

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 279072

Details

Other names	FOCOLARE MOVEMENT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1979-12-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	16 Parkfields Welwyn Garden City Hertfordshire AL8 6ED
Phone	01707339706
Email	focolaregbf@focolare.org.uk
Website	www.focolare.org/gb

Activities

Objects: SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE CARRIED OUT BY OR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT. (FOR DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 3 OF THE TRUST DEED).

Activities: The Focolare Movement works towards establishing unity at all levels and all its activities are directed towards this end - the fulfilment of the words of the gospel: "May they all be one". It is also committed to fostering an ever greater equality among peoples and nations. To this end each year it gives a considerable contribution to its members in the developing world and to other projects.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Belgium
- Italy
- Scotland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,267,982	£934,218	£7,623,372	4
2024-03-31	£1,231,324	£1,464,200	£7,289,608	4
2023-03-31	£894,921	£1,067,396	£7,517,831	2
2022-03-31	£744,103	£784,880	£7,690,306	2
2021-03-31	£2,294,252	£898,808	£7,730,604	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Chris Ronayne	Chair	2024-12-30
Anuradha Laws		2024-02-18
Claudia Melis		2021-11-05
MARIE-CHRISTINE FOURNIER		
Patricia Whitney		2017-03-03

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 279072

Accounts

**The
Focolare
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2025

Charity Registration Number
(England & Wales) 279072

Charity Registration Number
(Scotland) SC039844

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees Marie Christine Fournier
Anuradha Laws
Claudia Melis
Christina Ronayne (appointed 30 December 2024)
Elizabeth Taite (resigned 30 December 2024)
Patricia Whitney

The trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011

Administrative address 16 Parkfields
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6ED

Charity registration numbers 279072 (England & Wales)
SC039844 (Scotland)

Auditor Buzzacott Audit LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers Co-operative bank
PO box 250
Delf House,
Southway
Skelmersdale
Wigan
WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank plc
7 St John's Hill
Clapham Junction
London
SW11 1TR

Reference and administrative information

Bankers (continued)

Santander UK plc
3rd Floor Santander House
100 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7RE

Shawbrook Bank
Lutea House, Warley Business Park
The Drive
Great Warley
Brentwood
CM13 3BE

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons LLP
10 Aldersgate Street
London
EC1A 4HJ

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Focolare Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 33 to 37 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The Focolare Movement, founded in Italy in 1943, is a global spiritual and social movement present in 182 countries. Rooted in Jesus' prayer for unity ("May they all be one" – Jn 17:21), its mission is to foster fraternity and dialogue, to achieve a more united world in which people respect and value diversity. The Movement includes people from various Christian denominations, other religions, and those with no specific faith, all united by the goal of global unity.

At the heart of the Movement are small communities called focolares, where consecrated men and women live a communal life dedicated to God. In Britain, the women's section includes 22 consecrated members, around 250 close members, and about 2,000 loosely connected supporters.

Internationally headquartered in Rome, the Movement operates in geographical 'zones'; since 2015, Britain belongs to the Western Europe zone, led from Brussels. The accompanying accounts refer to The Focolare Trust, which manages the assets of the women's section in Britain.

The Focolare Trust is governed by a trust deed dated 11 October 1979 and is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No 279072 and with OSCR No SC039844.

Working with other organisations

The Focolare Trust collaborates closely with Mariapolis Limited—a charity run by the men's section of the Focolare Movement—through a joint leadership team called the 'Core Group' to plan and coordinate the Movement's activities in the UK.

Some Focolare Trust members contribute to New City magazine, published by Mariapolis Ltd, while members of Mariapolis Ltd support the day-to-day operations of the Centre for Unity.

Governance and Key management personnel

The Trustees ensure that The Focolare Trust's plans, activities, and use of assets align with its charitable aims. Day-to-day operations—such as event planning and communications—are managed by the 'Core Group' and leaders of various groups (e.g. local communities, youth, volunteers).

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Governance and Key management personnel (continued)

The Core Group, made up of 20 members from diverse backgrounds and Focolare communities, meets monthly to plan and coordinate activities. Some Trustees also serve on this group. The Trustees work closely with the Core Group and maintain regular contact with those overseeing Focolare houses, the Centre for Unity, and key initiatives. Governance structures are currently under review both in Great Britain and globally.

Trustees

In accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed, new Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. The number of Trustees must be no fewer than three and no more than six. The current Trustees are:

- ◆ Chris Ronayne
- ◆ Marie-Christine Fournier
- ◆ Pat Whitney
- ◆ Claudia Melis
- ◆ Anuradha Laws

Elizabeth Taite resigned as a Trustee in December 2024 following her relocation abroad. Subsequently, Chris Ronayne was appointed as the new Chair.

Four of the five current Trustees are consecrated members of the Movement. While their living and personal expenses are supported by the charity, they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in relation to their duties as Trustees.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Governance and Key management personnel (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks facing the charity, particularly in its operations and finances. By monitoring reserves, maintaining controls over financial systems, and regularly reviewing risks, they believe effective measures are in place to manage and mitigate these risks.

Governance - widening participation, sharing responsibilities and ensuring sustainability.

The governance structures of the Focolare Movement in GB (and consequently, of the Trust) are under continuous review to ensure they remain aligned with the Movement's aims and its evolving needs. In recent years, significant progress has been made in this area, particularly through the annual *Roots and Wings* meetings, which provide a space for discernment around the shape and direction of our governance.

The Core Group, which plays a key role in coordinating the Movement's activities in Britain, has grown to include individuals with specific responsibilities in areas such as sharing/communion of goods, outreach, and communications. This has strengthened both operational effectiveness and accountability within the Movement.

A key emphasis has been placed on diffused leadership and widening participation, with efforts to involve a broader range of members in decision-making and responsibility across different areas of activity.

Additionally, a recent international meeting in Madrid brought together Core Groups from various countries to reflect together on governance practices.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Risk management (continued)

In line with these developments, a discernment process is currently underway regarding a potential merger with Mariapolis Ltd, with a view to streamlining governance structures and planning for future succession. This approach also reflects the close collaboration that already characterises the way the two entities operate today.

“Roots and Wings” Weekend – 28-29 September 2024

Extensive consultation across Great Britain shaped the weekend programme, which brought together 70 participants. The event aimed to reflect on two key questions: *What is God asking of the Movement?* and *What is He asking of each individual member?* Participants also sought to agree on key priorities and activities for the coming year.

From these initial reflections, participants formed self-selected working groups around key themes: *Retreats, Formation and Accompaniment; Local Communities and Families; Ecumenism; Interfaith Dialogue and Learning; the Arts; Communication; and Governance/Core Group*. Each group produced practical recommendations intended to be shared widely across the Movement, not just with attendees.

Concerns around sufficient provision for young people were noted, but it was also highlighted that the youth team would meet immediately after the Roots & Wings meeting to address some of the issues and plan the year ahead.

Feedback from the 2024 national Mariapolis in Shropshire, though largely positive, highlighted opportunities to improve delegation and build on existing work, aiming for a more efficient and manageable planning process for Mariapolis 2025.

Core Groups in Madrid – 20-23 February 25

In February, a significant meeting took place in Spain, bringing together Core Groups, Leadership Teams, and the Council for Western Europe, along with Catherine Burke and Andreas Amman (Focolare Movement's Delegates for Western Europe). The gathering focused on evolving governance structures across the 'zone' and fostering greater alignment despite regional differences.

Across Western Europe, Core Groups, Leadership Teams, and the Council are working more closely together, even as each country operates with different organisational models. In response to changing realities, there is a shared sense that governance needs to adapt—moving toward a more “diffuse” model that includes wider participation from different branches of the Focolare Movement.

Centre for Unity sustainability

A new management structure for the Centre for Unity has continued to develop over 2024–25, following the appointment of a Centre Manager and the formation of a Management Team in 2023–24. Increased activity and improved working practices have been evident, supported by the expansion of staff to five members, including a newly appointed Volunteer Coordinator who has significantly strengthened day-to-day operations.

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Centre for Unity sustainability (continued)

The relationship between the Centre Manager and Management Team has grown stronger, and more robust procedures are now in place, including a new volunteer policy. Planning is also underway for future maintenance, with a major survey scheduled for 2025.

The Trustees continue to monitor financial pressures such as rising energy costs, ongoing maintenance, and additional staffing. However, they are confident that the current level of reserves is sufficient to support the ongoing operation of the Centre for the next 3-5 years.

Ageing communities

During 2024–25, we have observed a growing need for additional support among some of our more mature consecrated members, prompting the introduction of home care services. This has led to careful reflection on how best to provide ongoing care that addresses the needs of our elder members throughout all stages of life.

Consideration is underway regarding the accessibility and suitability of our community houses, with ongoing consultations involving experts to guide this process. While this presents certain challenges, we remain committed to responding thoughtfully and responsibly to these important issues.

This work continues the support provided in previous years, where members experiencing the effects of ageing have been assisted through peer care initiatives. We remain dedicated to promoting the wellbeing of all members and are actively addressing succession planning as part of the wider governance discussions.

Safeguarding

The Focolare GB Safeguarding team comprises four members - two Safeguarding Officers: Jane Evans and Nic Innocent; and two additional members/administrators: Claudia Melis and Anja Primbs.

Progress on Plans for 2024-25

- ◆ We have formalised our training offer (using the CSSA online training and equivalent training provided by various Christian Denominations), extended this offer to our close members (not only youth workers), and updated the recording system. We have been working with our Centre in Brussels to clarify expectations around training and share good practices.
- ◆ The umbrella agreement with the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) is nearing formal completion, with final details being confirmed.
- ◆ We have audited the DBS/PVG of our members involved in youth work and clarified which roles require internal checks ('Focolare DBS/PVG') and clarified renewals (every 5 years).

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Progress on Plans for 2024-25 (continued)

- ◆ We continue to look for an external expert to audit Focolare GB safeguarding.
- ◆ A new volunteer has come forward to support safeguarding administration and will be in place in the summer 2025. Another volunteer with safeguarding expertise has offered to provide advice to the Team when needed.

To support the development of a culture of safeguarding:

- ◆ We have continued to provide regular updates to the Core Group, which were shared with a network of close members.
- ◆ We have continued to share learning between the youth leaders and the Safeguarding team, for example, what we have learned after youth events such as Mariapolis, to inform ongoing improvements in safeguarding in GB.

Plans for 2025-26

- ◆ Policy renewal
- ◆ Continue to monitor vetting and training needs
- ◆ Strengthen relationship with our Centre in Brussels
- ◆ Look for an external expert to audit Focolare GB safeguarding.

Data Protection in 2024-25

The Data Protection team focused on maintaining a system that protects personal data while supporting Focolare GB's activities. Updated practices were successfully tested at the Mariapolis event. Two minor data breaches were managed and used to improve future procedures. The Data Protection Officer role transitioned to Gerry Murphy in December. Key achievements included enhancing email security, creating a breach response flowchart, and completing a Data Protection Events Manual. Work is ongoing to develop a volunteer confidentiality agreement and to implement cybersecurity training plans.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANT POLICIES

Principal aims

The Trust's main objectives are the advancement of the Christian religion, the prevention or relief of poverty, and the promotion of education.

The Focolare Movement pursues these aims by **fostering unity through dialogue and a culture of encounter**—across Christian denominations, between faiths, and within society more broadly, including areas such as ecology, politics, and the arts.

It also promotes **greater equity among peoples and nations** by supporting international projects, assisting communities affected by disasters, and helping those in need within Great Britain.

Objectives and priorities

In 2024–25, the Trustees, in collaboration with the Core Group, identified key priority areas to focus the Movement's work in line with its overall aims.

- a) To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- b) To continue accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.
- c) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024.
- d) To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- e) To continue supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU (Azione per un Mondo Unito - Action for a United World) and AFN (Associazione Famiglie Nuove - New Families Action), as well as supporting people in need in GB.

Grant making policy

The Trust's grant-making decisions are made in consultation with those responsible for the Focolare Movement in Britain, the regional headquarters in Brussels, the General Council in Rome, and those responsible for each local *focolare* (see page 1). Priority is given to supporting Focolare projects, with occasional, needs-based support offered to close relatives of consecrated members.

Overseas grants are coordinated with the International Centre in Rome, particularly through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus, to support areas of significant need (see below, Activities - point e).

The *Covid and Hardship Fund* is managed by a committee of five—two Trustees, the secretary of Mariapolis Ltd, and two Focolare volunteers—who oversee donations and allocate funds based on requests submitted via local communities or Focolare houses.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Public benefit

The Trustees have followed Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, with the activities and achievements detailed below demonstrating how the Focolare Trust advances its objectives of fostering dialogue and unity.

Review of activities

a) Supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain and Focolare International Centres

In the year ending 31 March 2025, the charity supported 22 consecrated members in Great Britain who play key roles in youth engagement and ecumenical and interfaith activities.

The charity also gave a substantial contribution of £320,160 to the Focolare International Centre in Rome to support consecrated members abroad and initiatives in developing countries. On behalf of the International Centre, we continue to hold funds in separate deposit accounts (Centro Foco fund and International Property Repair fund), which are drawn down when needed in response to needs as outlined above.

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.

Youth engagement has been a highlight this year, with numerous activities supporting young people, families, and individual members across the country. These initiatives have fostered community, deepened faith, and encouraged active participation in the Movement's spirituality and outreach.

