

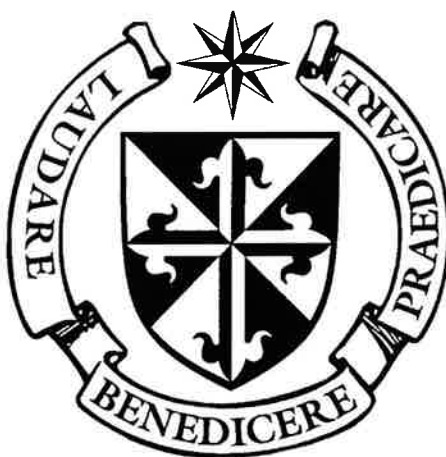
**DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER)
CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL**

(Established at Bushey Heath, Herts)

(Registered number 233236)

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
(Registered Number 233236)
ANNUAL REPORT
31 DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| TRUSTEE, OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS | 1 |
| TRUSTEE'S REPORT | 2 |
| Geographical location and operation | 2 |
| Governance, structure and management..... | 2 |
| Realising the Charity's Objective..... | 6 |
| The Mission of the Congregation in South Africa | 9 |
| Strategic Plan for 2023 and Future Plans | 9 |
| Financial Review including Trustee's Responsibilities..... | 11 |
| Reserves Policy..... | 12 |
| Investment Policy | 13 |
| Disclosure of Information to the Auditors | 14 |
| INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT..... | 15 |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES..... | 18 |
| BALANCE SHEET | 19 |
| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS | 20 |
| NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS..... | 21 |



Saint Dominic Founder of the Order of Preachers
(1170 – 1221)

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE, OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

FORMAL NAME OF THE CHARITY

Dominican Sisters (Third Order) Congregation of Newcastle Natal (Established at Bushey Heath, Herts)
known as Dominican Sisters (Third Order) Congregation of Newcastle Natal

TRUSTEE OF THE CHARITY

Saint Rose of Lima Association Limited, the Directors and Officers of which are the Congregation Prioress and Congregation Council members of the Sisters of the Dominican Congregation of Saint Catherine of Siena of Newcastle Natal, as below:

CONGREGATION PRIORESS AND DIRECTOR OF THE TRUSTEE

M. F. Cunningham (Sister Felicity OP) to 19 March 2023
A. B. Cunningham (Sister Ann OP) from 19 March 2023

CONGREGATION COUNCILLORS AND DIRECTORS OF THE TRUSTEE

M. C. Tuohy (Sister Maria OP), Congregation Vicaress & Sister Bursar
K. E. d'Artois (Sister Karen Marguerite OP), Congregation Secretary
E. Airey (Sister Eileen OP) to 19 March 2023
C McGarry (Sister Christina OP) from 19 March 2023

SISTER BURSAR

M. Tuohy (Sister Maria OP)

GENERAL BURSAR

P. M. Kelly FIA Retired

FINANCE MANAGER

R. D. Bolton FCA

ADDRESS

Rosary Priory
93 Elstree Road
Bushey Heath
Bushey WD23 4EE

Telephone: 020 8950 6065

Website: www.dominicansisters.co.uk

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER

233236

JURISDICTION OF REGISTRATION

England and Wales

AUDITORS

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street, London EC2V 6DL

SOLICITORS

Farrer & Co LLP
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Stone King LLP
Upper Borough Court
Upper Borough Walls
Bath BA1 1RG

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland plc
London Drummonds Branch, 49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Rathbone Investment Management Limited
8 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AZ

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

Bank of New York Mellon and Rathbone Nominees Limited

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustee of the Charity is Saint Rose of Lima Association Limited, the Members, Directors and Officers of which are the Congregation Prioress and Congregation Council members of the Sisters of the Dominican Congregation of Saint Catherine of Siena of Newcastle Natal. Saint Rose of Lima Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee. It was registered as a company on 15 March 1974. Its governing documents comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of being wound up, the members may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each.

The Directors of the Trustee present the Trustee's Report and the audited financial statements of the Dominican Sisters (Third Order) Congregation of Newcastle Natal for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Charity encompasses the European (UK and Rome) activities of the religious Congregation titled Sisters of the Dominican Congregation of Saint Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, Natal. Sisters of the Charity (41 at 31 December 2023; 40 at 31 December 2022) ministered in England and Italy. Other Sisters of the religious Congregation (29 professed at 31 December 2023; 26 at 31 December 2022) minister in South Africa including seven (2022: eight) ministering in five (2022: seven) not for profit entities but the Charity has no financial interest in their operation. The constitutions of the four continuing South African schools established by the Congregation provide for two Sisters or their appointees to be represented on the respective Boards of Governance; currently three (2022: four) South African Sisters fill these rôles. The Dominican convents of the Congregation in South Africa are canonically dependent on this Congregation and supported by grants as necessary for charitable work, though not part of this Charity, and these financial statements include this support but do not include their activities. Further information on the basis of accounting is set out in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charitable trust on which the assets in Europe of the Congregation are held. They include all the Charity's activities in Europe and follow the Charities SORP and the Charities Act 2011.

Our Aims: The objective of the Charity is the advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion and the support of any associated charitable work for the time being carried on through the Trustee with the approval of the Congregation Prioress. This includes maintenance of convents supporting the objective and the upkeep of members of the congregation.

Original Mission: The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Congregation is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. CIC 1752). In furtherance of this goal our aims stem from the original mission of Mother Rose Niland who in 1896 founded the Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena, within the Dominican tradition, in Newcastle, South Africa. Like so many active congregations founded at the time, Mother Rose set out to meet the urgent social need for education among the indigenous and colonial population. These early pioneers were women of great faith and courage who took enormous risks and suffered considerable hardships. Part of their legacy was fine schools, four of which still exist. Among those pioneers there was an urgency and zeal to evangelise as well as to educate. In this they were faithful to the Dominican motto: To give to others the fruits of our contemplation. Similarly, in today's world we aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the Sisters we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

As Dominican Sisters we find inspiration in the following quotation from the Basic Constitution:

To perfect our love of God and neighbour in the following of Christ, by religious profession we are enrolled in the Order of Preachers, completely consecrated to God in a new way, dedicated to the whole Church, and totally engaged in spreading the Word of God.
(Basic Constitution of the Order of Preachers, Para III)

Geographical location and operation of the Charity

The Charity operates in the following countries: United Kingdom and Italy.

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The terms of the Charity Governance Code have been considered. The Code was refreshed at the end of 2020, the changes focussing on 'integrity' and 'equality, diversity and inclusion'. The Trustee believes the

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity meets the principles of the good governance code. In the Charity's particular circumstances, there are not rôle descriptions defining responsibilities for all Directors of the Trustee: each is collectively and individually responsible. Directors of the Trustee are appointed by the General Chapter meeting (see page 4 below) and are drawn from the Sisters of the religious Congregation.

The Congregation is canonically affiliated to the Order of Preachers, a religious order of the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St. Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans' after their founder.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers (and our Congregation) is bound by the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 Codex Iuris Canonici (Code of Canon Law, 'CIC'), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff.

