

Charity Registration No. 233084

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Sr Patricia Mitchell Sr Maureen Connor Sr Catherine Jones Sr Jessica Gatty Sr Marie-Sophie d'Oultremont Sr Catherine Cowley Sr Anne Thielen
Charity number	233084
Principal address	20 Kensington Square London W8 5HH
Auditor	Citroen Wells Chartered Accountants Devonshire House 1 Devonshire Street London W1W 5DR
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 62 - 63 Threadneedle Street London EC2R 8LA
Solicitors	Russell-Cooke 2 Putney Hill London SW15 6AB
Investment advisors	Quilter Cheviot Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4AB Epworth Investment Management Ltd 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

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RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Introduction

The Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption is an international Roman Catholic Order with 1,100 members worldwide organised into 15 Provinces. It was founded in France in 1839, where the Generalate is still located. As described in the Report of 2019, the English Province amalgamated with the Provinces of Italy and Northern Europe to form a new Province of Europe, under a common Provincial and with an international Provincial Council. England is now, therefore, a "territory" of the Province of Europe.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the Charitable Trust in which the assets of the English Territory are held.

Objectives and activities

Education has been the mission of the Congregation since its foundation in 1839. The General chapter of 2006 re-affirmed that the transformation of society was advanced through our work of education. Transformative education recognises the unique value of each person and helps them reach their full potential; it engages with issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation, as will be shown in what follows. As the age profile of the Sisters suggests, only a very few are employed in salaried educational posts, but many of those above the age of retirement continue to engage creatively in the voluntary sector.

Fundraising standards information

The charity does not actively fundraise and does not hold any agreements with professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Public benefit statement

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that the activities outlined herein satisfy the public benefit requirements.

Achievements and performance

In recent years our policy has been to set up subsidiary organisations to work on different aspects of our mission. They have a certain amount of autonomy but final responsibility for them rests with the Trustees of the Territory.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

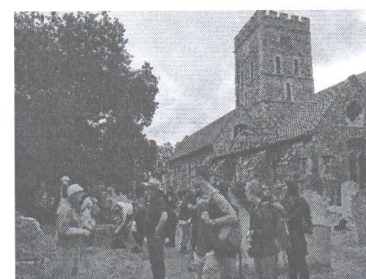
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Assumption Youth Team continued its outreach work with young people and developed new means of communicating with young adults despite the lockdown. Our increased social media presence aimed to connect people when personal contact was not possible. We offered various online day retreats and reflection sessions in group settings and personal accompaniment especially for the most vulnerable contacts. When Covid-19 regulations made it possible in the summer, we organised two day-pilgrimages. These spiritual opportunities enabled us to meet young people in outdoor settings while visiting significant places of our Christian heritage in England. Both trips were greatly appreciated and benefitted attendees on many levels.

One of the participants wrote: *"Thank you for inviting me to the pilgrimage. It was a great day for me. I was going through a lot of troubles. But meeting and talking with people on the pilgrimage really helped me and calmed me down. Thanks for the guidance and help you provided that day"*

The Tutor+ programme continued to offer free tuition for children offered by the twice weekly Tutor+ programme in Milleret House, Kensington, until prevented by the lockdown.

Assumption Volunteers project is now in its 22nd year and thus far has enabled 143 young adults to serve in countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and the UK. At the beginning of 2020, we had six full time volunteers committed for a year in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (and none abroad). Three of them returned home when the lockdown began (to the US and Spain), while the remaining three (from the Philippines and Russia) stayed in place for safety reasons. Thanks to the Government's Exceptional Assurance scheme, they were able to stay in the UK after their visa expired and continue serving the most vulnerable children and families in their neighbourhood. During lockdown the volunteers stayed active in Kids Kabin; they prepared and delivered activity packs for the children, ran online sessions, accompanied, supported and directed families to other resources that helped them during the pandemic. Our overseas activities were largely suspended during the year, but for the UK project with Kids Kabin in Newcastle and Middlesbrough, we continue to recruit volunteers both for year-long and short-term service – as travel and safety regulations allow in the UK.