Birmingham Youth Weekend, 4-7 April 2025

Fifteen young people aged 10–16 from across the UK gathered in Birmingham for a weekend focused on living the Gospel and discovering the gifts of community. Activities included exploring early Christian history, practicing Gospel values through scenarios and a treasure hunt, and creative projects such as making friendship bracelets and batik tote bags to support Focolare projects in the Holy Land. Participants left inspired to live out their faith and strengthen their friendships.



Genfest Brazil, 11-28 July 2024

Ten young adults and two leaders attended Genfest in Brazil, a global event promoting unity across cultures and beliefs. The group participated in social action projects in Brasilia, engaging with local communities, followed by celebrations, workshops, and exchanges in Aparecida. The experience was transformative, inspiring two participants to pursue further formation in the International Focolare Centre of Loppiano, Italy.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Vocations Day, 26 October 2024

A diverse group of young adults gathered to explore vocations within Focolare spirituality. Through personal stories and reflection, participants found “freedom and peace” (as one participant said), with a strong desire to continue these conversations.

Youth Weekend, November 2024

At a weekend retreat in Welwyn Garden City, 12–16-year-olds and a group of young adults reflected on different expressions of love and God’s unique love for each person. The event fostered new friendships through shared activities, games, dances, and prayer, leaving participants renewed in their faith journey.

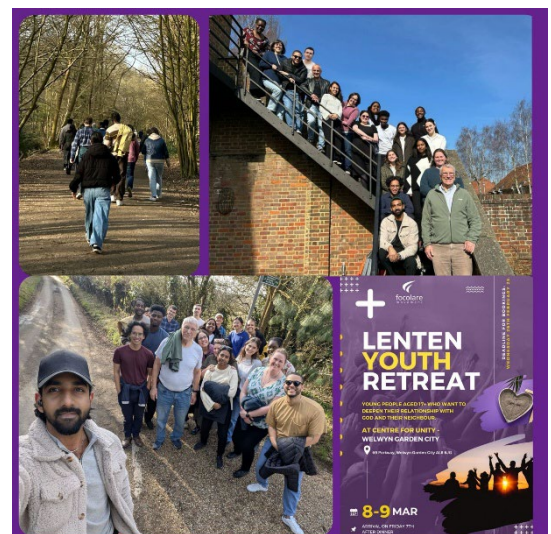


Gen2 Weekend, Birmingham, 1-2 February 2025

This weekend brought together young people to deepen their understanding of Focolare spirituality and identity. The event included the ‘Hand in Hand’ outreach to homeless people in Birmingham, combining practical support with prayer. Following the weekend, young adults established a monthly online group to reflect on the ‘Word of Life’ (chosen passage from Scripture) and maintain community.

Lent Retreat, 7-9 March 2025

A group of young people aged 17+ gathered in Welwyn Garden City for a Lenten retreat featuring talks, faith sharing, and nature walks. Contributions from speakers on evangelisation and personal testimonies enriched the dialogue, fostering a supportive atmosphere to strengthen relationships and renew commitment.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Hand in Hand Homeless Outreach, Birmingham

Initially a one-off Lent almsgiving activity, this project quickly grew into a monthly outreach involving students, Focolare members, and parishioners. Supported by the University's Catholic Society and Saint Vincent Paul Society, the group prepares and distributes food and messages of friendship to homeless people in Birmingham, enriching participants' faith through service.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Highlights from Local Communities

Local focolare communities across Britain continue to be places of mutual support, outreach and dialogue, with a wide range of initiatives fostering spiritual growth, interfaith understanding, and care for others.

Scotland

The community hosted several gatherings including a "Faith Exploring" evening with Fr Vincent Lockhart (Nov 2024), and "Called to Hope", an Advent reflection open to all (Dec 2024). In January 2025, a meeting with Sheikh Pakdin, deepened interfaith dialogue. February saw a vibrant meeting for children and families in Glasgow.

Wales

The community met monthly via Zoom, often from Pontypridd, to reflect on Gospel spirituality and celebrated Christmas together, and other family celebrations, as a community.

North East

Based mainly in Yorkshire and Newcastle, the local community meets bi-monthly for moments of reflection, shared meals and mutual support. Older members of the community in Newcastle, some of whom have major health issues, keep in touch via Zoom meetings.

North West

Collaboration between civil authorities and a local churches network lead to a revival of the town's historic Walking Day which saw enthusiastic participation of the townsfolk along the streets and at the celebration in the town's park, strengthening community cohesion. A 'Peace Pole' was erected in a popular corner of the park with a dedication inscribed in seven languages for passers-by to reflect and groups to gather, witnessing to humanity's drive for a peaceful and prosperous existence for all. (May and June 2024, Chorley, Lancashire)

Midlands

Young people continued their monthly outreach to homeless people in Birmingham through the "Hand in Hand" project. The community also participated in an interfaith event at the University of Birmingham, promoting dialogue and collaboration.

Oxford

In Banbury, the community organised fundraising activities involving local residents to support a summer camp for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds (Spring 2025).

Welwyn Garden City

'Friends of Welwyn Care Homes' continued regular visits to local homes, offering companionship and reflection services valued by residents and staff alike. The annual "Carols in the Cloisters" event (Dec 2025) welcomed over 80 people with international food, a Polish choir, and performances by children, celebrating Christmas with warmth and diversity.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

London and South East

Community events in Bexleyheath brought together families from across South East London, fostering friendship and an appreciation of diverse cultural experiences. A shared family afternoon at the Focolare Centre for Unity in January 2024 extended these connections. Regular long walks continued to offer space for physical activity, friendship, and appreciation of nature.

c) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024.

Interfaith Peace Vigil – Birmingham (14 November 2024)

As part of Interfaith Week 2024, a peace vigil was held on 14th November at St Anne's Church in Birmingham, described by participants as "a whisper for peace", "an encounter of reconciliation", and "a wave of hope".

Organised by the Focolare Movement and the Columban Missionaries, together with representatives from the Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Buddhist and Hindu communities, the event brought together around 100 people to reflect and pray for peace amidst ongoing global conflict and violence.

In an atmosphere of calm and contemplation, prayers and reflections from diverse faith traditions were shared, with significant contributions from young adults. These moments invited all present to recognise, within their own faith and others, a shared call to love, unity, and care for humanity and creation.

The sound of meditative bells created space for deep silence and collective awareness of the wounds caused by the absence of love and justice. The vigil concluded with two symbolic gestures: the commitment to a daily "time-out for peace" at noon, and the lighting of the word "Peace", as a shared sign of hope.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024 (continued)

Called to Hope – An Ecumenical Gathering (27–30 March 2025, Welwyn Garden City)

Fifty participants from six church traditions gathered at the Focolare Centre for Unity to explore the theme *Called to Hope*—in personal life, in the Church, and in the world. The gathering created a space for reflection, shared experiences, and deep listening across denominations.

Participants expressed hopes for stronger faith, deeper unity, environmental awareness, and global peace. Stories from the Corrymeela Community and a powerful personal testimony of reconciliation illustrated how hope can emerge even in the most challenging circumstances.

Art and music enriched the event including highlights from the recent Methodist Modern Art Exhibition held at the CfU and Lorraine Reade's reflections on songwriting. An extract from the play *'Etty ...In Transit'* acted by Sarah Finch and written by Paul Gateshill, based on the life and witness of Etty Hillesum, brought inspiration and depth.

Church leaders shared encouraging examples of grassroots initiatives, while the multi-faith group *Joining the Dots Together* and Birmingham Diocese's Silver Eco-Church award highlighted active environmental engagement.

Talks by David Hickey and Pat Whitney offered spiritual insight, emphasising Jesus Forsaken and His presence among us as the wellspring of Christian hope.

The programme included a virtual link with the international *Called to Hope* event in Rome, visits to local churches, and concluded with a pilgrimage to St Alban's shrine and a final Eucharist—leaving all renewed in their commitment to live and share hope.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024 (continued)

Church Leaders' Meeting (25 January 2025)

Thirteen participants gathered in person at the Centre for Unity, with eight more joining online, for a warmly received day focused on Focolare's ecumenical journey.

Joan Back shared the historical development of Chiara Lubich's ecumenical experience, highlighting Focolare's distinctive "dialogue of life." Drawing on key moments, writings, and



personal testimonies, the day brought this dialogue to life, distinguishing it from other forms of ecumenical engagement while valuing their shared purpose.

The gathering fostered deep listening and heartfelt sharing, offering a vivid picture of Focolare in Britain today. Many expressed their gratitude and a desire to broaden invitations next year, affirming the ongoing relevance of such encounters for Church leaders.

GB Mariapolis 25-28 July 2024

After a six-year hiatus, the Focolare Movement gathered 350 participants at Harper Adams University in Shropshire from 25 to 28 July. The joy of reuniting in person was palpable, especially after years of virtual gatherings brought on by the pandemic. The central theme explored God's call in everyday life, with inspiration drawn from talks by Focolare President Margaret Karram.

Participants shared moving testimonies reflecting a rich diversity of vocations—from priesthood and marriage to acts of kindness and social service. The event welcomed people of all ages, from babies to the elderly, cultivating a vibrant multigenerational atmosphere.

Music, colour, and drama filled each day, and children played a leading role in love-in-action efforts through a dedicated programme called "Launchpad." Migrants and refugees contributed new cultural perspectives, while young families and local communities infused the gathering with energy and wisdom. Throughout the event, an ecumenical spirit flourished as Christian denominations worshipped together in mutual respect. A live link with the Mariapolis in Spain and messages from Genfest in Brazil underscored the Movement's global reach and solidarity.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024 (continued)

GB Mariapolis 25-28 July 2024 (continued)

Workshops offered a wide variety of experiences—from deep spiritual reflections and discussions on citizenship to joyful creative pastimes like bagpipe music and crochet. However, the jubilant spirit of the gathering was soon met with sobering reality. A tragic knife attack in Southport on 29 July cast a shadow over the celebrations. Yet, the community responded with compassion, unity, and resolute hope, drawing strength from the light of their shared experience.

As the event concluded, participants described feeling spiritually renewed. Many called the Mariapolis “miraculous,” “accessible,” and a powerful testament to how love and unity can truly transform the world.

d) Focolare Centre for Unity

The Focolare Centre for Unity continued its regular activities throughout the year, hosting and organising formative and spiritual events for the Focolare Movement, as well as supporting local initiatives and encouraging dialogue among diverse groups in society.

The Centre welcomed around **5,300 visitors**, including students, church leaders, public workers, and local residents, hosting **25 residential retreats** (677 attendees) and **258 day sessions** with over 4,400 participants in total.

We supported four events attended by 215 participants, **focusing on loneliness and elderly care** in collaboration with the local parish and the St Vincent de Paul Society. We are already exploring ways to deepen this partnership next year to further address loneliness in the community.

A significant event took place at our Centre for Unity with **the signing of the Faith Covenant between Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and faith leaders**, affirming their commitment to working together and strengthening relations among the borough's diverse communities. The Centre and members of the Focolare community provided ongoing support for this initiative.

Valerie Skottowe, Chair of the Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith said:

“On the 28 January, faith leaders in the borough came together to sign the Covenant with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to promote open, practical modes of working together to strengthen community cohesion.

“It is fitting that this took place during the 20th anniversary year of the founding of Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith, which was set up at the behest of the council and has worked consistently to promote better understanding between the faith communities.”

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

For more information: <https://one.welhat.gov.uk/news/article/295/council-signs-faith-covenant-to-promote-cooperation-and-understanding>

Internally, we welcomed two new staff members: Jacqueline Pais as Finance Assistant and Anne Bloomfield as Volunteer Coordinator. We remain deeply grateful to Paola Grazia and Margarida Pereira, who have now moved to other countries, for their dedicated service over the years.



Staff and volunteers have focused on maintaining and improving consistent good practices at the Centre, alongside implementing a Volunteering Policy to clarify roles and responsibilities. This year, alongside our regular 20 volunteers, we hosted one student completing a week's work experience and welcomed a few volunteers who created portraits of our volunteers and team.

In December 2024, a Food Hygiene Inspection awarded the Centre a score of 5, reflecting excellent standards.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

To ensure sustainability, we worked on improving energy-saving practices and managing costs by adjusting hire prices in response to the rising cost of living, while safeguarding access to valuable services. We continue to offer subsidised rates to charity and faith organisations, as well as additional discounts for projects we support, such as sessions for vulnerable young girls, a patient voice group linked to the local GP surgery, the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group, and a carers' support group for people with dementia.

Some feedback from our visitors included:

"Thank you for accommodating our group, they were very happy with the room. One of the girls wants to live in there! The group really enjoys the building as it is peaceful and calm, which brings them comfort. Once again, thank you for your attention." – K.M. (Girls Group)

"Thank you so much for making us all welcome at the Centre the last four days for our Four Nations Faith and Order meeting. You couldn't have done more to help us and make the week go so smoothly. Everything was perfect – thank you!" – J.M. (Residential stay – representatives from Church of England, Church of Ireland, Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church in Wales)

"Can I pass on my thanks from all at Retrouvaille to you and all the team at the Centre. You looked after us really well over the weekend, in challenging weather! The feedback from the couples I spoke to was also really positive." – J.W. (Retrouvaille, group dedicated to healing and renewing marriages)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB

The Focolare Trust holds £6,424 in its Covid & Hardship Fund to support UK families affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Generous donations have also been received for Focolare projects abroad, channelled via the Movement's International Emergency Coordination Team, AMU (www.amu-it.eu), and AFN (<https://afnonlus.org>).