In addition to the above mentioned norms, the Congregation has its own canonical governing documents, the Constitutions and Directory, which are compliant with Canon Law. These govern the life of the Sisters which is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study, community life and ministry.

In terms of civil law, the Charity is formally established by a Trust Deed dated 20 January 1953 as varied by the provisions of a Scheme sealed on 4 May 1995 and is a registered charity – Charity Registration No. 233236. The Trustee of the Charity is Saint Rose of Lima Association Limited and is an English company which is limited by guarantee. It acts through its four Directors and Officers who are the Congregation Prioress and her Council. As such, they have detailed knowledge of the work of the Charity and its structure. New Directors on being appointed are required to familiarise themselves with the responsibilities of being a trustee, and on the Charity's position.

The names of the Directors and Officers who served during the year or were subsequently appointed on 19 March 2023 following the December 2022 General Chapter (see below) are set out in the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this report and accounts. Brief pen portraits of each of the Directors of the Trustee for 2023 and to date are set out below:

During 2022 and down to 19 March 2023:

Sister Felicity Cunningham was elected Congregation Prioress in December 2016 and appointed Director of the Charity on 28 April 2017. Prior to her election, she was Region Prioress in South Africa. After some years in the teaching profession, she spent several years in parish ministry and a number of years in formation ministry.

Sister Eileen Airey was elected Councillor in December 2016 and appointed Director of the Charity on 28 April 2017. She was teaching at secondary level for eleven years and was also head of religious education for three years in this period. In 1993 she was elected to the Congregation Council, returning from Argentina, and worked in team ministry in several parishes in the Stevenage, Hertfordshire, area. In 2000 she returned to mission work in Argentina for three years, returning again in 2006 for another two years. In between she was a parish sister in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and from 2009 in Aberdare, Wales. In 2011, she went to South Africa as formator of the young Sisters in training and was involved in retreat work until 2017.

Throughout 2023 and continuing:

Sister Maria Tuohy was elected Councillor in December 2016, re-elected in December 2022 and appointed Director of the Charity on 28 April 2017. She taught in secondary education for many years and subsequently engaged in administration of the Charity in the rôle of Sister Bursar. She was previously Councillor and a Director of the Charity from 1982 to 1993.

Sister Karen Marguerite d'Artois was elected Councillor in December 2016, re-elected in December 2022 and appointed Director of the Charity on 28 April 2017. She has worked in university chaplaincy and faith formation for children and adults and trained in formation ministry. With a strong background in administration, she is also currently Congregation Secretary and Co-ordinator of the Niland Conference Centre run by the Charity.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

From 19 March 2023:

Sister Ann Cunningham was elected Congregation Prioress in December 2022 and appointed Director of the Charity on 19 March 2023. Prior to her election she was engaged in areas of formation ministry, spiritual direction, grief-share ministry, and retreat work. She was previously Congregation Prioress from 2004 to 2016 and a Director of the Charity from 2005 to 2017, prior to that she was Region Prioress in South Africa and before that had some years in the teaching profession.

Sister Christina McGarry was elected Councillor in December 2022 and appointed Director of the Charity on 19 March 2023. She was in South Africa for 29 years, studying and then teaching in secondary schools and also engaged in parish ministry. She returned to England in 1994 and taught in one of our schools. During this time she studied British Sign Language doing stage 1 and stage 2 exams. From 1999 to 2002 she was pastoral worker for the Deaf in the Clifton diocese, Bristol. From 2002 to 2014 she was in Rome running our guest house there. Since returning to England she has been involved in parish ministry and volunteering in a homeless centre and foodbank.

Background to these appointments:

The Congregation Prioress and her Council are elected every six years at a General Chapter Meeting of the Congregation, the most recent being in December 2022. The General Chapter, composed of elected and ex-officio members, elects the Congregation Prioress and her Congregation Councillors on the basis of their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of Sisters and to provide a useful mix of skills. Following their election to Congregation Council, these Sisters are appointed Directors of the Trustee and are responsible for the organisation of the Charity and the administration of its assets. It is their duty to ensure that the activities undertaken are for the advancement of the objects of the Charity. Decisions are taken by the Congregation Prioress and her Council ('The Committee') as the Directors of the Trustee.

The Congregation Prioress visits all the convents and houses of the Congregation either personally or by delegate at least every three years. The purpose of the visitation is that she may endeavour to examine and assess the quality of community and apostolic life and that she may come to know the Sisters better by giving them an opportunity to make known their needs and their opinions about the life, apostolate and administration of the community. Systems of accountability mean that the Congregation Prioress and her Councillors are aware of and able to assist with the progress and development of the ministries carried out by the Sisters.

Bursars and Local Communities

The Sister Bursar, Sister Maria Tuohy, is responsible for supervising financial and property matters and attending and reporting on these at meetings of the Directors of the Trustee. She is assisted by the General Bursar and the Finance Manager, both being lay staff.

Each local community is governed by an elected Prioress or appointed Leader.

House Bursars are responsible for financial aspects of local communities. A number of Sisters have been granted budgets for the expenditure they incur in the course of their ministries and report monthly on their use of this facility.

Remuneration of Directors of the Trustee

While the Directors of the Trustee have been maintained in accordance with the Charity's duty to provide for the Sisters, they have received no remuneration whether in the course of their duties or otherwise. Any income paid to them in the course of their work has been given to the Charity.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Initial remuneration levels of key management personnel were established by surveying comparative rates and negotiation with the individuals. Historically, when there were a significant number of other employees, subsequent annual reviews of pay applied the same change as applied to them. Now, reviews are informed by data from the Bank of England agents' survey of real wage growth or the Office of National Statistics as available.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Risk Management

In line with the requirement for the Trustee to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in this report, the Directors of the Trustee keep under review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. They have identified the following main areas where risks may occur, acknowledging the inevitable overlaps:

OPERATIONAL

- ◆ The Charity's Work
- ◆ Governance and Management
- ◆ Lifelong Safeguarding
- ◆ Data Protection
- ◆ Information/Cyber Security

FINANCIAL

- ◆ Investments
- ◆ Fraud

REPUTATIONAL

- ◆ Social Media
- ◆ Mistakes and misjudgements

REGULATORY

- ◆ Compliance with law including Charity regulation, Employment and Health & Safety

OPERATIONAL

The Charity's Work: considers the activity of the Charity which is primarily the advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion and associated charitable work. Factors considered include that this may require to be reinterpreted in the circumstance that Sisters are ageing and few new members are joining. However, two Vietnamese Sisters arrived in 2023 (and one in 2022) from the South Africa Region of our Congregation and other possible candidates are being considered. The Directors of the Trustee continue to monitor this aspect.

Governance and Management: considers the efficacy of the trustee body. Risks considered are of a trustee body which lacked sufficient skills, commitment and appropriate decision-making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training of Sisters and staff and/or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Directors of the Trustee monitor this aspect and engage in appropriate courses and training.

