

VILLAGE SERVICE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 277111

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1979-09-07

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

Contact

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Hail Weston
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Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGES OF THE DEPRIVED AREAS OF THE WORLD BY MAKING GRANTS OF MONEY OR PROVIDING OR PAYING FOR ITEMS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES CALCULATED TO REDUCE THE NEED. HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS OF SUCH PERSONS.

Activities: Village Service Trust makes grants to partners in south India that:- support community-based organisations of women and of marginalised communities, with the aim of enhancing their livelihoods and status - work with people affected by HIV and Aids

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** OVERSEAS
- India

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£84,946	£77,147	-	-
2024-03-31	£119,194	£49,780	-	-
2023-03-31	£227,732	£79,802	-	-
2022-03-31	£39,685	£45,135	-	-
2021-03-31	£45,787	£64,419	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Maya Sophie Walker	Chair	2020-03-14
BRYAN OSBON		
Cheryl Joseph		2024-06-01
Edward Patrick Tinne		2024-06-01
Rosie Oakley		2020-06-27
Ruth Waithera Njiri		2024-06-01
TONY HUCKLE		

VILLAGE SERVICE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 277111

Accounts

Village Service Trust

Report and financial statements

Year ended 31st March 2025

Charity No. 277111

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity as expressed in its Deed of Trust is to apply the trust fund for the relief of poverty and sickness amongst the inhabitants of the villages of the deprived areas of the world. The trustees have decided to concentrate their efforts on projects in Tamil Nadu, south India, where their personal experience has shown that the work undertaken at these projects adequately and appropriately fulfils the objects of the charity.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The trust furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through its grants to partner organisations in India which aim to:

- support local organisations that are tackling systemic economic injustices, with a particular focus on those with lived experiences of economic and social injustice in India. These efforts are aimed at strengthening the individuals within these communities to gain pathways to sustainable livelihoods, thereby fostering collective resilience and dignity.
- support socially and economically marginalised communities, particularly among the Arunthathiyar and tribal populations, by building upon their lived experience, existing capacity and knowledge. By supporting locally-led initiatives that enable these communities to identify and meet their own needs, we aim to influence greater equity and inclusivity.
- support the rights and dignities of individuals and promote respect for laws such as the Right to Education Act, the Forest Rights Act, the Prevention of Atrocities Act, and the Domestic Violence Act.
- support equitable access to education for children from marginalised communities, particularly the Arunthathiyar and tribal populations.
- support local organisations to improve the outcomes and provide healthcare access, particularly in the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases such as leprosy, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

During the year Village Service Trust made grants to four partner organisations in south India, mostly in Theni District, a deprived area in Tamil Nadu.

These organisations work together in a network co-ordinated by Arogya Agam, VST's chief partner. The main programme activities supported during the year concern women's rights, micro-enterprise, the rights of Dalits and indigenous people, and children's rights.

The four Indian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were:

Arogya Agam, (Place of Health), Andipatty, Theni district

Society for Rural and Environment Development (SRED), Dharumathupatti, Theni district

All Rural Development and Social Construction Society (ARUDECS), Bodinayakkanur, Theni district

Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society, (NWTWS), Ambalamoola, Nilgiris district.

Grant-making policy

The grant-making policy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects the charity's objectives and thereby advances public benefit.

The beneficiaries of the trust's grant making programme are rural communities in the south Indian districts of Theni, Dindigul, Nilgiris and Wynaad, in particular women, children, Dalits and tribal people.

How grants are chosen and monitored

Grants are made for programmes that either directly improve livelihoods and health, or address the causes of poor livelihoods and poor health. The programmes are monitored by reviewing reports from partner organisations and with the assistance of a "Partners Coordinator".

A review of the achievements and performance

Community organisations

The trust funded programmes run by its chief partner, Arogya Agam, that address the concerns of Arunthathiyars, a marginalised Dalit community. The programme works through children's clubs, women's self-help groups, and a forum of sanitation workers.

The children's clubs seek to increase opportunities for social mobility by encouraging young Arunthathiyars to stay in school, pass exams, enter higher education and pursue better paid careers. Targets were largely met for reducing drop-outs, exam success, scholarships and college entries. The children's clubs also monitor child marriage, instances of discrimination, and child labour.

The number of Arunthathiyar women's self-help groups increased from 39 to 51, with 966 members. The groups mobilise credit for family needs and microenterprise, and lobby for village infrastructure. A forum for Arunthathiyars engaged in sanitation work was supported, and a second forum with 102 members was started. The forums address employment malpractices and discrimination.

Women's development

Village Service Trust funded programmes by two partners, Arogya Agam and SRED, that seek advancement of women through self-help groups. In addition to providing credit for family needs and microenterprise, the groups address basic needs, village infrastructure, domestic violence, child marriage and gender rights. The groups increasingly use digital accounting through mobile phones, which has increased efficiency and transparency, and reduced malpractice. Credit of £488,000 was obtained from government institutions, banks and federations of self-help groups. Some 45% of the credit was used for microenterprise. Skills training was arranged for 122 women micro-entrepreneurs.

Our partner Arogya Agam supported TMPI, an association of federations of women's self-helps in Theni district. TMPI is at the centre of a major programme addressing domestic violence. The domestic violence programme works through voluntary Violence Against Women committees and other institutions. More than 2,600 instances of domestic violence were addressed. TMPI is part of a network of 30 NGOs making recommendations on domestic violence to the state of Tamil Nadu's Women's Commission.

Tribal communities

The trust funded programmes with tribal people run by three partners, ARUDECS, NWTWS and Arogya Agam.

ARUDECS works with village development committees and women's self-help groups. These community organisations lobby the authorities for housing, and collect the documents needed. Some 40 new houses are under construction and land deeds have been obtained for a further 50 homes.

Our partner also works to obtain farmland rights for tribal people and promotes their right to collect minor forest products for sale. Collective marketing training was provided to 100 people. ARUDECS was selected as "Best performing project" in Tamil Nadu by NABARD, a government rural development agency, and the state government in recognition of its NABARD-funded project to enable 100 tribal people to own and cultivate 83 acres of forest land.

During the year ARUDECS began work in a new area, in Andipatti block. It formed five village development committees, and five self help groups. Work began on the process to obtain land rights for 30 tribal people, and organising forest product collectors.

NWTWS focuses on education for tribal communities and enabling tribal people to obtain government identity documents and other papers that allow them to access welfare benefits. It formed children's clubs with tuition centres in six villages where more than half the children are not attending school regularly. However, despite an initial success and the best efforts of field workers, the clubs closed after the teachers left for various reasons.

A total of 148 documents were obtained. These included identity cards, cards for subsidised food, tribal certificates, bank accounts, birth and death certificates, old age pensions, and disability cards. The trust provided a small grant that NWTWS used to buy tarpaulins for families living in huts with leaky roofing.

VST supported funding by Beatrice Gilmore Charitable Trust for work by Arogya Agam with tribal people in Dindigul district. The programme covers forming women's self-help groups for savings and loans and advocacy; recruiting volunteers to support children to stay in school and obtain government documents needed to access services and benefits; monitoring expectant mothers for ante-natal care and hospital deliveries; liaising with government departments for improvements to schools, housing and village infrastructure and accessing documentation for benefits for individuals.

Partner support

VST provided a contribution towards staff, administrative, and maintenance costs at Arogya Agam, NWTWS and SRED.

Partner collaboration

The partners work together, principally by attending partner meetings several times a year. These meetings allow for a discussion of ideas, experiences and challenges. During the year the meetings covered topics including the Forest Rights Act, the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, digital accounting by women's self-help groups, and child rights. The meetings are arranged by VST's partner coordinator.

Monitoring achievement

The trustees monitor the performance of the programmes funded by the trust by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by making visits to the project areas. The trust's locally based "partners' coordinator" provides support to partners and feedback to the trust.

Financial review

Details of income and spending

The trust's work is funded by donations from individuals and charitable trusts, by legacies and by dividends and interest from investments and bank deposits.

The trust received a legacy of £500 (2024: £51,570).

Donations from individuals totalled £40,522 (2024: £39,193). Grants from trusts of £1,000 or more amounted to £22,210 (2024: £19,976). These figures are in line with expectations. Investment income was £21,714 (2024: £8,455). The increase reflects higher interest on bank deposits due to fixed term deposits maturing during the year. Overall, income was less than the previous year when several significant legacies were received. Underlying regular income was similar to that usually expected.

Grants to partners in India amounted to £71,392 (2024: £45,345). Grants in the previous year were lower as one partner funded its programmes from alternative sources for that year. Spending on fundraising and publicity was £1,165 (2024: £778). Support costs were £4,177 (2024: £2,835) while administrative expenses amounted to £413 (2024: £822).

Reserves

The reserves increased during the year from £444,780 to £448,119 due to higher interest income and despite increased expenditure and a small dip in the value of investments at the balance sheet date.

Investment policy and performance

The policy of the trust is to invest its reserves in common investment funds designed for charities. Most of the investments are held in the ethical, global and property funds of the Charities Official Investment Fund, aiming to achieve a balance between the level of dividends and capital growth.

The trust has decided to invest legacy income in order that the benefit of legacies can be spread over many years into the future. Cash is placed on deposit with banks and a building society.

The trust holds sufficient cash in its bank account for immediate needs.

The value of investments decreased by £4,460 (2024: an increase of £7,555).

Risk review and going concern

The trustees hold a regular review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and policies have been established to mitigate those risks. The trust has prepared cash flow plans for the next 12 months and believes that funding expected from donors and dividends together with the trust’s reserves are sufficient to meet the trust’s objectives up to December 2025 and beyond. The trust has internal procedures for adequate financial controls, and has in place monitoring and evaluation procedures for the programmes it finances in India.

The trustees have identified the following risks and measures to mitigate those risks:

Risk	Mitigation
Strategy for achieving objectives loses focus	Regular review of strategy
Age profile of trustees; pressure on trustees time; adequate skills coverage	New trustees with less time pressure have been recruited
Loss of key personnel	Ensure all tasks and historical knowledge are documented
Reporting by partners fails to disclose significant matters	Ensure regular communication and feedback on reporting. Partners’ coordinator in place
Programmes do not fully meet objectives	Ensure objectives are clear and measured, and reviewed by the partners’ coordinator
Challenging context for Indian NGOs with foreign funding	Support partners in compliance with regulations and maintaining good relationships with officials
Potential threat to good reputation	Maintain close relationship with partners to ensure thorough safeguarding and financial controls

The trust has in place a formal procedure governing partners’ applications for grants, reporting requirements and for the disbursement of grants. All partners are complying with these procedures.

RESERVES POLICY

In general the trust seeks to maintain the reserves at a constant level, adjusting its spending to achieve this. By conserving its reserves, the trust expects to achieve a stable income from investments, helping to maintain a steady level of grants to partner organisations in India for the long term.

Plans for the future

Trustees expect income from donors to remain stable, supported by the high proportion of income from committed long term regular donors. In view of this, they are confident that the trust can be regarded as a going concern, that there is no material uncertainty, and have confidence in its cash flow projection to November 2026.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a registered charity, number 277111, and is constituted under a Deed of Trust dated 26 March 1979.

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees in accordance with the Deed of Trust and serve for an unlimited period. The minimum number of trustees is five.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the trust, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. The day to day administration of grants, liaison with donors and fundraising and publicity is undertaken by the Secretary, who is also a trustee.