Donating through the Focolare Trust allows UK taxpayers to add 25% Gift Aid.

Myanmar Earthquake – March 2025

Following the earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28 March, donations totalling £1,610 were collected and sent directly to the Focolare community in Myanmar.

In April, a heartfelt letter of thanks was received, expressing deep gratitude for the solidarity shown and confirming that the funds are being used responsibly to support those affected by the disaster. Photographs from a recent visit to the impacted area were shared as part of the update shared to all donors via the Focolare GB quarterly newsletter.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB (continued)

Myanmar Earthquake – March 2025 (continued)



Focolare activities in Scotland 2024-25

In line with the 'aims and formats of our activities' discerned with the whole community the previous year (see Trustee Report 2023 – 2024), we continued with:

1. Meetings that foster ecumenical and interreligious relationships.
One example was the impromptu meeting with Sheikh Mohammad Pakdin, a regular visiting scholar of Ahl Al-Bait Society of Scotland, who coming from abroad and passing through Scotland for a conference, "could not fail to stop by and say hello to his family at the Focolare".



We also had regular meetings with members of the Baha'i Religion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB (continued)

Focolare activities in Scotland 2024-25

2. The second point that was desired by our community was to continue reflective and faith sharing meetings for the community. We had several meetings with Father Vincent Lockhart during the year. These were recorded and made available for the wider community.



Another event for the wider community was our 'Called to Hope' Advent Celebration

3. The third point was to have more 'social events' to strengthen the sense of a family within the community. Here are some photos of walks and picnics in the park.



4. Other initiatives continued, such as the **Carol Singing at Daniel's house**.
5. In addition, we started to have **monthly afternoons, particularly aimed at children of all ages**. These are greatly appreciated also by their parents and guardians and attracts particularly young families.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB (continued)

Focolare activities in Scotland 2024-25 (continued)



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Future plans 2024-25

Following discussions with the Core Group, the Trustees confirmed the following specific objectives for the coming year in keeping with our general aims:

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.
- ◆ To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2025.
- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB.

As mentioned under risk management earlier in this report, the charity is in the process of reviewing a potential merger with Mariapolis Ltd, with a view to streamlining governance structures and reflect the collaboration that already characterises the way the two entities operate today. As at the date of this report, the outcome of this review has not been formally agreed upon but discussions are at an advanced stage and the trustees are hopeful that progress will be made over the coming year.

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 30 of the attached financial statements.

For the year to 31 March 2025, the income of the charity amounted to £1,167,982 (2024 - £1,235,977), including 1,026,942 (2024 - £1,047,903) from voluntary income, £155,478 (2024 - £120,639) from charitable activities and interest receivable of £79,164 (2024 - £55,129).

Total expenditure in the year was £934,218 (2024 - £1,464,200) including £390,255 (2024 - £877,617) for donations and grants payments; £189,293 (2024 - £174,800) for provision of retreats, conferences and publications; £12,019 (2024 - £35,100) for interfaith and youth projects; and £342,651 (2024 - £376,683) for the support of the members of the Movement.

The net movement in funds for the year was an increase of £333,764 (2024 - a decrease of £228,223).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for the free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed).

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves policy and financial position (continued)

The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately between three and six months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,623,372 (2024 - £7,289,608). Of this, £4,778,959 (2024 - £4,819,347) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the Movement. Such assets are of fundamental importance to the charity; without these assets the charity would be unable to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives. The value of such assets, therefore, would not be easily realisable, if needed to meet future contingencies. To emphasise this point, the net book value of these assets has been set aside, by the trustees, in a tangible fixed assets fund. Other designated funds stood at £2,461,698 (2024 - £2,309,561) (see note 15).

Free reserves available to support the work of the members in the future are those shown on the balance sheet under the general fund and, at 31 March 2025 equate to £368,015 (2024 - £148,309). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2025 equates to approximately 5 months' of ongoing expenditure which is consistent with the desired reserves level as noted above.

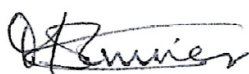
The charity's assets

Acquisitions and disposals of tangible fixed assets during the year are recorded in note 10 to the financial statements.

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE CHARITY

The Trustees warmly express their sincere gratitude to all staff, volunteers, members, and supporters of the Focolare Movement. Their unwavering commitment, generosity, and creativity have been truly invaluable. It is through their active participation and sense of ownership that new opportunities are emerging - fresh approaches to collaboration and to sharing the message of unity. We look forward with hope and confidence to continuing this journey together along these promising new paths.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Marie Christine Fournier

Trustee

Date: 10/12/2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Focolare Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Focolare Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and financial statements, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with those Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ The identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and safeguarding regulations.
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and reviewing trustee meeting minutes and reports from regulatory bodies.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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

Date: 10 December 2025

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	959,741	67,201	1,026,942	968,514	79,389	1,047,903
Investments		79,164	—	79,164	55,129	—	55,129
Charitable activities							
. Retreat and conference centre fees		149,538	—	149,538	120,489	—	120,489
. Interfaith, youth projects and events		—	5,940	5,940	—	150	150
Other income							
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets		—	—	—	4,653	—	4,653
. Miscellaneous income	2	6,398	—	6,398	7,653	—	7,653
Total income		1,194,841	73,141	1,267,982	1,156,438	79,539	1,235,977
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Donations and grants payable	3	339,191	51,064	390,255	859,532	18,085	877,617
. Provision of retreats, conferences and publications	4	188,004	1,289	189,293	171,998	2,802	174,800
. Interfaith, youth projects and events	5	3,050	8,969	12,019	6,448	28,652	35,100
. Support of members of the Movement	6	333,141	9,510	342,651	357,663	19,020	376,683
Total expenditure		863,386	70,832	934,218	1,395,641	68,559	1,464,200
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	331,455	2,309	333,764	(239,203)	10,980	(228,223)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 April		7,277,217	12,391	7,289,608	7,516,420	1,411	7,517,831
Balances carried forward at 31 March		7,608,672	14,700	7,623,372	7,277,217	12,391	7,289,608

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,778,959		4,819,347
			4,778,959		4,819,347
Current assets					
Debtors	11	220,686		19,455	
Short term deposits		1,171,396		1,166,889	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,478,276		1,309,533	
Total current assets		2,870,358		2,495,877	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(25,945)		(25,616)	
Net current assets			2,844,413		2,470,261
Net assets			7,623,372		7,289,608
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	13		14,700		12,391
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			368,015		148,309
. Tangible fixed assets fund	14		4,778,959		4,819,347
. Designated funds	15		2,461,698		2,309,561
Total funds			7,623,372		7,289,608

Approved by trustees and signed
on their behalf by:


Marie Christine Fournier
(.....)
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 10/12/2025

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	108,562	(235,726)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		79,164	55,129
Transfers to short term deposits		(4,507)	(1,166,889)
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		2,586	4,688
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(17,062)	(16,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		60,181	(1,123,072)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		168,743	(1,358,798)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	1,309,533	2,668,331
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	1,478,276	1,309,533

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	333,764	(228,223)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	53,539	51,982
Investment income	(79,164)	(55,129)
Deficit (surplus) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,325	(4,653)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(201,231)	2,111
Increase (decrease) in creditors	329	(1,814)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	108,562	(235,726)

B Analysis of net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,309,533	168,743	1,478,276
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,309,533	168,743	1,478,276
Loans payable due within one year	(6,000)	1,000	(5,000)
Total loans	(6,000)	1,000	(5,000)
	1,303,533	(130,668)	1,172,865

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2025.

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

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life and residual value of tangible fixed assets; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds needed at the year end in particular in respect to the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement fund.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

The level of reserves and income and expenditure of the Centre for Unity continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure in respect of a period of at least 1 year from the date of approval of these financial statements. As detailed under future plans, the Trustees are in advanced discussions regarding a potential merger with Mariapolis Ltd. Whilst the trustees are hopeful that progress can be made, the outcome has not yet been formally agreed upon. Therefore, the accounts continue to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The Trustees continue to monitor financial pressures such as rising energy costs, ongoing maintenance, and additional staffing. However, they are confident that the current level of reserves is sufficient to support the ongoing operation of the Centre for the next 3-5 years.

Therefore, they are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and be able to continue as a going concern.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements have not been prepared as the subsidiary company remained dormant throughout the year.

Income recognition

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

Income comprises donations, investment income, income from retreat and conference centre fees, income from events and workshops and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual members of the Movement received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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

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

Income from retreat and conference centre fees and from events and workshops is usually recognised in the period to which it relates or the period in which the event or workshop took place.

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Expenditure comprises the costs of the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:

- ◆ Donations and grants payable - these are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to receive the grant and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ◆ Provision of retreats, conferences and publications, including expenditure on the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City.
- ◆ Interfaith, youth projects and events, including expenditure on the Gen Verde project and other interfaith and youth projects and events.
- ◆ Expenditure on the support of the members of the Movement which enables the members to carry out the charitable work of the Trust in the areas of the advancement of Christianity, the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, including all support and governance costs associated with the administration of the charity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Freehold land and buildings
These are included on the balance sheet at cost.
 - ◇ Residential
No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings used as private residential accommodation. The value and condition of the buildings are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.
 - ◇ Conference centre
Freehold land and buildings used for the provision of the conference centre are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the properties off over their estimated useful life.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise moneys raised for and their use restricted to a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The charity's unrestricted funds comprise a number of funds which are available for application towards the charity's objectives. Within unrestricted funds, the trustees have designated certain amounts for specific purposes and have identified those non-liquid funds represented by tangible fixed assets. Details of these funds are given in notes 14 and 15 to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Listed investments are a basic financial instrument as detailed above. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial instruments (continued)

Financial liabilities – accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2025

Services provided by members of the Movement

For the purposes of these financial statements, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Movement.

1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant	664,756	—	664,756
General donations	151,985	67,201	219,186
Legacies	143,000	—	143,000
2025 Total funds	959,741	67,201	1,026,942

Salaries and pensions include amounts totalling £47,805 (2024 - £56,999) from trustees. General donations include an unrestricted amount of £11,100 (2024 – £152,424) from a trustee.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
<i>Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant</i>	571,715	—	571,715
<i>General donations</i>	234,047	79,389	313,436
<i>Legacies</i>	162,752	—	162,752
<i>2024 Total funds</i>	<i>968,514</i>	<i>79,389</i>	<i>1,047,903</i>

2 Miscellaneous income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Sundry income	6,398	—	6,398
2025 Total funds	6,398	—	6,398

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
<i>Sundry income</i>	<i>7,653</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7,653</i>
<i>2024 Total funds</i>	<i>7,653</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7,653</i>

3 Donations and grants payable

The charity makes grants to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its grant making policy set out in the trustees' report.

3 Donations and grants payable (continued)

Several donations have been sent via the Movement's centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in various countries including some specific projects for those in need. We have continued to support the Focolare communities affected by the war in the Holy Land and the Amazon project (see Report 2023-24). We continue to support adoption at distance projects through AFN (Action for New Families) and contribute to an international fund towards helping Focolare members in various countries. In addition, we collected donations towards the earthquake emergency in Myanmar (March 2025).

The donations and grants payable during the year were for the following purposes:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Contributions to the Global Mission	279,019	41,141	320,160
Grants to international projects	—	6,076	6,076
Covid-19 emergency grants	—	250	250
Other Grants	60,172	3,597	63,769
2025 Total funds	339,191	51,064	390,255

Included above are grants paid to 4 individuals totalling £20,223 (2024 – 7 individuals totalling £33,342).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
<i>Contributions to the Global Mission</i>	784,492	7,041	791,533
<i>Grants to international projects</i>	—	10,844	10,844
<i>Covid- 19 emergency grants</i>	—	200	200
<i>Contribution to former members</i>	75,040	—	75,040
2024 Total funds	859,532	18,085	877,617

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Retreat and conference centre costs			
. Premises	86,632	—	86,632
. Centre for Unity running costs	35,284	1,289	36,573
. Staff costs (note 8)	59,092	—	59,092
. Office sundries	6,446	—	6,446
Other costs and publications	550	—	550
2025 Total funds	188,004	1,289	189,293

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
<i>Retreat and conference centre costs</i>			
. Premises	85,027	—	85,027
. Centre for Unity running costs	31,801	2,802	34,603
. Staff costs (note 8)	50,573	—	50,573
. Office sundries	3,457	—	3,457
Other costs and publications	1,140	—	1,140
2024 Total funds	171,998	2,802	174,800

5 Interfaith, youth projects and events

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Mariapolis	565	715	1,280
Youth projects	2,485	8,254	10,739
2025 Total funds	3,050	8,969	12,019

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Mariapolis	3,125	8,053	11,178
Gen Verde	—	20,252	20,252
Youth projects	3,323	347	3,670
2024 Total funds	6,448	28,652	35,100

6 Support of members of the Movement

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	90,356	—	90,356
. Members' living expenses	218,900	9,510	228,410
Support and governance costs			
. Legal and professional fees	23,885	—	23,885
2025 Total funds	333,141	9,510	342,651

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	113,325	—	113,325
. Members' living expenses	221,350	19,020	240,370
Support and governance costs			
. Legal and professional fees	22,988	—	22,988
2024 Total funds	357,663	19,020	376,683

7 Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit services	20,900	19,680
Depreciation (note 10)	53,539	51,982

8 Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	52,493	44,520
Social security costs	4,485	4,320
Pension contributions	2,114	1,733
Total staff cost	59,092	50,573

The charity employed an average of four staff members during the year (2024 – two) on a part-time basis.