Lifelong Safeguarding: Child and adults at risk policies and procedures are in place both in relation to ministry engagement of Sisters and in relation to our own adults at risk. In its compliance with the One Church Approach, the Trustee is committed to implement the revised policies and procedures emerging from the adoption of the Elliott Review (November 2020) and the final report of IICSA (October 2022) by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales and the Conference of Religious of England and Wales, viz., contracting with the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and subscribing to the services provided by the Religious Life Safeguarding Services (RLSS), both of which were launched in June 2021. The Directors of the Trustee have appointed an employee to monitor and advise on this aspect and themselves engage in training.

Data Protection: seeks to guard against potentially damaging threats to our and others' data, whether internal or external, deliberate or accidental. The Directors of the Trustee have appointed an employee to monitor and advise on this aspect.

Information/Cyber Security: seeks to guard against potentially damaging threats to our operations through wrongful removal of information in whatever form or hacking of systems and communications. The Directors of the Trustee seek to spread knowledge of such activities and encourage continual awareness of this risk area and its continual evolution.

FINANCIAL

Investments: The Charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which, are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Charity, and any significant reduction in investment income could require sale of some investments to raise cash in the short term. To mitigate this,

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to the policy agreed by the Directors of the Trustee and themselves have strict internal protocols. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are reviewed regularly by the Directors of the Trustee so that the investments remain appropriate to the Charity's needs (see further on page 13).

Fraud: seeks to guard against the potential risk to the Charity from fraud or financial irregularity, which could include unauthorised expenditure, inappropriate investment policies, cyber-attacks and unreliable accounting. The Directors of the Trustee have established appropriate separation of rôles and authority levels for those dealing with the Charity's assets, including the requirement for a second authorised signature for all but insignificant payments.

REPUTATIONAL

Social Media: seeks to guard against the inappropriate use of social media and potential danger to our reputation through such use. The Directors of the Trustee have established a policy for this aspect which is disseminated amongst personnel, and for the spreading of knowledge of such activities and encouraging continual awareness of this risk area and its continual evolution.

Mistakes and misjudgements – see above *Social Media, Data Protection and Information/Cyber Security*

REGULATORY

Compliance with civil law including Charity regulation, Employment and Health & Safety -

Charity regulation: The Directors of the Trustee and others involved take advantage of the courses offered by a variety of legal, investment and professional bodies including the Association of Provincial Bursars, the Charity Finance Group and Civil Society.

Operational detail: seeks to guard against the possibility of danger to the health, safety and well-being of those with whom we come in contact, of employees and of Sisters; and against the potential risk that the property and buildings of the Charity could suffer alienation or damage or may not be appropriately adapted for use by the physically or mentally challenged. The Directors of the Trustee arrange for specialist advice to be retained in this area, and for appropriate insurance cover.

As indicated above, having identified the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, the Directors of the Trustee have established systems and procedures to mitigate those risks as far as reasonably possible. All policies are updated regularly to maintain good practice.

Realising the Charity's Objective

The Directors of the Trustee have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011.

Advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion for Public Benefit, the Charity's main objective, is realised in the following ways:

- 1 Worship and Prayer Life
- 2 Education
- 3 Caring, Pastoral and Social Ministries
- 4 Collaboration
- 5 Use of Houses of the Charity
- 6 Lay Associates

While 2023 allowed a return to many of our previous activities, changes wrought by the passage of time since the pandemic also saw some curtailment of previous outside engagement, primarily because of the increasing age of most Sisters. Telephone, Zoom, Teams and other social media platforms have enabled Sisters of all ages to engage in active ministry with individuals and small groups in spite of reduced public-facing activities which involved going out from our Communities or indeed welcoming in members of the public. Of paramount importance has been Sisters' constant prayer for all those in need of support. The carrying out of our activities during 2023, as more normal times returned, is considered in more detail below together with a number of on-going endeavours:

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Worship and Prayer Life

The daily celebration of the Liturgy, the prayer of the people of God – the Eucharist and the Prayer of the Church – is one of the principal elements in our Dominican Life. Members of the Congregation are given the opportunity for private prayer, ongoing formation, study of the Scriptures, and days of recollection. In each of our houses, Sisters invite people from the wider community to join us in prayer. Our preaching mission can only emerge out of a life rooted in prayer and praise. When we leave the liturgy, we are being missioned back to the world, to 'give to others the fruits of our contemplation'. Sisters are open to receiving and listening to people seeking spiritual guidance and help.

The Gardens and Chapel at St Rose's, Cricklewood, serve as a place of prayer, silence and retreat, valued by its users. The beautiful Poustinia (a place of prayer) is again being well used and open to anyone wishing to have a 'place apart'. In addition, Sisters are available to offer a listening ear and to give spiritual guidance and direction. Access to the gardens and Chapel has been restored to that of pre-pandemic times, with appropriate protocols in place. A number of reflection days and evenings, and various other spiritual events, are on offer.

All houses welcome parish groups for study and discussion and Sisters support prayer- and Gospel-sharing groups. These groups, meeting regularly, give the public an opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life for a short time and enable quiet contemplation and reflection. In 2023, many of these groups which had continued in 2021/22 on Zoom increasingly returned to in-person encounters.

During 2023, the Niland Conference Centre was unable to offer the same kind of spiritual programme as had been in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is one of the very real consequences of the ageing of Sisters. However, this has been replaced by our welcome of a wider variety of spiritual, educational and other groups availing of the tranquillity, beauty and wonderful facilities of the Centre and its grounds to run their own events. Sisters have continued to offer hospitality – and input where possible.

Throughout the extensive months of pandemic, the most fundamental aspect of Sisters' lives had an even higher prominence: prayer and liturgy. As individuals and Communities, Sisters devoted themselves wholeheartedly to praying for individual needs as well as for the needs of the whole world and, in particular, for an end to continuing threats to health, the wars in Ukraine, Palestine and other sadly challenged areas, together with other restrictions and threats to the propagation of the Gospel. Thus, the most immeasurable aspect of our contribution to society and public benefit continued to see tremendous impetus and growth which is continuing to date.

2. Education

The Charity has been engaged in the ministry of education since its foundation. Education remains a cornerstone of our ministry as Dominican women and is regarded as an essential agent in evangelisation and catechesis. One of the areas of focus in this regard is Adult Formation at the Niland Conference Centre. One sister is Co-ordinator of the Niland Conference Centre and is supported by Sister team members as well as Associates of the Congregation on an ad hoc basis. The Dominican charism of preaching the Gospel remains at the heart of all the activities and events hosted at the Niland Conference Centre.

One Sister was engaged in one of the secondary schools founded by the Congregation as a full-time Learning Support Assistant for students with a variety of Special Educational Needs (SEN), behavioural and other needs which impinge on their educational outcomes.

Two Sisters serve as Foundation Governors to Catholic Schools in Westminster Diocese: one a Catholic Secondary founded by the Congregation and now run by the Diocese; and the other a Catholic Sixth Form College with a Dominican ethos.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Other Sisters have been engaged (subject to appropriate restrictions) at the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome:

- as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Project Director of the formation programme "CREATE: Catholic social thought Rome Exchange: Advanced Training Experience", and of the formation programme STRONG for migrants, Senior Advisor to "Blueprint for Better Business", a London-based charity which aims to create a better society by means of better business practices, Consultor to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, teaching courses: "Catholic Social Teaching"; "History of Christian Social thought"; "Management and the Common Good", and running seminars: "Creating a Culture of Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities"; in August 2020 Sister was appointed Ordinary Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS,) then appointed to the Council of PASS in 2022 and appointed President of PASS in 2023;
- as Chaplain for an English- speaking Lay Dominican Fraternity.