Recruitment of new trustees

New trustees are recruited by advertising and recommendation by existing trustees. Important considerations for the appointment of trustees include knowledge and experience of India, knowledge and experience of international development, knowledge and experience of fundraising and charity management. New trustees are referred to the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees and provided with recent trust minutes.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Secretary as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee is paid. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees serving during the year and since the year end:

Sophie Walker, Chair

Tony Huckle, Secretary

Bryan Osbon

Rosie Oakley

Cheryl Joseph (appointed September 2024)

Ruth Njiri (appointed June 2024)

Ned Tinne (appointed June 2024)

Murali Shanmugavelan (resigned July 2024)

David Mosse (resigned July 2024)

UK office and management

The programme management and general administration is undertaken by the Secretary from an office in Cambridgeshire.

Office address: 68 High Street, Hail Weston, St Neots, PE19 5JW

Bankers: Natwest

Charity Number 277111 (Registered 7 September 1979)

Independent Examiner

A resolution to reappoint Christopher Wilde A.C.A. as the Independent Examiner for the year under review was passed at the trustees meeting on 6th December 2025.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2025 set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income was less than £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Standards for Reporting Accountants laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act

to prepare accounts which accord with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended

Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Wilde A.C.A

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 6th December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Sophie Walker, Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**(incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025)**

		2025			
	Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total	2024
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies and similar		£13,284	£27,738	£41,022	£90,763
Grants receivable	2	£20,210	£2,000	£22,210	£19,976
Investment income	3	-	£21,714	£21,714	£8,455
Total incoming resources		£33,494	£51,452	£84,946	£119,194
Less: Costs of generating funds	4	-	£1,165	£1,165	£778
Net incoming resources available for charity application		£33,494	£50,287	£83,781	£118,416
Resources Expended					
Charitable expenditure	5				
Partner support		£1,878	£4,044	£5,922	£349
Women's programme		£864	£16,908	£17,772	£7,007
HIV prevention		-	-	-	£558
Tribal projects		£10,553	£21,805	£32,358	£33,164
Community based organisations		£6,072	£9,268	£15,340	£4,267
total programme expenditure		£19,367	£52,025	£71,392	£45,345
Other charitable expenditure					
Support costs	6	-	£4,177	£4,177	£2,835
Administration	7	-	£413	£413	£822
Total charitable expenditure		£19,367	£56,615	£75,982	£49,002
Total resources expended		£19,367	£57,780	£77,147	£49,780
Net incoming/outgoing resources		£14,127	-£6,328	£7,799	£69,414
net outgoing/incoming		£14,127	-£6,328	£7,799	£69,414
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/losses on investments unrealised		-	-£4,460	-£4,460	£7,555
Net movement of funds		£14,127	-£10,788	£3,399	£76,969
Total funds brought forward		-	£444,780	£444,780	£367,811
Total funds carried forward		£14,127	£433,992	£448,119	£444,780

Movements in funds are shown in Note 15. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Village Service Trust
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025	2024
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	-	£50
Investments	10	<u>£191,032</u>	<u>£165,492</u>
		£191,032	£165,542
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	£9,322	£9,916
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>£254,049</u>	<u>£282,143</u>
		£263,371	£292,059
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>£6,284</u>	<u>-£12,821</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		£257,087	£279,238
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>£448,119</u>	<u>£444,780</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Restricted funds	15	-	-
Unrestricted funds		<u>£448,119</u>	<u>£444,780</u>
		<u>£448,119</u>	<u>£444,780</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 6th December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Anthony Huckle, Secretary

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention except for investments which are included at revalued amounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource.

Grants and donations receivable

Grants receivable, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are brought into account on receipt unless its receipt is certain in which case it is brought into account when the grant is notified.

Intangible income

Intangible income, which comprises donated services, is included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party. The trustees have decided not to quantify donated services as these cannot be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered as the charity is not registered for VAT.

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Governance and support costs

Governance costs are those costs incurred in the management of the charity's assets, organisation and compliance functions. The trustees have decided to meet all governance costs from unrestricted funds and so no allocation or charge is made to restricted funds for any governance related costs. Support costs comprise expenses in pursuance of the trust's charitable activities. They are applied to unrestricted spending and not apportioned to funds as they are immaterial.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises grants to partner organisations that undertake programmes in pursuance of the charitable aims of the trust.

Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds are expenses incurred in activities designed to raise funds and publicise the work of the trust.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are comprised of office equipment after depreciation. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows: Office equipment - 20% reducing balance basis

Investments

Investments are stated at closing bid value at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses on revaluation are taken on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust manages investment risk by only investing in common investment funds designed for charities. Investment income is allocated to unrestricted funds.

Trustees expenses and remuneration

Trustees are not paid but may be compensated for travel costs for attending trustee meetings and other travel in connection with the work of the trust.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner does not receive any remuneration.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:-

- (a) Unrestricted general funds – these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (b) Restricted funds – these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
- (c) Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds.

2. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grant were received from	Purpose	2025	2024
Tamwed	Tribal programme	-	£7,878
Paget Trust	Unrestricted	£1,000	-
St Clare and St Francis Trust	Unrestricted	£1,000	£1,000
Bryan Guinness Trust	Tribal programme	£1,000	-
Beatrice Gilmore Ch. Trust	Tribal programme	<u>£19,210</u>	<u>£11,098</u>
Total grants		<u>£22,210</u>	<u>£19,976</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME (UNRESTRICTED)

	2025	2024
Income from UK quoted investments	£6,479	£5,780
Interest receivable	<u>£15,235</u>	<u>£2,675</u>
	<u>£21,714</u>	<u>£8,455</u>

**4. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS
(UNRESTRICTED)**

	2025	2024
Fundraising and publicity	£860	£734
Office expenses	<u>£305</u>	<u>£44</u>
	<u>£1,165</u>	<u>£778</u>

5. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	2025			2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
Grants to partners				
Arogya Agam	£13,897	£31,207	£45,104	£21,333
Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society	£5,470	£4,654	£10,124	£17,177
Society for Rural and environmental Development	-	£5,152	£5,152	£1,946
All Rural Development and Social Construction Society	-	£11,012	£11,012	<u>£4,889</u>
	<u>£19,367</u>	<u>£52,025</u>	<u>£71,392</u>	<u>£45,345</u>

Programmes supported

	2025			2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
Project partners				
Arogya Agam	£1,878	£3,374	£5,252	£349
NWTWS	-	£536	£536	-
SRED	-	£134	£134	-
Programmes				
Womens programme	£864	£16,908	£17,772	£7,007
Tribal projects	£10,553	£21,805	£32,358	£33,164
Community based organisations	£6,072	£9,268	£15,340	£4,267
HIV prevention	-	-	-	<u>£558</u>
	<u>£19,367</u>	<u>£52,025</u>	<u>£71,392</u>	<u>£45,345</u>

**6. SUPPORT COSTS
(UNRESTRICTED)**

	2025	2024
Office costs	£419	£60
Travel costs	-	£537
Consultant	£2,875	£1,211
Volunteer	<u>£883</u>	<u>£1,027</u>
	<u>£4,177</u>	<u>£2,835</u>

7. GOVERNANCE (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Office costs	39	£5
Trustees expenses (travel)	-	-
Subscriptions	272	£273
Bank deposits management fee	102	<u>£544</u>
	413	<u>£822</u>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Office equipment

Page | 15

COST

At 1 April 2024	£5,700
Additions	-
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	£5,700

DEPRECIATION

At 1 April 2024	£5,650
Charge for the year	£50
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	£5,700

NET BOOK VALUE

At 1 April 2024	<u>£50</u>
At 31 March 2025	-

10. INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
UK quoted investments		
Market value at 1 April 2024 (2023)	£165,492	£127,937
Additions	£30,000	£30,000
Disposals	-	-
Increase (decrease) in market value in year	-£4,460	£7,555
Market value at 31 March 2025 (2024)	£191,032	£165,492

Investments held at 31 March 2025

COIF Ethical Investment Fund	£53,939	£56,329
COIF Property Fund	£54,896	£54,980
COIF Global Equity Fund	£61,509	£34,309
Black Rock Charities UK Equity Fund	£13,340	£12,827
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities	<u>£7,348</u>	<u>£7,047</u>
	<u>£191,032</u>	<u>£165,492</u>
Historical cost	158,832	£128,832

11. DEBTORS	2025	2024
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	5635	£6,250
Accruals	£174	£152
Partner organisation (see note 17)	£3,514	<u>£3,514</u>
Total	<u>£9,323</u>	<u>£9,916</u>

12. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
Funds held as agent (see note 13)	£6,284	£4,943

13. FUNDS MANAGED ON BEHALF OF INDIAN PARTNERS

In order to expedite the smooth transfer of third party funds to the trust's partners the trust accepted funds from Global Giving (an international donor platform). The trust held these funds as an agent before transfer to the partners.

Global Giving	2025
Funds held on 31 March 2024	£4,943
Funds received	£12,178
Funds disbursed	<u>-£10,837</u>
Funds held on 31 March 2025	<u>£6,284</u>

14. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION

Trustees received no remunerations (2024 nil)

15. FUNDS STATEMENT

	At 1 Apr 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	At 31 Mar 2025
Restricted funds	-	£33,494	£19,367	-	£14,127
Unrestricted funds	£444,780	£51,452	£62,240	-	£433,992
Total funds	£444,780	£84,946	£81,607	-	£448,119

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Our long-standing associate, Mr John Dalton, is the founder of Arogya Agam, our chief partner. He no longer holds any official position with Arogya Agam but acts as a fundraiser and informal consultant. He is also engaged as Projects Adviser to VST, providing information and recommendations about our programmes and partners, and is invited to attend trustee meetings. All these services are given pro bono. During the year Arogya Agam received £59,231 in grants (2024: £21,332).

17. VASANDHAM

An amount in Debtors of £3,514 is an unspent portion of a grant provided to Vasandham for its women's programme in a previous year. This organisation has been unable to utilise this sum pending its appeal for restoration of permission to receive funding from abroad.

VILLAGE SERVICE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 277111

Accounts

Village Service Trust

Report and financial statements

Year ended 31st March 2024

Charity No. 277111

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity as expressed in its Deed of Trust is to apply the trust fund for the relief of poverty and sickness amongst the inhabitants of the villages of the deprived areas of the world. The trustees have decided to concentrate their efforts on projects in Tamil Nadu, south India, where their personal experience has shown that the work undertaken at these projects adequately and appropriately fulfils the objects of the charity.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The trust furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through its grant-making policy which aims to:

- Socially and economically empower disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Form and strengthen community based organisations of disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Reduce the spread of communicable diseases – HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis
- Improve the human rights of and livelihood standards of certain deprived people, particularly the Arunthathiyar community, and indigenous people.
- Secure the rights of, improve livelihoods of, and educational support to, children from marginalised communities and children affected by HIV and Aids.

During the year Village Service Trust funded the health and development work of a number of partner organisations in south India, principally in Theni District, a deprived area in Tamil Nadu. Most of these organisations work together in a network co-ordinated by Arogya Agam, VST's chief partner. The main programme activities concern women's rights, micro-enterprise, the rights of Dalits and indigenous people, children's rights, tuberculosis control, prevention of HIV and Aids and care of people affected by HIV.