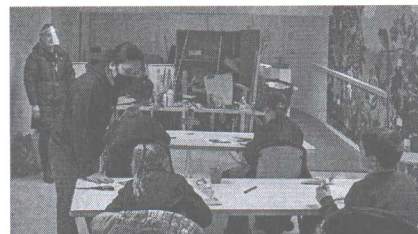


RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

One volunteer, working in Newcastle, wrote: "Now it is my second year at Kids Kabin, yet I feel as if it is my first time! For more than two months during lockdown we were packing nearly 150 creative activity packs per week. We were also doing Zoom baking sessions with the kids. These made the whole experience different and fresh... We continue to work in one of the satellite projects in other neighbourhoods. I have grown in love and appreciate these outreach sessions and it is now easier to deal with children since I know them, not just their names but also their stories. I plan to continue the small challenge I have started before the pandemic: build a list of simple strategies and games that help children make decisions on their own and feel in control of the activities."



The Duchess of Leeds Assumption Fund (Reg. No 529620) was set up to give small grants to young women aged 16-25 who live in the North of England. In 2020 the Fund made 84 grants, of which 66 were to enable their holders to go to Lourdes. Other projects supported by the Fund included three community projects in Africa and a year volunteering with NET Ministries in Scotland. Grants were paid in February for pilgrimages taking place between Easter and the summer. Within weeks of mailing cheques out, Covid-19 spread through the country. With social distancing measures and travel restrictions put in place from mid-March, all trips were initially postponed then cancelled. We were able to retrieve most of the money distributed, either because cheques were uncashed or grants were repaid. As we expect social distancing measures to remain in place for most of the year, the Trustees are working in consultation with the Management Committee to find alternative ways to distribute its funds in 2021 and continue to promote the education of young women under the age of 25 who reside in the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Hexham and Newcastle, Middlesbrough, and Leeds.

The Assumption Legacy Fund is a linked charity (No. 233084-1) whose income and expenses are included as a restricted fund in these financial statements. Its object is to continue the territory's mission of education by making grants supporting educational charitable projects for the public benefit in the U.K. in particular for the advancement of education that is imbued with the Roman Catholic faith and for the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion. The priorities for 2020 were:

1. Supporting the education of disadvantaged young people.
2. Promoting good leadership in Roman Catholic schools.
3. Supporting lay people working in or alongside the Roman Catholic church, particularly youth workers and those engaged in transformative education in the tradition of the Assumption.

In 2020 fifteen projects received funding. These covered a range of activities, including salaries for regional workers for *Formatio*, which supports leaders in Catholic schools; the First Star Academy at St Mary's University, mentoring cared for children; core support for RISE Theatre to provide workshops and retreats in secondary schools; a Landings worker for Scotland and Northern England to support those seeking to return to the Catholic faith; the Ecological Conversion Group; support for a survivor of human trafficking to study for a degree in criminology and sociology; the Dream Centre at Chailey Heritage Foundation for children and young adults with complex neurodisabilities and the Centre for Research into the Education of Marginalised Children and Young Adults at St Mary's University.

Trustees ring-fenced funds to respond to the damaging effect Covid-19 is having on formal education, particularly for disadvantaged children and young people. Special grants were awarded to the Catholic Children's Society in Westminster and to the diocesan education team in Newcastle to support disadvantaged children who were unable to access online learning. Both organisations worked with schools to provide laptops and dongles to highly disadvantaged children where there are serious concerns about the impact digital exclusion is having on educational development and future life chances. The Catholic Children Society also provided vouchers for families who were facing real financial hardship due to Covid-19 and struggled to support their children over Christmas.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

All our work is carried out in and from the following communities:

Kensington.

This community comprises five Sisters plus the Provincial when she is in England. Kensington is the centre for Territorial administration, and the base for the Territory's Youth Office and Volunteer Office. These provide retreats, pilgrimages and opportunities for social engagement for young adults (see above). The resident community of Sisters offer hospitality to their members from overseas who come for courses and educational opportunities. There are also a number of Provincial meetings held here, involving Sisters from the other Territories in the Province. The spirituality centre based in Milleret House offers day courses and retreats as well as giving hospitality to other Christian groups. The work there and elsewhere with young adults seeking to deepen their spirituality continues to expand and is meeting the needs of an increasing number of individuals.

Since the beginning of the first lockdown as much of the above has continued with all meetings being held via zoom. Milleret House has been closed to groups and visitors wishing to spend time there but contacts have continued via zoom and telephone wherever possible.

St. Catherine's House.

A community for the frail and very elderly of the territory, where they can receive the extra care they need. There are currently 11 Sisters in the community, six of whom have been diagnosed with dementia and the Care Staff have worked tirelessly to involve them in meaningful activities.