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

All trustees are members of the Movement and whilst, for some of them, their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

9 Taxation

The Focolare Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings		Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Residential £	Conference centre £				
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	3,570,310	2,052,477	273,246	10,295	91,838	5,998,166
Additions	—	—	1,372	—	15,690	17,062
Disposals	—	—	—	—	(5,215)	(5,215)
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>2,052,477</u>	<u>274,618</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>102,313</u>	<u>6,010,013</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2024	—	831,442	256,318	10,295	80,764	1,178,819
Charge for year	—	41,049	4,584	—	7,906	53,539
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	—	—	(1,304)	(1,304)
At 31 March 2025	<u>—</u>	<u>872,491</u>	<u>260,902</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>87,366</u>	<u>1,231,054</u>
Net book values						
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>1,179,986</u>	<u>13,716</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>14,947</u>	<u>4,778,959</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>1,221,035</u>	<u>16,928</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>11,074</u>	<u>4,819,347</u>

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued income and prepayments	95,686	19,455
Accrued legacy income	125,000	—
	<u>220,686</u>	<u>19,455</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Loans payable	5,000	6,000
Accruals and other creditors	20,945	19,616
	<u>25,945</u>	<u>25,616</u>

All loans are interest free and repayable on demand. Loans payable relate to amounts borrowed before 2000 to purchase the Focolare Centre for Unity.

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2025 £
Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events	1,177	7,776	(6,756)	2,197
Centre for Unity	—	1,289	(1,289)	—
Overseas Project	6,393	8,845	(9,159)	6,079
Covid Emergency and Hardship	4,821	1,853	(250)	6,424
Education grant	—	9,510	(9,510)	—
Other	—	43,868	(43,868)	—
	12,391	73,141	(70,832)	14,700

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2024 £
<i>Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events</i>	—	29,829	(28,652)	1,177
<i>Centre for Unity</i>	—	2,802	(2,802)	—
<i>Overseas Project</i>	—	17,237	(10,844)	6,393
<i>Covid Emergency and Hardship</i>	1,411	3,610	(200)	4,821
<i>Education grant</i>	—	19,020	(19,020)	—
<i>Other</i>	—	7,041	(7,041)	—
	1,411	79,539	(68,559)	12,391

- ◆ **Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events**
This fund consists of monies received towards various Focolare projects and events in GB, including interfaith and youth activities and other events such as local 'Mariapolis'.
- ◆ **Centre for Unity**
This fund consists of restricted donations received to support the work of the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ **Overseas Projects Fund**
This fund consists of donations received towards specific overseas projects, liaising with the International Centre in Rome, through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus, or via local Focolare centres in places of need.
- ◆ **Covid Emergency & Hardship Fund**
This fund consists of donations received towards families and individuals close to Focolare communities, who may need financial support, due to the consequences of Covid, or because of particular circumstances. The fund is managed by a specific committee.

14 Tangible fixed assets fund

	Total £
At 1 April 2024	4,819,347
Net movements in year	(40,388)
At 31 March 2025 (see note 10)	4,778,959

14 Tangible fixed assets fund (continued)

	<i>Total</i> £
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	4,855,364
<i>Net movements in year</i>	(36,017)
<i>At 31 March 2024 (see note 10)</i>	<u>4,819,347</u>

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day to day work of the charity. The fund value, therefore, cannot be realised with ease or without jeopardising the ongoing work of the charity.

15 Designated funds

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

	<i>At</i> 1 April 2024 £	<i>New</i> designations £	<i>Utilised/ transferred</i> £	<i>At</i> 31 March 2025 £
<i>Focolare UK major maintenance fund</i>				
. <i>The Focolare Centre for Unity</i>	81,500	78,218	(5,777)	153,941
. <i>Other Properties</i>	35,539	14,299	(3,983)	45,855
<i>Western Europe property repair fund</i>	146,779	6,468	—	153,247
<i>International property repair fund</i>	1,051,841	26,811	—	1,078,652
<i>The Focolare Centre for Unity fund</i>	145,842	3,595	(48,987)	100,450
<i>Retirement fund</i>	493,461	111,866	(28,410)	576,917
<i>Volunteers fund</i>	11,738	8,012	(7,188)	12,562
<i>Centro Foco fund</i>	332,040	346,229	(342,339)	335,930
<i>Methodist Modern Art Exhibition Fund</i>	10,821	—	(6,677)	4,144
	<u>2,309,561</u>	<u>595,498</u>	<u>(443,361)</u>	<u>2,461,698</u>

	<i>At</i> 1 April 2023 £	<i>New</i> designations £	<i>Utilised/ transferred</i> £	<i>At</i> 31 March 2024 £
<i>Focolare UK major maintenance fund</i>				
. <i>The Focolare Centre for Unity</i>	113,902	3,628	(36,030)	81,500
. <i>Other Properties</i>	17,506	22,633	(4,600)	35,539
<i>Western Europe property repair fund</i>	198,406	1,510	(53,137)	146,779
<i>International property repair fund</i>	1,383,400	27,575	(359,134)	1,051,841
<i>The Focolare Centre for Unity fund</i>	80,290	75,600	(10,048)	145,842
<i>Retirement fund</i>	334,662	171,420	(12,621)	493,461
<i>Volunteers fund</i>	4,942	11,001	(4,205)	11,738
<i>Centro Foco fund</i>	378,635	252,717	(299,312)	332,040
<i>Methodist Modern Art Exhibition Fund</i>	—	12,905	(2,084)	10,821
<i>New car fund</i>	—	11,490	(11,490)	—
	<u>2,511,743</u>	<u>590,479</u>	<u>(792,661)</u>	<u>2,309,561</u>

15 Designated funds (continued)

- ◆ Focolare UK major maintenance fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the charity's residential freehold properties and the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ Western Europe property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across Western Europe.
- ◆ International property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across the world (beyond Western Europe).
- ◆ The Focolare Centre for Unity fund
This represents the general fund balance attributable to the Centre which has been separately designated by the trustees for transparency, as well as a legacy which has been set aside for use by the Centre.
- ◆ Retirement fund
This fund consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for members of the Movement in their retirement, calculated using actuarial principles as the members will not be entitled to a full pension.
- ◆ Volunteers Fund
this fund consists of donations from Focolare 'Volunteers of God', mainly destined to the 'Volunteer Centre' in Rome.
- ◆ Centro Foco fund
This fund consists of monies that the trustees have designated for future donation to the Movement's centre in Rome, in support of Focolare community houses on a worldwide scale.
- ◆ Methodist Modern Art Exhibition Fund
This fund consists of moneys received towards the exhibition event held at Centre for Unity in March-April 2024.
- ◆ New car fund
This fund consists of moneys designated towards the purchase of new cars for the Focolare houses.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 14) £	Other designated funds (note 15) £	Restricted funds (note 13) £	Total 2025 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025					
Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,778,959	—	—	4,778,959
Net current assets	368,015	—	2,461,698	14,700	2,844,413
Total net assets	368,015	4,778,959	2,461,698	14,700	7,623,372

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 14) £	Other designated funds (note 15) £	Restricted funds (note 13) £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024					
Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,819,347	—	—	4,819,347
Net current assets	148,309	—	2,309,561	12,391	2,470,261
Total net assets	148,309	4,819,347	2,309,561	12,391	7,289,608

17 Related party transactions

Other than those amounts referenced at note 1, there were no related party transactions requiring disclosure (2024 – none).

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 279072

Accounts

**The
Focolare
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number
(England & Wales) 279072

Charity Registration Number
(Scotland) SC039844

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees Marie Christine Fournier
Anuradha Laws
Claudia Melis
Elizabeth Taite
Patricia Whitney

The trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011

Administrative address 67 Church Road
Roby
Liverpool
L36 9TN

Charity registration numbers 279072 (England & Wales)
SC039844 (Scotland)

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Barclays Bank plc
7 St John's Hill
Clapham Junction
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Reference and administrative information

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London
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CM13 3BE

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons LLP
10 Aldersgate Street
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EC1A 4HJ

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Focolare Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 38 to 42 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Governance, structure and management

The Focolare Movement began in Italy in 1943 and is now active in 182 nations across the world. It is an ecclesial Movement, a movement of spiritual and social renewal which aims at spreading the message of unity worldwide.

Inspired by Jesus' prayer to the Father, "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21), its goal is to promote fraternity and to achieve a more united world in which people respect and value diversity. To achieve this goal, people of the Movement engage in various forms of dialogue and are committed to building bridges of fraternal relationships among individuals in every area of society.

Members of the Movement include Christians of different Churches and ecclesial communities, members of the major world religions and people of no particular religious belief. Each one adheres to the Movement's goal and spirit, while faithfully following the precepts of their own faith and conscience.

At the heart of the Movement are small communities of men and women who consecrate their lives to God and live in households called "focolares", from the Italian word for "hearth".

In the women's section of the Focolare Movement there are currently 24 consecrated members living in community in Britain.

The wider movement is made up of about 250 close members and approximately 2,000 who are more loosely associated.

The Focolare is an international organisation with its International Centre (headquarters) and General Council in Rome. The Movement is divided into a number of individual 'zones' (geographical areas) which are closely linked to the international centre. Since 2015, the Focolare Movement in Britain is part of the 'zone' of Western Europe which has its area headquarters in Brussels.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charitable trust in which the assets of the women's section of the Focolare Movement in Britain are held. The Focolare Trust is governed by a trust deed dated 11 October 1979 and is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No 279072 and with OSCR No SC039844.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Working with other organisations

The Focolare Trust works hand in hand with Mariapolis Limited, a charity administered by the men's section of the Focolare Movement, in planning all the activities of the Movement in this country – managed by the 'Core Group'.

For example, some members of The Focolare Trust contribute editorial content to Mariapolis Ltd's 'New City' monthly magazine, while Mariapolis Ltd members support the daily running of the Centre for Unity.

Governance and key management personnel

The Trustees are responsible for the alignment of the charity's development plans, activities and assets with the charity's aims.

The key management of the day to day running of the charity (e.g. event planning, media and communication) sits with the 'Core Group' and the people responsible for different groups, such as local communities, youth leaders, Focolare volunteers, interest groups.

The Core Group is a body of 22 people drawn from a wide range of Focolare membership, meeting regularly every month. The aim for this group is to be a focal point for deciding on which activities best align with the aims of the Focolare Trust and for finding the resources (financial and human) to carry these out. The Core Group comprises representatives of each Focolare house, as well as members of different backgrounds, ages, skills and geographic provenance. Some Trustees also sit on the Core Group.

They all act on a voluntary basis. A lot of energy is currently being invested, and discussions have been happening around reviewing the governance of the Movement in GB and worldwide (see Risk Management Section).

The Trustees collaborate with the 'Core Group', and are also in regular communication with those responsible for the community houses, the Centre for Unity, and for key activities of the Movement.

Trustees

Under the terms of the trust deed new Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. The minimum and maximum number of Trustees is three and six respectively. The current Trustees are as follows:

- Elizabeth Taite
- Marie Christine Fournier
- Anuradha Laws (appointed February 2024)
- Pat Whitney
- Claudia Melis

Paola Grazia resigned as a Trustee in August 2023 due to relocation abroad.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and key management personnel (continued)

Trustees (continued)

Four of the Trustees are consecrated members of the Movement; their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity but they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

For the first time since the beginning of the charity, a Trustee has been appointed who is not a consecrated member. This trustee also received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The Trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the charity on a regular basis, they continue to maintain effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Governance - widening participation, sharing responsibilities and ensuring sustainability.

Our governance structures are under continuous review. The significant events and new challenges of the “post-foundation period” in which the Focolare Movement finds itself, including the Covid-19 pandemic, have brought about many changes and an increasing awareness of the need for a new outlook for Focolare structures.

As shown in previous reports, the ‘Core group’ had been engaging in discussions around the different roles and ways of working within the Movement in GB.

These discussions were extended at the ‘Roots and Wings’ weekend in September 2023 which had the specific aim of consulting the wider body of the Movement in GB, and providing a forum for sharing ideas and deciding future priorities.

The weekend was also designed to incorporate opportunities for concerns around the issues raised in the GCPS report (see Safeguarding section) to be discussed more widely.

“Roots and Wings” Weekend on Governance – 16th/17th September 2023

Much consultation went into the planning of the programme for the weekend, at which 70 people were present: it was the result of many ideas and conversations gathered throughout GB.

Following these conversations, the aspirations that members had for the weekend, could be summarised as follows:

- ◆ Understand better the basis for governance in the Focolare Movement
- ◆ Understand better how I am part of the “governance” of the Movement: in what ways? (Co-responsibility)
- ◆ To understand How can I/we improve our participation in the “governance” of the Movement: personally, collectively, structurally and in other ways?



Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Governance (continued)

“Roots and Wings” Weekend on Governance – 16th/17th September 2023 (continued)

It was outlined how the Movement has changed in its governance since the death of our Foundress, through the idea of the inverted pyramid, the new set-up and consequent developments in communal discernment. While it was noted that change was inevitable in this regard in common with many movements and organisations, the impact of the GCPS report also was highlighted as a key factor in the need to address inadequacies in governance.

To provide context to the discussions, an account was given of the development of governance structures in GB, as well as new models being piloted in other countries in Western Europe.



Importantly, there were pauses for reflection on shared values, connected to relationships and authority. Small buzz groups allowed a deep sharing and time to establish trust, with a sense of where people found themselves in this process.

