



BRAHMA KUMARIS  
WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK)

# Annual Report

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity Nos. 269971 England and Wales; SC040512 Scotland

**Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (UK)**  
**(Charity Nos. 269971 England and Wales; SC040512 Scotland)**

**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 December 2020**

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## Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees present their report along with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act, 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 (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### Legal and Administrative Information

<b>Charity Name:</b>	Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (UK)
<b>Charity Numbers:</b>	269971 – England and Wales SC040512 – Scotland
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mahesh Patel Ratan Thadani Sanjay Tulsidas Govind Vaswani Girish Wadhvani
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kim Lewis
<b>Registered and Administrative Office:</b>	Global Co-operation House 65-69 Pound Lane London NW10 2HH
<b>Banker:</b>	HSBC Bank Plc 584 High Road, Wembley Middlesex HA0 2DB
<b>Legal Advisers:</b>	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES  VWV Solicitors Second Floor, 3 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB
<b>Auditor:</b>	Statutory Auditors LLP Avar Suites, Building 3, North London Business Park Oakleigh Road South London N11 1GN

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Trustees and organisational structure**

The trustees who held office during the financial year and at the date of this report are set out on page 1.

The trust deed allows for up to 11 trustees to be appointed. Trustees serve until they resign. New trustees are nominated and if suitable appointed by members of the board of trustees, taking into account the necessary skills they contribute to the charity's management and development. When new trustees are appointed they are given an introduction to the work of the trust and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles. This includes information about the role of trustees, charity law, and a number of publications from the Charity Commission including guidance on the advancement of religion for public benefit.

The trustees take responsibility for monitoring the trust's activities, consisting of 12 operational units that meet regularly. Each operational unit takes responsibility to adhere to the policies and budgets, as set out by the Trustees' Board, and report back all relevant decisions and variances. Each operational unit consists of at least two trustees, and includes key management members in order to ensure sound governance, allowing due consideration of the volunteer's ability, personal competence, specialised knowledge and desire to serve.

The trust has its headquarters in North West London and representatives in many cities and towns throughout the UK.

#### **Risk Management**

All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review as part of the initial project assessment and implementation. Major risks are identified and ranked in terms of their potential impact and likelihood.

Major risks for this purpose are those that may have a significant effect on:

- Governance and management, including organisational, decision making and procedures
- Operational performance, including risks to our volunteers
- Financial management, including systems and monetary
- Environment and external factors, including public perception
- Compliance, including law and regulation

The trustees review these risks on an ongoing basis and satisfy themselves that adequate systems and procedures are in place to manage the risks identified. Where appropriate, risks are covered by insurance. The following framework is central to ensuring adequate risk assurance:

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

- Monitoring of major risks and development of action plans
- Embedding risk identification and assessment within operating procedures
- A clear structure of delegated authority and control
- Review of key systems and procedures
- Maintaining adequate free reserves in line with set policies
- Regular meetings by various units with direct trustees involvement
- Engagement of professional advisors where necessary
- Relevant insurance covers in place
- Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks for volunteers who work with children or other vulnerable adults within the community

In assessing risk, the trustees recognise that some areas of the charity's work require the acceptance and management of risk if key objectives are to be achieved.

### **Objects and Activities**

Brahma Kumaris (UK) is a non-governmental, non-political, religious organisation that was established in 1975. The charity was constituted under a trust deed, dated 18 July 1975, with various amendments.

It is registered as a charity with:

- The Charity Commission - Registered Charity Number 269971 in England and Wales (E&W).
- The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator - Registered Charity Number SC040512 in Scotland (S).

The charity's objects are:

1. To promote the advancement of the Hindu Religion and other religions of the world.
2. To promote the advancement of education by educational courses, programmes and projects and studies of and research in the field of Hindu Religious Philosophy and Yoga (various techniques of concentration as defined and discussed in the Hindu Scriptures) and to make known the results of such studies and research.
3. To relieve poverty, mental and physical sickness and distress.
4. To promote the mental, spiritual or moral improvement of the community.

The charity delivers these objectives through the following core activities:

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

- Regular religious discourses.
- Celebrating religious festivals - including the Founder's Memorial Day, Maha Shiv Ratri, Holi, Janmashtami, Navratri, Raksha Bandhan, Diwali and Christmas.
- Courses - including Raja Yoga Meditation, Positive Thinking, Stress-Free Living, Self Esteem and Overcoming Anger.
- Retreats - including one-day and residential retreats.
- Lectures, seminars, workshops and other events on how the principles and practice of Raja Yoga can help us in our daily lives.
- Community outreach, such as exhibitions, fairs and festivals, interfaith events and connections, youth work, women's and men's groups, and activities geared to specific communities, e.g. business, healthcare, and people of diverse nationalities and cultures.

### **Public Benefit**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The board of trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirement for disclosing how the Charity's objectives have provided benefit to the public. This report outlines how the various activities in the year have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

### **Serving the Community - Activities, Achievements and Performance**

The charity delivers its charitable objectives through volunteers all around the UK. It invites members of the public to participate in its activities via printed materials, the internet, social networking, local networking, radio, film, television and advertising, as well as offering regular communications to people on our mailing lists. All our activities are free of charge and open to all members of the community.

### **Serving through the Pandemic**

*"As a nurse, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for having very well organised online meditations and other sessions since the lock down. It has really helped me when I have been overwhelmed with what I see and hear around me, at these critical moments of life... your support online has really helped me."*

When lockdown was declared, we immediately shifted all our religious discourses, courses, talks, meditation sessions, groups, discussions, meetings, student sustenance, etc. online. Rather than offering fewer activities, we offered more. Some interesting points to note:

- The need for religious, spiritual and mental support during the pandemic meant that there was enormous interest in meditation. We were fortunate to have teachings and tools that

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

through the Internet could easily be accessible to communities and individuals to help them develop their own inner peace and inner strength.

- Our audiences were no longer restricted by geographical, physical or even time constraints. It was an opportunity to reach more people, across local, regional, national borders and irrespective of their ability to travel. The facility to listen or watch again for many online sessions enabled people to participate at a time that worked for them.
- Seeing the special value of interactivity and connectedness at this time, we
  - seized the opportunity to collaborate with other organisations on joint events, dialogues, panels and conversations, as well as sending video contributions and messages in response to world events and issues and for festivals, anniversaries, etc.
  - offered many of our activities on Zoom, Skype and other social media.
- The year saw a huge and rapid upskilling in IT for almost all our volunteers, - for their own sustenance and in order to serve their communities.