In the summer there are barbecues in the garden and outings to the nearby parks. These are illustrated in a series of booklets which the Sisters can show to their families and friends. The structure of daily prayer is a joyful expression of their religious consecration and their way of supporting the mission of the Congregation, even though several find it increasingly difficult to follow a written text. This last year, lockdown had cut many of these activities. But hard though it was, as none of the sisters caught Covid-19, we consider ourselves very lucky. This, of course, was due to the selfless dedication of our staff, carers, cleaners and caterers alike.

Wanstead.

There are 5 sisters living in Wanstead, East London. They are an international community with 5 nationalities, English, American, Danish, Vietnamese and Scottish. They provide pastoral ministry in the local parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and are actively involved in outreach to lonely, elderly people, also Spiritual Direction and retreat work. One sister is an assistant chaplain for the Vietnamese Community in Bow. She is also on the Territory Youth Team. Another sister works in the Jesuit Refugee Centre.

Due to Covid-19 and the Lockdown, the Vietnamese Chaplaincy and the Jesuit Refugee Centre have been put on hold, because of travel restrictions and other factors.

Thanks to Zoom and WhatsApp the pastoral ministries were able to continue, although in a different form, and we have made new friends and got to know our neighbours better.

Being aware of the lonely and housebound who do not have internet access, we kept in touch by telephone, arranged home deliveries and when we did any baking, we would share this with them. In response to the Hospital Maternity Unit, we knitted small blankets for premature babies. They also provide volunteer gardening for those in need.

Twickenham.

The community in Twickenham continues its mission of being a prayerful presence in St. Mary's University and being involved in its Catholic and academic life. Our six-bedroom hostel, designated a House of Multiple Occupation, was ready, after refurbishment, to receive post-graduate students from The Bakhita Centre for Research into Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse and from the Department of Education. With the lockdown in March 2020, these students had to return to Nigeria and Kenya. One plans to return for the coming academic year. During lockdown there have been three resident post-graduate students. The Community is involved with The Bakhita Centre and is supportive of its initiatives for survivors of trauma.

Lockdown curtailed our normal involvement in the university, as students were not on campus and all courses were on-line. Any contact has been on social media. The easing of restrictions has meant that some students have returned to campus and plans for the coming year are in process.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Sisters are a community of 4 living in a poor area of East Newcastle in Council accommodation. Living next door, also in council accommodation are young volunteers from abroad serving in Kids Kabin, an after-school centre for creative activities for children between the ages of 8 – 13 who live in the area. The centre was founded by the Assumption 25 years ago. Our volunteers this year, recruited through the Assumption, are from America, Philippines and Russia.

Two Sisters volunteer with "Walking With", a centre caring for and supporting asylum seekers and refugees. All the Sisters are involved in serving the local parish with communion to the sick, home visits, catechetical programmes etc. The community is open to welcoming Sisters from abroad to experience Northern culture and the beauty of the area of Northumberland.

Things have obviously changed since Covid-19 and lockdowns. Concerning the volunteers, two Americans returned home just before lockdown. Two Filipinos have stayed and are in their second year as they were unable to return home. One of them was in West Newcastle but for the second year came to Hexham Avenue to work in Kids Kabin. We received a volunteer from Russia last November so continue to support the three of them in their work and celebrate with them on several occasions.

Work in the parish had to stop but will hopefully resume in the not-too-distant future. One sister is still involved with the asylum and refugee centre "Walking With" in a more distanced capacity. We four sisters are all in our eighties, care for our house and garden and each other according to our various capacities.

Communication

Our website (www.assumptionreligious.org) and social media presence attracts many visitors. We are particularly pleased that young people find out about us and join our events through our website and social media.

Both our external and internal communication have increased thanks to the production of two publications. The newsletters share about (1) Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (twice yearly), and (2) The Life and Ministry of Assumption Sisters in England (with three editions per year).

Investment performance

The gain in the value of the investments during the year was £718,000 (2019: £4,139,000). The value of the investments at the year end was £44,910,000 (2019: £43,731,000). See note 12 to the accounts.

The investments which consist primarily of equities, investment funds and fixed income securities, are selected on the advice of the investment managers.

The trustees are satisfied with the performance of the investments and with the advice received from the investment managers.

Financial review

Income for the year amounted to £2,337,000 (2019: £1,744,000). Included in the 2020 results was £1,263,000 of interest relating to delayed claw back payments from the sale of Heythrop College. Expenditure for the year amounted to £2,546,000 (2019: £2,579,000). After taking account of investment gains the net increase in resources for the year was £509,000 (2019: £3,304,000) resulting in a fund balance at the year end of £61,698,000 (2019: £61,189,000).