Other Sisters are engaged:

- in supporting and working with schools and parishes, through running in-service training days for staff and catechists who themselves are involved in promoting the Catholic faith;
- in children's catechesis and sacramental preparation in a local parish;
- in serving as Welfare Officer of Blackfriars Hall and Studium, at the University of Oxford;
- in providing theological education and sacramental preparation for teens and adults in a number of local parishes; and
- in providing retreats for staff and pupils of Catholic schools and members of local parishes. Some of these retreats take place in their schools and parishes and others at the Niland Conference Centre.

3. Caring, Pastoral and Social Ministries

A number of our Sisters are again engaged in parish ministries. These include:

- being active in catechetics and promoting social justice;
- assisting in the training of catechists;
- arranging retreat days for groups in local parishes; and
- organising and running days of reflection and retreats throughout the Church's liturgical year.

In fulfilling their individual ministries Sisters aim to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work. Through this work, the Charity attempts to reach out to those in need and aims to benefit a significant number of people.

Some examples of the work of individual Sisters in 2023 and 2022 are given below by way of illustration:

- A number of Sisters are involved in ministry as pastoral workers with the elderly and infirm (some of whom are in their own homes, others in nursing homes). Sisters visit them regularly and provide a listening ear and spiritual accompaniment.
- Sisters are also involved in Parishes where they reach out to the poor and needy through religious education and social support.
- A Sister assists at her local food bank and at a drop-in-centre that provides meals for the homeless.
- To draw attention to the needs in society, Sisters lobby and participate with others in an effort to bring change for the good of society. Sisters have continued to be active in drawing attention to the challenges and risks of climate change, issues which affect the whole world.

The Charity enables and supports individual members of the Congregation in ministry and outreach work thereby furthering the message set out in the Gospel. Sisters have continued to reach out to individuals and remain in contact with organisations with whom they can collaborate. Indeed, because of an even greater awareness of the isolation faced by so many in recent times, Sisters have made an even more conscious effort to keep in touch with individuals who are in need of a listening, understanding ear. This work continues in the currently freer circumstances.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. Collaboration with Religious and Other Organisations in the Church

Such collaboration in recent years, hampered to a degree by Covid in 2022, includes:

- hosting days of renewal, reflection and prayer to which all religious and parishes are invited;
- working with Anglican and Baptist Churches in offering pastoral care and a listening ear;
- assisting, as noted above, in pastoral support at Blackfriars Hall in Oxford (the 'studium generale' of the English Province of the Dominican Order);
- the ongoing involvement of the Congregation Prioress in UISG (International Union of Superiors General) which keeps the Charity updated on global needs and concerns;
- through the Congregation Prioress, representing the Charity at COR (Conference of Religious of England and Wales), being fully involved in Dominican Sisters International Confederation, the Dominican Association of Britain and Ireland, and in DSE (Dominican Sisters Europe) keeping the Charity and Congregation in touch with what is happening in Religious life in general, as well as at the level of the Dominican Order;
- Sisters continuing to collaborate with other Dominicans through their participation in Dominican Family Days, the annual Dominican Seminar and meetings of lay Dominicans; and
- Directors of the Trustee participating in study days, conferences on the consecrated life and charity conferences.

5. Houses of the Charity with a special emphasis

The houses of the Charity are places of hospitality and their facilities are offered for public benefit in a variety of ways:

- As mentioned above, in Cricklewood our St Rose's Chapel, Peace Garden and Poustinia offer a quiet place for reflection, prayer and silence to those of all faiths seeking peace and tranquillity away from the noise and busyness of everyday life.
- St Michael's Convent at Harpenden is regularly used by Church and local groups for meetings, discussions and day events, mostly led by the Sisters. The convent chapel is also open for private prayer.
- Our convent chapel at Rosary Priory, Bushey, is regularly used for mornings of prayer, reflection and music appreciation, and the gardens and grounds are appreciated by visitors as places of beauty, reflection and reconnecting with God in Creation.

6. Lay Associates

- An Associates programme encourages lay people to share the Dominican charism of the Congregation through developing their personal spirituality, strengthening their faith and prayer life, and fulfilling their baptismal mission in their family life, workplace, neighbourhood and local Parish.
- Associates are individually affiliated to the Congregation by a process of formation and, should they so choose, a formal commitment to continue formation in the Dominican charism.
- The formation of these Lay Associates is another aspect of the mission of Education of the Congregation, as it extends the theological and spiritual education of its Associates. Members of the Associates are promoting for new members in local Parishes and in schools which we had originally established and where we continue to have strong links.
- The Associates programme continues to use both in-person and Zoom gatherings, reducing the need to travel, and supplemented by the development of WhatsApp groups for ongoing shared prayer and reflection.

The Mission of the Congregation in South Africa

The Charity supports the Congregation mission in South Africa and the charitable works there, particularly evangelisation, education for life programmes and care of the poor, destitute and needy.

Strategic Plans for 2023 and Future Plans

The Nineteenth General Chapter of the Congregation took place in December 2022. The implementation and outcomes of the previous 2016-22 Strategic Plan were reviewed in detail and the primary objectives for the 2023-2028 period were promulgated:

- In today's world, we seek to be a witness to the importance of human relationships and building

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

these across the multiplicity of divides which exist. As religious women, we have a deep love and concern for the people of our local communities, our nation and our world.

- In our mission of preaching the Gospel, we acknowledge the need to engage seriously with forms of human knowledge which equip us with the skills to translate that Gospel into answers to the questions and needs of the people of our time.
- In the light of the environmental challenges with which we are faced, we seek to comply with the imperative of profound ecological conversion, both practical and spiritual. This is expressed in our local communities and our engagements with people of various backgrounds. It is a core component of our teaching, outreach and ongoing formation of all Sisters.
- We continue to build upon the solid foundations of our Lay Associates Programme, with outreach in particular to Schools founded by the Congregation and others. Our Associates share our mission, ministry and charism. Together we are establishing a Volunteer Programme to facilitate the Congregation's outreach through its several preaching projects.
- The management of our Property and Finances continues to be of paramount importance for the preservation of assets to sustain both the current mission and that of the future. This includes initiating a process of succession planning and training in leadership and governance.
- We are convinced of the positive potential of social media for our mission of preaching the Gospel and for promoting vocations. This will require an initial investment in training Sisters.
- We continue to encourage new membership through renewed and contemporary promotion efforts.
- In the light of continued focus on initial formation, a renewed emphasis on Theological and Professional Studies will be undertaken.
- The outcome of our delving into the history of our Congregation is a new publication by University of KwaZulu Natal Press titled *'The First Black Dominican Sisters of Natal (1922 – 1939): At the Crossroads of Race and Gender'* by Philippe Denis OP. This book constitutes an important contribution to race and gender studies across a variety of social institutions, cultures and nations. This exciting outcome is both a derivative of the objectives of 2016 – 22 and a spur to our ongoing conviction of the importance of human relationships and our desire to strengthen these through our prayer and ministry.