The Trust carried out this programme through partnerships with four Indian non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

Arogya Agam, (Place of Health), Andipatty, Theni district

Society for Rural and Environment Development (SRED), Dharumathupatti, Theni district

All Rural Development and Social Construction Society (ARUDECS), Bodinayakkanur, Theni district

Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society, (NWTWS), Ambalamoola, Nilgiris district.

Grant-making policy

The grant-making policy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects the charity's objectives and thereby advances public benefit.

The beneficiaries of the trust's grant making programme are rural communities in the south Indian districts of Theni, Dindigul, Nilgiris and Wynaad, in particular women, children, Dalits and tribal people, and those affected by HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis.

How grants are chosen and monitored

Grants are made for programmes that either directly improve livelihoods and health, or address the causes of poor livelihoods and poor health. The programmes are monitored by reviewing reports from partner organisations and with the assistance of a "Partners Coordinator".

A review of the achievements and performance

Women's development

VST helps fund NGOs in Theni district that support women's self-help groups (WSHGs) and federations of WSHGs. Seven federations with 25,000 members in the area come together under the banner of TMPI (Tamil Nadu women's movement). NGO staff provide support and training to the federations.

TMPI campaigns on issues including under-age marriage, alcohol abuse, and domestic violence, and supports and monitors credit and micro-enterprise activities of WSHGs and federations.

TMPI members participated in a domestic violence campaign run by Arogya Agam, the trust's chief partner organisation. The campaign worked through 110 village-based Violence Against Women committees which identified women in need. Some 1,827 survivors of domestic violence were registered. Cases were addressed through counselling, mediation, or police or court action. The project worked closely with government social workers. Some 609 cases were resolved, meaning violence had ceased for 18 months.

Action by TMPI prevented 36 illegal under-age marriages.

VST funded work with women's self-help groups (WSHGs) by two partner NGOs in Theni district, Arogya Agam, and SRED. The groups are members of federations, and the federations are affiliated to TMPI. As well as functioning as credit unions and promoting micro-enterprise the SHGs campaign on gender issues. Some 2,000 women celebrated International Women's Day.

The TSPI federation increased its membership by 286 while KKPI added 99 new members. A total of 1,432 women obtained affordable loans from WSHGs worth Rs.73 million (£695,000), while 769 women benefitted from soft loans from an Indian government agency of Rs. 52m (£495,000). Various government schemes and benefits were accessed by the WSHG members, including pensions, medical insurance and housing. The WSHGs and their federations addressed domestic violence, under-age marriage, and families at risk of sex selective abortion.

TSPI adopted digital accounting using mobile phones. This prevents malpractice which can destabilise groups.

SRED worked with 42 WSHGs, mobilising bank and NGO credit of £143,000 for microenterprises for 213 group members. All the microenterprises were small scale farming or small shops.

Malarchi, the federation associated with SRED, worked with WSHGs and anti-violence volunteers to address 136 cases of domestic violence, 96 families vulnerable to female foeticide and 11 cases of under-age marriage. WSHGs lobbied their local panchayats to provide village infrastructure such as drinking water, drainage, streetlights and paved streets.

Community based organisations (CBOs)

VST funds work by its partner Arogya Agam to provide support and training to community organisations for the marginalised Arunthathiyar community in Theni district. The work has been extended to three new areas of Theni district where 15 self-help groups for Arunthathiyar women have been formed. Credit for microenterprise and family needs was obtained from TSPI and NABARD. Some 80 children have joined Arunthathiyar children's groups.

Sanitation workers are generally drawn from the Arunthathiyar community. A forum for such workers has been formed and has assisted workers to obtain their welfare rights.

Child rights

The trust supports children's groups in 58 villages whose members are drawn from the disadvantaged Arunthathiyar community. There are now 2,441 group members. The project focuses on preventing drop-outs from school and encouraging children to stay in school to age 18 in order to gain qualifications to enter higher education. Of 137 children, 119 passed their final school examinations and 112 enrolled in college.

Tribal projects

Village Service Trust supported two projects with tribal communities. Both focus on children's education, securing rights under the Forest Rights Act and obtaining welfare benefits and village infrastructure.

In Theni District VST contributes to a project run by its partner, ARUDECS that works with women's self-help groups, children's groups and village volunteers. The project assisted 278 tribal people to obtain documents entitling them to various benefits and rights. It also enabled people to obtain land for housing and agriculture.

Our partner Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society is based in north-west Tamil Nadu. Its field workers promote school attendance and family welfare entitlements in 50 tribal villages. Some 282 school dropouts were persuaded to resume education, and 199 welfare documents were obtained.

HIV prevention

VST funds a programme by Arogya Agam to control HIV transmission by promoting safe sex among men in non-heterosexual relationships. This group is often missed by HIV prevention programmes. The project works with 'Safe Sex Role Models' in Theni District. The role models interact with their peers to encourage them to avoid risky behaviour by reducing the number of partners and using condoms. The programme counselled more than 800 men, and a similar number of boys in school hostels. A total of 20 new condom outlets were created.

Partner support

VST provided a contribution towards staff, administrative, and maintenance costs at Arogya Agam.

Monitoring achievement

The trustees monitor the performance of the programmes funded by the trust by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by making visits to the project areas. The trust appointed a "partners' coordinator" to provide support to partners and feedback to the trust.

Financial review

Details of income and spending

The trust's work is funded by donations from individuals and charitable trusts, by legacies and by dividends and interest from investments and bank deposits.

The trust received £51,570 in legacies, a second year of higher than usual legacy income.

Donations from individuals totalled £39,193 compared with an exceptional £89,747 the previous year, which had included one large donation. Grants from trusts of £1,000 or more amounted to £19,976, another unusual figure, due to grants from two charities for tribal projects. Investment income was £8,455 (£6,660 in the previous year). Overall, income was higher than normal because of the legacies and grants. Underlying regular income was similar to that usually received.

Expenditure in India amounted to £45,345 against £78,326 the previous year. Spending on tribal programmes remained higher than is typically the case as a result of the grants received. Spending on fundraising and publicity was £778, compared to £685 the year before. Support costs were £2,835 (£429) while administrative expenses amounted to £822 (£362).

Reserves

The reserves increased during the year from £367,811 to £444,780 because income exceeded expectations while expenditure remained as planned.

Investment policy and performance

The policy of the trust is to invest its reserves in common investment funds designed for charities.

Most of the investments are held in the ethical, global and property funds of the Charities Official Investment Fund, aiming to achieve a balance between the level of dividends and capital growth.

The trust has decided to invest legacy income in order that the benefit of legacies can be spread over many years into the future. Cash is placed on deposit with banks and a building society.

The trust holds sufficient cash in its bank account for immediate needs.

The value of investments increased by £7,555 against a decline of £14,211 the previous year.

Risk review and going concern

The trustees hold a regular review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and policies have been established to mitigate those risks. The trust has prepared cash flow plans for the next 12 months and believes that funding expected from donors and dividends together with the trust's reserves are sufficient to meet the trust's objectives up to December 2025 and beyond. The trust has internal procedures for adequate financial controls, and has in place monitoring and evaluation procedures for the programmes it finances in India.

The trustees have identified the following risks and measures to mitigate those risks:

Risk	Mitigation
Strategy for achieving objectives loses focus	Regular review of strategy
Age profile of trustees; pressure on trustees time; adequate skills coverage	New trustees with less time pressure have been recruited
Loss of key personnel	Ensure all tasks and historical knowledge are documented
Reporting by partners fails to disclose significant matters	Ensure regular communication and feedback on reporting. Partners' coordinator appointed
Programmes do not fully meet objectives	Ensure objectives are clear and measured, and reviewed by the partners' coordinator
Challenging context for Indian NGOs with foreign funding	Support partners in compliance with regulations and maintaining good relationships with officials
Potential threat to good reputation	Maintain close relationship with partners to ensure thorough safeguarding and financial controls

The trust has in place a formal procedure governing partners' applications for grants, reporting requirements and for the disbursement of grants. All partners are complying with these procedures. There is a heightened risk relating to foreign funding of Indian NGOs. One former partner, Vasandham Society has been denied permission to receive foreign funding. It has submitted an appeal and awaits a hearing. The trust is unable to fund Vasandham unless foreign funding approval is restored. A sum of £3,514 is included in debtors, being unspent balance of grants made to Vasandham. The trust recognises that the situation at Vasandham is serious, but that resolution of the problem is possible and is being actively pursued. The trust's partner coordinator has provided support to the Vasandham Society board and arranged training sessions on foreign funding regulations for other partners.

RESERVES POLICY

In general the trust seeks to maintain the reserves at a constant level, adjusting its spending to achieve this. By conserving its reserves, the trust expects to achieve a stable income from investments, helping to maintain a steady level of grants to partner organisations in India for the long term. The legacy income in the year under review will enable the trust to increase its future grants to partners in line with increased investment income anticipated.

Plans for the future

The year in review saw higher than usual income from legacies and grants, which is unlikely to be repeated in the next 12 months. Trustees expect income from donors to return to usual levels, supported by the high proportion of income from committed long term regular donors. In view of these factors, they are confident that the trust can be regarded as a going concern, that there is no material uncertainty, and have confidence in its cash flow projection to December 2025 showing a rise in the trust's resources.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a registered charity, number 277111, and is constituted under a Deed of Trust dated 26 March 1979.

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees in accordance with the Deed of Trust and serve for an unlimited period. The minimum number of trustees is five.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the trust, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. The day to day administration of grants, liaison with donors and fundraising and publicity is undertaken by the Secretary, who is also a trustee.

Recruitment of new trustees

New trustees are recruited by advertising and recommendation by existing trustees. Important considerations for the appointment of trustees include knowledge and experience of India, knowledge and experience of international development, knowledge and experience of fundraising and charity management. New trustees are referred to the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees and provided with recent trust minutes.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Secretary as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee is paid. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees serving during the year and since the year end:

Sophie Walker, Chair

Tony Huckle, Secretary

Bryan Osbon

Rosie Oakley

Cheryl Joseph (appointed June 2024)

Ruth Njiri (appointed June 2024)

Ned Tinne (appointed June 2024)

Richard Garforth (resigned February 2024)

Murali Shanmugavelan (resigned July 2024)

Gerti Wilford (resigned September 2023)

Carol Chalmers (resigned May 2023)

David Mosse (resigned July 2024)

Angela Russ (resigned September 2023)

Village Service Trust
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

UK office and management

The programme management and general administration is undertaken by the Secretary from an office in Cambridgeshire.

