

COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND

England & Wales · Charity number 263616

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1972-02-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Church Of St. Thomas Of Canterbury
557 High Road
Woodford Green
IG8 0RB

Phone 02085041688

Activities

Objects: A) THE SUPPORT AND FURTHERANCE OF WORK OF THE CUSTODY OF THE HOLY LAND UNDER THE CARE OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR. B) ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND RELIGION AND RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SUFFERING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR. (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 3 OF TRUST DEED).

Activities: Support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land.Support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody.Advancement of the Roman Catholic religion.Relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody of the Holy Land.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ISRAEL JORDAN SYRIA LEBANON EGYPT CYPRUS TURKEY
- Israel
- Occupied Palestinian Territories

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£769,005	£912,721	£166,582	0
2023-12-31	£925,114	£813,373	£310,298	0
2022-12-31	£474,396	£411,647	-	-
2021-12-31	£444,214	£410,645	-	-
2020-12-31	£236,920	£409,931	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REVD MICHAEL O'KANE OFM	Chair	
Rev Michael Christopher Copps		2020-02-06

Accounts

**Commissariat
of the
Holy Land**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2024

Charity Registration Number
263616

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	11

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Statement of cash flows	17
Principal accounting policies	18
Notes to the accounts	21

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers

Trustees	Brother Michael O'Kane ofm Brother Michael Copps ofm
UK Commissary to the Holy Land	Brother Michael O'Kane ofm
Principal address	The Franciscan Friary 557 High Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 0RB
Charity registration number	263616
Auditor	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Solicitors	SBP Law Glade House 52 – 54 Carter Lane London EC4V 5EF
Principal bankers	NatWest Bank plc Stratford Broadway(2) Branch Gredley House 1-11 Broadway Stratford London E15 4DX

The Trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 18 to 20 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

The Custody of the Holy Land was, in the fourteenth century, entrusted by the Holy See to the Order of St Francis and remains to this day in the care of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

The Order of Friars Minor established a charitable trust known as the Commissariat of the Holy Land in 1971 to support the Custody in this work.

Constitution and organisation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is governed by a trust deed dated 12 October 1971 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No. 263616.

Activities, objectives and specific policies

Principal aims and activities

The principal aims of the charity are:

- ◆ the support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- ◆ the support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody;
- ◆ the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion; and
- ◆ the relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody.

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The objects of the charitable trust include the preservation of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land and the spread of the Gospel, the provision of education and the relief of poverty among the Christians living in the Holy Land. The Trustees have the responsibility to see that any payments to the Custody are used in support of one or more of those objects.

Review of the year: 2024

The Trustees have met formally on five occasions during 2024.

The Good Friday Collection for 2024 raised £756,597. The Collection for 2023 was £617,200 which excludes the Legacy of Fr. S Cunnane-£301,154.

This year again we had a great response from the Dioceses of England, Scotland and Wales and on 13th. December 2024, the Trustees sent £900,000.00 to Washington, USA, according to the Protocol of the English-Speaking Conference of Commissariats.

Projects for the year 2024. A Call to Solidarity and the Service of Peace and Justice.

*LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO THE CHURCHES OF THE MIDDLE EAST
on the 7th. October 2024, First anniversary of the start of the Gaza War.*



*"Dear brothers and sisters,
A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence, in the shameful inability of the international community and the most powerful countries to silence the weapons and put an end to the tragedy of war. Blood is still being shed, as are tears. Anger is growing, along with the desire for revenge, while it seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace. I never tire of repeating that war is a defeat, that weapons do not build the future but destroy it, that violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing.*

People today do not know how to find peace. As Christians, we must never tire of imploring peace from God. Prayer and fasting are the weapons of love that change history, the weapons that defeat our one true enemy: the spirit of evil that foments war.

There is one thing that I wish to say to you, from the bottom of my heart, dear brothers and sisters, but also to the men and women of every confession and religion who in the Middle East are suffering from the insanity of war: I am close to you, I am with you.

I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily.

I am with you, who have been forced to leave your homes, to abandon schooling and work and to find a place of refuge from the bombing.

I am with you, the mothers who weep while looking at your dead or wounded children, like Mary at the sight of Jesus; with you, the children of the great lands of the Middle East, where the intrigues of those in power deprive you of your right to play.

I am with you, who are afraid to look up for fear of fire raining down from the skies.

Review of the year: 2024 (continued)

Projects for the year 2024. A Call to Solidarity and the Service of Peace and Justice.(continued)

LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO THE CHURCHES OF THE MIDDLE EAST on the 7th. October 2024, First anniversary of the start of the Gaza War.(continued)

I am with you, who have no voice, for despite all the talk of plans and strategies, there is little concern for those who suffer the devastation of war, which the powerful impose on others; yet they will be subject to the inflexible judgement of God (cf. Wis 6:8).

I am with you, who thirst for peace and justice, and refuse to yield to the logic of evil and, in the name of Jesus, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5:44).

Thank you, sons and daughters of peace, for consoling the heart of God, wounded by the evil of humanity. Fraternally, Pope Francis, Rome, Saint John Lateran, 7 October 2024

Project 1: Support of the Terra Sancta Schools and their families.



We continued this year to support the Custody's continuing care and development of the educational opportunities in their Terra Sancta Schools and their support of students in Tertiary Education. The continuing atmosphere of war, has increased unemployment among families, which has in turn caused families to struggle to send their children to school.

Another challenge this year has been the struggle to pay the salaries of teachers and local collaborators who help us in the sanctuaries.

However, the Custody and the Church Communities continue to stay close to the people and give support and encouragement to hope. We need a heart as great as Christ's. A heart capable of forgiving even those who condemned Him to die on the cross and those who killed Him.

Although feelings of sorrow did not extinguish the flame of hope for a brighter tomorrow, the old school building of the Terra Sancta School in Jerusalem celebrated the graduation of its 70th class in a restrained and modest way, due to the war in the country. Hope shone in the eyes of the graduates, who received their diplomas to enter universities.



Be peacemakers: graduation of the 70th class of the Terra Sancta School in Jerusalem.

Review of the year: 2024 (continued)

Projects for the year 2024. A Call to Solidarity and the Service of Peace and Justice.(continued)

Project 1: Support of the Terra Sancta Schools and their families.(continued)

Juliana Catnacho, Graduate of the Terra Santa School in Jerusalem shared these words – *“Today I find myself at a new stage in life. Thanks to our school and thanks to God, I hope to study medicine in our universities and carry the message of our school and become an ambassador in some way. We all carry the message of the Franciscans, which is love and peace.”*

Br Francesco Patton, of Customs of the Holy Land said – *“We believe in good education, but at the same time the purpose of our education is to be able to live together in fraternity and peace in society.”*

Project 2: Social Needs in the different communities throughout the Holy Land.

Inspired with this Love of Christ, many of our Parishes have a great social outreach to their communities. We continue to help families to cope with the increased cost of living because of the war. Medical expenses and rents are also given much support with the lack of Pilgrims and tourism this year again.

There are old people's homes and medical-welfare centres for the elderly and there are also activities linked to the Custody, but not directly managed by it. The Franciscan Boy Home is one of the many social institutions we have supported.



'The Homes activity' is also very important for local Christians, which aims to help families by contributing to the fundamental problem of housing. Through various building projects of whole areas, free housing is given to many families, contributions for the rent are given to other families and houses in precarious conditions are renovated.

Project 3: Faithful to the life of the Church and the Liturgies of the Shrines Good Friday doesn't last forever -

Jesus Christ carried the cross of the world on his shoulders, bearing the torments of his condemnation because of our sins in a world that is divided, devoid of love and where war has no mercy on the weak, including children, women, the elderly and the poor, as is the case today.



Review of the year: 2024 (continued)

Projects for the year 2024. A Call to Solidarity and the Service of Peace and Justice.(continued)

Project 3: Faithful to the life of the Church and the Liturgies of the Shrines Good Friday doesn't last forever (continued)

On March 9, Good Friday, the Franciscan friars, together with a group of faithful, walked the fourteen Stations of the Cross along the Path of Redemption through the alleys of the Old City of Jerusalem. They did this because the Holy Land needs peace during these difficult times. War, as His Holiness Pope Francis has stated, leads to the bloody defeat of all. Father Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land, says, "Good Friday does not last forever, and the light of Easter illuminates Calvary and helps us to live the experience of death with the hope of the Resurrection." Pope Francis also writes to local Christians of the Holy Land, "In a land divided by conflict, you are seeds of good; you are not alone, we will not abandon you; I keep you all in my prayers, thank you for maintaining hope despite the loss of all hope."

Project 4: Ecumenical Collaboration of Christian Churches working for peace and justice.

While tragic and unacceptable events of violence occurred in the Holy Land, leaders and representatives of Christian churches in Jerusalem prayed for peace and justice during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

With their contacts and presence in these areas of conflict, the Custody- working with other organisations – actively seek to care for the victims, their families and contribute in dialogue with the different communities.



Project 5: No More War, No More Hate: A Cry from the Holy Land To Be Instruments of Peace in Middle East 11th.May 2024.



Father Ibrahim Faltas, ofm. Vicar of the Custody of the Holy Land In this holy time of Easter speaks out again for peace." I am here with a message of peace in a world full of conflicts and wars. As the Gospel according to John says: 'In the world you will have tribulation, but believe me, I have overcome the world'. We children of the Christian faith believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God.