Reserves policy

Included in the balance sheet are restricted funds which comprises of the Assumption Legacy Fund. There are also designated funds which comprise amounts which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

The remaining funds are kept on the general unrestricted fund as the charity has no endowment fund.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Investment Policy

The charity's investment powers are prescribed under the terms of the trust deed. The trustees are permitted to invest in trustee investments in the form of Government and Local Authority securities, and the shares and fixed interest securities of public companies, investment, financial or unit trusts.

The charity's investment policy is set by the trustees and the investments are divided in roughly equal proportions and managed by Quilter Cheviot Limited and Epworth Investment Management Limited.

Our investment choices seek to be a practical implementation of the social consequences of the Gospel. We do this through our ethical investment policy and by positive choices, as well as negative exclusions, in our asset allocation. The investment managers are instructed to optimise the return on the investments over the medium term within these parameters.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major areas to which the charity is exposed. These include:

- Financial
- Maintenance of buildings
- Health and Safety
- Employment Law
- Reputation
- Maintenance of records and documents

The trustees believe that having assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

The trustees have a policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The trustees recognise the necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the Charity serves. This means that every Sister who is engaged in any kind of ministry obtains clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The trustees are committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission, formerly the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children.

Plans for the future

The financial markets are continuing to suffer a lot of turbulence reflecting the fears engendered by the Covid-19 pandemic. The trustees are monitoring the situation carefully and conclude that despite changes in income, they can safely continue with the projects and commitments in grant funding they have already made for 2021.

Structure, governance and management

The assets of the Province are held by the trustees of the Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption. The trust is governed by a trust deed dated 6th February 1963, and is registered with the Charity Commission No. 233084. The deed was amended under a scheme dated 3rd June 1980, and in the matter of the Charities Act was varied by a scheme dated 23rd June 1996. In October 2008 the Charity Commission authorised a Scheme dated October 10th to: i) amend the objects of the charity to clarify that the charity's funds be applied anywhere in the world; ii) amend the definition of 'superior'; iii) change the provisions in the constitution relating to the number of trustees so that there must now be between three and twelve trustees in office.

The deed was further amended by a scheme dated 24th September 2020 and a Resolution of the Trustees under section 280 of the Charities Act 2011, further amending the definition of "Superior" and clarifying how the assets of the Trust should be distributed should the Trust cease to exist.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees are appointed by the Provincial Superior and her Council from among the Sisters in the Territory. In November 2020, the trustee board was extended to include Sr Anne Thielen, a Belgian sister who holds the position of Provincial Bursar. Since all trustees are members of the Congregation, they have a detailed knowledge of the charity and of its structure and are appointed for their experience in the affairs of the Province.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Sr Patricia Mitchell

Sr Maureen Connor

Sr Catherine Jones

Sr Jessica Gatty

Sr Marie-Sophie d'Oultremont (Provincial of Europe from 1 November 2018)

Sr Catherine Cowley

Sr Anne Thielen (Appointed 14 July 2020)

The Province of Europe is administered by the Provincial Superior and her Council (4 Sisters), the Provincial Bursar and the local superiors. Sr Maureen Connor is the Territorial Bursar and Chair of the trustees. The trustees work closely with its appointed groups, such as the Finance Team, the Management Committees of St. Catherine's community and the Assumption Lay Volunteer Programme, all of which include lay advisers.

The English territory comprises 30 Sisters, who live in five communities; four in London and one in Newcastle upon Tyne. At the end of 2020, the average age of the Sisters was 82.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Sr Patricia Mitchell

Trustee



Sr Maureen Connor

Trustee

Dated: 20th May 2021

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these 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;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Religious of the Assumption (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including 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 incoming resources and application of resources, 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 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 contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

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:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

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 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.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with the trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities Act 2011;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- understanding the design of the charity's remuneration policies.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with relevant regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://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 part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 auditors' 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 trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Citroen Wells

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

25 May 2021

Devonshire House
1 Devonshire Street
London
W1W 5DR

Citroen Wells is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
<u>Income from:</u>					
Property and associated income		13	-	13	14
Legacies and donations		9	-	9	618
Sisters' salaries and pensions		268	-	268	251
Investments	2	744	36	780	861
Other income	3	1,267	-	1,267	-
Total income		2,301	36	2,337	1,744
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Investment management costs	4	101	-	101	88
Charitable activities - Provincial expenses	5	2,146	299	2,445	2,491
Total expenditure		2,247	299	2,546	2,579
Net gains on investments	10	718	-	718	4,139
Net movement in funds		772	(263)	509	3,304
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		54,234	6,955	61,189	57,885
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		55,006	6,692	61,698	61,189

