants amounting to £20,000 were made.

St Theresa's Convent Blaauwbosch, Natal, South Africa

St Theresa's Convent was established by the Congregation as a House of Formation for the training of young people for Religious Life. This ministry has now moved to St Elizabeth's Convent. The training takes up to ten years, or more, depending on each person's needs, (perhaps more in some cases) as they have to be trained both spiritually and professionally so as to enable them to be competent people for their future work in the congregation and in society.

The Sisters have a number of other activities in the area. They have a feeding scheme for up to one hundred very poor children whose parents may be affected with Aids. These children come daily after School and have a meal. The numbers are increasing on a daily basis. They have erected a building near the Convent where they cook the meals. The Sisters also provide clothing and very often send food home to the other members of the family who are in great need. They are also involved in the Pastoral care of these people in many and various ways such as teaching and helping generally with their education, supporting them in their illnesses and sufferings, by visiting them and bringing them the compassion and comfort of the Church.

St Elizabeth's Osisweni

This second Convent is a House of Formation for the young women who come to us seeking to discern their call to Religious Life and completing formation studies prior to a lifelong commitment. It is a relatively newly built Convent paid for by the Congregation from the Generalate Fund held in Melton Mowbray, UK, at a cost of £240k, paid in previous years.

As part of their training the young women help in the Crèche and they work with different groups within the Parish. They work to support themselves by growing much of their own produce and they are encouraging the local people to do the same. The Sisters have hens and a small pig farm. They also make Rosaries and candles and sell them in the surrounding parishes.

A new kitchen was built and the Feeding project was officially opened in June 2018. In June 2018 they were feeding 50 children. They now feed 190 children. The Sisters also provide 8 families with food parcels as the area is very poor.

St Francis Creche and St Joseph's Convent

In February 2019 the Sisters were given a plot of land to build a small convent and Crèche. This was in Jobstown near to our existing convents. It is also a very poor and needy area. The Jobstown project did not materialise but the project moved to Vaal Bank where a new Creche was built and also accommodation for the Sisters, which is now called St Joseph's Convent.

Vaal Bank is a very poor area with no other educational facilities available. The St Francis Creche and Pre-School opened for registration on 13th January 2020. Twenty one registered and there were lots of enquiries and interest. The children came from as far away as Utrecht and Blaauwbosch. During the Covid-19 pandemic the Creche and Pre-school had to close but it is now open and flourishing. The Generalate sent donations to help with this much needed project and ministry.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REVIEW OF THE YEAR (continued)

St Francis Creche and St Joseph's Convent (continued)

A Certificate of Registration of Non-Profit Organisation St Francis Crèche and Pre-school. 259-213 NPO was issued on 27th May 2021.

On the 15th February 2022 the Sisters were able to start using the new additional classrooms. As from 1 April 2022 the Creche came under the authority of the Department of Education. In 2023 they had 253 children attending and seven classes.

Our Vision

Children and families receive quality care and holistic development in a conducive and caring environment.

Our Mission

- To become a resource for families in the surrounding community.
- To promote Family Preservation and Reunification.
- To support a Food Project feeding 100 - 200 children each week day.

The Sisters in these three Houses are supported financially by the Congregation and by donations received from generous benefactors. The Sisters themselves live frugally and share what they have with the poor people in the area surrounding them.

Pastoral Work

This work was very dear to the heart of our Foundress Mother Francis Murphy. So following her example, Sisters in all our Convents give some time to Pastoral work in the areas where we live. Some have more responsible roles to play than others in this work but all at times are involved in the following: Adult Education, Spiritual Development Course in Franciscan Spirituality, Co-ordinating Religious programmes for children and young people, Church Organists, visiting the sick in Hospitals and homes, Secretarial work for the Parish such as letter writing preparing services and many other activities pertaining to that work. Our Convents are 'Open Houses' for the use of the Parish and the local communities in the areas where we are living.