And he/she has a right to life, dignity and peace.

But if we look at what is happening in Gaza after more than 200 days of war, we see a different picture. A stain of blood and tears where more than 35,000 people have died, including the elderly, innocent women and children. In these critical moments, I call on the presidents and leaders of the world, on behalf of every father and mother in Gaza and the families of the Palestinian and Israeli prisoners, to assume their historical and humanitarian responsibilities. I urge you to take immediate action to end any new military operation in Rafah, where thousands of innocent people live who have no other sin than to seek safety in their homeland. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God' (Mt 9:5).

Review of the year: 2024 (continued)

Projects for the year 2024. A Call to Solidarity and the Service of Peace and Justice.(continued)

Project 5: No More War, No More Hate: A Cry from the Holy Land To Be Instruments of Peace in Middle East 11th.May 2024.(continued)

On the afternoon of 3 June 2024, weary of war and devastation, Jews, Muslims, Druze and Christians of all churches and denominations gathered in a peace march from Zion Square to Jaffa Gate.

A young rabbi prays on behalf of all those who have gathered there, weary of war and devastation. All present recognise themselves as united by a common humanity, fragile and beautiful – a sign of hope in the midst of suffering.

The Custody of the Holy Land and the Church Communities continue to stay close to the peoples of the Middle East giving support and encouragement to hope for the future.

We thank out Dioceses in the United Kingdom and all our benefactors who have given us such generous donations throughout the year. Remembering you all in our prayers.



Financial review

Income and expenditure

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 15 of this annual report and accounts.

Total income for 2024 was £769,005 (2023 - £925,114). Of this, £756,597 (2023 - £617,200) was received in the form of donations, the vast majority being annual Good Friday church collections.

During the year, expenditure totalled £912,721 (2023 - £813,373). £900,030 (2023 - £800,030) of this represents payments to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land, details of which are given above.

Financial position and reserves policy

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £166,582 (2023 - £310,298) which are represented largely by bank balances. It is the charity's policy to hold reserves until such time as required for the work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land. It is anticipated that such reserves would not exceed £500,000 in any year. The Trustees regard the reserves held at 31 December 2024 to be adequate but not excessive.

Governance and structure

According to the trust deed, the Trustees of the charity, of which there must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four, are appointed by the then Trustees taking into account the views of the Custos of the Holy Land and the Provincial of the Friars Minor in England. At 31 December 2024 the Trustees comprised the Commissary and Vice-Commissary, both members of the Order of Friars Minor. In practice, these appointments are reviewed at the triennial chapter of the Province. The functions of the Trustees are to see firstly that contributions from the dioceses are properly accounted for and secondly to ensure the contributions are remitted to the Holy Land and spent in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

The Trustees are kept up to date with financial and regulatory developments in the charity sector by the charity's auditor and by attending training courses when necessary.

The names of the Trustees who served during the year are set out as part of the reference and administration details on page 1 of this annual report.

The charity is administered directly by the Trustees and the Commissary; there are no employees.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements 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
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Governance and structure (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities statement (continued)

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

Key management personnel

The Trustees consider that they are the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Trustees are not remunerated.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and consider that there are controls in place to mitigate those risks as far as is practicable, bearing in mind the difficult political situation in the Holy Land.

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Governance and structure (continued)

Risk management (continued)

This work has identified one key risk for the charity which relates to the fact that the charity grants funds for ultimate use in the Holy Land, a part of the world where there continues to be considerable political unrest. To mitigate the associated risks, the charity passes most funds initially to the Commissariat of the Holy Land for the United States of America (USA) so that, prior to being forwarded on to the Holy Land, the funds may be administered in collaboration with those raised by the other English-speaking Commissariats and suitable projects may be identified. Whether or not the funds are sent to the USA or directly to the Holy Land, the Trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of potential projects and recipients of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that a full written report of how the monies have been utilised and applied is obtained from the recipient.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Trustee Brother Michael O'Kane ofm, Commissariat of the Holy land.

Approved by the Trustees on: 04.11.2025

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Commissariat of the Holy Land

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 Trustees' 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 other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, including the Trustees' report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report

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

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' 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; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 8 and 9, the Trustees are 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 Trustees determine 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 Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 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 recognize non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ 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 financial statements 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) and the Charities Act 2011).
- ◆ We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of trustees. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ◆ Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- ◆ Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

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

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- ◆ performed substantive testing on expenditure.

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

- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of those charged with governance 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 trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 4 November 2025

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income:			
Donations and legacies	1	760,019	919,654
Interest receivable		8,986	5,460
Total income		769,005	925,114
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities			
. Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land	2	900,030	800,030
. Support of the clergy	3	12,691	13,343
Total expenditure		912,721	813,373
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds for the year		(143,716)	111,741
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 January		310,298	198,557
Balances carried forward at 31 December		166,582	310,298

All of the charity's income and expenditure in both 2023 and 2024 relates to unrestricted funds.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		177,598	320,498
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(11,016)	(10,200)
Total net assets		166,582	310,298
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
. General fund		166,582	310,298

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the Trustees by:

Trustee: Brother Michael O’Kane ofm

Approved by the Trustees on: 04.11.2025

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	(151,886)	107,081
Cash inflow from investing activities:			
Interest received		8,986	5,460
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(142,900)	112,541
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		320,498	207,957
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	B	177,598	320,498

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2024.

A Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure) income (as per the statement of financial activities)	(143,716)	111,741
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(8,986)	(5,460)
Increase in creditors	816	800
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(142,900)	107,081

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	177,598	320,498

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	2023 £	Cash flows £	2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	320,498	(142,900)	177,598

Principal accounting policies 31 December 2024

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

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2024 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2023.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have not been required to make significant judgements or estimates.

Assessment of going concern

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

The charity faces challenges presented by the current geopolitical and macroeconomic climate, but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that notwithstanding the challenges detailed above, there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income (continued)

Church collections in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land are made throughout the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. They are organised by the relevant dioceses, which may, at their discretion, pass the proceeds to the Commissariat for use in the Holy Land in accordance with its charitable objectives. They are, therefore, recognised on receipt from the dioceses unless earlier notification is received which confirms the amount which shall be donated.

In accordance with Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report and include:

- ◆ Charitable grants comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. They are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment or where the recipient organisation has been notified of the grant, if earlier. Provision is made for any such grants approved but unpaid at the year end.
- ◆ Support of the clergy who work for the Custody including those costs directly relating to the work of the clergy and indirect costs.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements. Governance costs are included as part of support of the clergy within the statement of financial activities.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of unrecoverable VAT.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Funds structure

General funds represent monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees.

1 Donations and legacies

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations		
. Church collections	756,597	617,200
. General	3,422	1,300
. Legacies	—	301,154
	760,019	919,654

2 Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants made directly to, and for support of, the Custody of the Holy Land:		
. Commissariat of the Holy Land for the USA for support of the Custody of the Holy Land	900,030	800,030

3 Support of the clergy

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Books and subscriptions	971	929
Office costs	628	971
Bank charges	76	49
Governance costs		
. Auditor's remuneration, including accounts preparation*	11,016	11,394
	12,691	13,343

4 Taxation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to taxation on income and gains derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

5 Staff costs

There are no staff costs as the charity does not employ any staff (2023 – none).

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis comprise the Trustees.

No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (2023 - £nil).

No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2023 - £nil).

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	11,016	10,200

7 Connected charities

During 2024, The Commissariat of the Holy Land was connected to one other charity by virtue of the fact that the charities used the same principal address and the connected charity's Trustees had the power to appoint the Trustees of the Commissariat.

The connected charity is:

Name	Charity Registration No	Charitable objectives
The Order of Friars Minor	232177	The support of charitable purposes connected with the Roman Catholic religion and the support of the charitable work of the Order.

There were no financial transactions between the Commissariat of the Holy Land and The Order of Friars Minor during the year (2023 – none).

8 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023 – none).

9 Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events since the year ended 31 December 2024.

Accounts

**Commissariat
of the
Holy Land**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2023

Charity Registration Number
263616

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	11

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Statement of cash flows	17
Principal accounting policies	18
Notes to the accounts	21

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers

Trustees	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm Brother Michael Copps ofm
UK Commissary to the Holy Land	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm
Principal address	The Franciscan Friary 557 High Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 0RB
Charity registration number	263616
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Solicitors	SBP Law Glade House 52 – 54 Carter Lane London EC4V 5EF
Principal bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 3244 300 Romford Road London E7 9SH

The Trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 18 to 20 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

The Custody of the Holy Land was, in the fourteenth century, entrusted by the Holy See to the Order of St Francis and remains to this day in the care of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

The Order of Friars Minor established a charitable trust known as the Commissariat of the Holy Land in 1971 to support the Custody in this work.

Constitution and organisation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is governed by a trust deed dated 12 October 1971 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No. 263616.

Activities, objectives and specific policies

Principal aims and activities

The principal aims of the charity are:

- ◆ the support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- ◆ the support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody;
- ◆ the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion; and
- ◆ the relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody.

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The objects of the charitable trust include the preservation of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land and the spread of the Gospel, the provision of education and the relief of poverty among the Christians living in the Holy Land. The Trustees have the responsibility to see that any payments to the Custody are used in support of one or more of those objects.

Review of the year: 2023

The Trustees have met formally on five occasions during 2023.