### **Key annual figures for our UK main online platforms in 2020**

#### **1. Total viewers/participants on Webcast & Zoom: 273,858**

- **Webcast activities - total connections: 128,112**
  - Global Co-operation House: 87,951
  - Harrow, Leicester, Southall and Wembley: 40,161
- **Zoom activities - total connections: 145,746**

30 Zoom accounts managed by Global Co-operation House used for webinars, courses, sessions, meetings and religious discourses; 10 for activities from Global Co-operation House, 20 other for various UK locations. Some other UK locations had their own accounts for which we do not have figures.

  - No. of gatherings, webinars, sessions, courses and meetings: **8,816**
  - No. of hours: **127,738**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **2. Website new users: 148,016**

### **3. Social media followers across all our UK platforms and channels**

(YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Meetup, SoundCloud and Pinterest, as at Dec 2021)

- England & Wales: **206,774**
- Scotland: **33,945**

Note: Events were also live-streamed on Facebook, Skype, Instagram Live and perhaps other platforms too.

### **Religious Discourses**

Morning religious discourses take place in locations around the UK every day of the year. These daily discourses aid deeper understanding and assimilation of the principles and practice of Raja Yoga for both regular and new students. This year, as well as additional sessions for newcomers and those unable to attend the early morning discourses, interactive classes on the daily religious discourses on Zoom were organised twice weekly by Global Co-operation House in English and Hindi. All sessions moved online in late March (on various platforms: webcast, Zoom and Skype). From mid-June three socially distanced spaces were made available for individual meditation at Global Co-operation House, so that students unable to attend gatherings could still visit the building for periods of silent reflection. From July limited gatherings took place according to government guidelines at Global Co-operation House, Harmony House Leicester and Manchester Inner Space. Gatherings stopped during certain months during further lockdowns. Daily average connections: (843- E&W; 16- S.)

### **Religious celebrations**

We organise special events and activities to mark a variety of religious festivals throughout the year. These include some of the major Hindu festivals, Christmas, etc., on the understanding that, irrespective of faith and culture, we are one human family, all children of one God.

- The Founder's Memorial Day. In memory of the passing of Brahma Baba, the Founder of the Brahma Kumaris, on 18th January 1969, we have additional meditation and reflection and hold special events for the public throughout January around the UK. (1,608- E&W; 35- S)
- Shiv Ratri (The Night of Shiva) celebrates the time when the Divine ('Shiva' - the Benefactor) incarnates in the physical world in order to empower and uplift human souls - when darkness is replaced by the dawn of a new day. (1,424- E&W; 105- S).
- Maha Shiv Ratri was celebrated at Harmony House, Leicester over two days in February. Two evening events in Hindi with English translation were attended in person by 557 people and the videos and promo on YouTube had 872 views.



## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

- Raksha Bandhan (The Bond of Protection) is traditionally celebrated every August by Hindus worldwide. The festival is a beautiful, silent ceremony celebrating the purification and protection experienced through a loving connection with God. 1,718 people attended the event in-person at Global Co-operation House over several days. A special message for Raksha Bandhan was also sent to our friends and contacts on our mailing lists. (2,271- E&W; 70- S)



Raksha Bandhan at Global Co-operation House in August, attended with careful social distancing by 1,718 people over five days.

*“Just a brief note of thanks for your message on Raksha Bandhan, a festival which I hadn't heard of before. I read the message of Love, and it had an immediate effect on me, a positive one which helped me reconnect with my authentic self. I remembered this message when I awoke mid last night, in an anxious state, and immediately felt a healing connection with my true self, and was able to sleep peacefully until this a.m.”*

- Janmashtami, in August, is a joyful celebration of the birthday of Lord Krishna, the most lovable child deity, the epitome of purity, innocence, playfulness and love. (433- E&W).
- Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colours, is an exuberant celebration of the beginning of spring, the triumph of good over evil and universal brotherhood. The colours symbolise the soul being ‘coloured’ by God’s company.
- Diwali, the Festival of Lights in November, signifies the New Year and the coming of light to dispel the darkness. Brahma Kumaris all around the UK arranged and contributed to Diwali celebrations for students and the public (12,367- E&W; 20 – S).
  - Diwali: Seeing Light through the Dark with Kiran Mani and Sister Jayanti, organised by Global Co-operation House, was watched by well over 12,103 people live and many more after the event on various YouTube and Facebook pages as well as Awakening TV channel and Webinar Jam).

*“My sincere gratitude for organising such a wonderfully illuminating event.”*

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

- Festivals of other faiths were also celebrated. With government restrictions effectively cancelling Christmas gatherings, we sought to share and encourage a simpler, spiritual perspective on this festival: Christmas as a time for generosity and gratitude, for accepting and sharing the gifts of the virtues and strengths received from God. (505- E&W; 7- S)

### Our Courses

We offered a variety of courses based on Raja Yoga, which explore how to tap into our inner goodness, develop a loving relationship with God and so respond better to life's challenges and opportunities. Courses in Raja Yoga meditation and ancillary courses were offered in several languages, including English, Gujarati, Hindi, Nepali, Portuguese, Spanish and Tamil. The table below gives the figures for people attending our courses organised and delivered by our volunteers across the UK in 2020.

Course Title	England & Wales	Scotland
Raja Yoga	6,940	147
Positive Thinking	1,179	65
Self Esteem	781	0
Stress-Free Living	995	3
Overcoming Anger	724	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,619</b>	<b>215</b>

Some feedback from students of the Raja Yoga course in 2020:

- *"I must tell you how delightful your course in Raja Yoga is proving to be."*
- *"Today's Raja Yoga was mind-blowing, so much key information. So good – so, so good."*
- *"[The teacher's] delivery style has been open, clear, structured & totally engaging and I have really enjoyed the learning. Big thank you to her and the support team for the effectiveness of the online programme."*
- We also launched an 'on demand' online Raja Yoga course *Learn to Meditate in 7 Steps*, presented by Sister Jayanti. This series of 7 videos on YouTube has in total received over 15,000 views since it was launched in April 2020.