Care of elderly and sick Sisters

A Provident Fund has been put in place for the care of our Sisters in the future, in the form of a Designated Fund. Many of our Sisters are working well beyond retiring age and have given most of their working lives to the fulfilment of the charity's objectives. They have all taken a vow of poverty under which any assets or earnings of the Sister are paid into the charity. All Sisters either have no pension rights or, where they do, they have surrendered them to the charity. The charity therefore has a moral duty to provide for these Sisters in sickness and old age under the rules of the Congregation. We now have 5 Sisters in Care Homes – 4 in Scotland and 1 in Ireland.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FUNDRAISING POLICY

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of professional fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities (2023: no complaints).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The year showed total income received of £939.9k (2023 £456.5k) but this was boosted by gains on the disposal, by way of gift, of fixed assets of some £258.5k, on the charity's property in Alfreton. This property was valued at £350.0k, the sum included in the financial statements as notional proceeds, and was gifted to the St John of God Hospitaller Services charity – see above. The charity's two principal sources of recurring income remain Voluntary Income, mainly in the form of the Salaries and Pensions donated by Sisters, and Investment Income generated by investments and bank deposits. Salaries and Pensions donated by Sisters are generally diminishing, as is inevitable with an ageing group of Sisters but there was a slight increase on these during the year. In 2023-24, Voluntary Income was further boosted by Legacies of £183.4k (2023: £Nil). Investment income continued to recover from the significant decline sustained in 2020-21 and again increased, rising to £215.1k (2023: £171.9k).

Expenditure was higher at £881.1k (2023: £523.6k). Costs of Support of Sisters and their ministries increased marginally. Missions and Charitable Grants increased significantly, primarily because of the inclusion of the gift of property worth £350k. Other Grants and Donations declined slightly. Details of Grants and Donations paid are set out in Note 4.

The net result was that there was a surplus before investment gains and losses of £58.8k (2023: deficit of £67.0k). The year saw investment gains of £960.6k (2023: losses of £609.1k).

As a result, there was an overall increase in funds of nearly £1.02m (2023: decrease in funds of £676.1k). When added to opening reserves, this gave closing funds of almost £15.0m (2023: £13.98m).

RESERVES POLICY

At the end of the year to 31 March 2024 the total funds of the Charity stood at just under £15.0m. Of this £2.2m is represented by fixed assets which are fundamental to the operations of the charity and £10.9m is designated to provide for the support of older members of the Congregation by means of the Provident Fund. As explained above, in the section of this report dealing with the activities of the charity, the charity has a significant need to make provision for the long-term care of the 30 Sisters of the Congregation for whom it is responsible and who must be cared for in old age and sickness. The fund represents just over £300k per Sister. Given the high cost of nursing care and the low yield on bank deposits and investments, the Trustees feel that this is the minimum needed.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the long-term needs for the care of elderly Sisters and will adjust the level of the designated fund as needs change and circumstances permit.

The balance of just over £1.9m held in the general fund, or "free reserves", represents slightly more than two years' on-going expenditure at the current level. This is in line with the Trustees' target which is to hold between two and three years' expenditure in reserve.

The Trustees consider that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income and enables the charity to deal with and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst specific action plans are implemented. For example, reserves may be needed to provide a cushion against falls in investment values, as seen in the year, as well as adequate working capital and a reserve to meet potentially heavy costs of repair and refurbishment of properties. Also the income generated by investments is needed to meet expenditure on charitable activities. Without this income, the charity would regularly make deficits which would erode its capital base.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

Funds are invested to provide increasing value and income within acceptable levels of risk and in accordance with ethical guidelines. The Trustees have instructed the charity's fund managers to adopt an ethical policy and use their best endeavours to avoid investments that are predominately involved in areas of activity contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, such as the production and sale of armaments or tobacco products. The fund managers' performance is regularly reviewed by the Trustees. The Trustees have also taken a policy decision, in the light of *laudato si* in which Pope Francis has urged Roman Catholics not to invest in fossil fuels and other businesses whose work is detrimental to the environment, to avoid investment in any companies with significant business interests in fossil fuels and a programme of divestment has been undertaken.