Donations and legacies for 2023 were £919,654 - compared to last year 2022 - £473,674.

This grand total was due not only from the generous Good Friday Collections of our Catholic Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland; but also a Legacy that was left to us for the sum of £301,154.

On the 17th. November 2023 the Trustees transferred £800,030 to the Washington Commissariat in the USA according to the Protocol of the English Speaking Conference of Commissariats.

Projects for the year 2023. A light in the darkness. John1:5

The amounts granted to the Washington Commissariat in the USA for the Custody of the Holy Land have helped fund the following projects.

1: We continue to support the Parish Ministries of the Custody:

With the publishing of statistics by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel, there are 185,000 Christians in Israel. 75% are Arab Christians and the greatest concentrations are found in Nazareth, Haifa and in Jerusalem.



It has been a constant worry for the Custody in its many Parishes throughout Holy Land as many families have emigrated because of the constant tensions of the past few years. However with the printed statistics there is a slight rise in the number of Christians. The Custody continues in its Parishes to give family support with school fees, medical expenses and basic household expenses.

During the last school year, it was recorded that 26,752 Christian children have received Primary and Secondary Education and the Custody's Terra Sancta schools continue to be developed.



In Galilee, at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth in November, the General Secretariat for Youth Ministry organized a day full of spirituality, including songs, prayers and activities for the approximately 300 young people, who came from the cities of Galilee.

Review of the year: 2023 (continued)

Projects for the year 2023. A light in the darkness. John1:5 (continued)

2. Ecumenical Collaboration of Christian Churches working for peace and justice.

While tragic and unacceptable events of violence occurred in the Holy Land, leaders and representatives of Christian churches in Jerusalem prayed for peace and justice during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held Jan. 21-29.



Pope Francis, in his *Angelus on Sunday, Jan. 29*, also called on the international community to find immediate solutions based on dialogue.

After the Angelus the Pope continued:

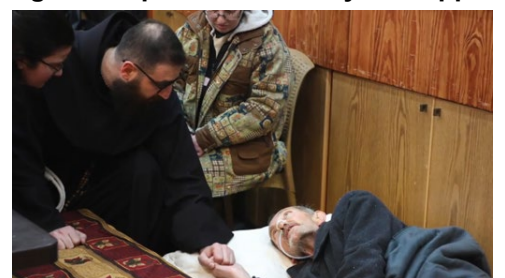
Dear brothers and sisters, it is with great sorrow that I learn of the news arriving from the Holy Land, in particular of the death of 10 Palestinians, among whom is a woman, killed during Israeli military anti-terrorist action in Palestine; and of what happened near Jerusalem on Friday evening when seven Israeli Jews were killed by a Palestinian and three others were wounded as they were leaving the synagogue. The spiral of death that increases day after day does nothing other than close the few glimpses of trust that exist between the two peoples. From the beginning of the year, dozens of Palestinians have been killed during firefights with the Israeli army. I appeal to the two governments and to the international community so that, immediately and without delay, other paths might be found that include dialogue and a sincere search for peace. Let us pray for this, brothers and sisters!



With their contacts and presence in these areas of conflict, the Custody- working with other organisations – actively seek to care for the victims, their families and contribute in dialogue with the different communities.

3. Earthquake in Syria – Brothers from Jerusalem go to help the Community in Aleppo

Br JOHNNY JALLOUF, ofm Custody of the Holy Land "We heard with pain the news of the earthquake in Turkey and in our own country, that is, Syria, which has already been hit by 12 years of war, and then the earthquake came to add pain where the wound is still open." The twins George and Johnny are both Franciscans from the Custody of the Holy Land and together with another brother left Feb. 15 to reach Aleppo. This is the first of several "teams" of Franciscans from the Custody who will take turns over the next few weeks to bring aid, both to the population and to their confreres, who tirelessly assist the displaced.



Review of the year: 2023 (continued)

Projects for the year 2023. A light in the darkness. John1:5 (continued)

Damascus, Aleppo, and Latakia: the visit of Brother Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land, to Syria lasted ten days. March 2023



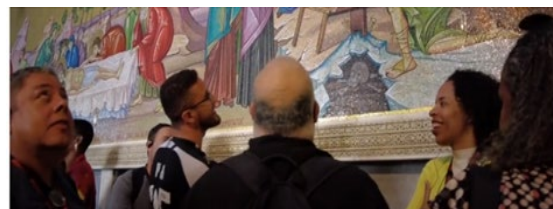
"Thank God the weather is a little better this last period, but at the beginning of the earthquake it was early February, it was cold. In Latakia the damage was mainly to the bell tower, so also in Aleppo, as far as our structures are concerned. *What I then saw by contrast, beyond the destruction, was the great work of hospitality that the friars of the Custody did, because at the time of the emergency, so in the very first weeks, at the Terra Santa College in Aleppo they came to accommodate up to 6,000 people, settling them in the good way, a mattress, a blanket, what they could, a hot meal. A focus on everyone: the Christians and also the Muslims.* And this I would say also resulted in help coming from other Christians and also from Muslims. Paradoxically, the biggest challenge is one that is not material: because the biggest challenge is to overcome fear."



4. We continue to support the Custody's ministry to Pilgrims to the Holy land.



Fr CRISTIAN VACARU Chaplain of the Romanian Catholic Community in the Holy Land. It is a great joy to see that among so many pilgrims who come here to the Holy Land, so many of my compatriots also come. They come here to recharge the batteries of the soul, to the places where the Christian faith was born.



Br. DIMAS SOLDA Varzea Grande - Brazil - The experience of coming to the Holy Land is a life-changing experience. I had the grace of living here for four years and now that I'm coming back with groups.

We see the Gospel, we experience it by passing through the places, we can share this Gospel with brothers and sisters who also come to have this experience. Accompanying people to have this experience is really very rewarding, it is something that enriches my pastoral and missionary journey-it is a great joy! 2,500 pilgrims.

Review of the year: 2023 (continued)

Projects for the year 2023. A light in the darkness. John1:5 (continued)

5. We gave support to the Christian Information Centre which celebrated its Golden Jubilee this year [1973- 2023]



The Custody of the Holy Land has sponsored the Christian Information Centre (C.I.C.) since 1973. The aim of the C.I.C. is to provide information on Christianity and on the Holy Land - including the shrines and the holy places, the numerous churches in the region, the liturgies, the aspects of religious and cultural life and other activities.

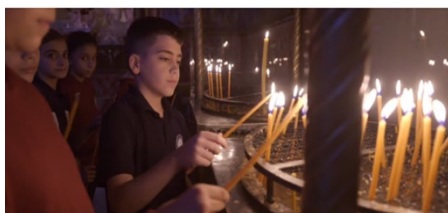
The Christian Information Centre has a three-fold mission:

- ◆ Provide information and advice, by phone or in person, to pilgrims and residents;
- ◆ Supply media outlets, writers, scholars and religious communities with news concerning religious, scientific or cultural events taking place in the area;
- ◆ Distribute general information about Christian life in the Holy Land.

The Franciscan Pilgrims Office (FPO) coordinates Mass celebrations, Holy Hours and Prayer Services in the Shrines of the Custody of the Holy Land.



We conclude our report with the Christmas Message of the Custos of the Holy land – Bro. Francesco Patton ofm.



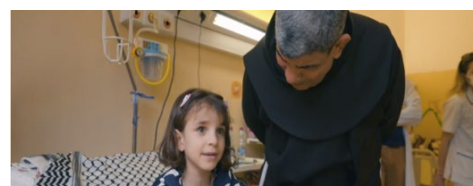
*December 2023 -
John 1:5- The light
shines in the
darkness, and the
darkness has not
overcome it.*



In the midst of Darkness Bethlehem awaits the feast of peace and joy.

The tragedy of Israel and Gaza

Dears brothers and sisters, this year, the grotto of Bethlehem is empty, as are the streets and squares of the city. When Mary and Joseph came to be registered, there was not even a room for them. Today all the rooms in Bethlehem are available, waiting for the war to end, for the pilgrims to return, for the illuminations and the voices of children in celebration to brighten up the streets of the city again. During this time, many have asked if we have cancelled Christmas. We have not cancelled Christmas, because Christmas has already happened and – thank God – no one can cancel it.



Voice of Hope – Gaza Children in Italy

Review of the year: 2023 (continued)

Projects for the year 2023. A light in the darkness. John1:5 (continued)

Christmas consists in the fact that the Son of God entered our history once and for all, made himself one of us, was given to us, gave meaning to our lives, and in doing so, saved us. We may find ourselves in the midst of the worst and most difficult situations, in the midst of the darkness of history; we may find ourselves in the midst of the darkness of war and hatred; and yet even if the darkness does not receive the Light, the Light continues to shine and cannot be extinguished. The more we find ourselves immersed in this night, personal and collective, the more we need the Light to shine.

And we need the Light to spread everywhere from this grotto, to keep alive the hope of a new world, saved thanks to the birth of this Child: Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. During this Christmas choked by the darkness of hatred and war, let us kneel before the empty manger in which Mary laid the Child Jesus after giving birth to Him and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and let us make our own *the prayer of Saint John Paul II*:

“Dry the tears of children, O child Jesus! Caress the sick and the elderly! Urge men to lay down their arms and to embrace each other in a universal embrace of peace! Invite peoples, merciful Jesus, to tear down the walls created by misery and unemployment, by ignorance and indifference, by discrimination and intolerance. It is You, O Divine Child of Bethlehem, who save us, freeing us from sin. You are the true and only Saviour, whom humanity so often gropes for. God of peace, gift of peace for all humanity, come and live in the heart of every person and every family. Be Thou our peace and our joy! Amen!” Merry Christmas, from Bethlehem!

