

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rev Verena Jantzen Rev Lars Klehn (until 19.10.2023) Rev Silke Halfmann (from 19.10.2023) Dr Brigitte Jurack Pastor Kai Thierbach Dr Michaela Scheuermann-Freestone Lutz Lemmer
Treasurer	Dr. Christoph Reimnitz
Charity number	266600
Principal address	10 Sandwich Street London WC1H 9BL
Independent examiner	Tilesh Patel The SME Clinic 7 Stratford Place London W1C 1AY

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK**

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK CONTENTS

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SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Synod's governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The Synod is established to advance the protestant Christian religion, amongst German Speakers in Great Britain. In achieving this object, the Synod fosters solidarity between its member congregations and a common approach to questions of Christian faith and life. It attends to the ecclesiastical and social life of the congregations and concerns itself with the maintenance of Christian life.

The Synod provides the congregations with ministers, advice, training, and oversight so that they can provide public benefits in accordance with their charitable objectives and their agreements with the Synod.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Synod should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The Synod is responsible for providing and organising effective German-speaking Protestant ministry in Great Britain. It supports the member congregations by employing pastors and pastoral assistants for German worship and pastoral care when needed, even where there is no organised congregation.

The Synod support to its member congregations includes visitations and training.

Furthermore, the Synod supports the member congregations by giving advice, examining their finances and legal documents, and providing them with templates for their day-to-day work. In 2022 the Synod was awarded a Grade A Sponsorship Licence for the UK Visa Immigration Sponsorship Scheme.

The Synod supports the member congregations by giving grants towards the church work, to support children's groups, and in support of specific projects and outings. It also makes contributions towards the cost of repairs of the rectories occupied by the pastors.

At the beginning of 2023 eight pastors were employed, who worked with 18 congregations supporting about 30 places of worship.

The Synod employs two administrative staff, one as Synod Administrator with specific responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the office and a Finance Administrator responsible for the administering all financial affairs including regular payments and keeping the Synods bookkeeping up to date. Both roles are part time and limited to 18 and 15 hours of work per week respectively. Following the resignation of the Finance Administrator in late 2022 a new Finance Administrator started in the role as per March 27, 2023.

Quality Management

The Synod supports the member congregations by visitation and training. A visitation to a congregation sets in motion a process of reflection; whether their activities match their objectives and whether improvement is possible. Volunteer training enables them to lead worship, to offer worship for children, to lead the congregation and to manage its finances. This supports good governance and develops the skills of the current and future lay community, helping to ensure the long-term continuity of the congregations.

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Administrative Support to Congregations

The Synod supports the member congregations by giving advice, examining their finances and legal documents, and providing them with templates for their day-to-day work. The Synod holds a Grade A Sponsorship License for the UK Visa Immigration Sponsorship Scheme and assists new pastors with the visa application process. The Synod arranges an annual meeting for the Treasurers of the congregations to discuss financial matters, share best practices and gain a better understanding of the financial needs across the Synod.

Financial Support to Congregations

The Synod supports the member congregations by giving grants. It gives support grants towards the church work, supports children's groups, specific projects and outings, partly pays for repairs to the rectories inhabited by the pastors and supports congregations in deficit. The Synod further supports member congregations by applying to the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund for grants which are then distributed to the Congregations.

Networking between Congregations

The Synod Assembly held each spring as the Synods annual general meeting, and the Church Treasurers' day usually held each winter provide opportunities for trustees of the congregations throughout great Britain to share their ideas for congregational work and to discuss matters of Christian faith.

Representation

The Synod represents German speaking Protestants at the German Embassy, at the General Assembly of Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) and in several ecumenical organisations throughout Great Britain and in Europe. It delivers a presentation about the German-speaking church work in Great Britain at the Deutsch Evangelische Kirchentag in Germany.

Financial review

During fiscal 2023 the Synod moved from its legacy accounting system 'Banana' to a more contemporary accounting software 'Quickbooks' to facilitate incoming and outgoing bookings and create greater financial transparency.

Income

The Synod has effectively 4 sources of income.