Office address: 68 High Street, Hail Weston, St Neots, PE19 5JW

Bankers: Natwest

Charity Number 277111 (Registered 7 September 1979)

Independent Examiner

A resolution to reappoint Christopher Wilde A.C.A. as the Independent Examiner for the year under review was passed at the trustees meeting on 7th December 2024.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2024 set out on pages 11 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income was less than £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to: Page | 9

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Standards for Reporting Accountants laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act
to prepare accounts which accord with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Wilde A.C.A

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 2nd September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Sophie Walker, Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Notes	2024		Total	2023
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources:					
Donations, legacies and similar		7,261	83,502	90,763	218,072
Grants receivable	2	18,976	1,000	19,976	3,000
Investment income	3	-	8,455	8,455	6,660
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total incoming resources		26,237	92,957	119,194	227,732
Less: Costs of generating funds:	4		778	778	685
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net incoming resources available for charity application		26,237	92,179	118,416	227,047
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Expended					
Charitable expenditure:	5				
Project partners		-	349	349	3,424
Women's programme		2,604	4,403	7,007	11,670
HIV prevention		-	558	558	284
Tribal projects		23,393	9,771	33,164	52,765
Child rights		-	2,886	2,886	6,080
Health programme		-	-	-	1,036
Community based organisations		240	1,141	1,381	3,067
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total programmes expenditure		26,237	19,108	45,345	78,326
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Other charitable expenditure					
Support costs	6	-	2,835	2,835	429
Governance	7	-	822	822	362
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable expenditure		26,237	22,765	49,002	79,117
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Total resources expended		26,237	23,543	49,780	79,802
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources		-	69,414	69,414	147,930
Net income/(expenditure) for the year					
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/(Losses) on investments and currency unrealised:		-	7,555	7,555	(14,211)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement of funds		-	76,969	76,969	133,719
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds brought forward		-	367,811	367,811	234,092
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds carried forward		-	444,780	444,780	367,811
		=====	=====	=====	=====

Movements in funds are shown in Note 15. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Village Service Trust
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	<u>Note</u>	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	50	62
Investments	10	165,492	127,937
		-----	-----
		165,542	127,999
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	9,916	21,964
Cash at bank and in hand		282,143	223,768
		-----	-----
		292,059	245,732
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
	12	(12,821)	(5,920)
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		279,238	239,812
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		444,780	367,811
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
	15		
Restricted Funds		-	-
Unrestricted Funds		444,780	367,811
		-----	-----
		444,780	367,811
		=====	=====

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 7th December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Anthony Huckle, Secretary

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention except for investments which are included at revalued amounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource.

Grants and donations receivable

Grants receivable, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are brought into account on receipt unless its receipt is certain in which case it is brought into account when the grant is notified.

Intangible income

Intangible income, which comprises donated services, is included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party. The trustees have decided not to quantify donated services as these cannot be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered as the charity is not registered for VAT.

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Governance and support costs

Governance costs are those costs incurred in the management of the charity's assets, organisation and compliance functions. The trustees have decided to meet all governance costs from unrestricted funds and so no allocation or charge is made to restricted funds for any governance related costs. Support costs comprise expenses in pursuance of the trust's charitable activities. They are applied to unrestricted spending and not apportioned to funds as they are immaterial.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises grants to partner organisations that undertake programmes in pursuance of the charitable aims of the trust.

Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds are expenses incurred in activities designed to raise funds and publicise the work of the trust.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are comprised of office equipment after depreciation. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows: Office equipment - 20% reducing balance basis

Investments

Investments are stated at closing bid value at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses on revaluation are taken on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust manages investment risk by only investing in common investment funds designed for charities. Investment income is allocated to unrestricted funds.

Trustees expenses and remuneration

Trustees are not paid but may be compensated for travel costs for attending trustee meetings and other travel in connection with the work of the trust.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner does not receive any remuneration.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:-

- (a) Unrestricted general funds – these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (b) Unrestricted designated fund – these funds are without specified purpose but are designated to be spent over a ten year period.
- (c) Restricted funds – these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
- (d) Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds.

2. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants were received from	Purpose	2024 £	2023 £
Paget Trust	Unrestricted	-	1,000
St Clare & St Francis Trust	Unrestricted	1,000	1,000
Bryan Guinness Trust	Restricted: Tribal Programme	-	1,000
Beatrice Gilmore Ch. Trust	Restricted: Tribal Programme	11,098	-
Tamwed	Restricted: Tribal Programme	7,878	-
		-----	-----
Total grants		19,976	3,000
		=====	=====

3. INVESTMENT INCOME (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
Income from UK quoted investments	5,780	5,362
Interest receivable	2,675	1,298
	-----	-----
	8,455	6,660
	=====	=====

4. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
Fundraising and publicity	734	530
Office expenses	44	155
	-----	-----
	778	685
	=====	=====

5. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Grants to partners	2024			2023
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £	£
Arogya Agam	13,942	7,391	21,333	19,120
Vasandham	-	-	-	5,442
Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society	12,295	4,882	17,177	46,872
Society for Rural and Environmental Development	-	1,946	1,946	2,088
All Rural Development and Social Construction Society	-	4,889	4,889	4,804
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	26,237	19,108	45,345	78,326
	=====	=====	=====	=====

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Programmes supported:

	2024		Total	2023
	Restricted	Unrestricted		£
	£	£	£	£
Project partners				
Arogya Agam	-	349	349	1,247
Vasandham	-	-	-	2,177
Programmes				
Women's programme	2,604	4,403	7,007	11,670
Tribal projects	23,393	9,771	33,164	52,765
Child rights	-	2,886	2,886	6,080
Health programme	-	-	-	1,036
Community based organisations	240	1,141	1,381	3,067
HIV prevention	-	558	558	284
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	26,237	19,108	45,345	78,326
	=====	=====	=====	=====

6. SUPPORT COSTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Office costs	60	218
Travel costs	537	211
Consultant	1,211	-
Volunteer	1,027	-
	-----	-----
	2,835	429
	=====	=====

7. GOVERNANCE (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Office costs	5	20
Trustees expenses (Travel)	-	75
Subscriptions	273	267
Bank deposit management fee	544	-
	-----	-----
	822	362
	=====	=====

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Office Equipment</u> £
COST	
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	5,700
Additions	-

At 31 March 2024	5,700
 DEPRECIATION	
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	5,638
Charge for the year	12

At 31 March 2024	5,650
	=====
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	50

<i>At 31 March 2023</i>	62
	=====

9. TAXATION

The trust is a registered charity and it is considered that its activities are such that no taxation liability will arise.

10. INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
UK quoted investments		
Market value at 1 April 2023 (2022)	127,937	141,958
Additions	30,000	-
Disposals	-	-
Increase/ (decrease) in market value in year	7,555	(14,021)
Market value at 31 March 2024 (2023)	165,492	127,937
 Investments held at 31 March 2024:		
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	56,329	51,222
COIF Property Fund	54,980	57,073
COIF Global Equity Fund	34,309	-
Black Rock Charities UK Equity Fund	12,827	12,463
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities	7,047	7,179
	-----	-----
	165,492	127,937
	=====	=====
Historical cost	128,832	98,832

11. DEBTORS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	6,250	8,063
Accruals	152	153
Partner organisation (see note 17)	3,514	13,748
	-----	-----
Total	9,916	21,964
	=====	=====

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Funds held as agent (see note 13)	4,943	5,920
Amounts due to partners for programmes	7,878	-
	=====	=====
	12,821	5,920

Amounts due to partners consists of advance funding pledged to NWTWS.

13. FUNDS MANAGED ON BEHALF OF INDIAN PARTNERS

In order to expedite the smooth transfer of third party funds to the trust's partners the trust accepted funds from Global Giving (an international donor platform). The trust held these funds as an agent before transfer to the partners.

Global Giving	£
Funds held on 31 March 2023	5,920
Funds received	19,709
Funds disbursed	(20,686)
Funds held on 31 March 2024	4,943

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Trustees received no remuneration (2023 - nil.)

15. FUNDS STATEMENT

	<u>At 1 Apr 23</u>	<u>Incoming</u> <u>Resources</u>	<u>Outgoing</u> <u>Resources</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 24</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:	-	26,237	26,237	-	-
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	342,811	100,511	(1,458)	-	444,780
JM Designated fund	25,000	-	25,000	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	367,811	126,748	49,779	-	444,780
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The JM Designated fund resulted from a legacy from Mr John Morrish. As it was a significant amount the trustees decided to treat the legacy as a designated fund and apply the money to the Trust's general funds in instalments over a period of 10 years. This fund has now been depleted and is closed. In the Trustees' opinion, there are sufficient resources held to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with the restrictions imposed by donors.

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Our long-standing associate, Mr John Dalton, is the founder of Arogya Agam, our chief partner. He no longer holds any official position with Arogya Agam but acts as a fundraiser and informal consultant. He is also engaged as Projects Adviser to VST, providing information and recommendations about our programmes and partners, and is invited to attend trustee meetings. All these services are given pro bono. During the year Arogya Agam received £21,332 in grants (2023: £19,120).

17. Vasandham

An amount in Debtors of £3,514 is unspent portion of a grant provided to Vasandham in a previous year. This organisation is unable to utilise this sum pending its appeal for restoration of permission to receive funding from abroad.

VILLAGE SERVICE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 277111

Accounts

Village Service Trust

Report and financial statements

Year ended 31st March 2023

Charity No. 277111

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity as expressed in its Deed of Trust is to apply the trust fund for the relief of poverty and sickness amongst the inhabitants of the villages of the deprived areas of the world. The trustees have decided to concentrate their efforts on projects in Tamil Nadu, south India, where their personal experience has shown that the work undertaken at these projects adequately and appropriately fulfils the objects of the charity.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The trust furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through its grant-making policy which aims to:

- Socially and economically empower disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Form and strengthen community based organisations of disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Reduce the spread of communicable diseases – HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis
- Improve the human rights of and livelihood standards of certain deprived people, particularly the Arunthathiyar community, and indigenous people.
- Secure the rights of, improve livelihoods of, and educational support to, children from marginalised communities and children affected by HIV and Aids.

During the year Village Service Trust funded the health and development work of a number of partner organisations in south India, principally in Theni District, a deprived area in Tamil Nadu. Most of these organisations work together in a network co-ordinated by Arogya Agam, VST's chief partner. The main programme activities concern women's rights, micro-enterprise, the rights of Dalits and indigenous people, children's rights, tuberculosis control, prevention of HIV and Aids and care of people affected by HIV.

The Trust carried out this programme through partnerships with five Indian non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

Arogya Agam, (Place of Health), Andipatty, Theni district

Vasandham, (Springtime), Varasanadu, Theni district

Society for Rural and Environment Development (SRED), Dharumathupatti, Theni district

All Rural Development and Social Construction Society (Arudecs), Bodinayakkanur, Theni district

Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society, (NWTWS), Ambalamoola, Nilgiris district.

Grant-making policy

The grant-making policy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects the charity's objectives and thereby advances public benefit.

The beneficiaries of the trust's grant making programme are rural communities in the south Indian districts of Theni, Dindigul, Nilgiris and Wynaad, in particular women, children, Dalits and tribal people, and those affected by HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis.

How grants are chosen and monitored

Grants are made for programmes that either directly improve livelihoods and health, or address the causes of poor livelihoods and poor health. The programmes are monitored by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by visits made by trustees to the partners.

A review of the achievements and performance

Women's development

VST helps fund a network of NGOs in Theni district that support women's self-help groups (WSHGs) and federations of WSHGs. Seven federations with 25,000 members in the area come together under the banner of TMPI (Tamil Nadu women's movement). NGO staff provide support and training to the federations.

TMPI campaigns on issues including under-age marriage, alcohol abuse, and domestic violence, and supports and monitors credit and micro-enterprise activities of WSHGs and federations.

TMPI members participated in a domestic violence campaign run by Arogya Agam, the trust's chief partner organisation. The campaign worked through 130 village-based Violence Against Women committees which identified women in need. Some 1,436 survivors of domestic violence were registered. Cases were addressed through counselling, mediation, or police or court action. The project worked closely with government social workers.

Efforts continued to prevent sex-selective abortion through monitoring of 474 "at risk" families and checks on whether scan centres reveal the sex of the foetus. Action by TMPI prevented 58 illegal under-age marriages.