### Meditation sessions – encouraging and enabling silent reflection

Over 120,000 people took part in our regular meditation sessions in addition to the daily morning gatherings mentioned above - for newcomers, more experienced meditators and our

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

regular students. The number and variety of these increased considerably from April to meet the need of the time. (119,652- E&W; 1,702- S)

- Regular **Raja Yoga meditation** sessions were offered at different times of the day on different platforms, around the UK for members of the public.
- Every third Sunday of the month, we held **World Meditation Hour** or 'Meditation for World Peace' - an hour of silent reflection - inviting people to join us in creating peaceful, positive thoughts for the world. Global Co-operation House's **Family Meditation Hour** on the morning of each third Sunday was attended by an average of 50 people each month.
- We offered special daily, regular, occasional and extended programmes for regular students. In addition we also invited our students, contacts and the public to meditate with us 'offline', wherever they were, at specific times of the day - either midday or 7pm. Some feedback on our online meditation sessions:

Webcast:

*I have been practising along every day... It is changing my life and I am so thankful to all of you!*

Facebook:

*"Thank you so much for your morning meditations, they have been a source of stability and peace for me during this period, and I am eternally grateful."*

YouTube:

*"Great guided meditation video - it's truly amazing. My day was not going as expected but as I watched this video my day brightened; I started to feel more relaxed."*

Instagram

*"My mum passed away recently and I'm struggling with my emotions, but these meditations have really uplifted me, thank you!!"*

The Youth Group of Brahma Kumaris in London were nominated for an award by the **London Faith & Belief Community Awards 2020** for their Live Morning Meditations on Global Co-operation House Facebook and Instagram pages.

Awarded to the Brahma Kumaris Youth Group  
for their Online Live Meditations.

THE LONDON  
FAITH & BELIEF  
COMMUNITY AWARDS  
2020

Youth Group of the Brahma Kumaris London

Recognised for services to and for  
faith and belief communities  
in Greater London

P. Champain  
Phil Champain  
Director of F&BF

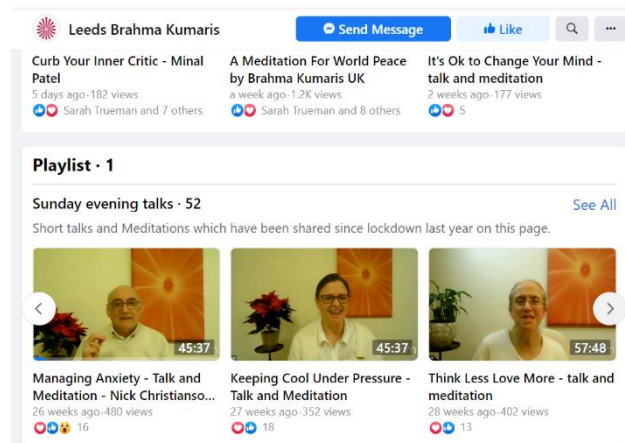
The  
Faith & Belief  
Forum  
F&BF

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

### Talks, seminars, workshops and special events – Raja Yoga as a life skill

A wide range of talks, seminars and workshops were offered, with speakers from around the UK as well as abroad sharing their personal experiences, insights and tips, based on their own experience of studying and practising Raja Yoga. These were offered by Brahma Kumaris in many different locations on a variety of platforms throughout the year. (90,612- E&W; 1,749- S).

- Talks, seminars and meditation sessions organised by Inner Space Covent Garden attracted a total of 69,634 connections.
- From May onwards Brighton Brahma Kumaris offered twice weekly short, interactive talks under the banner 'Food for the Soul', average connections per session: 35.
- Leeds Brahma Kumaris ran weekly talks and workshops on Facebook on topics such as Managing Anxiety (480 views), Keeping Cool under Pressure (352 views) and Think Less, Love More (402 views).



### Interfaith

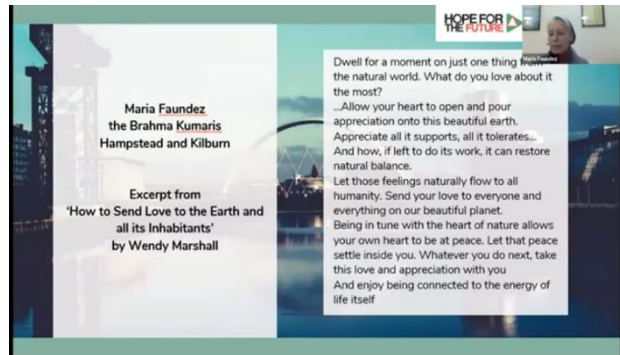
We continue our work in bringing people of different faiths and cultures closer together and to nurture a deeper understanding between different faiths, based on acceptance and respect. Our volunteers around the UK contributed to interfaith meetings - mainly online this year - around the UK. Every third Tuesday of the month, an *Interfaith Vigil for World Peace* was held offline - people contributed their silence wherever they were. (319- E&W; 584- S)

- *Essential Divinity*, an event for National Inter Faith Week with the Very Reverend Rogers Govender, MBE, The Dean of Manchester; Rev. Dr Marcus Braybrooke, Joint President, World Congress of Faiths; Imam Monawar Hussain MBE, Islamic Tutor, Eton College; and Sister Jayanti was webcast from Global Co-operation House in November with 65 connections.
- Aberdeen Brahma Kumaris streamed a half hour meditation from Aberdeen Hindu Temple every Sunday morning when restrictions permitted. In September, a socially distanced Raksha Bandhan ceremony was held at the Temple with representatives of the RAF, British Army and Royal Navy and the Hindu Forum of Great Britain. It was

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

joined by the local MSP, Lord Provost Barney Crockett and Lady Provost, Shona Crockett and representation from the Local Community Council. Raksha Bandhan packets were also delivered to our friends and contacts.

- A Brahma Kumaris representative contributed to a *COP26 Interfaith Evening* organised by Hope for the Future and Faith for the Climate in December 2020 in preparation for COP26 in Glasgow, with nearly 100 connections.



