

The Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies (CFPSS)
Registered charity number 233778
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

Trustees:

Dr Santha Bhattacharji (President)
Rev. Jennifer Lane (Chair until 27 October 2023)
Ms Cherry Simpkin, (Hon Treasurer)
Rev Neil Broadbent
Mrs Vicky Jeffs, (Chair from 27 October 2023)
Mrs Helen Beck until 27 October 2023)
Mrs Ruth Bird until 27 October 2023)
Ms Ellen Davis until 28 February 2023
Dr Robert Gilbert
Mr Ian Fordyce
Mr Andrew Cort
Rev Andrew Fisher
Mr Mark Fox from 27 October 2023
Mr Paul Fisher from 27 October 2023
Rev Margaret Gilley from 27 October 2023

Independent Examiner: Myrus Smith, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM148W

Solicitors: Porter Dodson, Telford House, The Park, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1DY.

General Secretary

Mrs Joanne Arnold

Office Address

Office 8, The Creative Suite, Mill 3, Pleasley Vale Business Park, Mansfield, NG19 8RL

1. Structure, Governance & Management

The governing document of the trust is a Constitution amended by resolution on 1 April 1963 and 8 September 2017. Under the Constitution the charity is governed by a Council consisting of the President, a Chair, an Honorary Treasurer, 1 Representative from each Region and up to 6 others. Up to 3 Vice-Presidents and up to 2 Vice-Chairs may also be elected.

Members of the Council are elected by the members of the charity at an AGM, the President to serve for 5 years and all others to serve for 3 years. All Council members are eligible for re-election.

The Council has the power to co-opt up to 3 trustees to serve until the next AGM, when they will be eligible for election by the members. It may co-opt trustees in the event of casual vacancies to serve for the remainder of the term of the person replaced.

The Council may also appoint a paid General Secretary and any other staff as they see fit. Remuneration and duties of all staff shall be determined by the Council. At present, the charity's only member of staff is the General Secretary. The Editor of the charity's magazine *The Christian Parapsychologist* receives an honorarium.

The CFPSS does not hold any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of others.

2. Objectives of the Charity

The objects of the Charity are to encourage the study in a Christian context of spiritual, paranormal, psychological and other scientific phenomena and to try to assess their validity and their relevance to the Christian faith.

3. Public Benefit

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Council has given due consideration to general guidance published by the charity commission relating to public benefit.

Membership of the CFPSS is open to all those who belong to a recognised Christian denomination or are themselves in sympathy with the Christian faith. Within that framework, we welcome all adults regardless of personal circumstances. The minimum annual donation for membership is determined by General Meeting from time to time but the Council has the power to reduce such sum in cases of hardship or other reasons as the Council sees fit. The Council may also grant bursaries as appropriate to enable members with limited resources to attend CFPSS events.

The CFPSS provides a forum for discussion on subjects such as the healing and deliverance ministry, religious experience, paranormal phenomena, mysticism and prayer, particularly in terms of their relevance to the Christian faith. In doing this, it seeks to foster a general understanding of these subjects and to contribute to academic research.

The CFPSS offers a safe meeting place where members and enquirers may share and explore their experiences in these areas, in an open atmosphere of love and acceptance. Many people value the help they have received when they have experienced spontaneous gifts of the Spirit, the pain of bereavement or simply a call to deeper spiritual understanding, especially when they have found little encouragement or support from elsewhere.

The CFPSS takes seriously its duty of care towards Trustees, Staff, Members and the general public. It discourages any form of abuse for whatever reason. The Trustees regard their safeguarding responsibilities in respect of vulnerable adults particularly important since the nature of the charity's objectives may lead those in mental and spiritual distress to seek its help. The Charity is not involved with children.

4. Achievements and Activities

Discussion groups continued using online platforms such as WhatsApp and were well used.

We have increased our use of our YouTube channel this year, putting on talks from past conferences. Currently, we have 24 videos on the channel. We have 171 subscribers to the channel, a number that is growing steadily.

There are currently 235 subscribers to our regular email newsletter – an increase of 65 since last year. Our Facebook page continues to be popular.

Our postal intercessory prayer group continues to flourish and is greatly appreciated by those who have requested prayer. A list of those requiring intercessions is sent out to the group by post and email.

An Annual Conference was held at the Yarnfield Conference Centre at Stone in Staffordshire from 9 to 11 September 2022 on the theme of 'Joy: Psychic and Spiritual'.

As part of our 70th anniversary celebrations, we began a nationwide tour to promote the work of the CFPSS. The meetings have been well attended and we have gained new members at each one.

The CFPSS published two editions each of its two magazines *The Christian Parapsychologist* and *The Fellowship Review*.