VST funded work with women's self-help groups by partner NGOs in Theni district. The partners were Arogya Agam, Vasandham and SRED. The groups are members of federations, and the federations are affiliated to TMPI. As well as functioning as credit unions and promoting micro-enterprise the SHGs campaign on gender issues. Some 2,000 women celebrated Women's Day.

Arogya Agam supported 269 WSHGs with 4,213 members. A total of 491 women benefitted from affordable loans from an Indian government agency totalling Rs. 23.5m (£235,000). Various government schemes and benefits were accessed by the WSHG members, including pensions, medical insurance and housing.

SRED worked with 42 WSHGs, mobilising bank and NGO credit of £143,000 for microenterprises for 213 group members.

Vasandham is a long term partner of VST with a well established women's development programme working closely with Vaigai Women's Federation. The federation is now operating independently and two Vasandham staff members are now employed by the federation. Vasandham itself has refocused, working on domestic violence issues and other elements of its women's programme and researching possible new programmes with panchayats (local councils) and tribal communities in the Varasanadu area. However, there have been issues in maintaining consistent communications and reporting which make it difficult to assess progress.

Community based organisations (CBOs)

VST funds work by its partner Arogya Agam to provide support and training to community organisations for the marginalised Arunthathiyar community in Theni district.

This work has refocused on working with 22 women's self-help groups rather than village development committees as the self-help groups have proved to be more stable. The women's groups are assisted by male volunteers.

The groups lobby for village infrastructure and welfare benefits for individuals, and take up issues of discrimination and the rights of sanitation workers.

Attempts are made to bring sanitation workers together to obtain the benefits provided by the government. A survey of the sanitation worker population was undertaken to assist in planning a restructuring of the programme in three blocks of Theni district.

Among benefits obtained, problems with drinking water were solved in 19 villages and street lights were obtained in 13 villages. Tamil Nadu Welfare ID for was obtained for 130 sanitation workers. A total of 23 applications for scholarships were submitted for orphan and semi-orphan children.

Child rights

The trust supports children's groups in 69 villages whose members are drawn from the disadvantaged Arunthathiyar community. There are 2,212 group members. Groups are now structured by age 6-10 (67 groups), 11-14 (65 groups) and 15-18 (46 groups). Parents and volunteers assist the groups, as do some women's self-help groups.

The project focuses on preventing drop-outs from school and encouraging children to stay in school to age 18 and gain qualifications to enter higher education.

Tribal projects

Village Service Trust supported two projects with tribal communities. Both focus on children's education, securing rights under the Forest Rights Act and obtaining welfare benefits and village infrastructure.

In Theni District VST contributes to a project run by its partner, ARUDECS, working with tribal people in eight villages. The project seeks to address issues that make it hard for children to attend school, such as lack of transport. Village volunteers have arranged evening classes. Arudecs has formed women's self-help groups and village development committees and provided training on accessing state microenterprise loans, welfare schemes, housing schemes, village development schemes and documents for individuals needed to obtain benefits.

Our partner Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society is based in north-west Tamil Nadu. Its field workers promote school attendance and family welfare entitlements in 50 tribal villages. This field work complements a residential school and hostel so that children from remote villages can attend school. There was a focus on obtaining documents such as identity cards and community certificates that enable people to obtain welfare benefits and assistance for tribal communities.

Many tribal children drop out of school because they live in remote areas without roads or public transport. VST helped fund the costs of a hostel that enables tribal children to attend school. The hostel provides free food and lodging and educational support for up to 50 children.

A third partner, Vasandham, undertook research into starting work with tribal communities in the Varasanadu locality.

Health

VST supports work by Arogya Agam concerned with leprosy, tuberculosis and HIV, focusing on detection, drug adherence, self-care and referral. The programme operated in 170 villages.

Only one case of leprosy was detected, while 67 leprosy disability cases were monitored. Three disability camps were held and the needs of 82 patients were addressed.

A total of 54 cases of TB were detected, out of 1,331 tested. Some 15 patients are monitored and 20 are under treatment.

The health and drug adherence of 272 people living with HIV (PLHIV) patients including eight children were followed up. Ten cases were referred for the sophisticated CBNAAT test for detecting TB.

HIV prevention

VST funds a programme by Arogya Agam to control HIV transmission by promoting safe sex among men in non-heterosexual relationships. This group is often missed by HIV prevention programmes. The project works with 194 'Safe Sex Role Models' in 97 villages in Theni District. The role models interact with their peers to encourage them to avoid risky behaviour by reducing the number of partners and using condoms. A total of 1,542 peers were followed up by the role models and staff. It was estimated that 454 were using condoms and 336 had reduced their number of sexual partners. Some 532 peers were tested for HIV or STI at government hospitals or mobile facilities.

Partner support

VST provided a contribution towards staff, administrative, research and maintenance costs at Arogya Agam and Vasandham.

Monitoring achievement

The trustees monitor the performance of the programmes funded by the trust by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by making visits to the project areas. Two trustees made visits during the year.

Financial review

Details of income and spending

The trust's work is funded by donations from individuals and charitable trusts, by legacies and by dividends and interest from investments and bank deposits.

The trust received an exceptionally high level of legacies during the year, totalling £128,325.

Donations from individuals totalled £89,747 compared with £32,450 the previous year. The increase was due to one large donation and donations made in connection with a sponsored walk. Grants from trusts of £1,000 or more amounted to £3,000 (£2,000 previous year.) Investment income was £6,660 (£5,235). Overall, income was more than five times that of previous recent years due to the exceptional legacy and donation receipts. Underlying regular income was similar to that usually received.

Expenditure in India amounted to £78,326 against £43,818 the previous year. This higher level of spending was a reflection of the increase in donations, with most of the additional funds going to Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society.

Spending on fundraising and publicity was £685, compared to £906 the year before. Support costs were £429 (£121) while administrative expenses amounted to £362 (£290).

Reserves

The reserves increased during the year from £234,092 to £367,811 because of the unusually high level of income. Some £25,000 of the reserves are held within a designated fund resulting from a previous exceptional legacy. The remainder of the reserves amount to £342,811.

Investment policy and performance

The policy of the trust is to invest its reserves in common investment funds designed for charities. Most of the investments are held in the ethical and property funds of the Charities Official Investment Fund, aiming to achieve a balance between the level of dividends and capital growth.

The trust has decided to invest legacy income in order that the benefit of legacies can be spread over many years into the future. Funds are to be invested over an 18-month period. Cash awaiting investment is placed on deposit with banks and building societies.

The trust holds sufficient cash in its bank account for immediate needs.

Unrealised losses on investments amounted to £14,021 compared with a gain of £14,443 the previous year. This was a reflection of volatility mostly in the trust's holding in a property fund.

Risk review and going concern

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and policies have been established to mitigate those risks. The trust has prepared cash flow plans for the next 12 months and believes that funding expected from donors and dividends together with the trust's reserves are sufficient to meet the trust's objectives up to December 2024 and beyond. The trust has internal procedures for adequate financial controls, and has in place monitoring and evaluation procedures for the programmes it finances in India.

The trustees have identified the following risks and measures to mitigate those risks:

Risk	Mitigation
Strategy for achieving objectives loses focus	Regular review of strategy
Age profile of trustees; pressure on trustees time; adequate skills coverage	Recruit new trustees
Loss of key personnel	Ensure all tasks and historical knowledge are documented
Reporting by partners fails to disclose significant matters	Ensure regular communication and feedback on reporting
Programmes do not fully meet objectives	Ensure objectives are clear and measured
Challenging context for Indian NGOs with foreign funding	Support partners in compliance with regulations and maintaining good relationships with officials
Potential threat to good reputation	Maintain close relationship with partners to ensure thorough safeguarding and financial controls

The trust has taken steps to diminish risks arising in its relationship with its partner organisations. It has introduced a more structured procedure governing partners' applications for grants, reporting requirements and for the disbursement of grants. All partners are complying with these procedures. There is a heightened risk relating to foreign funding of Indian NGOs. NGOs have been required to renew their registration for permission to receive funds from abroad. Three partners have encountered difficulties in this respect. All are seeking to overcome these difficulties.

One partner, Vasandham Society, has had particular difficulty as its application to renew permission under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act has been denied. A professional advisor's view is that the denial of permission lacks justification and can be reversed on appeal. The trust is unable to fund Vasandham unless FCRA approval is restored. In addition reporting from Vasandham has been incomplete. After receipt of a financial report, a sum of £3,514 is included in debtors, being unspent balance of grants made to Vasandham. The trust recognises that the situation at Vasandham is serious, but that resolution of the problem is possible and is being actively pursued.

RESERVES POLICY

In general the trust seeks to maintain the reserves at a constant level, adjusting its spending to achieve this. By conserving its reserves, the trust expects to achieve a stable income from investments, helping to maintain a steady level of grants to partner organisations in India for the long term. The exceptional legacy income in the year under review will enable the trust to increase its future grants to partners in line with increased investment income anticipated.

Plans for the future

Trustees regard the year in review as an exceptional one, and unlikely to be repeated in the next 12 months. They expect income from donors to return to usual levels, supported by the high proportion of income from committed long term regular donors. The level of income from investments and cash on deposit is expected to increase due to higher interest rates. The level of grants to partners is likely to be temporarily constrained due to concerns over foreign funding regulations.

In view of these factors, they are confident that the trust can be regarded as a going concern, that there is no material uncertainty, and have confidence in its cash flow projection to December 2024 showing a rise in the trust's resources.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a registered charity, number 277111, and is constituted under a Deed of Trust dated 26 March 1979.

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees in accordance with the Deed of Trust and serve for an unlimited period. The minimum number of trustees is five.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the trust, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. The day to day administration of grants, liaison with donors and fundraising and publicity is undertaken by the Secretary, who is also a trustee.

Recruitment of new trustees

New trustees are recommended by existing trustees. Important considerations for the appointment of trustees include knowledge and experience of India, knowledge and experience of international development, knowledge and experience of fundraising and charity management. New trustees are referred to the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees and provided with recent trust minutes.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Secretary as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee is paid. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees serving during the year and since the year end:

Sophie Walker, Chair

Richard Garforth, Treasurer

Tony Huckle, Secretary

Murali Shanmugavelan

Gerti Wilford (retired September 2023)

Bryan Osbon

Carol Chalmers (retired May 2022)

David Mosse

Angela Russ (retired September 2022)

Rosie Oakley

UK office and management

The programme management and general administration is undertaken by the Secretary from an office in Cambridgeshire.