A report from the Clitheroe Mariapolis event in May 2023 gave some indications of how new ways of decision-making and lines of accountability are consolidating. There was also a significant talk on the possible ‘pitfalls’ of group thinking, which served as useful preparation for the following sessions.

From group discussions, different topic groups were identified as areas to prioritise and develop. Attendees were free to choose which group to attend. The topic headings were Communication, Formation/Accompaniment, the Core Group, Casting/Widening the Net, and Transparency and Accountability. The more general topic of Structures was incorporated into the topic groups as many ideas overlapped and related to one another. Concerns around sufficient provision for young people were noted, but it was also highlighted that considerable work was already under way in this area in the youth team, and did not come under the topic of governance, for the purposes of discussions at this weekend. Tasks and recommendations were outlined by each Topic Working group, with the aim to provide actionable points that could be taken on by anyone in the Movement. These actions were not just for those who attended the weekend, but were to be shared to anyone interested in getting involved.

Everyone remained aware of those who carry the pain of having been hurt by bad processes and by individuals in positions of power. There was, however, a strong sense of hope based on mutual love, and that this challenge is now more truly shared.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Governance (continued)

“Roots and Wings” Weekend on Governance – 16th/17th September 2023 (continued)

Working groups under the topic headings were therefore established, with clear remits and task lists. The groups then continued to meet and work independently in subsequent months. Some groups, including those working on recommendations for the Core Group, produced discussion papers. Others met with different representatives from the Movement's branches to progress their tasks. Connections were strengthened and extended beyond the 'established' structures, producing effective and constructive networks. The Working groups were task-limited, but as they conclude, other teams have been strengthened and established, including a reinforced communication team and a new local communities network.

All the results will be brought back to the next Roots and Wings Weekend in September 2024 to share and report back.

Centre for Unity - sustainability.

As explained in the previous report, through the 2022-23 consultation processes, the need for a new management structure for the Centre for Unity was identified, to supervise and support the day-to-day running of the Centre, as well as overseeing policy issues and future direction.

2023-24 saw the appointment of a new Manager (June 2023) and the creation of a Management Team, as well as the recruitment of a new Finance Assistant.

The consultation continues among our members to share the situation with transparency and help guide the ongoing planning for the future of the Centre.

We had forecasted a loss of income during the Methodist Modern Art Exhibition in March-April 2024. However, we were able to keep the Centre open, which meant that there was still income from groups using the Centre during the period of the exhibition.

The Centre faces rising costs due to increase of energy bills, maintenance and additional staff costs. At the same time, the Trustees deem that the level of reserves, including a new legacy received in August 2023, are sufficient to guarantee the sustainability of the Centre for at least the next five years.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (*continued*)

Aging communities

During 2023-24, we continued to be aware of the age profile of many of the consecrated members living in our houses. Those feeling the impact of ageing and more limiting health conditions have been supported by other consecrated members and the wider community, for example qualified medical professionals providing weekly 'at home' chair exercise for older members, and others taking turns to provide social companionship. We have continued to be engaged in discussions with Focolare members both in this country and in Western Europe as to how to ensure the wellbeing of members in the future. The aspect of succession planning, which is linked to the ageing of our communities, is being looked at within the governance consultations.

Safeguarding

The Focolare GB Safeguarding team comprises four members - two Safeguarding Officers: Jane Evans and Nic Innocent; and two additional members/administrators: Claudia Melis and Anja Primbs.

Progress on Plans for 2023-2024

- ◆ We appointed a Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding.
- ◆ Renegotiation of the Focolare GB umbrella agreement with the CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) in England and Wales, including updating our DBS clearance process, is ongoing. (The agreement with the Scottish RC Bishops Conference remains).
- ◆ We monitored the use of risk assessment forms that are now becoming part of our normal custom and practice for every Focolare gathering.
- ◆ We updated our Safeguarding Policy and the Guidelines Document to reflect current thinking, current terminology and current practice in GB.
- ◆ Following the publication, in March 2022, of the GCPS Consulting's Report of an Independent Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse within the Focolare Movement in France, we continue to work within the Western Europe zone and with Focolare International to develop a culture of safeguarding within the Movement and a more robust safeguarding structure internationally. This includes continuing to develop a team of people to act as "Listening points".

To support the development of a culture of safeguarding:

- ◆ The report on activities of the Safeguarding Team in 2023 was shared with all close members.
- ◆ At the 'Roots & Wings' weekend 2023 safeguarding and accompaniment were discussed.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

Progress on Plans for 2023-2024 (continued)

- ◆ New City published an article on care for survivors of abuse. This raised awareness of the consequences of different forms of abuse, including spiritual abuse, within a Church context, and what caring for survivors may involve.
- ◆ The article can be found here: <https://www.newcity.co.uk/january-2024-n-584/#jan-2024-n-584/1>
- ◆ We have shared learning between the youth leaders and the Safeguarding team, for example, what we have learned after youth events to inform ongoing improvements in safeguarding in GB.

Plans for 2024-25

- ◆ Complete the umbrella agreement with CCSA (CSSA to update our Umbrella Body Agreement: an online meeting planned for September 2024).
- ◆ Continue to look for an external expert to audit Focolare GB safeguarding.
- ◆ Appoint an additional safeguarding administrator (voluntary role) to strengthen the Safeguarding Team.
- ◆ Monitor training needs and opportunities.

Specific objectives and relevant policies

Principal aims

The general objects of the Trust as set out in the charity deeds are the advancement of the Christian religion, the prevention or relief of poverty and education.

In particular, the Movement works towards establishing unity at all levels:

- ◆ fostering dialogue and promoting a culture of encounter. The Focolare achieves this through engaging in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue initiatives, engaging in dialogue among people of different convictions, and advocating unity within different areas of interest (e.g. ecology, politics, the arts)
- ◆ fostering greater equity among peoples and nations. To this end each year it supports Focolare projects with these aims in various countries, those affected by natural disasters, and people in need in GB.

Specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Objectives and priorities

During the year 2023-24, the Trustees, together with the 'Core Group' identified the following specific areas upon which to concentrate much of the work of the movement in keeping with our general aims:

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.
- ◆ To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024.
- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB.

Grant making policy

The Trust's grant making policy and procedures depend on decisions made in consultation with the members responsible for the Movement in Britain, our regional headquarters in Brussels, with the General Council in Rome and with those responsible for each local house. Priority is given to furthering Focolare projects. Financial support is sometimes given to close relatives of consecrated members who are in need. This help is given sensitively and it corresponds to individual needs.

With regards to objectives for overseas donations, grants are made in consultation with the International Centre in Rome to give support in places of great need; and in particular through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus (see below, Activities - point e).

The 'Covid and Hardship Fund' is managed by a committee of 5 members: two trustees of the Focolare Trust, the secretary of Mariapolis Ltd and 2 other Focolare volunteers. They manage donations received for this purpose and make decisions in respect of how the funds are distributed. Requests to the committee are made via the Focolare houses or local communities.

Public benefit

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees have had regard to public benefit. Activities and achievements are described below in order to demonstrate the public benefit of Focolare Trust in relation to its specific objectives to foster dialogue and unity.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

Following the objectives and priorities set out above:

a) Supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain and Focolare International Centres

In the year to 31 March 2024, the charity supported 24 consecrated members in Great Britain. These members are in the front line of our activities and events, be it with young people in particular but also in furthering our ecumenical and interfaith work at all levels.

The charity also gave a substantial contribution of £791,533 to the Focolare International Centre in Rome to support consecrated members of Focolare abroad and for the work of the Movement in poorer and developing countries. This included a grant towards the purchase of a Focolare house in Angola, see point e). On behalf of the International Centre, we continue to hold funds in a separate deposit account (Centro Foco fund), which are drawn down when needed in response to needs as outlined above.

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas

During the pandemic we started meeting online with different groups of young people. A Zoom group of girls aged 9-13 and spread across the UK (Scotland, Buckinghamshire, Wales, Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds) still continues to meet monthly. Some feedback:

“Everything is great!” “Interesting topics” “I like that I get to meet with people online that I don’t see often”

“Every person in the group has their own personality and all teachers are encouraging me”

Youth Retreats

Around 50 young people gathered at the Centre for Unity 20-22 October. This was a response to a keen desire for the young people of the Movement across GB to meet up together in person. They were aged 9-30, and were accompanied by several voluntary helpers in addition to those who usually work with the young people.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Youth Retreats (continued)

There was a varied programme of group discussions, games and activities, workshops and moments of reflection all centred around the aim of building a united world, and what part faith plays in that aim. Workshops included media, traditional ceilidh dance and woodwork. There was also an option to visit a local care home to sing, dance and chat with residents.



Feedback from the young people included suggestions for future events, but many commented on how much they had enjoyed being all together, making “new and trustworthy friends” and participating in the different activities. Asked what they would take away from the weekend, it was clear that the opportunity to recharge spiritually had been valued. Comments included “**courage**”, “**how God loves us**”, “**spreading the love and unity I found here**” and “**a renewed vigour for living the message of the gospel and being the first to love**”.

Local and online communities

The majority of Focolare members are linked in some way to a local community. These vary from long-established groups to more recent communities. Groups meet to develop spiritually and to nurture a sense of family among generations and backgrounds. Community gatherings are open to all and are ecumenical in nature.

Members then involve themselves in many aspects of society, whether specifically as a Focolare group, or as individuals inspired by the Focolare spirituality to contribute to other like-minded projects.

Local communities provide a support network for social action e.g. those feeling inspired to work in food banks, ‘warm spaces’ or other charities. Other members find they have a ‘framework’ for social initiatives, such as the Refugee Support Group in Formby.

They also provide models of community cohesion amongst different cultures and faiths, with an emphasis on welcome and inclusion.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

London

In 2023-2024 a series of community events in Bexleyheath, South East London, were organised, specifically for families with children aged 4 and up. These events were held in a parish hall, which fostered a welcoming environment for both parish members and the wider community from South-East London to come together. All the events were well-attended, with programs thoughtfully organised for both children and parents. Encouraged by the positive experience in Bexleyheath, families also joined an event organised at the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City (January 2024), creating an opportunity for further exchange with people joining with children from Greater London.

Long walks in the London area organised and facilitated by one of our members bring together people of different faiths and none, for a shared experience of physical exercise and friendship.

Lancashire and North West of England

An event strengthening interfaith relations whilst celebrating the Christmas season was organised by one member in her local village of Hurst Green. Other members attended an open day at the mosque in Preston, celebrating and strengthening the multiplicity of faiths and collaboration among them in the town.

The local Mariapolis in Clitheroe in May 2023 had over 100 participants. A real family atmosphere was created, partly due to the whole weekend spent 'together' across all ages. Even the times of reflection were shared, with the simple but profound message that we have a treasure to discover inside ourselves and in one another.

Young and old felt at ease to participate at their own pace, with several parents commenting that their children had enjoyed spending time with others without their phones. The realities of the world were not completely forgotten, and an interactive evening vigil focused on the climate crisis.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Midlands

A gathering in December 2023 at the house of a couple in Loughborough brought together friends and neighbours for an afternoon of shared friendship and Advent reflection.

Oxfordshire

In Oxfordshire the local community is also actively pursuing regular meetings as a large family, for fellowship, support and planning.

South Wales

The local community in South Wales planned for and held a local Mariapolis in June 2023 and they meet for local community celebrations, planning and support every few months. A 'Word of Life' group meets every month, mostly on Zoom.



Yorkshire

A particular characteristic of this group has been creating welcoming spaces for those with dementia to maintain their spiritual and social life, and to allow them to contribute to the spiritual wellbeing of others.

Other Word of Life groups meet in various locations across the country.

Following the Roots & Wings meeting a team was put together to form a network across England, Scotland and Wales to share information and resources in order to support local community meetings, projects and spiritual lives. They meet online every few months, and the first meeting was in February 2024.

Cross-country initiatives

In Leeds and in Dunblane Focolare families have taken part in the national scheme of welcoming refugee families from Ukraine into their homes, providing accommodation and support until they are able to live independently. This involved the families' own local churches, neighbours and friends who got involved sharing surplus goods and making personal donations. These contacts often expressed gratitude for being given an opportunity to help.

An immigrant family arriving in Lancashire in 2022 has been supported to integrate within the local community and settle into their home, familiarise themselves with local services and schools and find work to support themselves.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas (continued)

Cross-country initiatives (continued)

Individuals/couples in the movement have been acting as rent guarantors for families coming from abroad with no other means of support, thus enabling them to rent accommodation independently. These families have consequently been able to maintain jobs and support themselves financially. One family had got to know the Focolare Movement while living in Hertfordshire, and offered their time to help in the Centre for Unity on a voluntary basis.

During 2023/24 a number of members who had been pillars of their communities as well as serving the Movement nationally over many years came to the end of their lives. Local communities up and down the country showed their gratitude by celebrating their lives with fond farewells.

c) Working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue

The Centre for Unity continues to be a host for ecumenical activities, see report on the Methodist Modern Art Exhibition in section (d).

Ecumenical Prayer for Unity

This short time of simple prayer and reflection is led by a different speaker each month, and brings together people of different denominations from across the world. Hosted in Welwyn Garden City, it takes place via Zoom every 2nd Monday of the month.

Church Leaders Meeting

The meeting for Church Leaders at the Centre for Unity, Welwyn Garden City, is now a regular annual event and eagerly looked forward to by the participants.