Brahma Kumaris' contribution to a COP Interfaith Evening in December

### Funeral service

Brahma Kumaris were invited to conduct and contribute to funeral services in different locations around the UK both in person and online. We also contributed to prayer meetings and special meditation gatherings for bereaved families, offered support for families and friends and dedicated time each day individually and collectively for special meditation for those who had passed away, the sick and the bereaved. (4,080- E&W; 6- S)

### Inner Spaces – ‘oases of calm’ on the high street

Our Inner Spaces are accessible for people living and working in urban areas. Many also do a lot of outreach work in nearby neighbourhoods. Many thousands benefit from the meditation and self-development courses, meditation sessions and talks offered regularly and these continued online. Inner Spaces were closed to the public for many months, at different periods, although at certain times restricted in-person activities, carefully managed, were allowed.

There are ten Inner Spaces around the UK - in Birmingham, Bradford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London's Covent Garden, Manchester, Newcastle, Romford and Wembley.

(Attendance/connection figures for Inner Space activities - talks, courses, daily discourses, etc. - are included under those headings.)

### Outreach activities

We ran a wide range of outreach activities, at first in person and then online, for people in outlying communities around the UK. We have been serving some of these areas for many years, whilst others were for the first time. (11,880- E&W; 124- S)



## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

- **Loughborough** Brahma Kumaris offered three online courses in Positive Thinking for staff at Loughborough University (average connections: 40), along with meditation sessions for various departments, as part of the Staff Development Training programme.
- **Bradford** Inner Space organised twice weekly online meditation regular sessions for the Bradford Hindu Council.
- Meditation sessions, talks and self-development courses were offered to audiences in **Croydon, Lewisham, Greenwich** and **Bromley**, organised by South London Brahma Kumaris. Total connections: 5,994.
- In collaboration with The Janki Foundation for Spirituality in Health Care, Global Co-operation House ran meditation sessions for healthcare workers at a number of **London hospitals**: Charing Cross, Queen Charlotte's, St Mary's and the Western Eye Hospital. Total connections: 250.

**Diverse communities:** We offered special community activities for people speaking many languages including: Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Nepali, Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Sindhi and Tamil.

- *Strengthening Ubuntu*, an event in October for Black History Month, developed into the *Embracing Oneness* initiative, aimed at the **African diaspora** community.
- Wembley Inner Space ran online Raja Yoga courses in **Farsi** (connections: 30), **Gujarati** (connections: 300) and **Nepali** (connections: 10). From September a monthly course in Gujarati was offered by Global Co-operation House - connections: 300.
- A series of weekly talks in **Hindi** organised by Global Co-operation House started in September 2020. Total Zoom and webcast connections: 1,974.
- This year a weekly programme of courses, talks and meditation sessions in **Portuguese** and **Spanish** was launched from Global Co-operation House, backed up by individual YouTube channels and social media activity - average 40 connections.
- The *Raja Yoga Meditation* course in **Tamil** online was attended by over 140 people (figures only recorded from July). Additional classes for BK students were offered daily with international BK teachers from 1 April. Early morning collective meditation '*Amrit vela*' daily at 4am - average 27 connections.

Tamil class Amrit Vela early morning  
meditation online 4am to 4.45am every day



## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Fairs and Exhibitions**

Fairs and exhibitions were largely abandoned in 2020 due to the pandemic. However, a small few events did take place in the early months, where we were able to offer a free and accessible ‘drop-in’ programme of meditations and talks or some values-based activities based on the teachings of Raja Yoga. (170- E&W; 206- S)

### **Spiritual retreats**

We offered residential and day retreats and special group gatherings for members of the public, invited guests and BK students in several locations prior to lockdown and thereafter online. These events offered participants the chance to reflect on their own spirituality and refresh their inner core values, through the understanding and experience of Raja Yoga. (2,303- E&W; 7- S).

- Retreats organised by Cambridge Inner Space throughout the year, both in person and online, were attended by 1,283 people.

### **Spiritual sustenance groups**

A number of groups – both for the public, new and regular students – met regularly throughout the year, shifting online during lockdown. These included: Children’s Class, Women & Spirituality, Serene for Women, Spirituality & Men, Environment, Health and Wellbeing. Several other discussion and mutual support groups continued and emerged during the year in different parts of the UK. (12,969- E&W; 18- S)

- Global Co-operation House’s Children’s Class, which includes children from around the Greater London area, was particularly active in 2020:
  - Interactive class on the daily religious discourses Monday to Saturday from August. Average connections: 12; Regular Sunday class: Average connections: 25.
  - Positive Thinking sessions. Connections: 100.
  - Raja Yoga meditation course for children - Connections: 20.

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Spiritual sustenance events for Brahma Kumaris students and teachers**

Events and activities for the spiritual sustenance of our students and teachers were organised all over the UK. These took the form of special gatherings, personal development and skills training, workshops, facilitated dialogue, spiritual exploration and discussion and expression through performing arts and audio/visual materials. Global Co-operation House webcast a special programme for every evening, and for many months of the year at midday also, along with other regular and occasional sustenance activities. (67,186- E&W; 108- S)

### **Special Events**

Some highlights from 2020:

- International Women's Day

Brahma Kumaris UK organised a number of events celebrating International Women's Day in several places around the UK in March (376- E&W; 20- S)

- UN International Day of Yoga

We marked the UN International Day of Yoga (IDY) with special events shedding light on 'yoga' (which literally means connection) as meditation. These included:

- *8 Postures of the Heart: The Greatest Story of All between the Soul and God*, a video event created to mark the UN International Day of Yoga was streamed on Brahma Kumaris UK YouTube Channel on 1st July and has received over 9,000 views.
- World Meditation Hour Mid-summer Special on UN International Day of Yoga received 1,828 views on Global Co-operation House Facebook page.  
*"I joined the sessions on International Yoga Day and the 8 postures of the heart and really enjoyed them. I normally would never find the time to do any of these but for me, this has been one positive aspect to the lockdown. Thank you!"*
- Inner Stability, Safety and Support in Difficult Times with Sir Peter Fahy, Former Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and Founder of the Community Cohesion charity We Stand Together and Sister Jayanti in September, organised by Manchester Inner Space - 365 connections.



## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)



Sir Peter Fahy and Sister Jayanti discuss Inner Stability, Safety and Support in Difficult Times in September, organised by Manchester Inner Space.