Office address: 68 High Street, Hail Weston, St Neots, PE19 5JW

Bankers: Natwest, Virgin Money

Charity Number 277111 (Registered 7 September 1979)

Independent Examiner

A resolution to reappoint Christopher Wilde A.C.A. as the Independent Examiner for the year under review was passed at the trustees meeting on 3rd December 2022.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2023 set out on pages 11 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income was less than £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to: Page | 9

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Standards for Reporting Accountants laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act
to prepare accounts which accord with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Wilde A.C.A

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 2nd September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Sophie Walker, Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Notes	2023		Total	2022
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources:					
Donations, legacies and similar		52,990	165,082	218,072	32,450
Grants receivable	2	1,000	2,000	3,000	2,000
Investment income	3	-	6,660	6,660	5,235
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total incoming resources		53,990	173,742	227,732	39,685
Less: Costs of generating funds:	4		685	685	906
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net incoming resources available for charity application		53,990	173,057	227,047	38,779
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Expended					
Charitable expenditure:	5				
Project partners		1,810	1,614	3,424	2,608
Women's programme		8,186	3,484	11,670	18,674
HIV prevention		-	284	284	-
Tribal projects		43,814	8,951	52,765	10,773
Child rights		-	6,080	6,080	7,880
Health programme		-	1,036	1,036	930
Community based organisations		180	2,887	3,067	2,953
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total programmes expenditure		53,990	24,336	78,326	43,818
Other charitable expenditure					
Support costs	6	-	429	429	121
Governance	7	-	362	362	290
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable expenditure		53,990	25,127	79,117	44,229
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Total resources expended		53,990	25,812	79,802	45,135
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources		-	147,930	147,930	(5,450)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year					
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/(Losses) on investments and currency unrealised:		-	(14,211)	(14,211)	14,543
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement of funds		-	133,719	133,719	(9,093)
Total funds brought forward		-	234,092	234,092	224,999
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds carried forward		-	367,811	367,811	234,092
		=====	=====	=====	=====

Movements in funds are shown in Note 15. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Village Service Trust
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	<u>Note</u>	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	62	78
Investments	10	127,937	141,958
		-----	-----
		127,999	142,036
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	21,964	14,361
Cash at bank and in hand		223,768	90,197
		-----	-----
		245,732	104,558
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
	12	(5,920)	(12,502)
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		239,812	92,056
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		367,811	234,092
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
	15		
Restricted Funds		-	-
Unrestricted Funds		367,811	234,092
		-----	-----
		367,811	234,092
		=====	=====

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 2nd September 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Richard Garforth, Treasurer

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention except for investments which are included at revalued amounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource.

Grants and donations receivable

Grants receivable, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are brought into account on receipt unless its receipt is certain in which case it is brought into account when the grant is notified.

Intangible income

Intangible income, which comprises donated services, is included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party. The trustees have decided not to quantify donated services as these cannot be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered as the charity is not registered for VAT.

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Governance and support costs

Governance costs are those costs incurred in the management of the charity's assets, organisation and compliance functions. The trustees have decided to meet all governance costs from unrestricted funds and so no allocation or charge is made to restricted funds for any governance related costs. Support costs comprise expenses in pursuance of the trust's charitable activities. They are applied to unrestricted spending and not apportioned to funds as they are immaterial.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises grants to partner organisations that undertake programmes in pursuance of the charitable aims of the trust. In the cases of the chief partner Arogya Agam and that of Vasandham the analysis of charitable expenditure is based on actual programme

spending and funds provided by VST that remain unspent at the end of the year are accounted for in Debtors as an advance for work to be carried out in 2023-2024.

Currency revaluation

The trust's partner Arogya Agam receives a grant for the year based on its budget. After the year end it reports the actual programme spending and the amount of unspent grant in Indian rupees remaining at the end of the financial year. The value of the unspent grant in rupees is converted to sterling using the exchange rate on March 31. Gains or losses from the revaluation are reported in the statement of financial activities. In the year under review the currency revaluation generated an unrealised loss of £190 (2022 gain of £99).

Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds are expenses incurred in activities designed to raise funds and publicise the work of the trust.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are comprised of office equipment after depreciation. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows: Office equipment - 20% reducing balance basis

Investments

Investments are stated at closing bid value at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses on revaluation are taken on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust manages investment risk by only investing in common investment funds designed for charities. Investment income is allocated to unrestricted funds.

Trustees expenses and remuneration

Trustees are not paid but may be compensated for travel costs for attending trustee meetings and other travel in connection with the work of the trust.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner does not receive any remuneration.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:-

- (a) Unrestricted general funds – these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (b) Unrestricted designated fund – these funds are without specified purpose but are designated to be spent over a ten year period.
- (c) Restricted funds – these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
- (d) Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds.

2. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

		2023	2022
Grants were received from	Purpose	£	£
Paget Trust	Unrestricted	1,000	-
St Clare & St Francis Trust	Unrestricted	1,000	1,000
Bryan Guinness Trust	Restricted: Tribal Programme	1,000	1,000
		-----	-----
Total grants		3,000	2,000
		=====	=====

3. INVESTMENT INCOME (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Income from UK quoted investments	5,362	5,235
Interest receivable	1,298	-
	-----	-----
	6,660	5,235
	====	====

4. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity	530	818
Office expenses	155	88
	-----	-----
	685	906
	=====	=====

5. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Grants to partners	2023			2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Arogya Agam	9,336	9,784	19,120	21,639
Vasandham	840	4,602	5,442	9,949
Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society	43,814	3,058	46,872	5,449
Society for Rural and Enviromental Development	-	2,088	2,088	1,097
Mahalir Munnetra Sangam	-	-	-	1,097
Maitri Society	-	-	-	1,097
All Rural Development and Social Construction Society	-	4,804	4,804	3,490
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	53,990	24,336	78,326	43,418*
	=====	=====	=====	=====

*Incorrectly stated as £48,818 in the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2022

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Programmes supported:

(See note 18)

	2023		Total	2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted		
	£	£	£	£
Project partners				
Arogya Agam	970	277	1,247	2,608
Vasandham	840	1,337	2,177	-
Programmes				
Women's programme	8,186	3,484	11,670	18,674
Tribal projects	43,814	8,951	52,765	10,773
Child rights	-	6,080	6,080	7,880
Health programme	-	1,036	1,036	930
Community based organisations	180	2,887	3,067	2,953
HIV prevention	-	284	284	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	53,990	24,336	78,326	43,818
	=====	=====	=====	=====

6. SUPPORT COSTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Office costs	218	121
Travel costs	211	-
	-----	-----
	429	121
	=====	=====

7. GOVERNANCE (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Office costs	20	11
Trustees expenses (Travel)	75	-
Subscriptions	267	279
	-----	-----
	362	290
	=====	=====

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Office Equipment</u> £
COST	
<i>At 1 April 2022</i>	5,700
Additions	-

At 31 March 2023	5,700
 DEPRECIATION	
<i>At 1 April 2022</i>	5,622
Charge for the year	16

At 31 March 2023	5,638
	=====
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	62

<i>At 31 March 2022</i>	78
	=====

9. TAXATION

The trust is a registered charity and it is considered that its activities are such that no taxation liability will arise.

10. INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
UK quoted investments		
Market value at 1 April 2022 (2021)	141,958	127,514
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Increase/ (decrease) in market value in year	(14,021)	14,444
Market value at 31 March 2023 (2022)	127,937	141,958
 Investments held at 31 March 2023:		
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	51,222	53,886
COIF Property Fund	57,073	67,835
Black Rock Charities UK Equity Fund	12,463	12,591
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities	7,179	7,346
	-----	-----
	127,937	141,958
	=====	=====
Historical cost	98,832	

11. DEBTORS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	8,063	5,684
Accruals	153	147
Partner organisations	13,748	8,530
	-----	-----
Total	21,964	14,361
	=====	=====

Partner organisations: The amount above comprises end of year unspent grant held by Arogya Agam and Vasandham.

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Funds held as agent (see note 13)	5,920	12,502

13. FUNDS MANAGED ON BEHALF OF INDIAN PARTNERS

In order to expedite the smooth transfer of third party funds to the trust's partners the trust accepted funds from Global Giving (an international donor platform). The trust held these funds as an agent before transfer to the partners.

	Global Giving £
Funds held on 31 March 2022	12,502
Funds received	14,092
Funds disbursed	(20,674)
Funds held on 31 March 2023	5,920

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Trustees were reimbursed for the cost of travel to meetings and travel within India amounting to £286 (2022 - nil.)

15. FUNDS STATEMENT

	<u>At 1 Apr 22</u>	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	<u>Outgoing Resources</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 23</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:	-	53,990	53,990	-	-
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	184,092	173,742	15,023	-	342,811
JM Designated fund	50,000	-	25,000	-	25,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	234,092	227,732	94,013	-	367,811
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The JM Designated fund resulted from a legacy from Mr John Morrish. As it was a significant amount the trustees decided to treat the legacy as a designated fund and apply the money to the Trust's general funds in instalments over a period of 10 years. In the Trustees' opinion, there are sufficient

resources held to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with the restrictions imposed by donors.

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Our long-standing associate, Mr John Dalton, is the founder of Arogya Agam, our chief partner. He no longer holds any official position with Arogya Agam but acts as a fundraiser and informal consultant. He is also engaged as Projects Adviser to VST, providing information and recommendations about our programmes and partners, and is invited to attend trustee meetings. All these services are given pro bono. During the year Arogya Agam received £19,120 in grants (2022: £21,639), and at the year end an amount of £10,235 was included in Debtors, being paid in advance to Arogya Agam for work to be carried out in 2023-2024.

17. Vasandham

The figures for programme expenditure include estimates for Vasandham based on assumptions and general correspondence in the absence of a comprehensive formal activity report, although a financial report and a brief activity report have been received.

VILLAGE SERVICE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 277111

Accounts

Village Service Trust

Report and financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2021
Charity No. 277111

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition, issued in October 2019) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The object of the charity as expressed in its Deed of Trust is to apply the trust fund for the relief of poverty and sickness amongst the inhabitants of the villages of the deprived areas of the world. The trustees have decided to concentrate their efforts on projects in Tamil Nadu, south India, where their personal experience has shown that the work undertaken at these projects adequately and appropriately fulfils the objects of the charity.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the grant-making policy for the year.

The trust furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through its grant-making policy which aims to:

- Socially and economically empower disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Form and strengthen community based organisations of disadvantaged and marginalised women
- Reduce the spread of communicable diseases – HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis
- Improve the human rights of and livelihood standards of certain deprived people, particularly the Arunthathiyar community, and indigenous people.
- Secure the rights of, improve livelihoods of, and educational support to, children from marginalised communities and children affected by HIV and Aids.

During the year Village Service Trust funded the health and development work of a number of partner organisations in south India, principally in Theni District, a deprived area in Tamil Nadu. Most of these organisations work together in a network co-ordinated by Arogya Agam, VST's chief partner. The main programme activities concern women's rights, micro-enterprise, the rights of Dalits and indigenous people, children's rights, tuberculosis control, prevention of HIV and Aids and care of people affected by HIV.

The Trust carries out this programme through partnerships with seven Indian NGOs:

Arogya Agam, (Place of Health), Andipatty, Theni district

Vasandham, (Springtime), Varasanadu, Theni district

Maitri, (Friendship), Koduvilarpatti, Theni district

Society for Rural and Environment Development, Dharumathupatti, Theni district

Mahalir Munnetra Sangam (MMS) (Women's Advancement Society), Chinnamanur, Theni district

All Rural Development and Social Construction Society (Arudecs), Bodi, Theni district

Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society, Ambalamoola, Nilgiris district

Grant-making policy

The grant-making policy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects the charity's objectives and thereby advances public benefit.

The beneficiaries of the trust's grant making programme are rural communities in Theni, Dindigul and Nilgiris districts of Tamil Nadu, in particular women, children, Dalits and tribal people, and those affected by HIV and Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis.

How grants are chosen and monitored

Grants are made for programmes that either directly improve livelihoods and health, or address the causes of poor livelihoods and poor health. The programmes are monitored by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by visits made by trustees to the partners.

A review of the achievements and performance

Women's development

VST helps fund a network of NGOs in Theni district that support women's self-help groups (WSHGs) and federations of WSHGs. Eight federations in the area come together under the banner of TMPI (Tamil Nadu women's movement). NGO staff provide support and training to the federations.