Bro. Michael O’Kane ofm. – Commissary of the Holy Land.

Financial review

Income and expenditure

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 15 of this annual report and accounts.

Total income for 2023 was £925,114 (2022 - £474,396). Of this, £617,200 (2022 - £473,673) was received in the form of donations, the vast majority being annual Good Friday church collections.

During the year, expenditure totalled £813,373 (2022 - £411,647). £800,030 (2022 - £400,030) of this represents payments to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land, details of which are given above.

Financial position and reserves policy

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £310,298 (2022 – £198,557) which are represented largely by bank balances. It is the charity's policy to hold reserves until such time as required for the work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land. It is anticipated that such reserves would not exceed £500,000 in any year. The Trustees regard the reserves held at 31 December 2023 to be adequate but not excessive.

Governance and structure

According to the trust deed, the Trustees of the charity, of which there must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four, are appointed by the then Trustees taking into account the views of the Custos of the Holy Land and the Provincial of the Friars Minor in England. At 31 December 2023 the Trustees comprised the Commissary and Vice-Commissary, both members of the Order of Friars Minor. In practice, these appointments are reviewed at the triennial chapter of the Province. The functions of the Trustees are to see firstly that contributions from the dioceses are properly accounted for and secondly to ensure the contributions are remitted to the Holy Land and spent in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

The Trustees are kept up to date with financial and regulatory developments in the charity sector by the charity's auditor and by attending training courses when necessary.

The names of the Trustees who served during the year are set out as part of the reference and administration details on page 1 of this annual report.

The charity is administered directly by the Trustees and the Commissary; there are no employees.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Governance and structure (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities statement (continued)

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements 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
- ◆ prepare the accounts 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 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

Key management personnel

The Trustees consider that they are the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Trustees are not remunerated.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and consider that there are controls in place to mitigate those risks as far as is practicable, bearing in mind the difficult political situation in the Holy Land.

Governance and structure (continued)

Risk management (continued)

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified one key risk for the charity which relates to the fact that the charity grants funds for ultimate use in the Holy Land, a part of the world where there continues to be considerable political unrest. To mitigate the associated risks, the charity passes most funds initially to the Commissariat of the Holy Land for the United States of America (USA) so that, prior to being forwarded on to the Holy Land, the funds may be administered in collaboration with those raised by the other English-speaking Commissariats and suitable projects may be identified. Whether or not the funds are sent to the USA or directly to the Holy Land, the Trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of potential projects and recipients of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that a full written report of how the monies have been utilised and applied is obtained from the recipient.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Trustee Bother Michael O'Kane ofm, Commissariat of the Holy land.

Approved by the Trustees on: Monday 21st. October 2024

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Commissariat of the Holy Land

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the 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 incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 Trustees' 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 other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report

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

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 8 and 9, the Trustees are 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 Trustees determine 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 Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 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; and
- ◆ 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 financial statements 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) and the Charities Act 2011).
- ◆ We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of trustees. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ◆ Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- ◆ Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

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

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- ◆ performed substantive testing on expenditure.

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

- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of those charged with governance 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 trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 trustees 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 October 2024

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2023

	Notes	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income:			
Donations and legacies	1	919,654	473,673
Interest receivable		5,460	723
Total income		925,114	474,396
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities			
. Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land	2	800,030	400,030
. Support of the clergy	3	13,343	11,617
Total expenditure		813,373	411,647
Net income and net movement in funds for the year		111,741	62,749
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 January		198,557	135,808
Balances carried forward at 31 December		310,298	198,557

All of the charity's income and expenditure in both 2022 and 2023 relates to unrestricted funds.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		320,498	207,957
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(10,200)	(9,400)
Total net assets		310,298	198,557
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
. General fund		310,298	198,557

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the Trustees by:

Trustee: Brother Michael O’Kane ofm

Approved by the Trustees on: Monday 21st. October 2024

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	107,081	62,726
Cash inflow from investing activities:			
Interest received		5,460	723
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		112,541	63,449
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023		207,957	144,508
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023	B	320,498	207,957

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2023.

A Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income (as per the statement of financial activities)	111,741	62,749
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(5,460)	(723)
Increase in creditors	800	700
Net cash provided by operating activities	107,081	62,726

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	320,498	207,958

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	2022 £	Cash flows £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	207,957	112,541	320,498

Principal accounting policies 31 December 2023

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

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2023 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2022.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have not been required to make significant judgements or estimates other than the estimation of future income and expenditure for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

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

The charity faces challenges presented by the current geopolitical and macroeconomic climate, but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that notwithstanding the challenges detailed above, there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income (continued)

Church collections in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land are made throughout the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. They are organised by the relevant dioceses, which may, at their discretion, pass the proceeds to the Commissariat for use in the Holy Land in accordance with its charitable objectives. They are, therefore, recognised on receipt from the dioceses unless earlier notification is received which confirms the amount which shall be donated.

In accordance with Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report and include:

- ◆ Charitable grants comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. They are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment or where the recipient organisation has been notified of the grant, if earlier. Provision is made for any such grants approved but unpaid at the year end.
- ◆ Support of the clergy who work for the Custody including those costs directly relating to the work of the clergy and indirect costs.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements. Governance costs are included as part of support of the clergy within the statement of financial activities.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of unrecoverable VAT.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Funds structure

General funds represent monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees.

1 Donations

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations		
. Church collections	617,200	471,646
. General	1,300	2,028
. Legacies	301,154	—
	919,654	473,674

2 Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Grants made directly to, and for support of, the Custody of the Holy Land:		
. Commissariat of the Holy Land for the USA for support of the Custody of the Holy Land	800,030	400,030

3 Support of the clergy

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Books and subscriptions	929	863
Office costs	971	760
Bank charges	49	114
Governance costs		
. Auditor's remuneration, including VAT	11,394	9,880
	13,343	11,617

4 Taxation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to taxation on income and gains derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

5 Staff costs

There are no staff costs as the charity does not employ any staff (2022 – none).

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis comprise the Trustees.

- 6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel** (continued)
No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (2022 - £nil).

No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2022 - £nil).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	10,200	9,400

8 Connected charities

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is connected to one other charity by virtue of the fact that the charities use the same principal address and the connected charity's Trustees have the power to appoint the Trustees of the Commissariat.

The connected charity is:

Name	Charity Registration No	Charitable objectives
The Order of Friars Minor	232177	The support of charitable purposes connected with the Roman Catholic religion and the support of the charitable work of the Order.

There were no financial transactions between the Commissariat of the Holy Land and The Order of Friars Minor during the year (2022 – none).

9 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2022 – none).

10 Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events since the year ended 31 December 2023. (2022: In the post year end period after 31 December 2022, the charity was notified of a legacy to which it had become entitled. This legacy was received during 2023 to a value in excess of £300,000.)

Accounts

**Commissariat
of the
Holy Land**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2022

Charity Registration Number
263616

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	8

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	12
Balance sheet	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Principal accounting policies	15
Notes to the accounts	18

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its Trustees and advisers

Trustees	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm Brother Michael Copps ofm
UK Commissary to the Holy Land	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm
Principal address	The Franciscan Friary 557 High Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 0RB
Charity registration number	263616
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Solicitors	SBP Law Glade House 52 – 54 Carter Lane London EC4V 5EF
Principal bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 3244 300 Romford Road London E7 9SH

The Trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 15 to 17 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

The Custody of the Holy Land was, in the fourteenth century, entrusted by the Holy See to the Order of St Francis and remains to this day in the care of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

The Order of Friars Minor established a charitable trust known as the Commissariat of the Holy Land in 1971 to support the Custody in this work.

Constitution and organisation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is governed by a trust deed dated 12 October 1971 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No. 263616.

Activities, objectives and specific policies

Principal aims and activities

The principal aims of the charity are:

- ◆ the support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- ◆ the support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody;
- ◆ the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion; and
- ◆ the relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody.

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The objects of the charitable trust include the preservation of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land and the spread of the Gospel, the provision of education and the relief of poverty among the Christians living in the Holy Land. The Trustees have the responsibility to see that any payments to the Custody are used in support of one or more of those objects.

Review of the year: 2022

The Trustees have met formally on eight occasions during 2022.

The Good Friday Collection 2022 raised £471,646 compared to £441,813 in 2021.

On 13 December 2022 the Trustees transferred £400,030 to the Washington Commissariat in the USA according to the Protocol of the English Speaking Conference of Commissariats.

Our donation has contributed to the projects in this year's report.

A song of Ascents, of David (Psalm 122) - Pilgrimage.

I rejoiced, when they said to me:

Let us go to the House of the Lord!

And now our feet are standing

Within your gates, Jerusalem!

Jerusalem is the heart of the Holy Land, the synthesis of the action of God for the good of the whole of humanity. John Paul II expressed this in very moving words: *"How many memories and images and how much passion and great mystery surround the word Jerusalem! For us as Christians, it represents the geographical point of union between God and men, between eternity and history."*

The Ministry of Pilgrimage for the Friars of the Custody

We supported the Friars as they assisted and guided pilgrimages from all over the world to the Holy Land and to Jerusalem. With the help of the Christian Information Centre, the Custody helps groups to plan their itineraries and provide spiritual support for pilgrims.