The total return in the charity's portfolios was approximately +11.9% (2023: -4.3%) which is in line with the averages quoted for the year for charity investments managed on a cautious or balanced asset basis. The Trustees are therefore satisfied with the returns generated but will continue to monitor, with their fund managers, investment trends and the performance of the charity's portfolios.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. Every effort is being made to mitigate those risks. The key risks for the charity, as identified by the Trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom has resources of her own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to the activities of the charity. The Sisters are all under a vow of poverty and therefore providing them with support is considered to be an important element of the Charity's work. Wherever possible, care is provided for frail and unwell members within communities. The incidence of such care needs is impossible to predict and the Trustees therefore believe that it is incumbent upon them to maintain reserves at an appropriate level to ensure that the charity is able to meet this obligation – see Reserves Policy above.
- Along with all other organisations who serve in the community, the Trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the Charity serves. This means that all Sisters who are in any kind of ministry in Great Britain have had to obtain clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau. The Trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS).
- It is absolutely necessary to ensure that our properties continue to be safe places for the Sisters and visitors to use. Attention is given to keeping our properties in good repair. General maintenance is regularly carried out. There is an on-going programme to ensure compliance with the increasing demands of Health and Safety Regulations particularly with regard to Fire Regulations.
- The Trustees are mindful that at some time in the medium to longer term, there may be issues in relation to succession planning for the governance of the charity. With an ageing group of Sisters, it may be necessary to consider appointing lay trustees (that is trustees who are not members of the Congregation) and/or Sisters from overseas areas where there is a greater pool of younger members. Such steps may require constitutional changes for the charity. The Trustees are in the process of exploring the issues and the options.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FUTURE PLANS

The exact financial performance is difficult to assess with any high level of confidence but the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to meet all of its financial obligations and commitments for the foreseeable future.

No immediate major changes to the charity's activities or long-term strategy are planned.

At the General Chapter 2022 there were no Proposals to alter Constitutions and Directive, as these have so recently been updated and reprinted. The General Chapter 2022 elected the Mother General and the members of the General Council for the next five years.

THE STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 statutory requirements and with the Trust deed dated 28 May 1998. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Trustees

Sr Patricia Jordan
Trustee

22 January 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Franciscan Sisters Minoress for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. 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 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 12, the trustees 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS (Continued)

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

Based on our understanding of the charity and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to compliance with Charity Law, 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 Canon Law, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) and FRS102.

We evaluated 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 management bias in certain accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting trustees' meeting minutes
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted at the year-end; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 our report

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

HaysMac LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 4AG

Date: 22 January 2025

HaysMac LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £ (Note 16)
Income from					
Donations and legacies	1	462,974	3,327	466,301	269,457
Investments	2	215,053	-	215,053	171,854
Other					
Gains on currency conversion		-	-	-	14,421
- Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3	258,508	-	258,508	799
Total Income		<u>936,535</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>939,862</u>	<u>456,531</u>
Expenditure on					
Raising funds					
- Investment Management fees		69,789	-	69,789	54,235
Charitable activities	4				
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry		372,351	-	372,351	358,814
Missions and charitable grants		435,619	3,327	438,946	110,514
Total expenditure		<u>877,759</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>881,086</u>	<u>523,563</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/losses) on investments		<u>58,776</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,776</u>	<u>(67,032)</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>960,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>960,608</u>	<u>(609,114)</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		<u>1,019,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,019,384</u>	<u>(676,146)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward at 1 April		13,979,588	-	13,979,588	14,655,734
Funds carried forward at 31 March	15	<u>£14,998,972</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£14,998,972</u>	<u>£13,979,588</u>