In support of the aims of the Charity, the Directors of the Trustee remain indebted to the following employees:

- The Finance Team
- The Data Protection and Safeguarding Lead

Fundraising Statement

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. Although this Charity does not undertake widespread fundraising from the general public, the legislation defines fund raising as "soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property for charitable purposes." Such amounts receivable are presented in our accounts within "income from charitable activities" and amount to £41,000 (2022: £36,000). There are no legacies or grants received by the Charity in either year. We also receive occasional unsolicited donations.

The Charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of Professional Fundraisers. We confirm that all solicitations are managed internally, the day-to-day management of all income generation being delegated to the executive team, who are accountable to the Trustee. The Charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It 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 undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During 2023, the Charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities (2022 – none). "

The Charity is not bound by any undertaking of any regulatory scheme and the Charity's activities do not require it to pay attention to any voluntary code of practice.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial Review

Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for annually preparing the Trustee's 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 Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the income and expenditure for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee is required:-

- to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- to observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- to make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's Trust Deed. It is 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.

Basis of Preparation of these Accounts

The 2023 financial statements of the Charity are attached to this report. They are prepared on the basis of full reporting of the Charity's activities wherever carried out – currently this is in the UK and Rome.

The Trustee considers there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date that these financial statements are signed. Happily, 2023 has been largely free from the previous impacts of Covid.

The Officers of the Trustee have considered all the matters described in the Trustee's report including the Charity's operations, the impact on voluntary and education income, as well as the impact on the Charity's investment portfolio. In particular, in order to support the assessment of the sustainability of the Charity's activities, the Officers of the Trustee prepared a highly pessimistic scenario of receipt of only covenanted UK pensions from Sisters of the Congregation and 70% of the 2023 investment income, generating pessimistically forecast income of £1.8m and a cash outflow of £0.3m. The Trustee is considering some relatively sizeable capital expenditure in 2024, but not more than £0.5m. The cash resource is some £3.8m in addition to which are realisable holdings of UK investment grade bonds and gilts within the considerable investment portfolio. In the Charity's particular circumstances there are no alternative scenarios that can realistically be produced to derive alternative assumptions for budgeted forecasts, most revenues and costs being essentially fixed in nature. As at the date of signature of these financial statements this pessimistic forecast indicates that the Charity will be able to maintain liquidity for a period of at least a year (and in fact considerably longer) from the date of signature of these financial statements and the Officers of the Trustee consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Charity's reserves are unrestricted.

The Trustee does not anticipate a change in its operations. Although the Trustee cannot estimate what the position may be, it will be concerned to provide support to the charitable mission of the Congregation in South Africa as that is necessary.

As required, the Trustee reports that no assets were held as custodian trustee during the reporting period.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Going concern consideration

By the close of 2023 investment markets had staged somewhat of a recovery from the major disruption and falls in value of 2022. By the end of the year the net gain on investments, but arising only in the last quarter, was £1.7m (2022: loss £6.1m, itself largely reversing the extraordinary 2021 £7.0m gain).

As this Report explains, the income from investments is important, being the Charity's main income source. In 2023 at £1.8m (2022: £1.7m) this represented 75% of income as it also was in 2022. However, the experience of recent years shows that the Trustee is in no position to precisely forecast what future dividend and interest flows may arise – the case continues that some entities may fail, others may reduce their distributions, while others may be able to a degree to resume distribution. Interest rates are affected by a variety of factors including Government action and market expectations. However, the flow of investment income in 2023 of £1.8m was 8% greater than in 2022 (2022: 12% greater than in 2021), and the Trustee considers it reasonable to forecast pessimistic investment income at £1.3m being 70% of that received in 2023.

The next element of the Charity's income is £0.6m donations (2022: £0.5m), largely donated pensions from Sisters (being 23% of income, 2022: also 23% of income, excluding Other). Subject to Sisters' mortality and HM UK Government finances, these pensions are reasonably certain and the forecast for 2024 is £0.5m giving, on the pessimistic assumption, 2024 income of £1.8m. Pessimistically forecast revenue expenditure excluding depreciation is £2.6m leaving £0.8m to be covered. However, the Trustee is on course to commit to some £0.5m capital expenditure in 2024. Last year's consideration of sizeable capital expenditure of up to £1m to reduce the need for energy supplies proved, sadly, impractical. For 2024, the Trustee is looking at a pessimistic outflow of £1.3m (£0.8m + £0.5m). The £3.8m investment cash at banks will cover a £1.3m pessimistic shortfall for some 3 years. There then remains the value of the security holdings and the other properties from which the Charity operates.

Financial Outcome of the Year

Overall, 2023 income totalled £2.5m (2022: £2.3m) before including gains or losses on revaluing investment assets. Net income before taking account of gains or losses on investments was £0.2m (2022: £0.1m net income). On investment assets in 2023 there was a gain of £1.7m as compared to a loss of £6.1m in 2022. Measured against sterling (the Charity's functional currency) during 2023 the Euro and the US dollar fell but the Swiss Franc rose against sterling (in 2022 the Euro, Swiss franc and the US dollar all rose against sterling). The exchange loss of £11k (2022: gain £42k) arose from restatement in pounds sterling of balances denominated in those currencies and translation to £ sterling (the reporting currency) of transactions undertaken in currencies.

The Statement of Financial Activities and the Notes to this set out the areas of income and expenditure and further information on these.

The balance sheet shows total funds under the Charity's control of £64.6m (2022: £62.7m). These funds are used to support the ongoing charitable work of the Charity. For example, tangible assets including property account for £3.6m (2022: also £3.6m) of this total and comprise the net book value of premises occupied for the Charity's work and of equipment and vehicles used in this. Further, the investments and cash for investment shown in the balance sheet at £60.8m (2022: £59.0m) are held for the income they earn which goes towards financing the Charity's present and future objective. The Charity receives little by way of donations from the public, donations received largely being from Sisters' pension rights.

The Statement of Cash Flows reports cash used in operating activities of £1.5m (2022: £1.3m) and dividends and interest received of £1.8m (2022: £1.7m), again emphasising the importance of the cash flow received from the Charity's investments.

Reserves Policy

The Trustee has continued to consider the policy to be adopted on the need for reserves. In common with most religious groups there have been five important trends affecting the Charity in recent years:

- the rate of income received on investments has seriously declined and there has been increased volatility in market values;
- the average age of Sisters continues to increase both because of relatively few new entrants and the greater longevity of existing Sisters;
- mortality of older Sisters means there is increasing risk that pensions currently in payment will cease;
- few of the Sisters following their vocation are earning pay commensurate with their qualifications;

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

and

- for the same reason, the few younger Sisters have little entitlement to future pensioning.

The Trustee's overall objective for reserves is to seek to maintain them at such a level that, excluding gains or losses on investments and translation, the income generated for a year, taking one year with another, meets the cost of charitable expenditure to support the Charity's aims. This has broadly been the case.