A pilgrimage took place from Santiago de Compostela to the Holy Land, retracing in reverse the journey of the mortal remains of the Apostle James.

This group of 47 pilgrims, from the Franciscan parish of Santiago, touched the main Christian pilgrimage sites in Israel, Palestine and Jordan: Nazareth, the site of the Annunciation; Bethlehem, where Jesus was born; the Jordan River, where he began his public life with his baptism; the Galilee of miracles; and the Jerusalem of the Passion, death and resurrection.



Review of the year: 2022 (continued)

The Ministry of Pilgrimage for the Friars of the Custody (continued)



The Custody of the Holy Land has sponsored the Christian Information Centre (C.I.C.) since 1973. The aim of the C.I.C. is to provide information on Christianity and on the Holy Land - including the shrines and the holy places, the numerous churches in the region, the liturgies, the aspects of religious and cultural life and other activities.

Ecumenical Collaboration and Presence in the Holy Land



We have supported the Custody's work with the other Christian Denominations in Israel and the Palestinian Authority to speak out for the various Christian Communities in the Holy Land and especially in Jerusalem where the three great monotheistic faiths co-exist - Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

This is a delicate ministry that aims to build up more tolerant and just communities for all.

Social and educational care for vulnerable families

We continued to support the friars and their teams caring for young children from dysfunctional families in our parishes throughout the Custody.

They provide a safe space and help with their education and personal development. The Custody with their co-workers also assist the families financially with food, rents and medical bills.



Care of the sick brethren in our Communities



We have also helped the Custody to upgrade and modernise the infirmaries of the Custody in various friaries. A fraternity for life – the communities strive to see that no one is left alone.

Nursing care is also engaged to help in the care of the sick.

Review of the year: 2022 (continued)

The connection between the world's Christians and the Holy Places



The Good Friday Collection helps to keep the Shrines and the "living stones", the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is the link between all Christians around the world and the Holy Places.

It enables the Church to be a healing presence in the troubled region of the Middle East and a source for peace in dialogue with the great Faiths - Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Financial review

Income and expenditure

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 12 of this annual report and accounts.

Total income for 2022 was £474,396 (2021 - £444,214). Of this, £473,673 (2021 - £444,192) was received in the form of donations, the vast majority being annual Good Friday church collections.

During the year, expenditure totalled £411,647 (2021 - £410,645). £400,030 (2021 - £400,030) of this represents payments to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land, details of which are given above.

Financial position and reserves policy

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £198,557 (2021 - £135,808) which are represented largely by bank balances. It is the charity's policy to hold reserves until such time as required for the work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land. It is anticipated that such reserves would not exceed £500,000 in any year. The Trustees regard the reserves held at 31 December 2022 to be adequate but not excessive.

Governance and structure

According to the trust deed, the Trustees of the charity, of which there must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four, are appointed by the then Trustees taking into account the views of the Custos of the Holy Land and the Provincial of the Friars Minor in England. At 31 December 2022 the Trustees comprised the Commissary and Vice-Commissary, both members of the Order of Friars Minor. In practice, these appointments are reviewed at the triennial chapter of the Province. The functions of the Trustees are to see firstly that contributions from the dioceses are properly accounted for and secondly to ensure the contributions are remitted to the Holy Land and spent in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

The Trustees are kept up to date with financial and regulatory developments in the charity sector by the charity's auditor and by attending training courses when necessary.

The names of the Trustees who served during the year are set out as part of the reference and administration details on page 1 of this annual report.

The charity is administered directly by the Trustees and the Commissary; there are no employees.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements 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
- ◆ prepare the accounts 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 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

Governance and structure (continued)

Key management personnel

The Trustees consider that they are the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Trustees are not remunerated.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and consider that there are controls in place to mitigate those risks as far as is practicable, bearing in mind the difficult political situation in the Holy Land.

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified one key risk for the charity which relates to the fact that the charity grants funds for ultimate use in the Holy Land, a part of the world where there continues to be considerable political unrest. To mitigate the associated risks, the charity passes most funds initially to the Commissariat of the Holy Land for the United States of America (USA) so that, prior to being forwarded on to the Holy Land, the funds may be administered in collaboration with those raised by the other English-speaking Commissariats and suitable projects may be identified. Whether or not the funds are sent to the USA or directly to the Holy Land, the Trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential projects and recipients of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that a full written report of how the monies have been utilised and applied is obtained from the recipient.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Michael O'Kane

Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on: 19th. October 2023

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Commissariat of the Holy Land

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the 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 2022 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 Trustees' 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 and Accounts 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.

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 Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are 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 Trustees determine 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 Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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; and
- ◆ 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 financial statements 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) and the Charities Act 2011).
- ◆ We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ◆ Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- ◆ Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

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

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- ◆ performed substantive testing on expenditure.

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

- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of those charged with governance 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 Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees 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

24 October 2023

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2022

	Notes	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income:			
Donations	1	473,673	444,192
Interest receivable		723	22
Total income		474,396	444,214
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities			
. Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land	2	400,030	400,030
. Support of the clergy	3	11,617	10,615
Total expenditure		411,647	410,645
Net income and net movement in funds for the year		62,749	33,569
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 January		135,808	102,239
Balances carried forward at 31 December		198,557	135,808

All of the charity's income and expenditure in both 2021 and 2022 relates to unrestricted funds.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		207,957	144,508
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(9,400)	(8,700)
Total net assets		198,557	135,808
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
. General fund		198,557	135,808

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the Trustees by:

Michael O'Kane

Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on: 19th. October 2023

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	62,726	32,377
Cash inflow from investing activities:			
Interest received		723	22
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2022		144,508	112,109
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2022	B	207,957	144,508

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2022.

A Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income (as per the statement of financial activities)	62,749	33,569
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(723)	(22)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	700	(1,170)
Net cash provided by operating activities	62,726	32,377

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	207,958	144,508

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	2021 £	Cash flows £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	144,508	63,449	207,957

Principal accounting policies 31 December 2022

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

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2022 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2021.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have not been required to make significant judgements or estimates other than the estimation of future income and expenditure for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

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

The charity faces challenges presented by the current geopolitical and macroeconomic climate, but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that notwithstanding the challenges detailed above, there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income (continued)

Church collections in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land are made throughout the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. They are organised by the relevant dioceses, which may, at their discretion, pass the proceeds to the Commissariat for use in the Holy Land in accordance with its charitable objectives. They are, therefore, recognised on receipt from the dioceses.

In accordance with Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report and include:

- ◆ Charitable grants comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. They are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any such grants approved but unpaid at the year end.
- ◆ Support of the clergy who work for the Custody including those costs directly relating to the work of the clergy and indirect costs.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements. Governance costs are included as part of support of the clergy within the statement of financial activities.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of unrecoverable VAT.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Funds structure

General funds represent monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees.

1 Donations

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations		
. Church collections	471,646	441,813
. General	2,028	2,379
	473,674	444,192

2 Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Grants made directly to, and for support of, the Custody of the Holy Land:		
. Commissariat of the Holy Land for the USA for support of the Custody of the Holy Land	400,030	400,030

3 Support of the clergy

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Books and subscriptions	863	808
Office costs	760	763
Bank charges	114	116
Governance costs		
. Auditor's remuneration, including VAT	9,880	8,928
	11,617	10,615

4 Taxation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to taxation on income and gains derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

5 Staff costs

There are no staff costs as the charity does not employ any staff (2021 – none).

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis comprise the Trustees.

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (2021 - £nil).

No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2021 - £nil).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	9,400	8,700

8 Church collection income committed

Church collections at Easter 2022 in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land which had not been remitted by dioceses to the charity as at 31 December 2022 exceeded £158,000 (2021 - £140,000). In accordance with the accounting policy, as the exact amount and timing of the remittance of these collections to the charity is unknown, the income has not been recognised in these accounts.

9 Connected charities

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is connected to one other charity by virtue of the fact that the charities use the same principal address and the connected charity's Trustees have the power to appoint the Trustees of the Commissariat.

The connected charity is:

Name	Charity Registration No	Charitable objectives
The Order of Friars Minor	232177	The support of charitable purposes connected with the Roman Catholic religion and the support of the charitable work of the Order.

There were no financial transactions between the Commissariat of the Holy Land and The Order of Friars Minor during the year (2021 – none).

10 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2021 – none).

11 Post balance sheet events

Since the year end the charity has been notified of two legacies to which it has become entitled. One legacy has been received since the year end to a value in excess of £300,000. The value of the other legacy, which it is anticipated will be received during 2023, is unknown.

Accounts

**Commissariat
of the
Holy Land**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2021

Charity Registration Number
263616

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	10

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cash flows	16
Principal accounting policies	17
Notes to the accounts	20

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm Brother Michael Copps ofm
UK Commissary to the Holy Land	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm
Principal address	The Franciscan Friary 557 High Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 0RB
Charity registration number	263616
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Solicitors	SBP Law Glade House 52 – 54 Carter Lane London EC4V 5EF
Principal bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 3244 300 Romford Road London E7 9SH

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 17 to 19 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

The Custody of the Holy Land was, in the fourteenth century, entrusted by the Holy See to the Order of St Francis and remains to this day in the care of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

The Order of Friars Minor established a charitable trust known as the Commissariat of the Holy Land in 1971 to support the Custody in this work.