Articles from past magazines are freely available on the CFPSS website and are well read.

The CFPSS library continued to be well used. The library holds over 1500 books and booklets and 500 audio recordings and is free to use (subject to paying postal costs). The library is available to members through the website or by contacting the general secretary.

A book of talks by Rev. Martin Israel entitled *The Reality of Prayer and Other Reflections* was published in September 2022.

The Publications Committee have been working on four publications. These are:

- Four Studies in Mysticism by Frances Banks.
- Praying for the Dead by Meg Gilley.
- A book on Talking About Spiritual Experience which is designed to offer a counselling resource for clergy and others, when people seek their guidance.
- A booklet on the phenomenon of past-life memories, and how Christians can try to make sense of this experience.

Three new CFPSS Regional Groups were set up in Wales, Scotland and East Midlands, and Cheltenham.

5. Safeguarding

The Council policy on safeguarding is reviewed annually. Due to the size of the charity and its limited human resources, the posts of Safeguarding Officer and Trustee are combined. This post is currently held by Rev. Jennifer Lane but is unable to continue due to pressure of work. The charity is seeking a replacement. The Council has established that all trustees do not need to be DBS checked.

6. Data Protection

The Council's data protection policy is in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

In order to keep email and paper data private and safe the CFPSS uses two documents,

- a. The CFPSS privacy notice informs members or public what information is held and for what purpose, how long it is kept and deleted. Their rights are also explained. This Notice is displayed on the CFPSS website.
- b. The CFPSS Consent Form which has to be filled in to authorise consent for personal information to be held. This can be done by email or paper. This form must be returned to the General Secretary. If it is not, any information held is deleted.

Mrs Helen Beck acted as Trustee Responsible for GDPR during the year. However, as her tenure as trustee ended in October 2023, the Fellowship is working to find a replacement.

Mrs Joanne Arnold, the General Secretary, is the main data user.

The CFPSS is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office for Data Protection.

The CFPSS has never had a data breach but knows how to report one should it happen.

7. Financial Review

Going concern

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Overall results

During the year ended 31 March 2023 the Charity made an operating loss of £(18,836) compared to loss of £(23,311) in 2021/22. With investment losses of £(18,953), the overall loss was £(37,789) compared to a loss of £(7,065) in 2021/22.

As at 31 March 2023, investments were valued at £217,605 (2021/22: £256,558).

Total net assets at 31 March 2023 were £245,349 (2021/22: £284,296).

Trustee expenses

Trustees expenses during the year amounted to £44 for 1 Trustee (2021/22: £826 for 5 trustees). No trustees received any remuneration for work as a Trustee.

Reserves

Trustees aim to maintain reserves at a sufficient level to ensure our financial resilience and sustainability, including protecting the charity against identified risks. The Trustees aim to strike the appropriate balance between ensuring a sustainable financial position and using our available funds to fulfil our charitable mission. The Trustees aim to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to cover a year's running costs.

The charity has no long-term liabilities.

Investment Policy

The charity's main sources of income are donations and legacies from members. It also receives returns on investments and interest on cash deposits and some income from the sale of books and copies of the *Christian Parapsychologist* to non-members.

The charity's policy is to mitigate the risks presented by stock market volatility and the economic uncertainty by spreading its investments over a number of different types of funds and to move investments between funds from time to time to maximise returns. The funds are managed by the CCLA.

Risk Management

The Trustees have continued to assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are working to ensure that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to them. Our risk assessment policy is reviewed twice-yearly.

Andrew Cort was appointed trustee for risk management and began work on drawing up a risk register.

8. Future plans

In 2023-24, the Trustees plan to:

- a. publish two editions each of its two magazines *The Christian Parapsychologist* and *The Fellowship Review*;
- b. publish new books and booklets currently being worked on by the Publications Committee;
- c. hold a special Annual Conference to celebrate CFPSS' 70th anniversary

- d. run events for members online
- e. continue with online discussion groups
- f. hold a residential retreat
- g. support and increase the group network
- h. seek ways to get the CFPSS better known, including continuing the anniversary tour round the UK and promote its work at external events., such as Greenbelt and the Festival of Healing
- i. continue to look for new venues for conferences in order to vary where they are held and thus make them more accessible to members in various parts of the country.
- j. increase its presence on social media platforms
- k. find new ways to raise funds, increase membership and operate cost effectively
- l. complete our risk register
- m. appoint Trustees for data protection and safeguarding
- n. review the CFPSS Constitution to ensure it is fit for purpose, in particular to clarify the roles of the President and Chair, including seeking legal advice as appropriate.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual 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 & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on their behalf:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Santha Bhattacharji". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Santha Bhattacharji