Looking at the position in more detail, in earlier years there were specific designated funds for savings and future needs. In 2016 the Directors of the Trustee decided to establish a continuity fund to absorb these varying needs in a single designation. The reality is that the Charity has almost no source of income other than that arising on its investments and the donations from its Sisters. The Charity's assets are required to support expenditure by providing income, physical resource or funding.

In 2023, the income arising from the Fixed assets - Investments was £1.8m or 3.1% of £59.9m being the average of the opening and closing balance sheet Investments including investment cash figures. This income was the major part of the total income of £2.5m which covered the £2.2m total expenditure. In 2022, the income arising from the Fixed assets - Investments was £1.7m or 2.8% of £61.8m being the average of the opening and closing balance sheet Investments including investment cash figures. Again, this income was the major part of the total income of £2.3m which covered the £2.1m total expenditure. Thus, in the circumstances of 2023 and 2022 the Trustee's overall objective was met. The figures demonstrate that the income on the Investments is required as part of the total income to meet expenditure, taking one year with another. Looking at the reserves, which are all unrestricted reserves, the continuity fund is set at the same amount as the Investments including investment cash figures and at 31 December 2023 is £60.8m. (In 2022 it was £59.0m, again the same as the £59.0m of Fixed assets – Investments.) The other designated fund is for property and equipment and reflects the extent to which assets are tied up in property, at 31 December 2023 being £3.6m (2022: also £3.6m). Together, these represented almost all the £64.6m (2022: £62.7m) of reserves, leaving general funds at £0.2m (2022: £0.1m).

The Trustee will review the policy at least annually when the financial statements are considered for approval. The policy will be monitored in the meantime by the Sister Bursar.

Investment Policy

The major part of the Charity's funds is held as investments with the aim of producing an income in the shorter term and capital growth in the longer term. Approximately every two years the Directors of the Trustee review the policy for investment. This was formally established in 1995, is aimed to be reviewed on at least a two-year cycle [and was reviewed in March 2024]. Recent reviews have been undertaken noting that the investment managers are retained in a discretionary rôle. The investment objective is to achieve a balance between income and capital growth, the longer-term growth being necessary to support the Charity's work by a growing income level. The Investment Managers have been provided with the Charity's Investment Policy and manage the portfolio knowing the Trustee's ethical views. In addition to access as required to the investment manager's portal and a monthly informal desktop valuation, the Trustee receives formal quarterly portfolio valuations and commentary with index comparisons, and meets the Investment Managers at least twice a year to discuss their approach and actions taken.

The Trustee requires appropriate diversification of holdings, both across different types of investment and different investment entities. As the Charity has been involved in work in various areas of the world and cannot know where future demands may arise, some investment is outside UK based companies. Unless it specifically decides otherwise, the Trustee requires that no single equity holding should exceed 3.5% of the portfolio of investments (at purchase 5% in the case of a UK Government security and 3% for other purchases) or 1% of the particular security issued. The Trustee seeks to avoid investment in companies whose business involves tobacco, the production of armaments or excessive exploitation of the world's resources or people, and direct investment in such contracts as futures, options and interest rate swaps unless these are to provide a level of insurance of portfolio value. However, the actual holdings are matters within the discretion of the Investment Managers.

It is in the nature of valuation by the market that in some years there are increases and in others falls. The Trustee monitors the position and is in regular dialogue with the Investment Managers. Investment income in 2023 is £1.8m (2022: £1.7m).

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Disclosure of Information to the Charity's Auditors

The Officers of the Trustee confirm that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all reasonable steps they ought to have taken as Officers of the Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

THANKS

Mention has been made earlier of the contribution of Sisters, employees and support staff to the work of the Charity. In concluding this report, the Directors of the Trustee reiterate their appreciation.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Directors of the Trustee and the following were authorised to sign on the Trustee's behalf on [xx] May 2024.

A. B. Cunningham
Congregation Prioress
Director of the Trustee

Date: 20 May 2024

K. E d'Artois
Congregation Secretary
Director of the Trustee

Date: 20 May 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF
DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL (CONTINUED)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF
DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL (ESTABLISHED AT BUSHEY HEATH,
HERTS)**

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of the Dominican Sisters (Third Order) Congregation of Newcastle Natal (Established at Bushey Heath, Herts) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statements of cash flows, principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. 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 accounts:

- ♦ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ♦ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ♦ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 accounts, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts 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 annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts 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 accounts 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.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF
DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL (CONTINUED)**

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 trustee's annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts 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

As explained more fully in the trustee's responsibilities statement, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustee is 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 trustee either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

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:

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 obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Charity and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the accounts are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008).
- ◆ 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 and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF
DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL (CONTINUED)**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

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 their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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;
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure; and
- ◆ used data analytics to investigate the rationale behind any 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 accounts disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 for the audit of the accounts 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 trustee, 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 trustee those matters we are required to state to it in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 23 May 2024

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------|---------------|----------------|
| | Notes | £000 | £000 |
| Income from: | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 581 | 532 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 41 | 36 |
| Investments | 4 | 1,832 | 1,704 |
| Surplus on property and equipment disposal | | 3 | 1 |
| Other | | 1 | - |
| Total income | 5 | <u>2,458</u> | <u>2,273</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | |
| Raising funds - Investment management costs | | 120 | 121 |
| Charitable activities | 6 | 2,110 | 2,010 |
| Total expenditure | 5 | <u>2,230</u> | <u>2,131</u> |
| Net income before net gains / (losses) on investments | | 228 | 142 |
| Net gains / (losses) on investments | 11 | 1,675 | (6,053) |
| Net (expenditure) / income | | <u>1,903</u> | <u>(5,911)</u> |
| Other recognised gains and losses | | | |
| Foreign exchange (loss) / gain on translation | 15 | (11) | 42 |
| Movement in funds | | <u>1,892</u> | <u>(5,869)</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 15 | 62,745 | 68,614 |
| Total funds carried forward | 15 | <u>64,637</u> | <u>62,745</u> |

The above results for 2023 and 2022 are derived from continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those stated above; accordingly, a statement of total realised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All income and expenditure is for Unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 21 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 3,599 | 3,650 |
| Investments | 11 | 58,410 | 59,002 |
| Total fixed assets | | 62,009 | 62,652 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 135 | 97 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 17 | 291 | 276 |
| Cash held for investment | 17 | 2,413 | - |
| | | 2,839 | 373 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | (211) | (280) |
| Net current assets | | 2,628 | 93 |
| Total net assets | | 64,637 | 62,745 |
| The funds of the Charity | | | |
| Unrestricted funds: | 15 | | |
| General funds | | 215 | 93 |
| Designated funds being: | | | |
| Property and equipment | | 3,599 | 3,650 |
| Continuity | | 60,823 | 59,002 |
| Total Charity funds | 16 | 64,637 | 62,745 |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee and were signed on its behalf on 20 May 2024

A. B. Cunningham
Director of the Trustee

The notes on pages 21 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| Statement of cash flows | Notes | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|---|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Net cash (used in) operating activities | 17 | (1,512) | (1,298) |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Dividends and interest received from investments | | 1,818 | 1,701 |
| Proceeds from sale of investments | 11 | 4,627 | 3,759 |
| Purchase of investments | 11 | (6,608) | (2,391) |
| Net investment inflow / (outflow) | | (163) | 3,069 |
| Proceeds from sale of property and equipment | | 3 | 1 |
| Purchase of property and equipment | 10 | (136) | (47) |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities | | (296) | 3,023 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | (1,808) | 1,725 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | | 5,453 | 3,685 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements | | (11) | 43 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 17 | 3,634 | 5,453 |
| Cash and cash equivalents consist of: | | | |
| in Current assets: | | | |
| - Cash at bank and in hand | 17 | 291 | 276 |
| - Cash held for investment | 17 | 2,413 | - |
| In Fixed assets: | | | |
| - Cash at bank held within investments | 11 | 930 | 5,177 |
| | | 3,634 | 5,453 |

There is no net debt.