*“The talk with Sister Jayanti and Peter Fahy was very, very good. So inspiring and to the point.”*

### Brahma Kumaris’ contribution to events run by other organisations

- Brahma Kumaris contributed in different ways to many of the weekly online events organised by Healing Our Earth - ‘a spiritual initiative to curtail the harmful effects of the Coronavirus’. Livestreamed on the *Healing Our Earth* YouTube, Facebook and website, as well as other websites/channels, the events focused on topics such as Health & Wellbeing, Vegan & Vegetarian Cooking, the Environment, and some religious festivals, such as ‘5 Days of Diwali’, for which Sister Sudesh spoke on each of the five days.
- Professor Jem Bendell and Sister Jayanti in conversation for the Deep Adaptation Forum in April. 5,668 views.

*“Very, very helpful Q&A interview. Extremely practical, down to earth. The wisdom shared was just what we all needed in this very challenging time.”*

- Brahma Kumaris (UK) have worked for many years with the Mayor of London’s office and the Diwali in London Committee (which consists of 12 Hindu organisations) and broadcast media on *Diwali on Trafalgar Square*, London’s flagship event celebrating the Festival of Lights. As 2020 Chairs of the Diwali in London Committee, Brahma Kumaris Sister Jayanti launched the event with trustees at Global Co-operation House. Total connections: 34,000.



## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

### Engaging the public through the Media and Social Media

In 2020 we engaged with the public and our students more than ever before online, through the media, social media and various Internet sites. As well as providing online content, news, announcing activities, offering daily inspirations, etc., we also streamed events and uploaded uplifting content to a number of websites, social media platforms and apps.

### Media

- As current Chair of the Diwali in London Committee responsible for *Diwali on Trafalgar Square*, Sister Jayanti was interviewed on **ITV London News** at 6pm on 13th November. She was also quoted on the same day in **The Guardian**:

- Brent & Kilburn Times covered Global Co-operation House's free online meditations in May:

In November the same publication covered an event organised by Wembley Inner Space. *Brent students lead free online event looking at how the pandemic has affected young people*



- Sister Jayanti was interviewed by Manish Tiwari, on the Manish Tiwari Show on ION TV (Sky Channel 782) in November.



- Global Co-operation House was nominated for Pride of Brent in recognition of its work in supporting and uplifting the local community.

*"Thank you for your tremendous contribution to Brent during this difficult year. You were nominated for the Pride of Brent 2020 and are mentioned on the Council's website."* Brent Council



THE PRIDE OF  
**BRENT-2020**

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

### Social media

Social media followers across all our UK platforms and channels (as at Dec 2020):

- England & Wales: **206,774**
- Scotland: **33,945**

### YouTube

2020 saw a complete review and revamp of the Brahma Kumaris UK YouTube channel, with more focus on short, high quality meditation commentaries, short talks and interviews that would meet the current needs of our regular users and the general public. Total followers Dec 2020: 20,000.

- One of our YouTube highlights of the year was *21 Masterclasses in New Consciousness* - a series of 21 interviews on Brahma Kumaris UK YouTube channel in June, in which ‘everyday extraordinary people discuss next steps for a world in transition’. Total views: 150,814.

*“Thank you sincerely for this wonderful series of Masterclasses. I have found peace and understanding that I could not imagine. The truth in the teaching and the practical nature is important to me and I hope will allow me to live my life in a more meaningful way. Soul consciousness at a time of crisis is a way forward.”*

*“These Masterclasses really made lockdown so much more bearable for me and picked me up from quite a low mood at times.”*

- The new *Soul Conscious Meditations* series on Brahma Kumaris UK YouTube channel received over 60,000 views across 13 short meditation commentaries and a promotion video for the series.
- The Brahma Kumaris Leicester YouTube channel reached over 41,000 followers.

### Facebook

- The Brahma Kumaris UK Facebook page continued to gather some of the best content from Facebook pages around the UK. *God Give me Strength!* - a talk by Maureen Goodman in July livestreamed on Facebook received over 2,600 views.

*“Wonderful talk, and a great reminder of our true self”*

- Birmingham Brahma Kumaris offered twice weekly one hour Meditation Experiment sessions on Facebook Live, which regularly reached over 500 people (Total: 47,000).

## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

- Glasgow Inner Space used their Facebook page to post regular uplifting slogans and resources and held weekly live short talks, 'Talks to Inspire', and meditations. The 'How can I become free from Tension' mini-talk in May had 486 views.



Other social media platforms we used in different ways to communicate and connect with our audiences include:

- Twitter
- Instagram
- SoundCloud
- Meet-up
- Pinterest

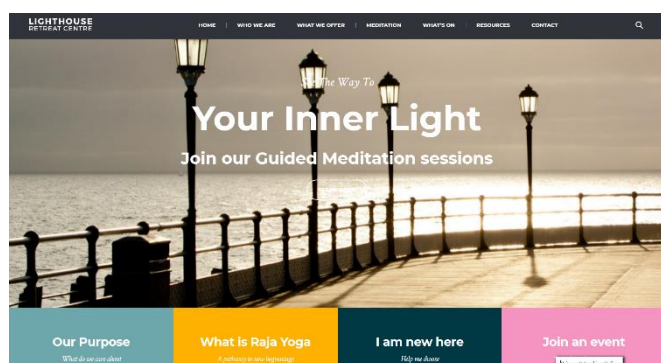
### Apps (all free to download)

- Bee.Zone:** The Bee.Zone app was revamped and a Hindi version of the App launched in 2020. Downloads: 7,800.
- Meditation Lounge** was also significantly upgraded, with new commentaries to meet the need of the hour, for example, the Sleep Meditations. Sending Good Wishes series. Downloads: 10,000+
- The **just-a-minute meditations** offered on the *Insight Timer* meditation app have 5,000+ followers.

### Websites

Lighthouse Retreat Centre launched its own website in July. Between September and December the site received 3,000 visitors and 35,500 page views.

