

**The Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies (CFPSS)**  
**Registered charity number 233778**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

**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)  
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  
Mrs Judith Harvey from 11 October 2024  
Rev Rose Maria Drew from 12 February 2025  
Ms Emma Hughes from 12 February 2025

**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

The Charity's use of online platforms has grown over the year.

There are two WhatsApp groups, a twice-monthly discussion group and the a monthly prayer group specialising in paying for the dead

There are 265 people in the Facebook group, an increase of 78 from our last AGM. The number of people following the Facebook page has grown by a huge 103 to a total of 378.

There 336 subscribers to the YouTube channel, an increase of 49% on the previous year.

The emailed newsletter audience has increased from 235 to 280.

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.

The Annual Conference, celebrating the Charity's 70th anniversary, was held at in Birmingham from 27 to 29 September 2023.

The Charity continued a nationwide tour to promote the work of the CFPSS, as part of our 70th anniversary celebrations, holding a number of meetings throughout the UK. These were well attended and brought a new members.

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.

The Publications Committee have been working on a number of publications, in particular:

- a re-issue of the book *Four Studies in Mysticism* by Frances Banks;
- a book on *Praying for the Dead* by Meg Gilley, published in September 2023;
- a book on *Talking About Spiritual Experience*, published in September 2024;
- a booklet on the phenomenon of past-life memories and how Christians can try to make sense of this experience;
- study guides on the CFPSS' various areas of interest;
- anthologies of specific topics using past contributions to the *Christian Parapsychologist*;
- an undated re-issue of *An Introduction to Psychic Awareness* by the Rev. Neil Broadbent.

The CFPSS Regional Groups continue to meet regularly, either in person or on Zoom. The increasing use of Zoom has enabled those who find it hard to travel to attend meetings.

## **5. Safeguarding**

The Council policy on safeguarding is reviewed annually. The Charity appointed Emma Hughes as its new Safeguarding Officer but is still seeking to replace the Rev. Jennifer Lane as Safeguarding Trustee. 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 2024 the Charity made an operating loss of £(8,714) compared to loss of £(18,836) in 2022/23. With investment gains of £9,95, there was an overall gain of £1,242, compared to a loss of £(37,789) in 2022/23.

As at 31 March 2024, investments were valued at £207,561 (2022/23: £217,605).

Total net assets at 31 March 2024 were £246,591 (2022/23: £245,349).

### ***Trustee expenses***

Trustees expenses during the year amounted to £944 for 6 Trustees (2022/23: £44 for 1 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.

During the year the Charity set up a Risk Register, which will be reviewed annually.

## **8. Future plans**

In 2024-25, 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 Annual Conference to celebrate CFPSS' 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

- d. run events for members online
- e. continue with online discussion groups
- f. hold a residential retreat
- g. support and increase the regional group network and special interest groups
- 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. appoint Trustees for data protection and safeguarding
- m. review the CFPSS Constitution to ensure it is fit for purpose, in particular in relation to the group structure and the role of representatives and the use of electronic communication methods, including seeking legal advice as appropriate
- n. establish a group to look at Policies to ensure we are complying with Charity Commission requirements and the Law.

### **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:



Dr Santha Bhattacharji  
President  
Date: 25 February 2025

**THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES**

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Donations & Membership	5,990.01		7,182	
Legacies	15,673.54		0	
Investment Income	7,616.04		8,017	
Profit on Books, Tapes & CD	1,184.96		977	
Conferences	12,688.96		6,502	
Sale of Christian Parapsychologist	71.61		365	
Other Income	<u>26.50</u>		<u>3,329</u>	
		43,251.62		26,372
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Cost of Quartely Review & Christian Parapsychologist	3,644.85		3,522	
Pension contributions	617.04		617	
Salaries, Wages & NIC	20,569.08		20,569	
Books	48.60		20	
Council Retreat & Working Parties	0.00		0	
Conference expenses	13,136.01		7,587	
Travelling & Car Expenses	1,110.79		160	
Profit on disposal of Motor Vehicle	0.00		0	
Rent, Rates, Light & Heat	4,257.06		4,341	
Postage & Stationery	1,449.87		1,825	
Telephone	473.76		478	
Insurance	1,745.81		1,666	
Accountancy	1,296.00		1,284	
Legal & Professional	0.00		0	
IT support	1,777.98		995	
Sundries	404.33		35	
Staff Recruitment	0.00		0	
Office Move Costs	0.00		0	
Equipment	35.00		30	
Depreciation of Equipment	191.00		239	
Movement in stock of books	608.00		640	
Net cost of Regions & Branches	0.00		0	
Bank Charges	0.00		0	
Honorarium CP	<u>600.00</u>		<u>1,200</u>	
		<u>51,965.18</u>		<u>45,208</u>
		(8,713.56)		(18,836)
Realised and unrealised (loss)/ gain on investments		9,956.00		(18,953)
		<u>1,242.44</u>		<u>(37,789)</u>

# THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Investments	1	207,561.00		217,605	
Tangible Assets	2	<u>763.00</u>		<u>954</u>	
		208,324.00			218,559
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock		12,944.00		13,552	
Debtors	3	1,000.00		1,840	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>29,510.72</u>		<u>14,565</u>	
		43,454.72		29,957	
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>5,187.50</u>		<u>3,167</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			38,267.22		26,790
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>246,591.22</u>		<u>245,349</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted - General & HQ	5	240,923.73		239,681	
Designated - Regional Fund	5	5,667.49		5,668	
		<u>246,591.22</u>		<u>245,349</u>	

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

*Santha Bhattacharji*

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President - Dr Santha Bhattacharji

*C. Simpkin*

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Treasurer - Miss C Simpkin

**THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

1	INVESTMENTS	2024	2023	
	Market value brought forward at 1 April 2023	217,605	256,558	
	Disposals	{18,493}	(19,812)	
	Realised & Unrealised Gains	8,449	{19,141}	
	Market value carried forward at 31 March 2024	<u>207,561</u>	<u>217,605</u>	
2	FIXED ASSETS	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	COST			
	As at 1 April 2023	6,509.00	0.00	6,509.00
	Disposals	0.00		0.00
	As at 31 March 2024	<u>6,509.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,509.00</u>
	DEPRECIATION			
	As at 1 April 2023	5,555.00	0.00	5,555.00
	Eliminated on disposal	0.00		0.00
	Charge for the year	191.00	0.00	191.00
	As at 31 March 2023	<u>5,746.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,746.00</u>
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 March 2024	<u>763.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>763.00</u>
	At 31 March 2023	<u>954.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>954.00</u>
3	DEBTORS	2024	2023	
	Retreat deposit prepaid (Launde Abbey)	0.00	840	
	Conference deposit	1000.00	1000	
		<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1840</u>	
4	CREDITORS	2024	2023	
	PAYE Control	599.23	638	
	Pension Control	119.98	120	
	Membership fees in advance	594.62	595	
	Accruals	1,873.67	1814	
	members loan	2,000.00	0	
		<u>5,187.50</u>	<u>3,167</u>	

THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

**S MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Balance b/f at 1 April 2023	Income	(Loss) on Investments	Expenses	Transfer	Balance c/f at 31 March 2024
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General & HQ	239,681.29	43,251.62	9,956.00	51,965.18		240,923.73
<b>Designated</b>						
Regional Fund	5,667.49					5,667.49
	<u>245,348.78</u>	<u>43,251.62</u>	<u>9,956.00</u>	<u>51,965.18</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>246,591.22</u>

Comparative figures for 31 March 2023

	Balance b/f at 1 April 2021	Income	Gain on Investments	Expenses	Transfer	Balance c/f at 31 March 2022
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General & HQ	277,490.30	26,345.62	(18,953.00)	45,201.63		239,681.29
<b>Designated</b>						
Regional Fund	5,647.49	26.10		6.10		5,667.49
	<u>283,137.79</u>	<u>26,371.72</u>	<u>-18,953.00</u>	<u>45,207.73</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>245,348.78</u>

**THE CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES**

<b>Regional Balances</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
East Anglia	178.77	178.77
South West	846.31	846.31
South East	1,783.15	1,783.15
London	1,486.29	1,486.29
East Midlands	238.85	238.85
North West	1,134.12	1,134.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>5,667.49</u></b>	<b><u>5,667.49</u></b>

## **The Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies**

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

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024 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 Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd  
350a London Road  
Cheam,  
Surrey. SM3 8JB

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