TMPI campaigns on issues including underage marriage, alcohol abuse, and domestic violence, and supports and monitors credit and micro-enterprise activities of WSHGs and federations.

During the year under review the work of TMPI was hampered by Covid restrictions and periods of lockdown. Nevertheless 74 instances of child marriage were addressed. Some interventions failed because of migration by the parties concerned.

The pandemic disrupted the workings of women's self-help groups. No monthly meetings were held for more than four months and disbursement of loans was interrupted.

VST contributed to a domestic violence project begun in August 2020 by its partner Arogya Agam with funding from Azim Premji Foundation. A structure for addressing domestic violence was developed building on village anti-violence committees. So far the project is working with 651 survivors, most of whom were identified through the anti-violence committees. Cases were addressed either at village level, through counselling of the husband, by police or by the district protection officer. Efforts were also made to prevent sex-selective abortion through monitoring of "at risk" families and checks on whether scan centres reveal the sex of the foetus.

Work with the self-help groups was affected by coronavirus. The government agency Nabfins suspended new loans and lack of credit led to the re-emergence of traditional money lenders. Domestic violence, child marriage and unemployment all increased.

Our partner Arogya Agam had planned to form 30 new groups during the year but only 17 were achieved. The amount of loans disbursed was less than planned. Nevertheless self-help groups linked to Arogya Agam obtained Rs. 8.4 million in loans from Nabfins, benefitting 525 women. Some 55% used the loans for small enterprises, mostly keeping dairy cows. Another Rs. 8m of loans was provided by the women's federations in Aundipatty and Kodaikanal areas.

Another partner, Vasandham, arranged various training sessions for members of self-help groups. These included sessions on domestic violence, child protection, under-age marriage, dairy, goat and poultry rearing and advice on reducing Covid risk. The federation provided Rs. 13.7m in loans to 84 self-help groups for the benefit of 262 women. Another Rs. 30.9m of loans were made from group funds. Most of the loans were for micro-enterprises, while a significant number were used for repayment of higher interest loans from other lenders. During the year the self-help groups paid a five-yearly dividend of Rs. 14.4m to their members.

VST also made small contributions to the women's programmes of three other NGOs in Theni District. The NGOs were MMS, SRED and Maitri.

During the year consideration was given to the findings of research commissioned by VST into weaknesses of self-help groups, particularly the impact of commercial micro-lenders and whether caste status affected the success of SHGs. The process of developing a programme response to the research has been delayed by the Covid pandemic.

Community based organisations (CBOs)

VST funds work by its partner Arogya Agam to provide support and training to 40 village development committees for the marginalised Arunthathiyar community. The committees take action to secure village infrastructure and welfare benefits for individuals, and take up issues of discrimination and the rights of sanitation workers. Special efforts are made to support women's self-help groups from the Arunthathiyar community.

During the year the committees pursued legal action in relation to a number of cases of discrimination. Some of these resulted in compensation for those affected; others are still pending. There has been a focus on securing higher education scholarships and reserved college places for Arunthathiyars. Other issues taken up were segregation in child care facilities, encroachment of burial grounds and underpayment of sanitation workers.

Child rights

VST supports children's groups in 68 villages whose members are drawn from the Arunthathiyar community. Membership of the groups has had a big impact on their school performance with a high percentage entering higher education.

This year the children's lives have been disrupted by the closure of schools because of the pandemic. It is estimated that only half of children attended online or television classes. Children from 30 families reported incidences of domestic violence during lockdown.

Training and support for the children's groups was hampered by covid restrictions. Eight cases of child labour were addressed, with five of the children resuming education. A total of 14 under-age marriages were prevented and 11 instances of drug abuse were resolved.

Tribal projects

Village Service Trust supports three projects with tribal communities. All focus on children's education, securing rights under the Forest Rights Act and obtaining welfare benefits and village infrastructure.

In Theni District VST contributes to a small project run by its partner, Arudecs, working with tribal people in eight villages. The project seeks to address issues that make it hard for children to attend school, such as lack of transport. It has formed women's self help groups and village development committees and provided training on accessing welfare schemes, housing schemes, village development schemes and documents for individuals needed to obtain benefits.

During the year many benefits were obtained: 94 families received documented ownership of their homes, 83 new houses were built by the Tribal Welfare department, and more than 70 people obtained documents that entitled them to benefits. Some 265 people received emergency Covid support from the government. Arudecs implemented the new Tribal Development programme with support from the government agency Nabard.

Education was badly disrupted by the pandemic. Many children could not attend school nor access online classes, while teachers were rarely able to enter the forest areas to hold classes.

Our partner Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society is based in north-west Tamil Nadu. VST funded field workers who promoted school attendance and family welfare entitlements in 50 tribal villages. This field work complements a residential school and hostel so that children from remote villages can attend school.

Its achievements during the year included obtaining ration cards for subsidised food for 149 families; inviting government officers to a special event so that they could issue identity cards needed to

obtain benefits; helping individuals secure old age and disability pensions; and providing food and other essentials to 2,000 families during Covid lockdown.

Both the hostel and residential school had to close because of the pandemic, but the project organised online classes and put on teaching sessions in the villages.

In the Palani hills project area in Dindigul district 11 new children's groups were formed bringing the total to 43. The groups were given information and advice about child rights, education, health and the environment. Schools were closed because of the pandemic and many children did not or could not access online or televised classes. Most worked instead. The disruption to education may make it difficult to get them back into school.

There are 20 women's self-help groups and 25 village development committees supported under this project. The members of these organisations submitted petitions to government officials for village and individuals' needs. Women's groups took up 22 child rights issues such as under-age marriage, sexual abuse and child labour. Work on this project was restricted by Covid lockdowns.

Health

This year the Covid pandemic has had a big impact on efforts to reduce other serious infectious diseases.

In work to control tuberculosis, the programme for testing for TB from sputum samples was badly affected. There was widespread apprehension that the testing was for Covid rather than TB and a fear of being required to attend hospital. Consequently from March to September 2020 very few TB suspects were tested. However 522 people did provide samples in the Aundipatti area, and 38 were positive. These cases are monitored to ensure treatment is taken.

In addition 115 people with leprosy were monitored for complications along with provision of treatment or referral for long term consequences of leprosy.

Programmes for HIV prevention and counselling, previously funded, were not supported during the year as the partners received alternative funding.

Partner support

VST provided a contribution towards staff, administrative and maintenance costs at two of its partner organisations.

Monitoring achievement

The trustees monitor the performance of the programmes funded by the trust by reviewing reports from partner organisations and by making visits to the project areas. No visits in person were possible in the year under review because of Covid restrictions but online video meetings were held instead.

Financial review

Details of income and spending

The trust's work is funded by donations from individuals and charitable trusts, and by dividends from its investments.

Donations from individuals totalled £33,169 compared with £34,116 the previous year. Grants from trusts of £1,000 or more amounted to £7,100 (£4,100 previous year.) Investment income was £4,927 (£5,833). Overall there was a small increase in income.

Expenditure in India amounted to £61,765, against £96,128 the previous year. This reduction was a consequence of a change to the reserves policy described below. VST's partners adjusted their programmes in the light of the lower grant levels. Spending on fundraising and publicity was £1,239, compared to £1,073 the year before. Support costs were £876 (£917), while administrative expenses

amounted to £539 (£1,488). Overall, expenditure exceeded income by £18,632 (£55,557) before taking account of net unrealised gains (£10,353).

Reserves

The reserves declined during the year from £233,278 to £224,999 as a result of the excess of expenditure over income. Some £75,000 of the reserves are held within a designated fund resulting from a previous exceptional legacy. The remainder of the reserves amount to £149,999.

Investment policy and performance

The policy of the trust is to invest its reserves in common investment funds designed for charities. Most of the investments are held in the ethical and property funds of the Charities Official Investment Fund, aiming to achieve a balance between the level of dividends and capital growth. It holds sufficient cash in its bank accounts for immediate needs. The value of equity funds grew by £11,973 during the year while the value of the property fund fell by £1,333.

Risk review and going concern

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and policies have been established to mitigate those risks. The trust has prepared cash flow plans for the next 12 months and believes that funding expected from donors and dividends together with the trust's reserves are sufficient to meet the trust's objectives up to November 2022 and beyond. The trust has internal procedures for adequate financial controls, and has in place monitoring and evaluation procedures for the programmes it finances in India.

The trustees have identified the following risks and measures to mitigate those risks:

Risk	Mitigation
Strategy for achieving objectives loses focus	Regular review of strategy
Age profile of trustees; pressure on trustees time; adequate skills coverage	Recruit new trustees
Loss of key personnel	Ensure all tasks and historical knowledge are documented
Reporting by partners	Ensure regular communication and feedback on reporting
Programmes do not fully meet objectives	Ensure objectives are clear and measured
Challenging context for Indian NGOs with foreign funding	Support partners in compliance with regulations and maintaining good relationships with officials
Potential threat to good reputation	Maintain close relationship with partners to ensure thorough safeguarding and financial controls

RESERVES POLICY

The trust seeks to maintain the reserves at a constant level, adjusting its spending to achieve this. By conserving its reserves, the trust expects to achieve a stable income from investments, helping to maintain a steady level of grants to partner organisations in India for the long term. Adherence to this policy has meant a reduction in the level of grants provided to partners compared with recent years.

Plans for the future

In the next 12 months, the trustees expect income to remain stable due to the large proportion of committed long term regular donors. They expect the level of grants to partners to reflect the level of trust income. As a result, they are confident that the trust can be regarded as a going concern, that there is no material uncertainty, and have confidence in its cash flow projection to November 2022 showing neither a rise nor a decline in the trust's resources.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a registered charity, number 277111, and is constituted under a trust deed dated 26 March 1979.

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees in accordance with the Deed of Trust and serve for an unlimited period. The minimum number of trustees is five.

At the quarterly trustees' meetings, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the trust, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. The day to day administration of grants, liaison with donors and fundraising and publicity is undertaken by the Secretary, who is also a trustee.

Recruitment of new trustees

New trustees are recommended by existing trustees. Important considerations for the appointment of trustees include knowledge and experience of India, knowledge and experience of international development, knowledge and experience of fundraising and charity management. New trustees are referred to the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees and provided with recent trust minutes.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Secretary as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee is paid. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees serving during the year and since the year end:

Murali Shanmugavelan, Chair

Richard Garforth, Treasurer

Tony Huckle, Secretary

Gerti Wilford

Bryan Osbon

Carol Chalmers

David Mosse

Angela Russ

Rosie Oakley (appointed June 2020)

Sophie Walker (appointed March 2020)

Catriona Fox (resigned September 2020)

UK office and management

The programme management and general administration is undertaken by the Secretary from an office in Cambridgeshire.