All activities are continuing and there are no discontinued activities in either year.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible fixed assets	10			2,222,866			2,349,635
Investments	11			10,893,638			9,836,118
				<u>13,116,504</u>			<u>12,185,753</u>
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors				-			-
Cash and bank balances				1,915,618			1,809,135
				<u>1,915,618</u>			<u>1,809,135</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12			(33,150)			(15,300)
				<u></u>			<u></u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS				1,882,468			1,793,835
NET ASSETS	15			<u>£14,998,972</u>			<u>£13,979,588</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND							
Unrestricted				14,998,972			13,979,588
Restricted	13			-			-
				<u>£14,998,972</u>			<u>£13,979,588</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 22 January 2025

Sr Patricia Jordan
Trustee

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from Operating Activities:		
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (note A)	9,658	(205,777)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends and interest from investments	215,053	171,854
Payments to acquire fixed assets	(13,203)	-
Receipts from sales of fixed assets	-	800
Payments to acquire investments	(2,300,434)	(1,278,558)
Receipts from sales of investments	2,203,522	1,163,261
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	104,938	57,357
Change in cash and cash equivalents in year	114,596	(148,420)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	1,809,135	1,943,134
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	(8,113)	14,421
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March (note B)	£1,915,618	£1,809,135

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

A. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	1,019,384	(676,146)
Adjustments for		
(Gains) /Losses on investments	(960,608)	609,114
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	(258,508)	(799)
Dividends and interest from investments	(215,053)	(171,854)
Depreciation	48,480	46,429
Value of property gifted to St John of God Hospitaller Services	350,000	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	8,113	(14,421)
Increase in creditors	17,850	1,900
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	£9,658	£(205,777)

B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	£1,915,618	£1,809,135
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C. Analysis of net debt

1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	31 March 2024 £
£1,809,135	£106,483	£1,915,618

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019).

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The 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 preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the Trustees to make significant judgements and estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Charity's accounting policies. The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- estimating the economic useful life of tangible fixed assets.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 March 2025, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the level of investment return and the performance of the investment markets (see the investment policy and the risk management sections of the Trustees' Report for more information).

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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

Income received in advance is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS102, volunteer time is not recognised.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Expenditure recognition and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on raising funds comprise fees paid in respect of fund management advice in relation to the charity's portfolio of quoted investments, which is managed under a discretionary management agreement.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of running the charity's communities as well as all other costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. These costs comprise charitable grants and donations, direct and support costs in respect to the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry. It also includes governance costs.

Charitable grants and donations are made where the Trustees consider there is real need following a review of the details of each particular case and comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. Grants and donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for grants and donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

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

Allocation of support and governance costs

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

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

	Annual rate
Freehold land	Nil
Freehold buildings	2% for main building & 4% for improvements
Furniture, fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% to 20%
Motor vehicles	25%

Financial Instruments

The charity only holds financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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. Deposits for more than three months and up to one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Creditors and provisions

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.

Services provided by members of the Congregation

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

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Current Year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Sisters' salaries and pensions	260,259	-	260,259	249,912
Other donations	19,339	3,327	22,666	19,545
Legacies	183,376	-	183,376	-
	<u>£462,974</u>	<u>£3,327</u>	<u>£466,301</u>	<u>£269,457</u>

Prior Year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £
Sisters' salaries and pensions	249,912	-	249,912
Other donations	17,020	2,525	19,545
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>£266,932</u>	<u>£2,525</u>	<u>£269,457</u>

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024 Unrestricted £	2023 Unrestricted £
Income from listed securities and cash held by fund managers	205,277	169,587
Bank and other interest	9,776	2,267
	<u>£215,053</u>	<u>£171,854</u>

3. SURPLUS ON DISPOSAL OF TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Proceeds (net) £	Net Book Value £	2024 Total Gain/(Loss) £	2023 Total Gain/(Loss) £
Disposal of properties				
Market value of property gifted to St John of God Hospitaller Services	350,000	(91,492)	258,508	-
Disposal of Motor vehicles	-	-	-	799
	<u>£350,000</u>	<u>£(91,492)</u>	<u>£258,508</u>	<u>£799</u>
Prior Year				
Disposal of Motor vehicles	£800	£(1)	£799	£799