Congregation Contributions

The Synod's income derives for the largest part from contributions by the congregations of £317,424 or 66% (2022: £345,000 or 76%). However, an amount of £3,000 was written off as irrecoverable. The Synod Assembly determines the contribution to be paid by each congregation. The amount for 2022 was increased to £58,000 from £57,500 in 2022 to move closer to a balanced budget.

Grants and donations

Grants to congregations are made from donations and grants made to the Synod. In 2023 the highest grant ever, of £70,000 was made by the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund (Registered Charity Number 1117748) for a variety of activities aimed at creating an active community life. The Synod submitted a grant application to the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund in April 2023 which was reviewed during a (virtual) meeting with representatives of the fund.

Dividends and Interest Income

Net income from investments in 2023 amounted to £42,795 (2022: £39,719), the majority of which was derived from dividends, with £3,298 (2022: £828) being interest income.

Other financial contributions

In 2023 a financial reimbursement of £43,435 (2022: £18,171) towards the costs of the pastoral assistant from London-West was received.

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

EXPENDITURE

Salaries

Salaries of the pastors represent the largest part of the Synod's expenditure of £382,378 or 78% (2022: £351,756, or 75%) The employment costs of pastors are denominated in Euros and are therefore impacted by fluctuating currency exchange rates.

Financial support to the Congregations

In 2023 the Synod provided financial support to the Congregations at a total amount of £39,627 (2022: £46,826).

Administrative support costs

In 2023 the Synod incurred total expenses of £62,351 (2022: £55,136) to provide administrative support to the congregations. The majority of these costs were borne by salaries for the administrative and financial support staff totalling £38,377 (2022: £42,924). The balance was spent on such items as legal fees, insurance, accounting support, costs for the independent examiner and other administrative items.

Changes in financial position

During the financial year 2023 net assets saw an overall increase of 5.3% mainly as a result of unrealised gains on investments. The value of the Synod's net assets as at 31/12/2023 increased from £1,571,284 to £1,655,139 which is an increase of £83,855 as a result of recovery in capital markets.

Seafarer's Mission

The Synod processes payment of salaries for the UK-based staff of the German Seafarer's Mission (Deutsche Seemannsmission e.V.- DSM), a German registered charity. It does so with funds received from the DSM in accordance with its instructions. However, the support ended as per 30 April 2023.

Restricted and unrestricted funds

In 2023, the unrestricted funds (reserves) stood at £837,501 (2021: £809,030).

In 2017, the trustees decided to designate the main part of these reserves for income generation, with the exception of the amount deemed necessary by the Trustees to be held as cash, or cash equivalent, to maintain sufficient liquidity in preparedness for unexpected events.

Reserves

The Synod's policy for holding reserves is to keep the liquid amount of unrestricted funds at least equal to 24 months of operating expenditure, less the direct costs of ministry, to safeguard the continuity of operations. In the Trustees' judgment, the adequate minimum amount to be held as liquid General Reserves for this purpose remains set at £200,000.

At the end of 2023, the amount kept in current accounts and cash-equivalent fixed term accounts with banking institutions located in the UK and in Germany was £246,869 (2021: £222,182).

In 2023, the Synod had a net surplus of £83,855 (2022: deficit of £179,628). The Synod's unrestricted funds increased by £28,469 (2022: decreased by £102,110).

The Synod received no grants or other income from central or local government.

Structure, governance and management

The Synod is a Trust, governed by its Constitution.

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rev Verena Jantzen
Rev Lars Klehn (until 19.10.2023)
Rev Silke Halfmann (from 19.10.2023)
Dr Brigitte Jurack
Rev Kai Thierbach
Dr Michaela Scheuermann-Freestone
Lutz Lemmer

Funds held as custodian trustee

The Synod acts as Custodian Trustee for the German Seafarer's Mission (DSM), by holding funds and dealing with transactions on their behalf.