The hybrid in-person/Zoom event on 18th January 2024 drew together friends old and new from the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Pentecostal, Moravian, United Reformed and Scottish Episcopalian Churches, as well as from the Salvation Army, the Church of England and Church of Ireland.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue (continued)

Interfaith Engagement

Interfaith relations are strongly promoted by the Focolare community around Glasgow with the Shia Muslim Ahl Al Bait society (see section on Focolare activities in Scotland).



On 29th-30th April 2023 the Centre for Unity hosted a Muslim/Christian dialogue weekend, where the participants explored the themes of Union with God and Muslim-Christian Unity.

“I was struck especially by realising that there is a special plan of God on Christian-Muslim dialogue... and walking together in God and towards God is our way! Feel so grateful for this experience.”



Birmingham

Interfaith relationships have continued to develop and intensify in Birmingham, particularly during the time of unrest in the Middle East, which has had repercussions on faith communities in GB.

A small initiative in response to this was a prayer vigil that took place on 7th December 2023. This was well attended by 70 people from a diversity of religious backgrounds. The event was organised through collaboration with the Columban Lay missionaries in Birmingham.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue (continued)

Birmingham (continued)

In Birmingham itself, one community member has a leadership role with the Birmingham Faith Leaders group, and with the Catholic Diocesan Commission for Interreligious Dialogue. There are wide-spread grass roots initiatives, to foster greater community understanding and relationships.



Lancashire

In November 2023 a Focolare member who is a humanist (and convener of Lancashire Humanists), took a leading role in the organising of activities during the annual Inter Faith Week (IFW) at UCLAN (the University of Central Lancashire), increasing awareness and understanding of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK and supporting the contribution they make to their neighbourhoods. The programme involved students, visitors and panel speakers (Buddhist, Christian, Humanist and Muslim), and the table top display brought together Humanists, Baha'i, Quakers, Christian, Hindu and Buddhists, uniting old acquaintances and fostering new friendships.

West Ealing Interfaith Walk

A multi-faith pilgrimage took place in London on 15th July 2023, with stops at the Arya Samaj Hindu Temple, the International Presbyterian Church, Haven Green Baptist Church, the London Sikh Centre, the West London Islamic Centre and the S Amman Hindu Temple:



“We were about 30 pilgrims of different ages, cultures, and faiths: Chinese and Japanese Buddhists, Muslims and Sikhs from India and Pakistan as well as many Christians from a variety of countries and denominations. It was truly an ecumenical, multifaith,

multicultural and multi-ethnic gathering. Everyone went home happy and better equipped for interfaith dialogue and encounter.”

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue (continued)

GB Mariapolis 2024

Plans for a GB-wide Mariapolis event in the summer 2024 (the first since 2018) started early in 2023, to allow a wide consultation and participation in the preparations.

d) Focolare Centre for Unity

In June 2023, a new Centre Manager was appointed, Ana Siewniak, with the role of overseeing the work of the Centre and managing staff and volunteers. The assistance of the Management Committee has continued in supporting the work of the Centre, particularly the maintenance of the building and making sure our working model is sustainable and faithful to the ethos of the Centre.

Internally, we focused on training the team and filling the skills gaps where needed, to ensure we work safely and to standards, to ensure consistency in our practice and safety for everyone in the building. Five members of staff and 21 volunteers attended various training courses e.g. Level 2 Food Safety in Catering and First Aid, and were provided with basic in-house training on Lone Working, Safeguarding and Health and Safety, as well as Invigilators training for stewards at the Methodist Art Exhibition.



Over the year, we continued with our regular activities, hosting 205 day group sessions - 135 for charities and faith groups, and 70 for public sector organisations like Hertfordshire NHS trusts, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire County Council. The latter organised a number of ESOL sessions (English for Speakers of Other Languages). We also hosted 16 residential groups over 33 days, from the Focolare Movement as well as various churches, and 11 local Focolare meetings and events.



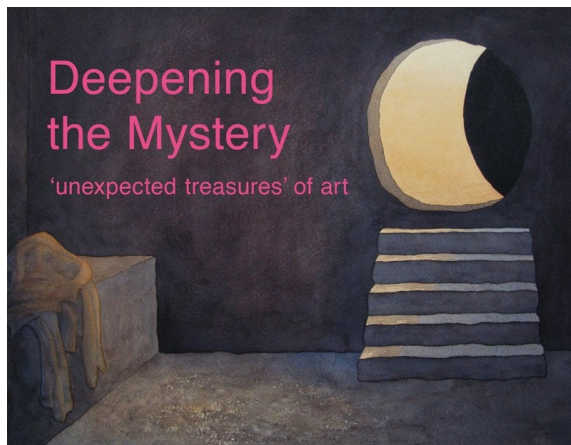
This year's largest project was the hosting of the **Methodist Modern Art Exhibition** from 1st March to 6th April 2024. It involved 40 volunteers and welcomed over 2,000 visitors. Stewards included volunteers from five different Christian denominations. A pop-up cafe welcomed visitors with refreshments. Four workshops were held for local schools and a free Lent course resource based on the artworks was made available.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

More information on the Exhibition can be found in the June issue of New City:
<https://www.newcity.co.uk/june-2024-n-589/#june-2024-n-589/1>



Some of the feedback:

“Beautiful. An amazing collection of art. Beautifully curated and displayed. Conducive, not only to the appreciation of the works but also to quiet contemplation. A very moving experience and very welcoming volunteers!”

“Wonderful exhibition, brilliant location.”

“Beautiful and stunning artwork. I'm so pleased we got to see the real thing. It is thought provoking and a reminder of Christ in all parts of our lives. The venue was perfect and cakes, delicious.”

All of these activities led to over 5,000 visitors passing through the centre in 2023-24.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

Groups come to the Centre for training and education, and very often use this space to rethink their strategy and governance, work better in partnerships or raise awareness of their services. Their comment is that this Centre, as a place of dialogue, is the right place for these meetings.

On several occasions, groups organised signposting events for the local community. A charity called Herts Vision Loss that supports and empowers people with visual loss organised an event that for the first time was accessible and adapted to the needs of their service users, from catering to accessing the Centre.

The Centre maintains a good reputation and people return, booking events a year in advance for their annual meetings, e.g. Stanborough School and Hertfordshire Community Foundation. However, we have seen that financial constraints and challenges for some organisations have led to them reluctantly having to cancel bookings.

Here are some comments from the groups:

“I just wanted to say thank you to you and your team at the Focolare Centre for looking after us yesterday for Your Workforce: Your Future. The event was a success for us and many people we spoke to were complimentary about the venue (of course!). Thanks for getting everything set up so nicely for us, and for solving the problems with the tech – I know issues like this are especially frustrating when they are due to something outside your control, and I really appreciated how you and your team sprang into action to fix it in time for the event start. Can we book already for next year?!” - Willow Humphreys, HCF Training and Development

“I would like to thank you for having the group and making us feel welcome. The centre is a fantastic venue and I wish you all the best for the future.” - R.C. (Girls Group, HCC Services for Young People)

f) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB

The Focolare Trust holds £4,271 in the Covid & Hardship Fund with the purpose of helping families in the UK affected by the cost of living crisis.

Many generous donations have been also received by the Focolare Trust towards Focolare Projects abroad, via the International Emergency Coordination Team of the Focolare Movement, Action for a United World - AMU (www.amu-it.eu) and Action for New Families - AFN (<https://afnonlus.org>).

Donating to the Focolare Trust, rather than directly to AMU/AFN, allows donors who are UK payers to donate an extra 25% Gift Aid.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB (continued)

Holy Land

Since October 2023, AMU has channelled donations to support individuals and families of the Focolare community affected by the conflict in Gaza. The Focolare community comprises people of different faiths and backgrounds and is committed to building peace through dialogue and reconciliation. From GB, we have sent £4,485 up to March 2024.

Amazon, Brazil

The Focolare community in London hosted a fundraising event in September 2023 towards the mission of a focolarino priest, Fr Hildebrando Alves, who in 2015 moved from the UK to Brazil to open a Focolare house in Óbidos - a city on the banks of the Amazon. The house is in a deprived area with many social problems. Fr Alves' parish covers 42 communities, which he visits by boat and car, with the challenge of both the distance and the petrol costs. A total of £882 was raised for this project.



Angola

We were asked by our International Centre in Rome to contribute towards the purchase of a Focolare house for the consecrated members in Luanda, Angola. For the previous 3 years, they had been renting the house but the owner needed to sell. He offered a discount equivalent to the rent paid during the last 3 years, but the purchase was still too high for the members to afford.

Having enough reserves in our International Property Repair fund, we were able to donate £360,000 for the purchase of that house, which is used by the wider Focolare community to host meetings and gatherings (see photos of the meeting rooms).

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB (continued)

Angola (continued)



Focolare activities in Scotland 2023-24

2nd/3rd September 2023 in Falkirk: Scottish Mariapolis



The local Mariapolis in Scotland was held over the first weekend in September, in Falkirk. Over the two days there were 94 participants from the ages of 8 months to well over 80 years of age. The theme Journeying Together was explored through a variety of talks and personal stories, table activities, workshops and games, walks, moments of prayer, sharing and through simply being together.

Focolare activities in Scotland 2023-24 (continued)

2nd/3rd September 2023 in Falkirk: Scottish Mariapolis (continued)

Many commented on the welcome, the warm, happy and relaxed atmosphere, the “**outpouring of love**”, the chance to speak to people of faith, the music and the ecumenical service. Participants included members of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church, among others.

“A day filled with universal love. What joy to be able to listen to one another to share and renew our desire to put our love for God into practice. Thank you all.”

“It was a really lovely weekend. As with every Mariapolis I’ve ever attended I left feeling refreshed and hopeful!”

“Strangers to me just approaching and being very welcoming. I did not feel alone at any time. Felt very aware of the love of God.”

In June 2023 we met with our community to review the aims and formats of our activities.

The desire was expressed:

- ◆ To continue meetings that foster ecumenical and interreligious relationships
- ◆ To continue reflective and faith sharing meetings for the community
- ◆ To have more ‘social’ events’ to strengthen the sense of a family within the community.

Meetings of an ecumenical and/or interreligious nature



September 2023: The Church of Scotland ministers’ Ecumenical Committee met in the Focolare. For most of the ministers it was the very first time to meet the Focolare and they felt that it was an ideal place for them to have their day of discernment.

December 2023: meeting with Sheik Pakdin and friends from the Ahl Al Bait Society.

Focolare activities in Scotland 2023-24 (continued)

Meetings of an ecumenical and/or interreligious nature (continued)



“It felt like a family reunion. Though we had not met like that for a while, our mutual love and unity was instantly there - evident by the joy each one felt in being together.”

Reflective and faith sharing meetings for the community



Faith exploring evening with Rev Vincent Lockhart.

March 2024: Retreat Day in the Focolare house. That day also became the beginning of the fundraising effort of the whole community for young people going to the Genfest event in Brazil (summer 2024).



Focolare activities in Scotland 2023-24 (continued)

Meetings of an ecumenical and/or interreligious nature (continued)

The community also expressed the desire to remember all our close friends and family members who had died that year with a mass that was celebrated especially for them.

'Social' events to strengthen the sense of a family within the community

Community walks in Pollok Park on 16 July, and Dalkeith Country Park on 10 October 2023.



Barbecue on 19 August 2023.

Focolare activities in Scotland 2023-24 (continued)

'Social' events to strengthen the sense of a family within the community (continued)

Celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Focolare Movement in December 2023.



Young people



17 December 2023 Carol Singing in Daniel's house (pictured: preparations in the Focolare house).

February 24: Start of monthly meetings for children and their families in the Focolare.

Future plans 2024-25

Following discussions with the Core Group, the Trustees confirmed the following specific objectives for the coming year in keeping with our general aims:

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.
- ◆ To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024.
- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB.

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 35 of the attached financial statements.

For the year to 31 March 2024, the income of the charity amounted to £1,235,977 (2023 - £894,921), including £1,047,903 (2023 - £701,765) from voluntary income, £120,639 (2023 - £160,250) from charitable activities and interest receivable of £55,129 (2023 - £25,540).

Total expenditure in the year was £1,464,200 (2023 - £1,067,396) including £877,617 (2023 - £563,311) for donations and grants payments; £174,800 (2023 - £158,841) for provision of retreats, conferences and publications; £35,100 (2023 - £4,819) for interfaith and youth projects; and £376,683 (2023 - £340,425) for the support of the members of the Movement.

The net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £228,223 (2023 - a decrease of £172,475).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for the free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed).

The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately between three and six months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies.

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves policy and financial position (continued)

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,289,608 (2023 - £7,517,831). Of this, £4,819,347 (2023 - £4,855,362) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the Movement. Such assets are of fundamental importance to the charity; without these assets the charity would be unable to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives. The value of such assets, therefore, would not be easily realisable, if needed to meet future contingencies. To emphasise this point, the net book value of these assets has been set aside, by the trustees, in a tangible fixed assets fund. Other designated funds stood at £2,309,561 (2023 - £2,511,743) (see note 15).

Free reserves available to support the work of the members in the future are those shown on the balance sheet under the general fund and, at 31 March 2024 equate to £148,309 (2023 - £149,313). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2024 equates to approximately 3 months' of ongoing expenditure which is consistent with the desired reserves level as noted above.

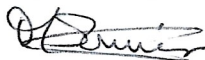
The charity's assets

Acquisitions and disposals of tangible fixed assets during the year are recorded in note 10 to the financial statements.