Office address: 68 High Street, Hail Weston, St Neots, PE19 5JW

Bankers: Natwest, Virgin Money

Charity Number 277111 (Registered 7 September 1979)

Independent Examiner

A resolution to appoint Christopher Wilde, A.C.A., as the Independent Examiner for the year under review was passed at the trustees meeting on 5th December 2020.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2021 set out on pages 10 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income was less than £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Standards for Reporting Accountants laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and with the methods and principles of the

Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or to which,

in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Wilde, A.C.A

Date 1st December 2021

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 4th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Murali Shanmugavelan, Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Notes	2021		Total	2020
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources:					
Donations, legacies and similar		3,252	29,917	33,169	34,116
Grants receivable	2	-	7,100	7,100	4,100
Investment income	3	-	4,927	4,927	5,833
Sales of calendars			591	591	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total incoming resources		3,252	42,535	45,787	44,049
Less: Costs of generating funds:	4		1,239	1,239	1,073
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net incoming resources available for charity application		3,252	41,296	44,548	42,976
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Expended					
Charitable expenditure (programmes):	5				
Project partners		1,860	1,551	3,411	9,556
Women's programme		1,272	29,541	30,813	40,377
HIV prevention		-	-	-	2,112
Tribal projects		-	9,462	9,462	14,983
Child rights		-	9,854	9,854	7,272
Health programme		-	2,200	2,200	4,013
Community based organisations		120	3,145	3,265	7,355
HIV counselling		-	-	-	4,750
Women's groups research		-	2,760	2,760	5,711
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Programmes total		3,252	58,513	61,765	96,129
Other charitable expenditure					
Support costs	6	-	876	876	917
Governance	7	-	539	539	1,488
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable expenditure		3,252	59,928	63,180	98,534
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Total resources expended		3,252	61,167	64,419	99,607
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources		-	(18,632)	(18,632)	(55,558)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year					
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/ (Losses) on investments and currency unrealised:		-	10,353	10,353	(8,280)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement of funds		-	(8,279)	(8,279)	(63,838)
Total funds brought forward		-	233,278	233,278	297,116
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds carried forward		-	224,999	224,999	233,278
		=====	=====	=====	=====

Movements in funds are shown in Note 15. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Village Service Trust Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31st March 2021

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	<u>Note</u>	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	98	122
Investments	10	127,514	116,875
		-----	-----
		127,612	116,997
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	57,876	44,705
Cash at bank and in hand		50,157	86,387
		-----	-----
		108,033	131,092
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
	12	(10,646)	(14,811)
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		97,387	116,281
		-----	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS		224,999	233,278
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
	15		
Restricted Funds		-	-
Unrestricted Funds		224,999	233,278
		-----	-----
		224,999	233,278
		=====	=====

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 4th December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



Richard Garforth, Treasurer

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention except for investments which are included at revalued amounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource.

Grants and donations receivable

Grants receivable, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are brought into account on receipt unless its receipt is certain in which case it is brought into account when the grant is notified.

Intangible income

Intangible income, which comprises donated services, is included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party. The trustees have decided not to quantify donated services as these cannot be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered as the charity is not registered for VAT.

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Governance and support costs

Governance costs are those costs incurred in the management of the charity's assets, organisation and compliance functions. The trustees have decided to meet all governance costs from unrestricted funds and so no allocation or charge is made to restricted funds for any governance related costs. Support costs comprise expenses in pursuance of the trust's charitable activities. They are applied to unrestricted spending and not apportioned to funds as they are immaterial.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable expenditure comprises grants to partner organisations that undertake programmes in pursuance of the charitable aims of the trust. In the case of the partners Arogya Agam and Vasandham the analysis of charitable expenditure is based on actual programme spending.

Currency revaluation

The trust's partners Arogya Agam and Vasandham receive a grant for the year based on their budget. After the year end they report their actual programme spending and the amount of unspent grant in Indian rupees remaining at the end of the financial year. The value of the unspent grant in rupees is converted to sterling using the exchange rate on March 31. Gains or losses from the revaluation are reported in the statement of financial activities. In the year under review the currency revaluation generated an unrealised loss of £287.

Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds are expenses incurred in activities designed to raise funds and publicise the work of the trust.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are comprised of office equipment after depreciation. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment - 20% reducing balance basis

Investments

Investments are stated at closing bid value at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses on revaluation are taken on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The trust manages investment risk by only investing in common investment funds designed for charities.

Investment income is allocated to unrestricted funds.

Trustees expenses and remuneration

Trustees are not paid but may be compensated for travel costs for attending trustee meetings and other travel in connection with the work of the trust.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner does not receive any remuneration.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:-

- (a) Unrestricted general funds – these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (b) Unrestricted designated fund – these funds are without specified purpose but are designated to be spent over a ten year period.
- (c) Restricted funds – these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds.

2. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

		2021	2020
		£	£
Grants were received from	Purpose		
Paget Trust	Unrestricted	4,000	1,000
St Clare & St Francis Trust	Unrestricted	1,000	1,000
Westcroft Trust	Unrestricted	1,100	1,100
Bryan Guinness Trust	Unrestricted	1,000	1,000
		-----	-----
Total grants		7,100	4,100
		=====	=====

3. INVESTMENT INCOME (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Income from UK quoted investments	4,919	5,548
Interest receivable	8	285
	-----	-----
	4,927	5,833
	=====	=====

4. COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity	1,194	1,009
Office expenses	45	64
	-----	-----
	1,239	1,073
	=====	=====

5. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Grants to partners and for research	2021			2020
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Arogya Agam	2,412	26,609	29,021	60,536
Vasandham	840	14,824	15,664	12,207
Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society		4,825	4,825	2,900
Society for Rural and Enviromental Development		2,266	2,266	2,364
Mahalir Munnetra Sangam		2,266	2,266	2,364
Maitri Society		2,266	2,266	2,364
World Society			-	2,364
All Rural Development and Social Construction Society		2,697	2,697	5,319
Ms R. Krishnamurthy (researcher)		2,760	2,760	5,711
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3,252	58,513	61,765	96,129

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Programmes and research supported:	2021			2020
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Project partners				
Arogya Agam	1,020	1,551	2,571	9,556
Vasandham	840	-	840	-
Programmes				
Women's programme	1,272	29,541	30,813	40,377
HIV prevention	-	-	-	2,112
Tribal project	-	9,462	9,462	14,983
Child rights	-	9,854	9,854	7,272
Health programme	-	2,200	2,200	4,013
Community based organisations	120	3,145	3,265	7,355
HIV counselling	-	-	-	4,750
Women's self-help group research	-	2,760	2,760	5,711
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3,252	58,513	61,765	96,129
	=====	=====	=====	=====

6. SUPPORT COSTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Office costs	62	89
Volunteer costs	814	828
	-----	-----
	876	917
	=====	=====

Volunteer costs are the cost of travel to and from India for a volunteer based with the trust's chief partner in India. The period of voluntary service in India was cut short by the Covid pandemic but was continued in the UK.

7. GOVERNANCE (UNRESTRICTED)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Office costs	6	8
Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	936
Trustees expenses (Travel)	75	33
Subscriptions	458	453
Travel	-	58
	-----	-----
	539	1,488
	=====	=====

The Trustees received no other benefits during the year

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Office Equipment</u> £
COST	
<i>At 1 April 2020</i>	5,700
Additions	-

At 31 March 2021	5,700
 DEPRECIATION	
<i>At 1 April 2020</i>	5,578
Charge for the year	24

At 31 March 2021	5,602
	=====
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2021	98

<i>At 31 March 2020</i>	122
	=====

9. TAXATION

The trust is a registered charity and it is considered that its activities are such that no taxation liability will arise.

10. INVESTMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
UK quoted investments		
Market value at 1 April 2020 (2019)	116,875	123,115
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Increase/ (decrease) in market value in year	10,639	(6,240)
Market value at 31 March 2021 (2020)	127,514	116,875
 Investments held at 31 March 2021:		
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	49,671	41,342
COIF Property Fund	59,023	60,356
Charishare	11,694	9,391
Charifund	7,126	5,786
	-----	-----
	127,514	116,875
	=====	=====
Historical cost	98,832	

11. DEBTORS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	5,462	5,271
Accruals	165	338
Partner organisations	52,249	39,096
	-----	-----
Total	57,876	44,705
	=====	=====

Partner organisations: The total above comprises end of year unspent grant held by Arogya Agam (2021: £2,858, 2020: £32,091) and Vasandham (2021: £975, 2020: £7,006), and grants paid in advance to partner organisations for programmes in the 2021-2022 year (2021: £48,416, 2020: nil). Grants were paid in advance to ensure the smooth transfer of funds to partners.

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Funds held as agent (see note 13)	10,646	13,911
	-----	-----
	10,646	13,911
	=====	=====

13. FUNDS MANAGED ON BEHALF OF INDIAN PARTNERS

In order to expedite the smooth transfer of third party funds to the trust's partners the trust accepted funds from Global Giving and the Pappa Fund. The trust held these funds as an agent before transfer to the partners.

	Global Giving	Pappa Fund	Total
	£	£	£
Funds held on 31 March 2020	13,911	-	13,911
Funds received	24,298	8,000	32,298
Funds disbursed	(35,563)	-	(35,563)
	-----	-----	-----
Funds held on 31 March 2021	2,646	8,000	10,646

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

The trustees were reimbursed travel costs during the year amounting to £75 (2020 - £33).

15. FUNDS STATEMENT

	<u>At 1 Apr 20</u>	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	<u>Outgoing Resources</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 21</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:	-	3,252	3,252	-	-
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	133,278	52,888	36,167	-	149,999
JM Designated fund	100,000	-	25,000	-	75,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds	233,278	56,140	64,419	-	224,999
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

In the Trustees' opinion, there are sufficient resources held to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with the restrictions imposed by donors.

16. FUNDS: CORRECTION TO PRIOR YEAR

The funds statement for the year ended 31 March 2020 incorrectly placed funds held as an agent in a restricted fund instead of unrestricted. This is adjusted below, with the corrections shown in bold text. The Statement of Financial Activities for the prior year was stated correctly.

	<u>At 1 Apr 19</u>	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	<u>Outgoing Resources</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 20</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Arogya Agam as stated	-	14,966	9,754	(8,699)	13,911
Arogya Agam corrected	-	1,055	9,754	8,699	-
Vasandham	-	1,200	-	(1,200)	-
HIV prevention (MPE)	-	-	2,156	2,156	-
Women's Development	-	1,440	41,213	39,773	-
Child rights	-	-	7,423	7,423	-
Nilgiris tribal education	-	1,500	2,960	1,460	-
Health	-	-	4,096	4,096	-
Community-based organisations	-	120	7,507	7,387	-
HIV+ adolescents	-	-	4,848	4,848	-
Theni tribal project	-	-	12,333	12,333	-
Women's self-help group research	-	-	5,829	5,829	-
	---	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted funds as stated	-	19,226	98,119	92,804	13911
Total restricted funds corrected	-	5,315	98,119	92,804	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund as stated	172,116	16,543	1,488	(67,804)	119,367
JM Designated fund	125,000	-	-	(25,000)	100,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds as stated	297,116	16,543	1,488	(92,804)	219,367
General fund corrected	172,116	30,454	1,488	(67,804)	133,278
JM Designated fund	125,000	-	-	(25,000)	100,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds as stated	297,116	35,769	99,607	-	233,278
Total funds corrected	297,116	35,769	99,607	-	233,278

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Our long-standing associate, Mr John Dalton, is the founder of Arogya Agam, our chief partner. He no longer holds any official position with Arogya Agam but acts as a fundraiser and informal consultant. He is also engaged as Projects Adviser to VST, providing information and recommendations about our programmes and partners, and is invited to attend trustee meetings. All these services are given pro bono. During the year Arogya Agam received £29,021 in grants (2020: £59,949), and at the year end an amount of £27,211 was included in Debtors, being paid in advance to Arogya Agam for work to be carried out in 2021-22.