Lighthouse Retreat Centre's website  
launched in 2020



## TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

1. Brahma Kumaris UK  
Page views: 469,217  
New users: 125,076
2. Global Co-operation House  
Page views: 7,234  
New Users: 1,424
3. 'Just-A-Minute': one minute meditations for busy people  
Page views: 59,455  
New Users: 21,516

Other websites included:

- Global Retreat Centre: [globalretreatcentre.org](http://globalretreatcentre.org)
- Inspired Stillness [inspiredstillness.org](http://inspiredstillness.org)
- Inner Spaces
  - Bradford [bradford.innerspace.org](http://bradford.innerspace.org)
  - Cambridge [cambridgeinnerspace.org](http://cambridgeinnerspace.org)
  - Glasgow [innerspace.org/glasgow](http://innerspace.org/glasgow)
  - London Covent Garden [innerspace.org.uk](http://innerspace.org.uk)
  - Oxford [www.oxford.innerspace.org](http://www.oxford.innerspace.org)
  - Manchester [manchester.innerspace.org](http://manchester.innerspace.org)
  - Wembley [innerspace.org/wembley](http://innerspace.org/wembley)

### Activities in Scotland

Brahma Kumaris (UK) activities in Scotland continue to develop and expand. Details of public benefit are shown alongside England and Wales.

### Our Volunteers

The trustees would like to pay special tribute to the efforts of all our volunteers in enabling the charity to meet its objectives, especially during this challenging and demanding year. Individuals who benefit from the charity frequently choose to give their time and support to show their appreciation. Our volunteers, with all their skills, enthusiasm and dedication to service, are without doubt the charity's most valuable 'assets'.

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Financial Review and Results for the year**

The total income generated for the year amounted to £3,593,814 (2019: £4,097,966) and total resources expended amounts to £1,677,432 (2019: £2,267,029).

The income was predominantly raised through voluntary donations of £2,929,623 (2019: £3,422,642).

Most of the charitable expenditure relates to provision of regular discourses, lectures & seminars as further explained in Note 1 to the accounts.

### **Future Plans**

The trustees have considered the potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been spreading since early 2020, on the Charity's activities. Like many other charities, the outbreak has caused and is going to cause some disruption to the Charity, including the adaptation to virtual events, cancelling certain events and volunteers being unavailable or working from home where feasible. The trustees understand that these issues are having and will have a detrimental effect on the Charity's finances and have taken appropriate action on expenditure to mitigate the effects. The trustees are confident that the Charity has adequate reserves to continue its operations around the UK for the foreseeable future.

The charity's short-term plans are to increase the number of individuals served through its activities and continue sustaining the existing students. The medium-term plans are to cultivate existing relationships and association with similar organisations. The longer-term plans are to serve in strategic areas and cities throughout the UK, enabling benefit to the wider community.

The trustees continue with the plumbing and refurbishment project at their flagship retreat centre in Oxford. The total anticipated costs for the project are now estimated to be in the region of £11m. The capital commitment remaining at the year-end now stands at £5.1m. The Charity has successfully collected £5.9m since the inception of the project and collections continue post year end. The trustees continue to monitor the incoming funds regularly and are of the opinion that the full amount will be collected for the refurbishment project.

### **Investment Policy**

The trustees' board takes a very prudent view to the investment of surplus funds. These are retained for furthering the objects of the charity, in particular with a view to expanding the charity's presence in cities throughout the UK. Accordingly, funds not required for expenditure in the short term are placed on deposit.

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Reserves Policy**

A substantial proportion of the reserves shown in the balance sheet are represented by assets other than cash. Of the total unrestricted reserves as at 31 December 2020 as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities, the trustees consider it reasonable given its policy to retain at least £2m to fund ongoing costs of the Charity for at least one year provided that the incoming voluntary donations remain at the minimum level of £2m. The trustees will endeavour to maintain them at this level by continuing its charitable activities as in previous years whilst also continuing to manage the Charity's outgoings.

The unrestricted reserves are considered for adequacy in relation to:

- allow time for re-organisation in the event of a downturn in income,
- allow for reasonable level of working capital,
- provide funds for ongoing and future refurbishments of the properties, and
- allow the Charity to continue to further its objectives.

The level of unrestricted reserves are monitored and reviewed on a monthly basis by the trustees.

### **Going Concern**

In view of the recent pandemic the trustees' board has reviewed the financial position of the charity and believes that there are sufficient reserves to manage any foreseeable operational or financial risks. The board therefore considers that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for foreseeable future. For this reason, the trustees' board continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.



## **TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)**

### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of its financial activities and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS 102,
- c) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- d) follow applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS 102, disclosing and explaining any departures in the accounts,
- e) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to assume that the charity will be unable to continue to meet its objectives.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of error, fraud and other irregularities besides the above responsibilities.

Statement of disclosure to auditor:

- a) so far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- b) they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees,



**Sanjay Tulsidas**  
**Trustee**



**Date**



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK)**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (UK) for the year ended 31 December 2020 on pages 27 to 37. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 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 properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2006.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts. 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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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.

### **Who we are reporting to**

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 and in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK) (continued)**

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other Information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 where the Charities Act 2011 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the financial statements 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.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK) (continued)**

### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Trustees Responsibilities Statement set out on page 22, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 financial statements.

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:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY (UK) (continued)**

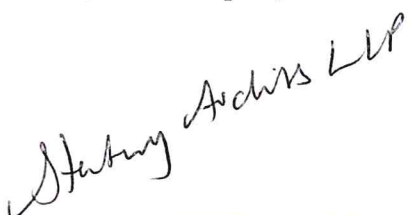
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities). 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 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 Auditors' 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 its Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed



**Statutory Auditors LLP**  
**Avar Suites, Building 3**  
**North London Business Park**  
**Oakleigh Road South**  
**London N11 1GN**