These monies, whilst temporarily under the control of the Synod, are not the property of the Synod and have therefore been excluded from the accounts. The total balance held on DSM's behalf at 31/12/2023 was £45,470.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


Rev Verena Jantzen
Trustee

Date: 20/04/24

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED
AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Synod of German-speaking Lutheran, Reformed and United Congregations in Great Britain (the Synod) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Synod you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Synod's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Synod's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Synod as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Tish Patel

The SME Clinic
7 Stratford Place
London
W1C 1AY

Dated: 20/04/2024

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	70,000	-	70,000	50,300	-	50,300
Charitable activities	4	1,295	365,809	367,104	8,291	357,880	366,171
Investments	5	19,724	23,071	42,795	17,524	22,195	39,719
Total Income		91,019	388,880	479,899	76,115	380,075	456,190
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	6	101,249	385,942	487,191	101,902	366,715	468,617
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	39,233	54,179	93,412	(72,692)	(99,714)	(172,406)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		29,003	57,117	86,120	(98,479)	(86,354)	(184,833)
Gross transfers between funds	18	-	-	-	(3,631)	3,631	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		29,003	57,117	86,120	(102,110)	(82,723)	(184,833)
<u>Other recognised gains and losses</u>							
Other gains or losses	11	(534)	(1,731)	(2,265)	-	5,205	5,205
Net movement in funds		28,469	55,386	83,855	(102,110)	(77,518)	(179,628)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		809,030	762,254	1,571,284	911,140	839,772	1,750,912
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		837,499	817,640	1,655,139	809,030	762,254	1,571,284

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Property, plant and equipment	12		1,716		1
Investments	13		1,451,046		1,359,364
			<u>1,452,762</u>		<u>1,359,365</u>
Current Assets					
Trade and other receivables	15	10,625		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		246,869		222,182	
		<u>257,494</u>		<u>222,182</u>	
Current Liabilities	16	(55,117)		(10,263)	
Net current assets			202,377		211,919
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,655,139</u>		<u>1,571,284</u>
Income Funds					
Restricted funds	18		817,638		762,254
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds:					
Income Generation Fund	19	637,501		609,030	
General Unrestricted Fund		200,000		200,000	
		<u>837,501</u>		<u>809,030</u>	
Fund balances at 31 December 2023			<u>1,655,139</u>		<u>1,571,284</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

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Rev Verena Jantzen
Trustee

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Synod of German-speaking Lutheran, Reformed and United Congregations in Great Britain is an unincorporated charity, governed by its Constitution.

1.1 Accounting convention

Accounts have been prepared on accruals basis in accordance with the rules applicable to non-company registered charities with a gross income of over £250,000.

As a public benefit entity under FRS102, the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities.

Having taken all available information into account, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the next 12 months as well as for the foreseeable future and thus are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particularly restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particularly restricted purposes.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Contractual income is recognised once the service has been provided.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their fair values to the charity at the amount realised on sale. Donated services are included in income and expenditure where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material at the estimated value to the charity, with exception of volunteer help which is not included in the accounts.

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

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a specific heading, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

A tangible fixed asset is capitalised if its initial cost is at least £500.

Fixed asset investments are measured initially at cost and revalued at the end of the reporting period to their fair value. The value of investment funds is based on the unit bid price. For investments listed or traded on a recognised exchange, fair value is the market value. If the fair value cannot be measured reliably, including for social investments, revaluation is based on cost less impairment.

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

Plant and equipment	N/A
Computers	Linear over four years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

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

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The Synod has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Synod's balance sheet when the Synod becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Synod is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.14 Foreign exchange

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the middle market spot rate as published by the Bank of England for the balance sheet date.

Transaction amounts in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction based on the middle market spot rate as published by the Bank of England unless the actual transaction rate can be identified.

Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Synod's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts	70,000	50,300
Donations and gifts		
Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund	70,000	50,000
Other	-	300
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>50,300</u>

**SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED
CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4 Charitable activities

	Council Activities 2023 £	Council Activities 2022 £
Ministry Synod Fees	320,424	345,000
Pastoral Assistance Refunds	43,435	18,171
Other Services	1,295	-
Provision of Admin Support Services to DSM	1,950	3,000
	<u>367,104</u>	<u>366,171</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,295	8,291
Restrocted funds	<u>365,809</u>	<u>357,880</u>
	<u>367,104</u>	<u>366,171</u>

5 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from listed investments	16,426	23,071	39,497	16,696	22,195	38,891
Interest receivable	3,298	-	3,298	828	-	828
Total Income	<u>19,724</u>	<u>23,071</u>	<u>42,795</u>	<u>17,524</u>	<u>22,195</u>	<u>39,719</u>

SYNOD OF GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN, REFORMED AND UNITED CONGREGATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN
COUNCIL FOR GERMAN CHURCH WORK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Charitable activities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Ministry 2023	Quality Management 2023	Administrative Support to Congregations 2023	Financial Support to Congregations 2023	Networking 2023	Representation 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Staff costs	382,378	-	-	-	-	-	382,378	351,756
Relocation costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,093
Lay Training	2,276	-	-	-	-	-	2,276	1,204
ACAT membership	-	-	143	-	-	-	143	133
ThirtyOneEight	-	-	145	-	-	-	145	-
Maintenance	-	-	-	564	-	-	564	14,959
Synod fee written off	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Budget/special support	-	-	-	1,387	-	-	1,387	421
Congregation work	-	-	-	30,209	-	-	30,209	31,825
Ecumenical	-	-	-	-	-	1,580	1,580	1,516
Memberships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Other representation	-	-	-	-	-	3,158	3,158	374
	384,654	-	288	35,160	-	4,738	424,839	413,481
Share of support costs (note 7)	26,289	4,265	4,265	4,389	4,265	4,265	47,738	50,259
Share of governance costs (note 7)	1,795	78	78	78	12,394	190	14,613	4,877
	412,738	4,343	4,631	39,627	16,659	9,193	487,191	468,617
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	30,360	4,343	4,631	36,063	16,659	9,193	101,249	101,902
Restricted funds	382,378	-	-	3,564	-	-	385,942	366,715
	412,738	4,343	4,631	39,627	16,659	9,193	487,191	468,617

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6 Charitable activities (Continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Ministry 2022 £	Quality Management 2022 £	Administrative Support to Congregations 2022 £	Financial Support to Congregations 2022 £	Networking 2022 £	Representation 2022 £	Total 2022
Staff costs	351,756	-	-	-	-	-	351,756
Relocation costs	11,093	-	-	-	-	-	11,093
Lay Training	1,204	-	-	-	-	-	1,204
ACAT membership	-	-	133	-	-	-	133
ThirtyOneEight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	-	-	-	14,959	-	-	14,959
Synod fee written off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Budget/special support	421	-	-	-	-	-	421
Congregation work	-	-	-	31,825	-	-	31,825
Ecumenical	-	-	-	-	-	1,516	1,516
Memberships	-	-	-	-	-	200	200
Other representation	-	-	-	-	-	374	374
	364,474	-	133	46,784	-	2,090	413,481
Share of support costs (note 7)	25,385	4,904	4,904	5,027	4,904	5,135	50,259
Share of governance costs (note 7)	2,439	90	90	90	1,904	264	4,877
	392,298	4,994	5,127	51,901	6,808	7,489	468,617
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	40,542	4,994	5,127	36,942	6,808	7,489	101,902
Restricted funds	351,756	-	-	14,959	-	-	366,715
	392,298	4,994	5,127	51,901	6,808	7,489	468,617

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7 Support costs

	Support Costs 2023 £	Governance Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Support Costs 2022 £	Governance Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Staff Costs	38,377	-	38,377	42,924	-	42,924
Depreciation	572	-	572	-	-	-
Office Costs	1,270	-	1,270	3,857	-	3,857
Insurance	1,237	-	1,237	1,267	-	1,267
Legal Fees	480	-	480	-	-	-
Bank Charges	124	-	124	122	-	122
HR Services	472	-	472	-	-	-
Payroll Processing Costs	3,438	-	3,438	864	-	864
Communication Costs	188	-	188	405	-	405
Office Equipment	68	-	68	52	-	52
Other Administrative Costs	1,512	-	1,512	768	-	768
Accountancy	-	1,517	1,517	-	2,160	2,160
Synod Assembly	-	12,316	12,316	-	1,814	1,814
Sponsorship Licence	-	220	220	-	38	38
Synod Council	-	561	561	-	865	865
Total Income	47,738	14,613	62,351	50,259	4,877	55,136