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Current Year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry				
Sisters' living and ministry expenses	131,773	-	131,773	116,818
Premises costs	93,059	-	93,059	112,483
Depreciation	48,480	-	48,480	46,429
Other support costs	68,606	-	68,606	64,534
Losses/(Gains) on currency conversion	8,113	-	8,113	-
Governance costs (note 5)	22,320	-	22,320	18,550
	<u>372,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>372,351</u>	<u>358,814</u>
Missions and Charitable Grants				
Transfer in Support of Franciscan Convent in South Africa	16,673	3,327	20,000	3,000
St Francis Care Home, Govan	60,977	-	60,977	100,000
Gift of property to St John of God				-
Hospitaller Services	350,000	-	350,000	
Alms and donations (see below)	7,969	-	7,969	7,514
	<u>435,619</u>	<u>3,327</u>	<u>438,946</u>	<u>110,514</u>
	<u>£807,970</u>	<u>£3,327</u>	<u>£811,297</u>	<u>£469,328</u>

Prior Year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry			
Sisters' living and ministry expenses	116,818	-	116,818
Premises costs	112,483	-	112,483
Depreciation	46,429	-	46,429
Other support costs	64,534	-	64,534
Governance costs (note 5)	18,550	-	18,550
	<u>358,814</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>358,814</u>
Missions and Charitable Grants			
Transfer in Support of Franciscan Convent in South Africa	475	2,525	3,000
St Francis Care Home, Govan	100,000	-	100,000
Alms and donations	7,514	-	7,514
	<u>107,989</u>	<u>2,525</u>	<u>110,514</u>
	<u>£466,803</u>	<u>£2,525</u>	<u>£469,328</u>

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Alms and donations given by Convents

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Loros	3,000	-	3,000	-
Donations of less than £1,000 each	4,969	-	4,969	7,514
	<u>7,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,969</u>	<u>7,514</u>

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024 Unrestricted £	2023 Unrestricted £
Auditor's remuneration	13,270	11,500
Other professional fees	9,050	7,050
	<u>£22,320</u>	<u>£18,550</u>

6. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT):		
- Statutory audit services	13,270	11,500
Depreciation	48,480	46,429
Loss/(Gain) on currency conversion	8,113	(14,421)
	<u>69,863</u>	<u>43,508</u>

7. STAFF COSTS

The charity does not employ any staff. Its key management personnel are its trustees who are not remunerated.

8. TRUSTEES' EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS WITH THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Congregation and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they have renounced all personal rights to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Congregation within the Province.

The living costs of the 5 Trustees are therefore borne by the Charity.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and no liability to taxation arises on the income or capital gains in the accounts.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1 April 2023	3,151,742	27,328	23,830	3,202,900
Additions	-	-	13,203	13,203
Disposals	(125,000)	-	-	(125,000)
At 31 March 2024	3,026,742	27,328	37,033	3,091,103
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2023	808,560	20,877	23,828	853,265
Charge for the year	41,897	3,282	3,301	48,480
On disposals	(33,508)	-	-	(33,508)
At 31 March 2024	816,949	24,159	27,129	868,237
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2024	£2,209,793	£3,169	£9,904	£2,222,866
At 31 March 2023	£2,343,182	£6,451	£2	£2,349,635

All fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

There are also school properties registered in the names of the Trustees as referred to in the Trustees report. As all rights and obligations in respect of these properties have effectively been transferred to the Governors of the schools, which are separate charities, the Trustees consider their ownership to be in the nature of a custodianship of the assets and they have therefore not been capitalised. These properties have an approximate insurance value of £5 million.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. INVESTMENTS