Constitution and organisation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is governed by a trust deed dated 12 October 1971 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No. 263616.

Activities, objectives and specific policies

Principal aims and activities

The principal aims of the charity are:

- ◆ the support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- ◆ the support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody;
- ◆ the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion; and
- ◆ the relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody.

The trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The objects of the charitable trust include the preservation of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land and the spread of the Gospel, the provision of education and the relief of poverty among the Christians living in the Holy Land. The trustees have the responsibility to see that any payments to the Custody are used in support of one or more of those objects.

Review of the year: 2021

"Christ is risen. He is truly risen!"



On 14 February 2021, the Custody celebrated the 600th anniversary of the institution of the Commissariats of the Holy Land.

Brother FRANCESCO PATTON, ofm Custos of the Holy Land spoke at the Anniversary Liturgy - "Let us say that our presence is 800 years old, then basically after about a century this Franciscan mission in the Holy Land became, by the will of Pope Clement VI, the Custody of the Holy Land, that is, we were entrusted with the Custody of the Holy Places. After about another century, in 1421, on February 14, another Pope, Martin V, gave the Custody the possibility of having these "ambassadors" around the world who are the Commissioners of the Holy Land." In 1421 Pope Martin V issued his bull "His quae pro ecclesiasticarum", which became the birth certificate of the Commissariats of the Holy Land.

From this long and dedicated service to the Church and peoples of the Holy Land, Brother FRANCESCO PATTON, ofm also summarised the present-day outreach of the Custody in figures:

"300 missionaries, 80 shrines, 25 parishes, 18 schools, 5 homes for the sick and orphans, 6 homes for pilgrims, 3 academic institutes, 2 publishing houses, 1,074 jobs, 630 housing units for needy families, over 500 annual scholarships for university students, 1,470 houses rebuilt in Syria."

This is the history of our Commissariat in England and the present-day trustees have met formally on three occasions during 2021.

The generous support of the Catholic Church throughout the United Kingdom continued through this financial year. The total amount donated from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 was £444,214.

On 26 November 2021, the trustees once more transferred £400,030 to the Washington Commissariat in the USA according to the Protocol of the English-Speaking Conference of Commissariats.

Review of the year: 2021 (continued)

Our donation has contributed to the projects in this year's report for 2021.

Projects helped 2021

Housing Renovations in Jerusalem and Bethlehem

The Custody is continuing the on-going renovation and improvement of various homes belonging to Terra Sancta in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. A long-term initiative of the Custody, our support contributes to ease the present suffering of the people from the



negative effects of the Pandemic, and the renovation of housing conditions.

GEORGE QARA'A Bethlehem: "A month and a half ago, the house burned down. The whole house turned black, there was no electricity in the house, all the glass was broken and the walls were black. It felt like entering a cave, not a house. The

children were afraid. Now the house is in better condition due to the help and care of Terra Sancta, an organization of the Custody of the Holy Land." George's is also the only Christian family in the neighbourhood. "As for living together with Muslims, there are no problems. If I have a problem, they help me. I live in peace with them. The Christmas atmosphere is nice, but we are really tired."

Projects helped 2021 (continued)

Education and Formation in life

Continuing our support of the Custody's work in the Terra Sancta Schools, we have also supported the ongoing studies and research of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum and the Studium Theologicum Jerosolimitanum.

In addition to supplying the Studium Biblicum with up-to-date research periodicals, we support the working of the staff and students in their studies to uncover the deep treasures of wisdom from Sacred Scripture and the archaeology of the biblical countries.

The work of the Studium Theologicum Jerosolimitanum in St Saviour's Monastery continues to guide and nurture the formation of our friars and the training of candidates for the priesthood. It welcomes students from many nations and different continents.



The House of the Child in

Bethlehem

Another initiative of the Custody that we have supported is the House of the Child in Bethlehem.



Celebrating their 14th. Anniversary this year, the Custody of the Holy Land, through the House of the Child in the city of Bethlehem, has offered a warm refuge in which every child who is marginalized or exposed to difficult social conditions is embraced within its walls.

Br FRANCESCO PATTON, ofm
Custos of the Holy Land "The

House of the Child here in Bethlehem for us friars of the Custody of the Holy Land is more than just an activity. We are in the city where the Son of God became a child, and Bethlehem is the city of the Child Jesus. This is an initiative, an activity and a work at the service of children who face greater difficulties at the family and social level. We must always remember what Jesus himself says in the Gospel: "What you did for one of my little brothers, you did for me".

Projects helped 2021 (continued)

The House of the Child in Bethlehem (continued)

Br SANDRO TOMASEVICH, ofm Director of the House of the Child: "We have been through a very difficult time, we have experienced the pandemic and its great challenges. I really hope that our children always feel that we care about them, that we love them, and that there are people who help them and are always by their side."

Pope's message to Holy Land youth: "Be faithful to your history, look to the horizon"



In a message recorded during his visit to Cyprus (4 December 2021) and broadcast on Christmas Eve 2021, Pope Francis spoke to the youth of Bethlehem and the Holy Land which also greatly encouraged the Friars of the Custody.

"Dear youth, I would like to greet you from Cyprus. I am close to you on the other side. I think of you very much, you who are in the Holy Land... a place of pilgrimage which, unfortunately, has suffered in a special way because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Sometimes you do not know what to do, sometimes you think that there is no future and that is why you meditate on emigrating elsewhere...

Please, do not let yourself get caught up in these negative thoughts. Look ahead, look at the horizon! There is always a horizon in life. We can do two things: look down or look at the horizon. Try to look at the horizon! There is always a promise, and when the promise is guaranteed by God's word, it never disappoints. Hope does not disappoint; God does not disappoint. Instead: commit to your land, commit to your country, and commit to your history. And carry that human vocation that God has given you! Do not give up, always look ahead, do not abandon the dream of building, of advancing your people, of growing your roots, your cultural wealth, your religious wealth. Forming a family is difficult in the present situation, but do not lose hope: hope does not disappoint!

Projects helped 2021 (continued)

Pope's message to Holy Land youth: "Be faithful to your history, look to the horizon"(continued)

On this Christmas Eve, who would have thought that this child was the son of God? The Wise Men sensed it and were ready to take the risk. That's why I say to you: in the midst of poverty, in a time of wars, of limitations, of barriers, of lack of freedom, think of the crib of Jesus. And just as He did what He did from a manger, you too in situations of contradiction can do great things! Bet on the future, dare! And you will see how God will bless you. Merry Christmas, holy Christmas. And please don't forget to pray for me. Thank you very much."

Financial review

Income and expenditure

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 14 of this annual report and accounts.

Total income for 2021 was £444,214 (2020 - £236,920). Of this, £444,192 (2020 - £236,598) was received in the form of donations, the vast majority being annual Good Friday church collections. In 2020 the collection was postponed until 13 September 2020 due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021 the annual Good Friday collections were able to take place.

During the year, expenditure totalled £410,645 (2020 - £409,931). £400,030 (2020 - £400,000) of this represents payments to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land, details of which are given above.

Financial position and reserves policy

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £135,808 (2020 - £102,239) which are represented largely by bank balances. It is the charity's policy to hold reserves until such time as required for the work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land. It is anticipated that such reserves would not exceed £500,000 in any year. The trustees regard the reserves held at 31 December 2021 to be adequate but not excessive.

Governance and structure

According to the trust deed, the trustees of the charity, of which there must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four, are appointed by the then trustees taking into account the views of the Custos of the Holy Land and the Provincial of the Friars Minor in England. At 31 December 2021 the trustees comprised the Commissary and Vice-Commissary, both members of the Order of Friars Minor. In practice, these appointments are reviewed at the triennial chapter of the Province. The functions of the trustees are to see firstly that contributions from the dioceses are properly accounted for and secondly to ensure the contributions are remitted to the Holy Land and spent in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

Governance and structure (continued)

The trustees are kept up to date with financial and regulatory developments in the charity sector by the charity's auditor and by attending training courses when necessary.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out as part of the reference and administration details on page 1 of this annual report.

The charity is administered directly by the trustees and the Commissary; there are no employees.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements 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
- ◆ prepare the accounts 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 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

Governance and structure (continued)

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they are the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The trustees are not remunerated.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and consider that there are controls in place to mitigate those risks as far as is practicable, bearing in mind the difficult political situation in the Holy Land.

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified one key risk for the charity which relates to the fact that the charity grants funds for ultimate use in the Holy Land, a part of the world where there continues to be considerable political unrest. To mitigate the associated risks, the charity passes most funds initially to the Commissariat of the United States of America (USA) so that, prior to being forwarded on to the Holy Land, the funds may be administered in collaboration with those raised by the other English-speaking Commissariats and suitable projects may be identified. Whether or not the funds are sent to the USA or directly to the Holy Land, the trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential projects and recipients of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that a full written report of how the monies have been utilised and applied is obtained from the recipient.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Brother Michael O'Kane ofm

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 21 September 2022

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Commissariat of the Holy Land

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the 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 2021 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 trustees' 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 and Accounts 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.

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 Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' 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 trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are 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 trustees determine 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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; and
- ◆ 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 financial statements 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) and the Charities Act 2011).
- ◆ We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ◆ Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- ◆ Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

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

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- ◆ performed substantive testing on expenditure.