Employees and members of the Society

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to all their staff, volunteers, members and supporters of the Focolare Movement. Their total dedication, generosity and creativity has been invaluable. Thanks to them new ways are unfolding, of working and of spreading the message of unity – new paths which we look forward to walking together.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee Marie Christine Fournier

Date: 24/10/2024

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Focolare Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Focolare Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and financial statements, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with those Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ The identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and safeguarding regulations.
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and reviewing trustee meeting minutes and reports from regulatory bodies.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

24 October 2024

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	968,514	79,389	1,047,903	653,886	47,879	701,765
Investments		55,129	—	55,129	25,540	—	25,540
Charitable activities							
. Retreat and conference centre fees		120,489	—	120,489	153,828	—	153,828
. Interfaith, youth projects and events		—	150	150	7,688	—	7,688
Other income							
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets		4,653	—	4,653	—	—	—
. Miscellaneous income	2	7,653	—	7,653	6,100	—	6,100
Total income		1,156,438	79,539	1,235,977	847,042	47,879	894,921
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Donations and grants payable	3	859,532	18,085	877,617	531,588	31,723	563,311
. Provision of retreats, conferences and publications	4	171,998	2,802	174,800	143,533	15,308	158,841
. Interfaith, youth projects and events	5	6,448	28,652	35,100	4,769	50	4,819
. Support of members of the Movement	6	357,663	19,020	376,683	340,425	—	340,425
Total expenditure		1,395,641	68,559	1,464,200	1,020,315	47,081	1,067,396
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds	7	(239,203)	10,980	(228,223)	(173,273)	798	(172,475)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 April		7,516,420	1,411	7,517,831	7,689,693	613	7,690,306
Balances carried forward at 31 March		7,277,217	12,391	7,289,608	7,516,420	1,411	7,517,831

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		<u>4,819,347</u>		<u>4,855,364</u>
			4,819,347		4,855,364
Current assets					
Debtors	11	19,455		21,566	
Short term deposits		1,166,889		—	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,309,533</u>		<u>2,668,331</u>	
Total current assets		2,495,877		2,689,897	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(25,616)</u>		<u>(27,430)</u>	
Net current assets			2,470,261		2,662,467
Net assets			7,289,608		7,517,831
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	13		12,391		1,411
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			148,309		149,313
. Tangible fixed assets fund	14		4,819,347		4,855,364
. Designated funds	15		2,309,561		2,511,743
Total funds			7,289,608		7,517,831

Approved by trustees and signed
on their behalf by:



Trustee Marie Christine Fournier

Approved by the trustees on: 24/10/2024

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(235,726)	(134,808)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		55,129	25,540
Transfers to short term deposits		(1,166,889)	—
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		4,688	—
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(16,000)	(519,410)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,123,072)	(493,870)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,358,798)	(628,678)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	2,668,331	3,297,009
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	1,309,533	2,668,331

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows used in operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(228,223)	(172,475)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	51,982	51,166
Investment income	(55,129)	(25,540)
Donated investments	—	6,313
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(4,653)	—
Decrease in debtors	2,111	6,638
Decrease in creditors	(1,814)	(910)
Net cash used in operating activities	(235,726)	(134,808)

B Analysis of net debt

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,309,533	2,668,331
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,309,533	2,668,331
Short term deposits	1,166,889	—
Total net debt	2,476,422	2,668,331

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2024.

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

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life and residual value of tangible fixed assets; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds needed at the year end in particular in respect to the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement fund.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

The level of reserves and income and expenditure of the Centre for Unity continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure in respect of a period of at least 1 year from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Centre faces rising costs due to increase of energy bills, maintenance and additional staff costs. At the same time, the Trustees deem that the level of reserves, including a new legacy received in August 2023, are sufficient to guarantee the sustainability of the Centre for at least the next five years.

Therefore, they are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and be able to continue as a going concern.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements have not been prepared as the subsidiary company remained dormant throughout the year.

Income recognition

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

Income comprises donations, investment income, income from retreat and conference centre fees, income from events and workshops and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual members of the Movement received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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

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

Income from retreat and conference centre fees and from events and workshops is usually recognised in the period to which it relates or the period in which the event or workshop took place.

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure comprises the costs of the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:

- ◆ Donations and grants payable - these are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to receive the grant and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ◆ Provision of retreats, conferences and publications, including expenditure on the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City.
- ◆ Interfaith, youth projects and events, including expenditure on the Gen Verde project and other interfaith and youth projects and events.
- ◆ Expenditure on the support of the members of the Movement which enables the members to carry out the charitable work of the Trust in the areas of the advancement of Christianity, the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, including all support and governance costs associated with the administration of the charity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Freehold land and buildings
These are included on the balance sheet at cost.
 - ◇ Residential
No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings used as private residential accommodation. The value and condition of the buildings are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

◇ Conference centre

Freehold land and buildings used for the provision of the conference centre are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the properties off over their estimated useful life.

Investments

Investment in the subsidiary company is included in the balance sheet at cost.

Listed investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains (or losses) are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they arise.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise moneys raised for and their use restricted to a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The charity's unrestricted funds comprise a number of funds which are available for application towards the charity's objectives. Within unrestricted funds, the trustees have designated certain amounts for specific purposes and have identified those non-liquid funds represented by tangible fixed assets. Details of these funds are given in notes 14 and 15 to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Listed investments are a basic financial instrument as detailed above. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Services provided by members of the Movement

For the purposes of these financial statements, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Movement.

1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant	571,715	—	571,715
General donations	234,047	79,389	313,436
Legacies	162,752	—	162,752
2024 Total funds	968,514	79,389	1,047,903

Salaries and pensions include amounts totalling £56,999 (2023 - £75,371) from trustees. General donations include an amount of £152,424 (2023 – £nil) from a trustee.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<i>Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant</i>	546,093	—	546,093
<i>General donations</i>	68,343	47,879	116,222
<i>Legacies</i>	39,450	—	39,450
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>653,886</i>	<i>47,879</i>	<i>701,765</i>

2 Miscellaneous income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Sundry income	7,653	—	7,653
2024 Total funds	7,653	—	7,653

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<i>Sundry income</i>	6,100	—	6,100
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>6,100</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>6,100</i>

3 Donations and grants payable

The charity makes grants to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its grant making policy set out in the trustees' report.

Several donations have been sent via the Movement's centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in various countries including some specific projects for those in need, especially in the Holy Land as the conflict which started in October 2023 affected the Focolare communities there. We also supported a project in the Amazon forest (Brazil), led by a member of Focolare who used to live in the UK. We continue to support adoption at distance projects through AFN (Action for New Families) and contribute to an international fund towards helping Focolare members in various countries.

3 Donations and grants payable (continued)

The donations and grants payable during the year were for the following purposes:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Contributions to the Global Mission	784,492	7,041	791,533
Grants to international projects	—	10,844	10,844
Covid-19 emergency grants	—	200	200
Contribution to former members	75,040	—	75,040
2024 Total funds	859,532	18,085	877,617

Included above are grants paid to 7 individuals totalling £33,342 (2023 – 7 individuals totalling £22,317).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<i>Contributions to the Global Mission</i>	492,991	—	492,991
<i>Grants to international projects</i>	94	24,833	24,927
<i>Covid- 19 emergency grants</i>	—	2,700	2,700
<i>Contribution to former members</i>	8,736	—	8,736
<i>Other grants</i>	29,767	4,190	33,957
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>531,588</i>	<i>31,723</i>	<i>563,311</i>

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Retreat and conference centre costs			
. Premises	85,027	—	85,027
. Centre for Unity running costs	31,801	2,802	34,603
. Staff costs (note 8)	50,573	—	50,573
. Office sundries	3,457	—	3,457
Other costs and publications	1,140	—	1,140
2024 Total funds	171,998	2,802	174,800

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<i>Retreat and conference centre costs</i>			
<i>. Premises</i>	60,659	—	60,659
<i>. Centre for Unity running costs</i>	54,260	14,473	68,733
<i>. Staff costs (note 8)</i>	27,683	—	27,683
<i>. Office sundries</i>	774	—	774
<i>Other costs and publications</i>	157	835	992
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>143,533</i>	<i>15,308</i>	<i>158,841</i>

5 Interfaith, youth projects and events

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Mariapolis	3,125	8,053	11,178
Gen Verde	—	20,252	20,252
Youth projects	3,323	347	3,670
2024 Total funds	6,448	28,652	35,100
	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
<i>Youth projects</i>	<i>4,769</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>4,819</i>
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>4,769</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>4,819</i>

6 Support of members of the Movement

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Direct costs			
. Premises	113,325	—	113,325
. Members' living expenses	221,350	19,020	240,370
Support and governance costs			
. Legal and professional fees	22,988	—	22,988
2024 Total funds	357,663	19,020	376,683
	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. <i>Premises</i>	<i>123,776</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>123,776</i>
. <i>Members' living expenses</i>	<i>174,774</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>174,774</i>
. <i>Education, training and spiritual renewal</i>	<i>20,021</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>20,021</i>
Support and governance costs			
. <i>Legal and professional fees</i>	<i>21,854</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>21,854</i>
<i>2023 Total funds</i>	<i>340,425</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>340,425</i>

7 Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit services	9,840	9,210
. Other services	9,840	9,210
Depreciation (note 10)	51,982	51,166

8 Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	44,520	25,048
Social security costs	4,320	2,143
Pension contributions	1,733	492
Total staff cost	50,573	27,683

The charity employed an average of four staff members during the year (2023 – two) on a part-time basis.

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

All trustees are members of the Movement and whilst, for some of them, their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

9 Taxation

The Focolare Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings		Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Residential £	Conference centre £				
Cost						
At 1 April 2023	3,570,310	2,052,477	268,734	10,295	88,687	5,990,503
Additions	—	—	4,512	—	11,488	16,000
Disposals	—	—	—	—	(8,337)	(8,337)
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>2,052,477</u>	<u>273,246</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>91,838</u>	5,998,166
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2023	—	790,393	251,881	10,295	82,570	1,135,139
Charge for year	—	41,049	4,437	—	6,496	51,982
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	—	—	(8,302)	(8,302)
At 31 March 2024	<u>—</u>	<u>831,442</u>	<u>256,318</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>80,764</u>	1,178,819
Net book values						
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>1,221,035</u>	<u>16,928</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>11,074</u>	<u>4,819,347</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>1,262,084</u>	<u>16,853</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,117</u>	<u>4,855,364</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Accrued income and prepayments	19,455	12,947
Other debtors	—	8,619
	19,455	21,566

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Loans payable	6,000	8,200
Accruals and other creditors	19,616	19,230
	25,616	27,430

All loans are interest free and repayable on demand. Loans payable relate to amounts borrowed before 2000 to purchase the Focolare Centre for Unity.

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2024 £
Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events	—	29,829	(28,652)	1,177
Centre for Unity	—	2,802	(2,802)	—
Overseas Project	—	17,237	(10,844)	6,393
Covid Emergency and Hardship	1,411	3,610	(200)	4,821
Education grant	—	19,020	(19,020)	—
Other	—	7,041	(7,041)	—
	1,411	79,539	(68,559)	12,391

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2023 £
<i>Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events</i>	—	50	(50)	—
<i>Centre for Unity</i>	—	14,473	(14,473)	—
<i>Overseas Project</i>	—	24,833	(24,833)	—
<i>Covid Emergency and Hardship</i>	613	3,498	(2,700)	1,411
<i>Other</i>	—	5,025	(5,025)	—
	613	47,879	(47,081)	1,411

◆ Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events

This fund consists of monies received towards various Focolare projects and events in GB, including interfaith and youth activities and other events such as local 'Mariapolis'.

13 Restricted funds (continued)

- ◆ Centre for Unity
This fund consists of restricted donations received to support the work of the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ Overseas Projects Fund
This fund consists of donations received towards specific overseas projects, liaising with the International Centre in Rome, through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus, or via local Focolare centres in places of need.
- ◆ Covid Emergency & Hardship Fund
This fund consists of donations received towards families and individuals close to Focolare communities, who may need financial support, due to the consequences of Covid, or because of particular circumstances. The fund is managed by a specific committee.

14 Tangible fixed assets fund

	Total £
At 1 April 2023	4,855,364
Net movements in year	(36,017)
At 31 March 2024 (see note 10)	4,819,347

	<i>Total £</i>
At 1 April 2022	4,329,620
Net movements in year	525,744
At 31 March 2023 (see note 10)	4,855,364

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day to day work of the charity. The fund value, therefore, cannot be realised with ease or without jeopardising the ongoing work of the charity.

15 Designated funds

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

	At 1 April 2023 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2024 £
Focolare UK major maintenance fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	113,902	3628	(36,030)	81,500
. Other Properties	17,506	22,633	(4,600)	35,539
Western Europe property repair fund	198,406	1,510	(53,137)	146,779
International property repair fund	1,383,400	27,575	(359,134)	1,051,841
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	80,290	75,600	(10,048)	145,842
Retirement fund	334,662	171,420	(12,621)	493,461
Volunteers fund	4,942	11,001	(4,205)	11,738
Centro Foco fund	378,635	252,717	(299,312)	332,040
Methodist Modern Art Exhibition Fund	—	12,905	(2,084)	10,821
New car fund	—	11,490	(11,490)	—
	2,511,743	590,479	(792,661)	2,309,561

	At 1 April 2022 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2023 £
Focolare UK major maintenance fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	79,902	34,000	—	113,902
. Other Properties	201,557	17,506	(201,557)	17,506
Western Europe property repair fund	1,400,000	15,929	(1,217,523)	198,406
International property repair fund	—	1,383,400	—	1,383,400
Property replacement fund	540,000	—	(540,000)	—
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	61,574	52,716	(34,000)	80,290
Retirement fund	333,060	5,778	(4,176)	334,662
Volunteers fund	—	7,059	(2,117)	4,942
Centro Foco fund	529,090	300,189	(450,644)	378,635
	3,145,183	1,816,577	(2,450,017)	2,511,743

- ◆ Focolare UK major maintenance fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the charity's residential freehold properties and the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ Western Europe property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across Western Europe.
- ◆ International property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across the world (beyond Western Europe).