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	11		10,002		10,053
Investments	12		44,910		43,731
			<u>54,912</u>		<u>53,784</u>
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	14	147		43	
Cash at bank and in hand		6,848		7,837	
		<u>6,995</u>		<u>7,880</u>	
Current liabilities	15	(164)		(381)	
Net current assets			6,831		7,499
Total assets less current liabilities			61,743		61,283
Non-current liabilities	16		(45)		(94)
Net assets			<u>61,698</u>		<u>61,189</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		6,692		6,955
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	19	30,293		31,319	
General unrestricted funds		24,713		22,915	
			<u>55,006</u>		<u>54,234</u>
			<u>61,698</u>		<u>61,189</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2021

P. Mitchell
Sr Patricia Mitchell
Trustee

M. Connor
Sr Maureen Connor
Trustee

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £000	£000	2019 £000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	22		(1,293)		8,748
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(32)		(2,265)	
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		17		-	
Purchase of investments		(15,596)		(15,519)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		15,135		15,315	
Investment income received		780		861	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			304		(1,608)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(989)		7,140
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			7,837		697
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			6,848		7,837

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Religious of the Assumption is a charitable trust established by deed on 6th February 1963. The principal address is 20 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £000.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include investments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The World Health Organization declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic on 11 March 2020. The pandemic and the measures to control its human impact have resulted in disruptions to economic activity, business operations and asset prices.

The charity has a strong balance sheet, which should see it through the current crisis. As a result, the trustees, at the time of approving the financial statements, have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds comprise of unexpended donations and grants from the Assumption Legacy Fund, a linked charity established in 2018.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

With the exception of freehold property, property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold Land and buildings	over the period of the lease
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% per annum reducing balance
Motor vehicles	4 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Investment properties

Certain of the charity's properties are held for long-term investment. Investment properties are accounted for as follows:-

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost which includes purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure.

Investment properties whose fair value can be measured reliably are measured at fair value, as determined by the trustees. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

Financial assets classified as other financial assets are stated at market value with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognised as income or expenditure. The net gain or loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities includes any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, are recognised at transaction price.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The charity contributes to a defined contribution scheme for the Sisters and certain employees. The costs are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.12 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.13 Foreign exchange

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at year end exchange rates. Exchange differences are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.14 Associated charities

The charity controls the activities of the Duchess of Leeds Assumption Fund (Reg. No 529620). The results of which have been excluded from these accounts on the basis that the amounts are immaterial.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income from listed investments	696	-	696	802
Interest receivable	48	36	84	59
	<u>744</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>861</u>
For the year ended 31 December 2019	<u>848</u>	<u>13</u>		<u>861</u>

3 Other income

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Income due on disposal of property	4	-
Loan interest	1,263	-
	<u>1,267</u>	<u>-</u>

4 Investment management costs

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Investment management	<u>101</u>	<u>88</u>

5 Charitable activities - Provincial expenses

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Staff costs	827	771
Depreciation and impairment	70	63
Province and communities expenses	1,106	1,208
	<u>2,003</u>	<u>2,042</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 6)	<u>442</u>	<u>449</u>
	<u>2,445</u>	<u>2,491</u>

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6 Grants payable

	2020 £000	2019 £000
<u>From unrestricted funds:</u>		
Grants to institutions:		
Kids Kabin in Newcastle	15	15
Duchess of Leeds Assumption Fund	15	15
Mother House	32	27
Refugee support	40	40
Catholic Trust for England and Wales	-	30
Other	41	38
	<u>143</u>	<u>165</u>
<u>From the Assumption Legacy Fund:</u>		
First Star Academy	-	150
Formatio	50	-
St Mary's Modern Slavery	22	-
Sycamore	-	20
Ecological Conversation Group	19	20
Chailey Heritage Foundation	29	29
Hull Catholic Chaplaincy	-	30
Mary Mother of God Parish in Bradford	-	66
Kenelm Youth Trust	20	-
Citywise	60	-
Rise Theatre	20	-
Catholic Children's Society	20	-
Diocese of Hexham	50	-
Other	9	(31)
	<u>299</u>	<u>284</u>
	<u>442</u>	<u>449</u>

7 Trustees

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

The trustees are considered the key management personnel of the charity.