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

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

11 October 2022

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2021

	Notes	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income:			
Donations	1	444,192	236,598
Interest receivable		22	322
Total income		444,214	236,920
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities			
. Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land	2	400,030	400,000
. Support of the clergy	3	10,615	9,931
Total expenditure		410,645	409,931
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		33,569	(173,011)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		102,239	275,250
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		135,808	102,239

All of the charity's income and expenditure in both 2020 and 2021 relates to unrestricted funds.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		144,508	112,109
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(8,700)	(9,870)
Total net assets		135,808	102,239
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
. General fund		135,808	102,239

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees by:

Brother Michael O'Kane ofm

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 21 September 2022

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	32,377	(179,735)
Cash inflow from investing activities:			
Interest received		22	322
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		32,399	(179,413)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2021		112,109	291,522
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2021	B	144,508	112,109

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2021.

A Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income (expenditure) (as per the statement of financial activities)	33,569	(173,011)
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(22)	(322)
Decrease in creditors	(1,170)	(6,402)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	32,377	(179,735)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	144,508	112,109

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	2020 £	Cash flows £	2021 £
Cash and cash equivalents	112,109	32,399	144,508

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

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2021 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2020.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing these accounts, the trustees have not been required to make significant judgements or estimates other than the estimation of future income and expenditure for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

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

The charity continues to face the challenges presented by the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the current geopolitical and macroeconomic climate. The trustees acknowledge that the levels of both income and hence expenditure may continue to be reduced in 2022 but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that notwithstanding the challenges detailed above, there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Church collections in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land are made throughout the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. They are organised by the relevant dioceses, which may, at their discretion, pass the proceeds to the Commissariat for use in the Holy Land in accordance with its charitable objectives. They are, therefore, recognised on receipt from the dioceses.

In accordance with Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:

- ◆ Charitable grants comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. They are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any such grants approved but unpaid at the year end.
- ◆ Support of the clergy who work for the Custody including those costs directly relating to the work of the clergy and indirect costs.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements. Governance costs are included as part of support of the clergy within the statement of financial activities.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of unrecoverable VAT.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Funds structure

General funds represent monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the trustees.

1 Donations

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations		
. Church collections	441,813	235,398
. General	2,379	1,200
	444,192	236,598

2 Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Grants made directly to, and for support of, the Custody of the Holy Land:		
. Commissariat of the USA for support of the Custody of the Holy Land	400,030	400,000
	400,030	400,000

3 Support of the clergy

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Books and subscriptions	808	754
Office costs	763	805
Bank charges	116	113
Governance costs		
. Auditor's remuneration, including VAT	8,928	8,259
	10,615	9,931

4 Taxation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to taxation on income and gains derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

5 Staff costs

There are no staff costs as the charity does not employ any staff (2020 – none).

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis comprise the trustees.

No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (2020 - £nil).

No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2020 - £nil).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	8,700	9,870

8 Church collection income committed

Church collections at Easter 2021 (2020: collections rescheduled to September 2020) in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land which had not been remitted by dioceses to the charity as at 31 December 2021 exceeded £140,000 (2020 - £71,000). In accordance with the accounting policy, as the exact amount and timing of the remittance of these collections to the charity is unknown, the income has not been recognised in these accounts.

9 Connected charities

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is connected to one other charity by virtue of the fact that the charities use the same principal address and the connected charity's trustees have the power to appoint the trustees of the Commissariat.

The connected charity is:

Name	Charity Registration No	Charitable objectives
The Order of Friars Minor	232177	The support of charitable purposes connected with the Roman Catholic religion and the support of the charitable work of the Order.

There were no financial transactions between the Commissariat of the Holy Land and The Order of Friars Minor during the year (2020 – none).

10 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2020 – none).

Accounts

**Commissariat
of the
Holy Land**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2020

Charity Registration Number
263616

Contents

Reports

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2
Independent auditor's report	10

Accounts

Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cash flows	16
Principal accounting policies	17
Notes to the accounts	20

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Rev Michael Copps ofm (from 24 February 2020) Brother Michael O’Kane ofm Brother Raymond Hynes ofm (until 24 February 2020)
UK Commissary to the Holy Land	Brother Michael O’Kane ofm
Principal address	The Franciscan Friary 557 High Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 0RB
Charity registration number	263616
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Solicitors	SBP Law Glade House 52 – 54 Carter Lane London EC4V 5EF
Principal bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 3244 300 Romford Road London E7 9SH

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 17 to 19 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

The Custody of the Holy Land was, in the fourteenth century, entrusted by the Holy See to the Order of St Francis and remains to this day in the care of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

The Order of Friars Minor established a charitable trust known as the Commissariat of the Holy Land in 1971 to support the Custody in this work.

Constitution and organisation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is governed by a trust deed dated 12 October 1971 and is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No. 263616.

Activities, objectives and specific policies

Principal aims and activities

The principal aims of the charity are:

- ◆ the support and furtherance of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- ◆ the support of Franciscan and other clergy and religious working for the Custody;
- ◆ the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion; and
- ◆ the relief of poverty in Missions maintained by the Custody.

The trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The objects of the charitable trust include the preservation of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land and the spread of the Gospel, the provision of education and the relief of poverty among the Christians living in the Holy Land. The trustees have the responsibility to see that any payments to the Custody are used in support of one or more of those objects.

Review of the year: 2020

The Trustees have met formally on seven occasions during 2020.

With the Coronavirus lockdown in place this past year and the Good Friday Collection rescheduled for 13 September 2020 and the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, the total amount donated for 2020 is £236,598. This compares to £557,629 in 2019 – a decrease of £321,031 reflecting the impact of Covid-19 and the closure of churches.

On 6 December 2020 the Trustees transferred £400,000 to the Washington Commissariat in the USA according to the Protocol of the English Speaking Conference of Commissariats.

Our donation has contributed to the projects in this year's report for 2020.

Projects helped 2020

"There's a time for everything under the sky," says the Qoheleth.



At the end of 2019, the Custody was celebrating a good year for welcoming pilgrims to the shrines and the holy places, but within a couple of months, emergency measures to counter the spread of the Coronavirus began to take hold in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

At the beginning of March, the Palestinian Ministry of Health decreed for the area of Bethlehem and Jericho, the closure of schools and universities for 14 days, banned public events (including celebrations with crowds of people in churches and mosques) and closed access to hotels for tourist groups.

"I invite everyone," concluded Mgr. Pizzaballa, "to a sense of responsibility and unity". The Custody of the Holy Land will give the faithful the opportunity to follow the Holy Mass in live streaming from the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth through the channels of the Christian Media Centre.



The Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth.

Projects helped 2020 (continued)

Br FRANCESCO PATTON, ofm Holy Land Custos "The feeling is that of a dramatic moment, clearly a moment of emergency, because we've witnessed this reality in recent years only during wars or moments of physical danger. Now the danger is this virus, which is now widespread throughout the world and it is right, at this time, to protect people's health. It is right to temporarily suspend pilgrimages, and it is also right that we are the ones praying in the holy places for all those who cannot come to visit them, for all those who are suffering because of the pandemic, for all those who are giving their lives in caring for the sick."



Liturgical and Communications Programmes:

Through the facilities of the Christian Media Centre, we have supported provisions for the Custody's Shrines and Parishes to give live streaming of daily mass and the main liturgical ceremonies of the year.



With Christian ecumenical and interreligious content in various languages, the Centre shows the beauty of the Holy Land through news, events, festivities and specific liturgical celebrations.

The Centre also offers to journalists and the media, support and useful information, to spread the message of the Holy Land and sacred sites.

Pentecost in Jerusalem: "the essential importance of the gift of the Spirit"

HE Mgr. PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA, ofm Apostolic Administrator of the Latin



Patriarchate of Jerusalem "Fear characterised the Disciples before the gift of the Spirit and it also characterises us - let us tell the truth - for many months: fear was the only criterion for reading every gesture, all the things we had to do.

The gift of the Spirit also means overcoming fear, which does not mean becoming unconscious and doing nothing, but knowing how to look beyond this moment and how to give us vision and direction."

Pentecost in Jerusalem: "the essential importance of the gift of the Spirit" (continued)

In the meantime, the friars of the Custody gathered in the church of St Saviour, in the Christian quarter of the old city, for the Pontifical Mass which confirms the link between the Cenacle - the first place the Franciscans lived in Jerusalem - and St Saviour, where they moved after 1551.

Pastoral Programmes in our Parishes

In our Parishes like St Catherine's in Bethlehem and St Saviour's in Jerusalem, we have supported parish projects for caring for the sick, offering food and financial support for the people who have no jobs with the lockdown for Covid.

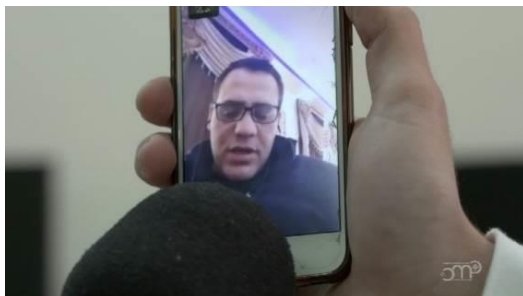


Br RAMI ASAKRIA, ofm Latin Parish of Bethlehem "We pray to the Lord, asking Him to protect us all from the danger of this coronavirus and the evils of the whole world. The Scout group "Terra Sancta" of Bethlehem, like many others, has distributed food and medicine to the sick, the poor, the lonely and those in quarantine, to follow the words of St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians "Now these three things last: faith, hope, love; but the greatest of them is love." (Corinthians 13:13)"



The Communities of Friars in the Parishes continue to keep contact with their people.