17/9/2021  
**Date**

**Statutory Auditors LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006 and consequently to act as the auditor of a registered Charity.**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Restricted Funds 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Donations		1,272,327	1,657,296	2,929,623	3,422,642
Legacies		-	132,774	132,774	91,013
Tax refunds on Gift Aid Donations		247,749	196,167	443,916	477,235
<b>Activities to Generate funds</b>					
<b>Investment Income</b>	2	-	62,959	62,959	81,513
<b>Other Incoming resources</b>		-	24,542	24,542	25,563
<b>Net Incoming resources available for charitable Application</b>		1,520,076	2,073,738	3,593,814	4,097,966
<b>Charitable Activities by objective :</b>					
Regular Discourses	3	-	(800,821)	(800,821)	(959,700)
Lectures & Seminars	3	-	(569,473)	(569,473)	(682,454)
Religious Festival & Special Events	3	-	(195,756)	(195,756)	(234,593)
Retreats	3	-	(25,366)	(25,366)	(86,577)
Donations to further specific projects	3	-	-	-	-
		-	(1,591,416)	(1,591,416)	(1,963,324)
Governance costs	3	-	(86,016)	(86,016)	(303,705)
<b>Total resources expended</b>		-	(1,677,432)	(1,677,432)	(2,267,029)
Transfers		(2,490,140)	2,490,140	-	-
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus in the year</b>	6	(970,064)	2,886,446	1,916,382	1,830,937
Income and expenditure brought forward		1,380,303	15,895,418	17,275,721	15,444,784
Funds carried forward		410,239	18,781,864	19,192,103	17,275,721
Revaluation reserve		-	1,161,382	1,161,382	1,161,382
<b>Accumulated fund carried forward</b>		410,239	19,943,246	20,353,485	18,437,103

Note : All amounts relate to continuing activities

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	<u>16,202,780</u>	<u>13,057,967</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	5	109,870	111,981
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,040,835</u>	<u>5,267,155</u>
		<u>4,150,705</u>	<u>5,379,136</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>4,150,705</u>	<u>5,379,136</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>20,353,485</u>	<u>18,437,103</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	6	<u>20,353,485</u>	<u>18,437,103</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 17/9/2021



**Mahesh Patel**  
Trustee



**Ratan Thadani**  
Trustee

The attached notes 1 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	10		2,306,784		2,354,609
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Investment income		62,959		81,513	
Purchase of fixed assets		(3,786,736)		(2,547,651)	
Sale of fixed assets		190,673		-	
Other increase		-		1,878	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			<b>(3,533,104)</b>		<b>(2,464,260)</b>
<b>Changes in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>			<b>(1,226,320)</b>		<b>(109,651)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year</b>			5,267,155		5,376,806
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	11		<b>4,040,835</b>		<b>5,267,155</b>

The attached notes 1 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Preparation of Accounts**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and going concern basis and are in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the financial statements the charity follows best practice as set out in Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. There are no significant areas of judgement or key sources of estimation uncertainty arising from the preparation of the financial statements

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

#### **Cash Flow Statement**

A cash flow statement has not been prepared as the Charity is entitled to the exemptions available for small entities under the provisions of the Charities SORP FRS 102.

#### **Incoming Resources**

All income is accounted for when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, the amount can be quantified and receipt of the funds is probable.

Donated assets, goods and services are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for goods and services donated by volunteers if these cannot be quantified.

#### **Resources Expended**

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred. The Charity is not registered for VAT and its expenses are therefore inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

The charity's expenditure has been apportioned between the major activities carried out by the charity to further its objectives. This expenditure has been apportioned on the basis of time spent in furtherance of each of the activities below, except for Retreats which is a direct attributable expense.

Regular Religious Discourses	–	45%
Lectures, Seminars & Courses	–	32%
Religious Festivals & Special Events	–	11%
Governance	–	12%



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### Tangible Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. As permitted by the transitional provisions, under previous UK GAAP, pre FRS 102 adoption, the Charity had elected not to adopt a policy of revaluations of tangible fixed assets. The charity has retained the book values of freehold properties, previously revalued, as deemed cost on transition to FRS 102.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold properties	-	2.5% on cost
Leasehold properties	-	over period of lease
Furniture fittings and equipment	-	10% on cost
Computers	-	33.33% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	20% on cost

The charity's policy is to write off the book value of each tangible asset over its estimated remaining life. Reviews are made annually of the estimated remaining useful lives of individual productive assets, taking into account commercial and technological obsolescence as well as normal wear and tear.

Provision is made for all permanent diminution in the value of building improvements.

An annual impairment review is made, in accordance with the requirements of the Charities SORP FRS 102, to ensure that the recoverable amounts of the assets are not lower than their current values. The charity currently has no tangible fixed assets to which impairment provisions apply.

### Foreign Currency Translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

### Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

### Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are those that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

### 2. Investment Income

	<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank Interest	31,959	49,863
Other	31,000	31,650
	<u>62,959</u>	<u>81,513</u>

### 3. Analysis of Total Unrestricted Resources Expended

Charitable Activity	Regular Discourses	Lectures & Seminars	Religious Festival & Special Events	Retreats	Governance	Total	Total
						<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Rent Rates & Water	168,864	120,081	41,278	-	45,030	375,253	634,915
Electricity, fuel and gas	77,110	54,834	18,849	-	20,563	171,356	161,369
Insurance	42,631	30,315	10,421	-	11,368	94,735	76,529
Telephone & Fax	15,014	10,676	3,670	-	4,004	33,364	34,457
Printing & Stationery	7,321	5,206	1,790	-	1,952	16,269	28,303
Miscellaneous	(7)	(5)	(2)	-	(2)	(16)	1,064
Motor & Travel	34,594	24,600	8,456	-	9,225	76,875	115,456
Training	-	-	-	-	179	179	1,561
Repairs & Maintenance	94,518	67,213	23,104	-	25,205	210,040	205,326
Hire of Equipment	8,432	5,996	2,061	-	2,249	18,738	20,200
Kitchen & Catering	24,631	17,516	6,021	-	6,568	54,736	84,838
Garden expenses	1,812	1,289	443	-	483	4,027	8,125
IT Costs	44,413	31,583	10,857	-	11,844	98,697	93,759
Advertising / Promotion	4,037	2,871	987	-	1,077	8,972	9,048
Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	142,047
Legal & Professional	-	-	-	-	54,599	54,599	37,632
Audit	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	2,358	2,358	2,285
(Profit)/Loss on disposal	-	-	-	-	(190,673)	(190,673)	382
Depreciation	277,451	197,298	67,821	25,366	73,987	641,923	603,733
	<u>800,821</u>	<u>569,473</u>	<u>195,756</u>	<u>25,366</u>	<u>86,016</u>	<u>1,677,432</u>	<u>2,267,029</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### 4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Properties	Leasehold Property	Furniture Fittings & Equipment	Computer	Motor vehicle	Total
Cost:	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	14,861,542	7,390,146	1,637,517	375,545	151,814	24,416,564
Additions during the year	-	3,765,819	7,849	6,818	6,250	3,786,736
Disposals in the year	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>14,861,542</u>	<u>11,155,965</u>	<u>1,645,366</u>	<u>382,363</u>	<u>158,064</u>	<u>28,203,300</u>
<b>Depreciation:</b>						
At 1 January 2020	7,661,080	1,771,802	1,422,783	369,093	133,839	11,358,597
Charge for the year	370,507	218,274	38,966	5,498	8,678	641,923
Disposals in the year	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>8,031,587</u>	<u>1,990,076</u>	<u>1,461,749</u>	<u>374,591</u>	<u>142,517</u>	<u>12,000,520</u>
<b>Net book value:</b>						
At 31 December 2020	<u>6,829,955</u>	<u>9,165,889</u>	<u>183,617</u>	<u>7,772</u>	<u>15,547</u>	<u>16,202,780</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>7,200,462</u>	<u>5,618,344</u>	<u>214,734</u>	<u>6,452</u>	<u>17,975</u>	<u>13,057,967</u>

All fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

### 5. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	0	5,647
Prepayments and accrued income	109,870	106,334
	<u>109,870</u>	<u>111,981</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****6. General Fund**

	<b>Restricted Funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2019 £</b>
Balances brought forward at start of the year	1,380,303	15,895,418	17,275,721	15,444,784
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year	1,520,076	396,306	1,916,382	1,830,937
Balances carried forward at end of the year	2,900,379	16,291,724	19,192,103	17,275,721
Transfers	(2,490,140)	2,490,140	-	-
Revaluation reserves	-	1,161,382	1,161,382	1,161,382
Accumulated funds carried forward	410,239	19,943,246	20,353,485	18,437,103

Restricted funds of £410,239 (2019: £1,380,303) are carried forward for the Global Retreat Centre plumbing and refurbishment project.

**7. Funds****(a) Analysis of restricted funds**

	<b>Balance at 1.1.20 £</b>	<b>Movements in 2020</b>			<b>Balance at 31.12.20 £</b>
		<b>Incoming £</b>	<b>Outgoing £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Global Retreat Centre plumbing and refurbishment project	1,380,303	1,520,076	-	(2,490,140)	410,239
<b>Total Funds</b>	1,380,303	1,520,076	-	(2,490,140)	410,239

The transfer of funds relates to the transfer of value of fixed assets from restricted funds to unrestricted funds as shown on the Statement of Financial Activities. This represents the refurbishment to the Global Retreat Centre, an asset held for general and not a restricted purpose.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

(b) Analysis of net assets between funds

	<b>2020</b>			<b>2019</b>		
	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	16,202,780	16,202,780	-	13,057,967	13,057,967
Net current assets	410,239	3,740,466	4,150,705	1,380,303	3,998,833	5,379,136
Net assets	<u>410,239</u>	<u>19,943,246</u>	<u>20,353,485</u>	<u>1,380,303</u>	<u>17,056,800</u>	<u>18,437,103</u>

(c) Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2019</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2019</b>	<b>Total Funds 2019</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
Donations		2,057,151	1,365,491	3,422,642
Legacies		-	91,013	91,013
Tax refunds on Gift Aid Donations		291,745	185,490	477,235
<b>Activities to Generate funds</b>				
<b>Investment Income</b>	2	-	81,513	81,513
<b>Other Incoming resources</b>		-	25,563	25,563
<b>Net Incoming resources available for charitable Application</b>		<u>2,348,896</u>	<u>1,749,070</u>	<u>4,097,966</u>
<b>Charitable Activities by objective :</b>				
Regular Discourses	3	-	(959,700)	(959,700)
Lectures & Seminars	3	-	(682,454)	(682,454)
Religious Festival & Special Events	3	-	(234,593)	(234,593)
Retreats	3	-	(86,577)	(86,577)
Donations to further specific projects	3	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,963,324)</u>	<u>(1,963,324)</u>
Governance costs	3	-	(303,705)	(303,705)
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(2,267,029)</u>	<u>(2,267,029)</u>
Transfers		(2,570,317)	2,570,317	-
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus in the year</b>		(221,421)	2,052,358	1,830,937
Income and expenditure brought forward		2,176,424	13,268,360	15,444,784
Funds carried forward		<u>1,955,003</u>	<u>15,320,718</u>	<u>17,275,721</u>
Revaluation reserve		-	1,161,382	1,161,382
<b>Accumulated fund carried forward</b>		<u>1,955,003</u>	<u>16,482,100</u>	<u>18,437,103</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### 8. Staff and Executive Committee's Remuneration

No salaries, fees or expenses are paid to the volunteers and Management Committee for their services to the charity.

The average number of volunteers during the year was 275 (2019: 255).

### 9. Financial & Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2020 the charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Expiry date:		
Within one year	259,498	429,624
Between two and five years	675,176	727,124
In over five years	937,360	1,041,256

At 31 December 2020, the Charity had a non-cancellable financial commitment amounting to £5.1m in respect of the restoration and refurbishments of its retreat centre in Oxford.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

### 10. Reconciliation of Net Income/(Expenditure) to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	1,916,382	1,830,937
Depreciation charges	641,923	603,733
Investment income	(62,959)	(81,513)
Profit from sale of assets	(190,673)	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	2,111	1,452
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,306,784</u>	<u>2,354,609</u>

### 11. Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	As at 01.01.20	Cash flows	As at 31.12.20
Cash at bank and in hand	5,267,155	(1,226,320)	4,040,835
Total cash an cash equivalents	5,267,155	(1,226,320)	4,040,835

The charity has no borrowings, therefore, a reconciliation of net debt is not required.

### 12. Related Party Transactions

None of the trustees and/or close members of their family received any benefits or remuneration during the year that need to be disclosed in the financial statements.

### 13. Events after the reporting date

The trustees consider the emergence and spread of Covid-19 to be a non-adjusting post balance sheet event. Given the inherent uncertainties, it is not practical at this time to determine the impact of Covid-19 on the Charity or provide a quantitative estimate of the impact. The trustees are closely monitoring the situation and have put on hold all non-essential expenditure.