The notes on pages 21 to 30 form part of these financial statements

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 second edition issued in October 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustee considers there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date that these financial statements are signed. The Officers of the Trustee have considered all the matters described in the Trustee's report including the Charity's operations, the impact on voluntary and education income, as well as the impact on the Charity's investment portfolio. In particular, in order to support the assessment of the sustainability of the Charity's activities, the Officers of the Trustee prepared a highly pessimistic scenario of 70% of 2023's investment income being received without any other income other than covenanted UK pensions from Sisters of the Congregation. In the Charity's particular circumstances there are no alternative scenarios that can realistically be produced to derive alternative assumptions for budgeted forecasts, most costs being essentially fixed in nature. As at the date of signature of these financial statements this pessimistic forecast indicates that the Charity will be able to maintain liquidity for a period of at least a year (and in fact considerably longer) from the date of signature of these financial statements and the Officers of the Trustee consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

There were no significant judgements or estimates necessary in preparing the financial statements.

The most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Trust are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets (see the investment policy and performance and risk management sections of the Trustee's Report for more information).

b) Fund accounting

There are no restricted funds. Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are funds which the Trustee has decided at its discretion to set aside for particular purposes in the future and form part of the Charity's unrestricted funds. The Trustee has the power to reallocate such funds within unrestricted funds.

All income and expenditure is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

c) Income

Income (which includes donations and gain on disposal of fixed assets) is accounted for on a receivable basis as soon as the Charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount is quantifiable.

Investment income includes dividends receivable, recognised when the share price goes 'ex-div' which is after a particular company dividend has been declared as payable to shareholders recorded on the register at a particular date.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis 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 has been listed under headings that aggregate all the costs related to that activity.

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

Charitable expenditure is comprised of expenditure relating to the direct furtherance of the charitable objectives. Where costs cannot be directly attributable they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Allocation of expenditure across the different areas of advancing the Charity's main objective, being advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion for Public Benefit, is impracticable. Sisters are engaged

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

in many activities, and each property similarly fulfils different functions.

e) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trust's charitable work. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the management of the Charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements. In the circumstances of the Charity, to include an allocation of the living expenses of the Directors of the Trustee (the Congregation Prioress and her Council) would be of little benefit in comparison with the cost of capturing the information.

The basis on which support and governance costs have been allocated is set out in note 6.

f) Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consist of investment management costs.

g) Operating leases

The Charity has no operating leases.

h) Taxation

The Trust, Dominican Sisters (Third Order) Congregation of Newcastle Natal established at Bushey Heath, Herts., is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

i) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold land and buildings were included for the first time in 1995 at deemed cost. Acquisitions since are stated at cost. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. The costs of minor additions to fixed assets, defined as those costing less than £3,000 (2022 - £25,000) each are expensed in the year in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal annual instalments over their estimated useful lives as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Freehold land | - not depreciated |
| Freehold buildings | - 10 to 50 years (see following paragraph) |
| Motor vehicles | - 4 years |
| Electrical equipment | - 3 years |

With effect from 1 January 2018 freehold buildings are split between the structure and the major components which require periodic replacement, it being impractical to go back further. The costs of replacement or restoration of these components are capitalised and depreciated over the determined average useful economic life on a straight-line basis as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Structure and Other | - 50 years |
| Kitchens | - 10 years |
| Bathrooms | - 10 years |
| Windows | - 10 years |
| Boilers | - 10 years |

j) Financial instruments

The Trust only has 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 fair or settlement value.

k) Fixed asset investments

The fair value of listed investments is taken as the closing quoted market bid value. There are no unlisted investments.

Certain deposits with banks held for their income earning and monies held by the investment managers pending investment are included in investments.

The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

l) Realised and unrealised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

m) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Unless individually significant, transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the average rate for the year. All exchange differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

n) Liquid resources

Liquid resources comprise cash at banks and on hand and are available on demand.

o) Liabilities - Creditors

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Officers of the Trustee have made a commitment to acquire goods or services. The amounts are established by consideration of individual unpaid future liabilities existing in respect of the reporting year.

2 Legal status of the Trust

The Trust is formally established by a Trust Deed dated 20 January 1953, as varied by the provisions of a Scheme sealed on 4 May 1995, and is a registered charity in England and Wales – Charity Registration No. 233236.

3 Income from donations

Income from donations and legacies comprises:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Covenanted salaries, stipends and pensions from Sisters | 567 | 524 |
| Other donations and gifts | 14 | 8 |
| (No legacies received) | | |
| | <u>581</u> | <u>532</u> |

Income from charitable activities comprises:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Donations for educational facilities | 41 | 36 |
| | <u>41</u> | <u>36</u> |

4 Investment income

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Interest receivable | 308 | 280 |
| Dividends receivable | 1,524 | 1,424 |
| | <u>1,832</u> | <u>1,704</u> |

All dividends were earned on listed investments.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Geographical analysis of total income and expenditure

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Income: | | |
| UK | 2,427 | 2,249 |
| Other | 31 | 24 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 2,458 | 2,273 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Expenditure: | | |
| UK | 2,157 | 2,053 |
| Other | 73 | 78 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 2,230 | 2,131 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

| 2023 | General support | Governance related | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Staff costs total as below | 93 | 15 | 108 | 100 |
| Property costs | 767 | - | 767 | 708 |
| Other community costs | 1,111 | - | 1,111 | 1,050 |
| Professional fees and bank charges | 57 | - | 57 | 37 |
| Statutory audit fee | - | 33 | 33 | 44 |
| Other charitable projects | 34 | - | 34 | 71 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 2,062 | 48 | 2,110 | 2,010 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

Basis of apportionment:

Staff cost allocation to governance is based on a reasonable approximation of the time involved. All other costs are the costs borne. Allocation of expenditure across the different areas of advancing the Charity's main objective is impracticable as Sisters and convents are involved in all areas.

| 2022 | General support | Governance related | Total 2022 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Staff costs | 86 | 14 | 100 |
| Property costs | 708 | - | 708 |
| Other community costs | 1,050 | - | 1,050 |
| Professional fees and bank charges | 37 | - | 37 |
| Statutory audit fee | - | 44 | 44 |
| Other charitable projects | 71 | - | 71 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 1,952 | 58 | 2,010 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 Staff costs

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Wages and salaries | 101 | 93 |
| Social security costs | 6 | 6 |
| Pension costs – defined contributions | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>108</u> | <u>100</u> |

The Trustee considers its key management personnel to comprise the Directors of the Trustee (which include the Sister Bursar), the General Bursar and the Finance Manager.