	£	Total 2024 £	£	Total 2023 £	£
Market value brought forward at 1 April			9,836,118		10,329,935
Additions			2,300,434		1,278,558
Disposals (at opening market value)					
Proceeds	(2,203,522)		(1,163,261)		
Realised gains/(losses)	63,633		(90,874)		
			<u>(2,139,889))</u>		<u>(1,254,135)</u>
Unrealised gain/(loss)			896,975		(518,240)
Market value carried forward at 31 March			<u>£10,893,638</u>		<u>£9,836,118</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Cost of quoted investments	<u>£8,928,686</u>	<u>£8,609,045</u>
Quoted investments comprise:-		
Fixed interest securities	3,210,068	2,801,505
UK Equities	1,433,919	1,503,716
Overseas investments - Investment and Unit trusts	5,424,494	4,701,353
Property and infrastructure funds	570,335	613,646
	<u>10,638,816</u>	<u>9,620,220</u>
Cash Product	175,000	-
Cash	79,822	215,898
	<u>£10,893,638</u>	<u>£9,836,118</u>

12. CREDITORS:

Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>£33,150</u>	<u>£15,300</u>

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

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	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Current Year				
Overseas Mission Fund	£-	£3,327	£(3,327)	£-
	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2023 £
Prior Year				
Overseas Mission Fund	£-	£2,525	£(2,525)	£-

Overseas Mission Fund – these funds relate to sums donated to the charity for the support of the work of the Sisters of the Congregation based in South Africa.

14. DESIGNATED FUNDS WITHIN UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2023 £	Gains/(losses) on investments £	Transfers from/(to) General Funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Current Year				
Sisters' Provident Fund	£9,920,357	£960,608	£-	£10,880,965
	At 1 April 2022 £	Gains/(losses) on investments £	Transfers from/(to) General Funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Prior Year				
Sisters' Provident Fund	£10,529,471	£(609,114)	£-	£9,920,357

All Sisters have taken a vow of poverty under which they relinquish all rights to income and assets. The charity therefore has a significant commitment to provide for members of the Congregation in sickness and old age. A Provident Fund has been set aside, as a designated fund, to reflect this commitment. Currently there are some 34 Sisters for whom the charity is responsible and the fund represents just over £300k per Sister. Given the high cost of nursing care and the low yield on bank deposit, the Trustees feel that this is the minimum needed. The Trustees will continue to monitor the long-term needs for the care of elderly Sisters and will adjust the level of the designated fund as needs and circumstance change.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS
BY FUND**

	General Fund £	Designated Fund Sisters' Provident Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	2,222,866	-	-	2,222,866
Investments	-	10,893,638	-	10,893,638
Net current assets	1,928,291	(12,673)	-	1,915,618
Net current liabilities	(33,150)	-	-	(33,150)
	<u>£4,118,007</u>	<u>£10,880,965</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£14,998,972</u>

**ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS
BY FUND**

	General Fund £	Designated Fund Sisters' Provident Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	2,349,635	-	-	2,349,635
Investments	-	9,836,118	-	9,836,118
Net current assets	1,724,896	84,239	-	1,809,135
Net current liabilities	(15,300)	-	-	(15,300)
	<u>£4,059,231</u>	<u>£9,920,357</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£13,979,588</u>

Of the general funds, fixed assets could not be realised as they are required for the Charity's activities.
The balance of funds will be required to provide for Sisters.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS MINORESS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR PRIOR YEAR 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from			
Donations and legacies	266,932	2,525	269,457
Investments	171,854	-	171,854
Other			
Gains on currency conversion	14,421	-	14,421
- Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	799	-	799
Total Income	454,006	2,525	456,531
Expenditure on			
Raising funds			
- Investment Management fees	54,235	-	54,235
Charitable activities			
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	358,814	-	358,814
Missions and charitable grants	107,989	2,525	110,514
Total expenditure	521,038	2,525	523,563
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/losses) on investments	(67,032)	-	(67,032)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(609,114)	-	(609,114)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	(676,146)	-	(676,146)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Funds brought forward at 1 April	14,655,734	-	14,655,734
Funds carried forward at 31 March	£13,979,588	£-	£13,979,588