President

Date: 22 January 2024

THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and membership	7,182		7,860	
Legacies	0		40	
Investment income	8,017		8,036	
Books, tapes and CDs etc	977		2,044	
Conferences	6,502		7,997	
Sales of Christian Parapsychologist	365		143	
Other income	3,329		77	
		26,372		26,197
Expenditure				
Cost of Quarterly Review & Christian Parapsychologist	3,522		4,225	
Pension contributions	617		654	
Salaries, Wages & NIC	20,569		20,569	
Books	20		143	
Council Retreat & Working Parties	0		6,310	
Conference expenses	7,587		5,294	
Travelling Expenses	159		978	
Rent, Rates, Light & Heat,	4,341	*	4,118	
Postage & Stationery	1,825		2,066	
Telephone	478		483	
Insurance	1,666		1,865	
Accountancy	1,284		1,284	
Legal & Professional	0		0	
IT support	995		318	
Sundries	35		176	
Staff Recruitment	0		0	
Office Move Costs	0		0	
Equipment	30		92	
Depreciation of Equipment	239		298	
Movement in stock of books	640		328	
Net cost of Regions & Branches	0		7	
Bank Charges	0		0	
Honorarium CP	1,200		300	
		45,208		49,507
		(18836.01)		(23311)
Realised and unrealised gain on investments	(18953.00)			16,246
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(37789.01)			(7065)

THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets				
Investments	1	217,605	256,558	
Tangible assets	2	<u>954</u>	<u>1,193</u>	
			218,559	257,751
Currents Assets				
Stock		13,552	14,192	
Debtors	3	1,840	0	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>14,565</u>	<u>13,237</u>	
		29,957	27,429	
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	4	3,167	<u>2,042</u>	
Net current assets			26,790	25,387
Net assets			245,349	283,138
Funds				
Unrestricted - General & HQ	5	239,681		277,490
Designated - Regional Fund	5	<u>5,667</u>		<u>5,647</u>
		<u>245,349</u>		<u>283,138</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

President Dr Santha Bhattacharji

Santha Bhattacharji

Treasurer - Ms Cherry Simpkin

Cherry Simpkin

THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1	INVESTMENTS	2023 £	2022 £
	Market value brought forward at 1 April	256,558	240,312
	Disposals	(19812)	0
	Realised & Unrealised Gains	(19141)	16,246
	Market value carried forward at 31 March	<u>217,605</u>	<u>256,558</u>
2	FIXED ASSETS	Office Equipment	
	COST		
	As at 1 April 2022	6,509	
	Disposals	0	
	As at 31 March 2023	<u>6,509</u>	
	DEPRECIATION		
	As at 1 April 2022	5,316	
	Eliminated on disposal	0	
	Charge for the year	239	
	At 31 March 2023	<u>5,555</u>	
	NET BOOK VALUE		
	At 31 March 2023	<u>954</u>	
	At 31 March 2022	<u>1,193</u>	
3	DEBTORS	2023 £	2022 £
	Retreat deposit (Launde Abbey)	840	0
	Conference deposit	1,000	0
	Total	<u>1,840</u>	<u>0</u>
4	CREDITORS		
	PAYE Control	638	728
	Pension Control	120	120
	Membership fees in advance	595	279
	Accruals	1,814	915
		<u>3,167</u>	<u>2,042</u>

THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance b/f at 1 April 2022	Income	(Loss) on investments	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance b/f at 31 March 2023
Unrestricted						
General and HQ	277,490	26,346	(18953.00)	45,202	0	239,681
Designated						
Regional Fund	5,647	26		6	0	5,667
	283,138	26,372	(18953.00)	45,208	0	245,349

Comparative figures for 31 March 2022

	Balance b/f at 1 April 2021	Income	Gain on investments	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance b/f at 31 March 2022
Unrestricted						
General and HQ	284,856	26,190	16,246	49,502	(300)	277,490
Designated						
Regional Fund	5,347	7		7	300	5,647
	290,203	26,197	16,246	49,508	0	283,138

THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Regional Balances

	2023	2022
	£	£
East Anglia	179	179
South West	846	846
South East	1,783	1,783
London	1,486	1,466
East Midlands	239	239
North West	1,134	1,134
Total	<u>5,667</u>	<u>5,647</u>

The Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

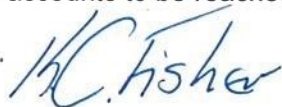
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for 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).

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



.....
K C Fisher FCA
c/o Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road,
Sutton, Surrey. SM1 4BW

Date: 23 January 2024