The Directors of the Trustee are the Congregation Prioress and the Congregation Councillors. As Sisters, their living expenses were borne by the Charity. The Directors of the Trustee received no remuneration or other benefits in connection with their duties for the Trustee or otherwise during the year.

The employee benefits, including employer's contributions, of the General Bursar and the Finance Manager totalled £105,880 (2022: £96,438).

One employee received employee benefits in the band £60,000 to £70,000 in the year (2022: above £60,000 - none).

The average headcount of employees, all of whom were engaged in charitable activities, during the year was 3 (2022: 3). However, they equate to 1 (2022: 1) full time employee.

8 Net income before other recognised gains and losses

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------|------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Net income before other recognised gains and losses is stated after charging the following: | | |
| Auditors' remuneration: | | |
| - Statutory audit | 33 | 44 |
| Depreciation | 187 | 173 |
| | <u>220</u> | <u>317</u> |

9 Related party transactions

As members of the Congregation, none of the Trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income has been donated to the Charity under Deeds of Covenant. During the year, the total amount donated by the Trustees to the Charity was £22,185 (2022: £25,818).

There were no other related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year (2022 none).

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 Tangible fixed assets

| 2023 | Freehold land and buildings | Fixtures, fittings and equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Cost | | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 6,587 | - | 123 | 6,710 |
| Additions | 103 | 18 | 15 | 136 |
| Disposals | - | - | (28) | (28) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| At 31 December 2023 | 6,690 | 18 | 110 | 6,818 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 2,939 | - | 121 | 3,060 |
| Charge for the year | 175 | 6 | 6 | 187 |
| Disposals | - | - | (28) | (28) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| At 31 December 2023 | 3,114 | 6 | 99 | 3,219 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Net book value | | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 3,648 | - | 2 | 3,650 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| At 31 December 2023 | 3,576 | 12 | 11 | 3,599 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

All tangible fixed assets relate to direct charitable purposes.

On 31 December 1995 the Trustee included freehold land and buildings at estimated replacement cost using a proportion of insured values as the basis. Cost above comprises the deemed cost of those original buildings still held plus subsequent additions. The current insurance declared value is £17,136,000 (2022: £16,637,000).

11 Investments

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Carrying value (being market bid value including cash) at 1 January | 59,002 | 64,654 |
| Additions at cost | 6,608 | 2,391 |
| Disposal proceeds | (4,627) | (3,759) |
| Net investment gains / (losses) | 1,675 | (6,053) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Change in cash at bank held within investments | 62,658 (4,248) | 57,233 1,769 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Carrying value (being market bid value including cash) at 31 December | 58,410 | 59,002 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Listed investments: | | |
| UK fixed interest | 8,270 | 7,020 |
| UK equity shares | 26,647 | 26,259 |
| Investment trusts | 1,015 | - |
| Unit trusts | 2,350 | 2,242 |
| Overseas fixed interest | 1,541 | 1,570 |
| Overseas equity shares | 17,657 | 16,734 |
| Market bid value at 31 December | 57,480 | 53,825 |
| Cash at bank held within Investments | 930 | 5,177 |
| Carrying value (being market bid value) at 31 December | 58,410 | 59,002 |
| Historical cost at end of year excluding cash | 38,798 | 36,207 |
| Cumulative unrealised investment gain | 18,682 | 17,618 |
| Carrying value (being market bid value) at 31 December | 57,480 | 53,825 |
| No investment accounted for more than 5% of the total market bid value | | |
| 12 Debtors | | |
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £000 | £000 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 135 | 97 |
| 13 Creditors | | |
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £000 | £000 |
| Amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Taxation and social security | 4 | 2 |
| Accruals | 207 | 278 |
| | 211 | 280 |
| 14 Capital commitments | | |
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £000 | £000 |
| Contracted for but not provided in the accounts | - | - |

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Statement of change in reserves

[illegible]

Designated and undesignated funds:

The designated Property and equipment fund is established to represent the unrestricted tangible fixed assets of the Charity. It is the same amount as the Fixed assets - Tangible assets in the Balance sheet.

The designated Continuity fund is established to show the extent to which funds are required to be retained to provide the basic financial structure to earn income to meet future expenditure. It is the same amount as the Fixed assets - Investments in the Balance sheet and accordingly includes the cumulative unrealised investment gain.

The undesignated General funds are the same amount as the Net current assets in the Balance sheet.

Transfers:

Transfers recorded above are to or from the Property and equipment designated fund and to or from the Continuity fund and from General funds arising in the respective year.

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

| 2023 | General funds | Designated funds | Total funds |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by: | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | 3,599 | 3,599 |
| Investments and cash for investment | - | 60,823 | 60,823 |
| Other current assets | 426 | - | 426 |
| Current liabilities | (211) | - | (211) |
| Total net assets | 215 | 64,422 | 64,637 |
| Unrealised gains included above | | | |
| On investment assets | - | 18,682 | 18,682 |
| 2022 | General funds | Designated funds | Total funds |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by: | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | 3,650 | 3,650 |
| Investments | - | 59,002 | 59,002 |
| Current assets | 373 | - | 373 |
| Current liabilities | (280) | - | (280) |
| Total net assets | 93 | 62,652 | 62,745 |
| Unrealised gains included above | | | |
| On investment assets | - | 17,618 | 17,618 |

17 Cash flow information

a) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) / income to net cash outflow from operating activities

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period | 1,904 | (5,911) |
| Adjustments: | | |
| (Gain) on sale of property and equipment | (3) | (1) |
| (Gain)/ loss on investments | (1,675) | 6,053 |
| Investment income | (1,832) | (1,704) |
| Depreciation | 187 | 173 |
| (Increase) in debtors | (24) | (2) |
| (Decrease)/ increase in creditors | (69) | 94 |
| Net cash (outflow) from operating activities | (1,512) | (1,298) |

DOMINICAN SISTERS (THIRD ORDER) CONGREGATION OF NEWCASTLE NATAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

b) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| (Decrease) / Increase in cash in the period | (1,808) | 1,725 |
| Movement in net funds in the period | (1,808) | 1,725 |
| Foreign exchange translation differences | (11) | 42 |
| Net funds brought forward | 5,453 | 3,686 |
| Net funds carried forward | 3,634 | 5,453 |
| Being: | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand in current assets | 291 | 276 |
| Cash at bank held within investments | 3,343 | 5,177 |
| | 3,634 | 5,453 |

c) Analysis of net funds

| 2023 | At 1 January 2023 | Cash flow | Foreign exchange differences | At 31 December 2023 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5,453 | (1,808) | (11) | 3,634 |
| 2022 | At 1 January 2022 | Cash flow | Foreign exchange differences | At 31 December 2022 |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,685 | 1,725 | 43 | 5,453 |