Continued support of the Educational Projects of the Custody: Scholarships, Terra Sancta schools:



As part of the English Speaking Conference of Commissariats worldwide, we have continued to support students in Tertiary Education in this time of lockdown who continue to work with on-line teaching.

Br IBRAHIM FALTAS, ofm Director of Holy Land Schools "We started with online teaching from day one. The teaching process

hasn't stopped, and we are ready even if our students are asked to take a test or an exam."

In May, the Terra Sancta Schools in Israel were directed to open by the government, but parents were very afraid to send their children to school. "The school is open, as you can see, but the students have not come. Parents claim that the risk is too high."



2020 IN THE HOLY LAND



From a boom in tourists to empty streets, the pandemic has brought radical changes in the Holy Land. Br FRANCESCO PATTON, ofm Custos of the Holy Land wrote in his Christmas Message 2020 to the Church worldwide "In this strange year marked by the pandemic, I know that with your hearts you are here, and that for Christmas you would like to be here as pilgrims: keep alive in your hearts the desire to return to the Holy Land, to return to visit the Holy Places as pilgrims and also to return to visit us and support us. We look forward to seeing you, as soon as possible."

Financial review

Income and expenditure

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 14 of this annual report and accounts.

Total income for 2020 was £236,920 (2019 - £556,716). Of this, £236,598 (2019 - £555,629) was received in the form of donations, the vast majority being annual Good Friday church collections. In 2020 the collection was postponed until 13 September 2020 due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

During the year, expenditure totalled £409,931 (2019 - £615,966). £400,000 (2019 - £600,000) of this represents payments to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land, details of which are given above. (In 2019, a further £6,000 was given to St Joseph's Convent, Jerusalem). The remainder represents expenditure to support the members of the clergy who support the work of the Custody, together with administrative expenses.

Financial position and reserves policy

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £102,239 (2019 - £275,250) which are represented largely by bank balances. It is the charity's policy to hold reserves until such time as required for the work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land. It is anticipated that such reserves would not exceed £500,000 in any year. The trustees regard the reserves held at 31 December 2020 to be adequate but not excessive.

Covid-19

Since March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of the world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of the charity's control.

In the UK, a nationwide lockdown came into effect on 23 March 2020 and resulted in the closure of churches and other places of worship. As a consequence, the church collection in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land, traditionally held throughout the United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland) on Good Friday, was not able to take place. It was agreed with the Church in Rome that the collection may be rescheduled for 13 September 2020 albeit the amount given was considerably lower than normal. The grant which the charity is able to make to the Commissariat of the USA for onward distribution to support work and projects of the Custody of the Holy Land is directly impacted by the income received from these church collections and, therefore, had to be reduced.

The trustees acknowledge that the levels of both income and expenditure may continue to be affected in 2021 but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

Governance and structure

According to the trust deed, the trustees of the charity, of which there must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four, are appointed by the then trustees taking into account the views of the Custos of the Holy Land and the Provincial of the Friars Minor in England. At 31 December 2020 the trustees comprised the Commissary and Vice-Commissary, both members of the Order of Friars Minor. In practice, these appointments are reviewed at the triennial chapter of the Province. The functions of the trustees are to see firstly that contributions from the dioceses are properly accounted for and secondly to ensure the contributions are remitted to the Holy Land and spent in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

The trustees are kept up to date with financial and regulatory developments in the charity sector by the charity's auditor and by attending training courses when necessary.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out as part of the reference and administration details on page 1 of this annual report.

The charity is administered directly by the trustees and the Commissary; there are no employees.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements 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
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Governance and structure (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities statement (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they are the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The trustees are not remunerated.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and consider that there are controls in place to mitigate those risks as far as is practicable, bearing in mind the difficult political situation in the Holy Land.

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified one key risk for the charity which relates to the fact that the charity grants funds for ultimate use in the Holy Land, a part of the world where there continues to be considerable political unrest. To mitigate the associated risks, the charity passes most funds initially to the Commissariat of the United States of America (USA) so that, prior to being forwarded on to the Holy Land, the funds may be administered in collaboration with those raised by the other English speaking Commissariats and suitable projects may be identified. Whether or not the funds are sent to the USA or directly to the Holy Land, the trustees always ensure that they are fully briefed about and familiar with the work of a potential projects and recipients of funds, that funds are transferred via bank transfer, that proof of receipt is obtained and that a full written report of how the monies have been utilised and applied is obtained from the recipient.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Michael O'Kane

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 17 September 2021

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Commissariat of the Holy Land

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Commissariat of the Holy Land (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the 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 2020 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 trustees' 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 and Accounts 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.

Other information (continued)

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.

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 Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' 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 trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are 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 trustees determine 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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.

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

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; and
- ◆ 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 financial statements 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) and the Charities Act 2011) and those that relate to data protection (General Data Protection Regulation).
- ◆ We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- ◆ Understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
- ◆ Assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the relevant accounts item to which they relate.

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- ◆ performed substantive testing on expenditure.

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

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

19 October 2021

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 December 2020

	Notes	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income:			
Donations	1	236,598	555,629
Interest receivable		322	1,036
Other income		–	51
Total income		236,920	556,716
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities			
. Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land	2	400,000	606,000
. Support of the clergy	3	9,931	9,966
Total expenditure		409,931	615,966
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year		(173,011)	(59,250)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020		275,250	334,500
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		102,239	275,250

All of the charity's income and expenditure in both 2019 and 2020 relates to unrestricted funds.

All activities of the charity derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

Balance sheet 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		112,109	291,522
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(9,870)	(16,272)
Total net assets		102,239	275,250
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
. General fund		102,239	275,250

Approved by and signed
on behalf of the trustees by:

Michael O'Kane
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 17 September 2021

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(179,735)	(51,974)
Cash inflow from investing activities:			
Interest received		322	1,036
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(179,413)	(50,938)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2020		291,522	342,460
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2020	B	112,109	291,522

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 December 2020.

A Reconciliation of net income to net cash used in operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net expenditure (as per the statement of financial activities)	(173,011)	(59,250)
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(322)	(1,036)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(6,402)	8,312
Net cash used in operating activities	(179,735)	(51,974)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	112,109	291,522

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	2019 £	Cash flows £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	291,522	(179,413)	112,109

Principal accounting policies 31 December 2020

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

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2020 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 December 2019.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing these accounts, the trustees have not been required to make significant judgements or estimates other than the estimation of future income and expenditure for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

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

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of the world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of the charity's control.

The trustees acknowledge that the levels of both income and expenditure may continue to be reduced in 2021 but the nature of the charity's activities means that financially it will remain solvent and be able to support the Custody of the Holy Land in future years.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that notwithstanding the uncertainties consequent to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, as detailed above, there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Church collections in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land are made throughout the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland. They are organised by the relevant dioceses, which may, at their discretion, pass the proceeds to the Commissariat for use in the Holy Land in accordance with its charitable objectives. They are, therefore, recognised on receipt from the dioceses.

In accordance with Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:

- ◆ Charitable grants comprise single year payments rather than multi-year grants. They are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for any such grants approved but unpaid at the year end.
- ◆ Support of the clergy who work for the Custody including those costs directly relating to the work of the clergy and indirect costs.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity including audit costs and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements. Governance costs are included as part of support of the clergy within the statement of financial activities.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of unrecoverable VAT.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

Funds structure

General funds represent monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity at the discretion of the trustees.

1 Donations

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations		
. Church collections	235,398	553,884
. General	1,200	1,745
	236,598	555,629

2 Grants in support of the Custody of the Holy Land

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Grants made directly to, and for support of, the Custody of the Holy Land:		
. St Joseph's Convent, Jerusalem	–	6,000
. Commissariat of the USA for support of the Custody of the Holy Land	400,000	600,000
	400,000	606,000

3 Support of the clergy

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Books and subscriptions	754	867
Office costs	805	574
Bank charges	113	152
Other	–	61
Governance costs		
. Auditor's remuneration, including VAT	8,259	8,312
	9,931	9,966

4 Taxation

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to taxation on income and gains derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

5 Staff costs

There are no staff costs as the charity does not employ any staff (2019 – none).

6 Trustees' expenses and the remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis comprise the trustees.

No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year (2019 - £nil).

No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2019 - £nil).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals	9,870	16,272

8 Church collection income committed

Church collections in September 2020 in support of the work of the Custody of the Holy Land which had not been remitted by dioceses to the charity as at 31 December 2020 exceeded £71,000 (2019 - £134,000). In accordance with the accounting policy, as the exact amount and timing of the remittance of these collections to the charity is unknown, the income has not been recognised in these accounts.

9 Connected charities

The Commissariat of the Holy Land is connected to one other charity by virtue of the fact that the charities use the same principal address and the connected charity's trustees have the power to appoint the trustees of the Commissariat.

The connected charity is:

Name	Charity Registration No	Charitable objectives
The Order of Friars Minor	232177	The support of charitable purposes connected with the Roman Catholic religion and the support of the charitable work of the Order.

There were no financial transactions between the Commissariat of the Holy Land and The Order of Friars Minor during the year (2019 – none).

10 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2019 – none).