Governance costs include payments to the Independent Examiner of £840 (2022: £840)

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8 Trustees

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services as trustees. In the reporting period, the following Trustees were employed by the Synod as pastors and received salaries for their non-trustee services in the Congregations of their Pastoral Region, or were reimbursed the following expenses:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trustee remuneration		
Pastor Thierbach	63,346	63,120
Pastor Halfmann	60,192	-
Pastor Klehn	50,584	56,860
Pastor Jantzen	29,984	27,584
	<u>204,106</u>	<u>147,564</u>
Trustee expenses		
Pastor Jantzen	1,105	1,984
Pastor Klehn	499	88
Pastor Thierbach	270	
Brigitte Jurack	82	
Lutz Lemmer	-	132
	<u>1,956</u>	<u>2,204</u>

9 Employees

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	399,498	386,571
Special security costs	6,385	5,701
Other pension costs	2,556	2,408
	<u>408,439</u>	<u>394,680</u>

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9 Employees (Continued)

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>39,233</u>	<u>54,179</u>	<u>93,412</u>	<u>(72,692)</u>	<u>(99,714)</u>	<u>(172,406)</u>

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11 Other gains or losses

	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £
Foreign exchange losses	(1,731)	(5,205)

12 Property, plant and equipment

	Plant and equipment £	Computers £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	-	1,635	1,635
Additions	-	2,288	2,288
At 31 December 2023	-	3,923	3,923
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2023	-	1,635	1,635
Charge for the year	-	572	572
At 31 December 2023	-	2,207	2,207
Carrying Amount			
At 31 December 2023	-	1,716	1,716
At 31 December 2022	-	1	1

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	1,279,556	79,808	1,359,365
Valuation changes	93,412	(1,731)	91,681
At 31 December 2023	1,372,968	78,078	1,451,046
Carrying Amount			
At 31 December 2023	1,372,968	78,078	1,451,046
At 31 December 2022	1,279,556	79,808	1,359,364

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14 Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial instruments		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	1,372,968	1,279,556

15 Trade and other receivables

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	10,625	-

16 Current liabilities

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial instruments		
Other taxes and social security	7,195	7,222
Accruals and deferred income		3,041
Other creditors	47,922	-
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	55,117	10,263

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The Synod operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Synod in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £2,556 (2022 - £2,408).

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18 Restricted funds

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

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expanded	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expanded	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salary Savings Fund	-	357,880	(366,715)	3,631	5,204	-	365,809	(382,378)	16,569	-	-
Congregation Support Fund	199,323	5,268	-	-	(23,667)	180,924	5,475	(3,564)	-	13,078	195,913
Congregation Shortfall Fund	640,449	16,927	-	-	(76,046)	581,330	17,596	-	(16,569)	39,370	621,727
	839,772	380,075	(366,715)	3,631	(94,509)	762,254	388,880	(385,942)	-	52,448	817,640

Included within the Revaluations, gain and losses in 2023 above is a foreign exchange loss of £1,731 (2022: loss of £5,205) on the Salary Savings Fund.

19 Designated funds

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

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expanded	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expanded	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income Generation Fund	711,140	76,115	(101,902)	(3,631)	(72,692)	609,030	130,252	(101,249)	-	(534)	637,499

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20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Property, plant and equipment	1,716	-	1,716	1	-	1
Investments	633,405	817,640	1,451,045	597,110	762,254	1,359,364
Current assets/(liabilities)	202,378	-	202,378	211,919	-	211,920
	<u>837,499</u>	<u>817,640</u>	<u>1,655,139</u>	<u>809,030</u>	<u>762,254</u>	<u>1,571,285</u>

21 Related party transactions

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