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Fees payable to the auditor for the audit of the annual accounts	25	25

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Nursing and administrative staff	20	20

Employment costs

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Wages and salaries	736	690
Social security costs	71	64
Other pension costs	20	17
	827	771

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

10 Net gains on investments

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Revaluation of investments	718	3,933
Gain on sale of investment properties	-	206
	718	4,139

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11 Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold Land and buildings	Leasehold Land and buildings	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	9,268	1,086	317	63	10,734
Additions	-	-	-	32	32
Disposals	(10)	-	-	(23)	(33)
At 31 December 2020	9,258	1,086	317	72	10,733
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2020	-	378	244	59	681
Depreciation charged in the year	-	54	8	8	70
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(20)	(20)
At 31 December 2020	-	432	252	47	731
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2020	9,258	654	65	25	10,002
At 31 December 2019	9,268	708	73	4	10,053

All these assets are deployed for Religious and Charitable work.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Total investments £000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2020	43,731
Additions	15,596
Valuation changes	718
Disposals	(15,135)
At 31 December 2020	44,910
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2020	44,910
At 31 December 2019	43,731

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12	Fixed asset investments	(Continued)	
	Investments included above:	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Listed investments carrying amount	35,624	34,941
	Investment properties	114	114
	Cash held within investment portfolio	9,172	8,676
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
13	Financial instruments	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Carrying amount of financial assets		
	Instruments measured at fair value through statement of financial activities	35,738	35,055
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14	Trade and other receivables	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Other receivables	21	-
	Prepayments and accrued income	83	43
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		104	43
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Amounts falling due after more than one year:	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Other receivables	43	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Total debtors	147	43
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
15	Current liabilities	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Grants payable	109	242
	Accruals and deferred income	55	139
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		164	381
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
16	Non-current liabilities	2020	2019
		£000	£000
	Grants payable	45	94
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2020
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Assumption Legacy Fund	6,955	36	(299)	6,692

The restricted fund is in relation to a linked charity established in 2018.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted funds 2020 £000	Total 2020 £000	Unrestricted funds 2019 £000	Restricted funds 2019 £000	Total 2019 £000
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:						
Property, plant and equipment	10,002	-	10,002	10,053	-	10,053
Investments	44,910	-	44,910	43,731	-	43,731
Current assets/ (liabilities)	139	6,692	6,831	544	6,955	7,499
Long term liabilities	(45)	-	(45)	(94)	-	(94)
	<u>55,006</u>	<u>6,692</u>	<u>61,698</u>	<u>54,234</u>	<u>6,955</u>	<u>61,189</u>

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

19 Designated funds

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

	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2020 £000
	Balance at 1 January 2020 £000	Incoming resources £000	Utilised £000	
Property improvement and maintenance	2,743	-	(14)	2,729
Functional fixed assets	9,345	32	(30)	9,347
Youth work	376	-	(66)	310
Retirement	18,855	-	(948)	17,907
	<u>31,319</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>(1,058)</u>	<u>30,293</u>

The Property improvement and maintenance fund is to provide for the future upkeep of the properties.

The Functional fixed assets fund represents the fixed assets the charity uses to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Youth Work fund is to provide funds for the work carried out by the charity in respect of young people.

The Retirement fund is to provide for the care of the Sisters in retirement.

20 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

Land and buildings

At the 31 December 2020 the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Within one year	140	140
Between two and five years	560	560
In over five years	962	1,102
	<u>1,662</u>	<u>1,802</u>

RELIGIOUS OF THE ASSUMPTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

21 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

The trustees of the Charity are all members of a Religious Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all rights to personal income and assets. They are therefore entirely dependent on the Charity for all their living expenses. The trustees do not receive any payments or benefits for carrying out their duties other than their living expenses which are met by the Charity and which they receive in their capacity as members of the Religious Order.

During the year a donation of £15,000 (2019: £15,000) was made to the Duchess of Leeds Assumption fund, a charity which the Trustees, Sr Maureen Connor, Sr Patricia Mitchell, Sr Catherine Cowley, Sr Jessica Gatty, Sr Catherine Jones and Sr Marie-Sophie D'Oultremont are also Trustees.

22 Cash generated from operations	2020 £000	2019 £000
Surplus for the year	509	3,304
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(780)	(861)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(4)	-
Gain on disposal of investment property	-	(206)
Fair value (gains) and losses on investments	(718)	(3,933)
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	70	63
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(104)	17,516
(Decrease) in trade and other payables	(266)	(7,135)
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(1,293)	8,748