15 Designated funds (continued)

- ◆ **Property replacement fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of replacing residential properties which were sold in 2021/22. The fund was utilised in 2022/23 to purchase a new property in Birmingham.
- ◆ **The Focolare Centre for Unity fund**
This represents the general fund balance attributable to the Centre which has been separately designated by the trustees for transparency, as well as a legacy which has been set aside for use by the Centre.
- ◆ **Retirement fund**
This fund consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for members of the Movement in their retirement, calculated using actuarial principles as the members will not be entitled to a full pension.
- ◆ **Volunteers Fund**
this fund consists of donations from Focolare 'Volunteers of God', mainly destined to the 'Volunteer Centre' in Rome.
- ◆ **Centro Foco fund**
This fund consists of monies that the trustees have designated for future donation to the Movement's centre in Rome, in support of Focolare community houses on a worldwide scale.
- ◆ **Methodist Modern Art Exhibition Fund**
This fund consists of moneys received towards the exhibition event held at Centre for Unity in March-April 2024.
- ◆ **New car fund**
This fund consists of moneys designated towards the purchase of new cars for the Focolare houses.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 14) £	Other designated funds (note 15) £	Restricted funds (note 13) £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024					
Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,819,347	—	—	4,819,347
Net current assets	148,309	—	2,309,561	12,391	2,470,261
Total net assets	148,309	4,819,347	2,309,561	12,391	7,289,608

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 14) £	Other designated funds (note 15) £	Restricted funds (note 13) £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023					
Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,855,364	—	—	4,855,364
Net current assets	149,313	—	2,511,743	1,411	2,662,467
Total net assets	149,313	4,855,364	2,511,743	1,411	7,517,831

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 279072

Accounts

**The
Focolare
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2023

Charity Registration Number
(England & Wales) 279072

Charity Registration Number
(Scotland) SC039844

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees	Marie Christine Fournier Paola Grazia Claudia Melis Elizabeth Taite Patricia Whitney The trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011
Administrative address	67 Church Road Roby Liverpool L36 9TN
Charity registration numbers	279072 (England & Wales) SC039844 (Scotland)
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Co-operative bank PO box 250 Delf House, Southway Skelmersdale Wigan WN8 6WT Barclays Bank plc 7 St John's Hill Clapham Junction London SW11 1TR National Westminster Bank plc 145 Clapham High Street London SW4 7SZ

Reference and administrative information

Bankers (continued)

Santander UK plc
3rd Floor Santander House
100 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7RE

Shawbrook Bank
Lutea House, Warley Business Park
The Drive
Great Warley
Brentwood
CM13 3BE

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons LLP
10 Aldersgate Street
London
EC1A 4HJ

HRJ Foreman Laws
10 Parkway
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6HG

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Focolare Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 34 to 38 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1 January 2015 or later.

Governance, structure and management

The Focolare Movement began in Italy in 1943 and is now active in 182 nations across the world. It is an ecclesial Movement, a movement of spiritual and social renewal which aims at spreading the message of unity worldwide.

Inspired by Jesus' prayer to the Father, "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21), its goal is to promote fraternity and to achieve a more united world in which people respect and value diversity. To achieve this goal, people of the Movement engage in various forms of dialogue and are committed to building bridges of fraternal relationships among individuals in every area of society.

Members of the Movement include Christians of different Churches and ecclesial communities, members of the major world religions and people of no particular religious belief. Each one adheres to the Movement's goal and spirit, while faithfully following the precepts of their own faith and conscience.

At the heart of the Movement are small communities of men and women who consecrate their lives to God and live in households called "focolares", from the Italian word for "hearth".

In the women's section of the Focolare Movement there are currently 24 consecrated members living in community in Britain.

The wider movement is made up of about 250 close members and approximately 2,000 who are more loosely associated.

The Focolare is an international organisation with its International Centre (headquarters) and General Council in Rome. The Movement is divided into a number of individual 'zones' (geographical areas) which are closely linked to the international centre. Since 2015, the Focolare Movement in Britain is part of the 'zone' of Western Europe which has its area headquarters in Brussels.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charitable trust in which the assets of the women's section of the Focolare Movement in Britain are held. The Focolare Trust is governed by a trust deed dated 11 October 1979 and is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No 279072 and with OSCR No SC039844.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Working with other organisations

The Focolare Trust works hand in hand with Mariapolis Limited, a charity administered by the men's section of the Focolare Movement, in planning all the activities of the Movement in this country – managed by the 'Core Group'.

For example, some members of The Focolare Trust contribute editorial content to Mariapolis Ltd's 'New City' monthly magazine, while Mariapolis Ltd members support the daily running of the Centre for Unity.

Governance and key management personnel

The Trustees are responsible for the alignment of the charity's development plans, activities and assets with the charity's aims.

The key management of the day to day running of the charity (e.g. event planning, media and communication) sits with the 'Core Group' and the people responsible for different groups, such as local communities, youth leaders, Focolare volunteers, interest groups.

The Core Group is a body of 23 people drawn from a wide range of Focolare membership, meeting regularly every month. The aim for this group is to be a focal point for deciding on which activities best align with the aims of the Focolare Trust and for finding the resources (financial and human) to carry these out. The Core Group comprises representatives of each Focolare house, as well as members of different backgrounds, ages, skills and geographic provenance. Some Trustees also sit on the Core Group.

They all act on a voluntary basis. A lot of energy is currently being invested, and discussions have been happening around reviewing the governance of the Movement in GB and worldwide (see Risk Management Section).

The Trustees collaborate with the 'Core Group', and are also in regular communication with those responsible for the community houses, the Centre for Unity, and for key activities of the Movement.

Trustees

Under the terms of the trust deed new Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. The minimum and maximum number of Trustees is three and six respectively. The current Trustees are as follows:

- Elizabeth Taite
- Marie Christine Fournier
- Paola Grazia
- Pat Whitney
- Claudia Melis

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and key management personnel (continued)

Trustees (continued)

Currently, all Trustees are consecrated members of the Movement; their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity but they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Discernment is ongoing towards the recruitment of new Trustees who – whilst fully participating in the life of the Movement – may not be consecrated members.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The Trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the charity on a regular basis, they continue to maintain effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Governance - widening participation, sharing responsibilities and ensuring sustainability.

Our governance structures are under continuous review. The significant events and new challenges of the “post-foundation period” in which the Focolare Movement finds itself, including the Covid-19 pandemic, have brought about many changes and an increasing awareness of the need of a new outlook for Focolare structures.

As shown in previous reports, the ‘Core group’ had been engaging in discussions around the different roles and ways of working within the Movement in GB.

With the desire of getting together after the pandemic, a weekend for members was organised at the end of October “to re-connect, to renew and strengthen our mutual love”. This also emerged as “an opportunity to discern together how we see the Focolare Movement today and how we go ahead” (from the invitation).

Back Together” Weekend – 29th/30th October 2022

A gathering such as this had never taken place before – young people, close members of the local communities, volunteers, and consecrated members engaged in ‘communitarian discernment’: 120 people with the desire to deepen their relationships and agree together the next steps.



Many were involved in the planning, presenting the programme and in supporting different aspects of the gathering. To ensure everyone had a say in the weekend, a questionnaire was sent round to ask which topics should be included and the responses became an integral part of the programme.

The weekend was designed to encourage sharing and dialogue, between close members with experience of working within the structures of the Movement, a safe space where difficult and challenging conversations could take place in charity and truth. It was subsequently described by someone as “an honest appraisal of the current challenges faced by the Focolare today”.

Most of the programme involved sharing in small groups, with the opportunities to share ideas and questions on the suggested topics such as governance, working together, communication, and the crucial role of the young people.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Back Together" Weekend – 29th/30th October 2022 (continued)

Some feedback from the 'Back Together' weekend:

“Being together, focolarini (consecrated members), volunteers and other members has highlighted how much we NEED each other to be fully in our respective vocations. How much we need each other to fully experience that light and strength of God among us all, which comes from the encounter of our different experiences and perspectives. No doubt this weekend had marked a stepping stone for the Focolare Movement in GB as a family, where everything is shared with simplicity and trust.”

Following on from that weekend, a small working group convened to look more closely at how governance works within the Focolare Movement. The group met several times over the period from November 2022 to March 2023. They produced a “white paper” that was presented at the 'Core Group' meeting on 15th April 2023, and has been shared with Catherine Burke and Andreas Amann, the Focolare delegates for the zone of Western Europe.

The document aims to clarify some concepts, defining some key terms and offering some reflections, to help further discussion among all those who are interested and who work within the structures of the Movement in GB. Accessibility was considered - the document is also available in audio format. Members were offered the chance to participate in discussions via Zoom or in person where geographically possible, as a preparation for a further weekend on discussion of governance planned in Welwyn Garden City on 16th/17th September 2023. The focus of this weekend will be how to better understand and develop appropriate structures for the way we want to work together today.

Centre for Unity - sustainability.

Since the summer 2022, the Centre has been in high demand and the Trustees have been monitoring the activities of the Centre with reduced staff. At times the human resources were not sufficient to meet the demand from groups wishing to use the Centre, and some potential bookings could not be accommodated.

The financial situation with the levels of reserves was not deemed to question the sustainability of the Centre; however, the current limitations in human resources puts the Centre at risk of being unsustainable. Recruitment has been challenging and a 6-month trial period with new management did not prove successful.

An online meeting to open a consultation among our members to share the situation with transparency (a presentation of the accounts was included), was held in September 2022 and a workshop at the 'Back Together weekend'. We listened to the needs, opinions and suggestions around the Centre for Unity and to seek sustainable solutions together.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (*continued*)

Centre for Unity (*continued*)

A Centre for Unity Consultation Team was also formed, to collate responses from the wider consultation and respond to them. The report produced highlighted strengths and weaknesses of the Centre for Unity, and in particular the need for a new management structure to oversee and support the day-to-day running of the Centre, as well as overseeing policy issues and future direction.

All those involved in the daily running of the Centre also participated in a meeting on 27th January 2023 with the Delegates of the zone of Western Europe.

Since these consultation events, there have been significant developments with regard to staffing:

- ◆ One of the cleaners who had worked at the Centre for 13 years and was made redundant during Covid has been re-employed as 'Housekeeper', with increased responsibilities in catering and overseeing cleaning.
- ◆ Various members of the movement have volunteered to come and stay at the Centre on a regular basis.
- ◆ A consecrated member from Portugal has obtained a two-year visa to work as the Workers and Volunteers Co-ordinator.
- ◆ A new Centre Manager was appointed in June 2023.
- ◆ A new Management Committee is being constituted to support the Centre Manager and help guide the ongoing planning for the future of the Centre. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that all decisions are taken in the best interest of the Centre for Unity and that their role is carried out effectively. The Committee members will have allocated areas of responsibility to enable the Centre Manager to consult on key decisions that need to be taken. A member of the Trustees is also on the Committee. The Management Committee members have access to relevant information to support them in carrying out their responsibility. All Committee members agree to adhere to the principles of Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership (Nolan principles).

Aging communities

During 2022-23, we continued to be aware of the age profile of many of the consecrated members living in our houses. We have continued to be engaged in discussions with Focolare members both in this country and in Western Europe as to how to ensure the wellbeing of members in the future. The aspect of succession planning, which is linked to the ageing of our communities, is being looked at within the governance consultations.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding

The Focolare GB Safeguarding team comprises four members- two Safeguarding Officers: Jane Evans and Nic Innocent; and two additional members/administrators: Claudia Melis and Anja Primbs.

In 2022-2023 safeguarding has been in the spotlight following the publication, in March 2022, of the GCPS Consulting's Report of an Independent Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse within the Focolare Movement in France. For more information and to access the full report: <https://inquiry.gcps.consulting/report.html>

Amidst the significant and inevitable shock to members resulting from the reading of this report, this stimulated much discussion and reflection among members over how the Focolare Movement fulfils its duty of care towards those it meets, especially the young and vulnerable, and a greater awareness of areas acknowledged as needing improvement. This has been the focus of the Safeguarding team during this year.

The report listed a number of recommendations for improving the culture and practice within the Focolare Movement internationally, some of which are already in place in Britain and others are currently being worked on. Among these recommendations was the need for *“Leaders at all levels to initiate discussion of the inquiry findings and to create ‘safe space’ discussions that allow members to talk about their response to the Inquiry, their own experiences of being in the Focolare and the changes they would propose to improve safeguarding.”*

As a first response to this, in the months that followed the publication of the report, conversations have been encouraged, and have taken place, sometimes in small groups, online or more often in person, and most frequently informally, that provide for this among members.

In addition, the Focolare is offering 'Listening Points', to provide a listening ear to members and previous members. Here people can share any adverse experiences or concerns, as well as positive suggestions which could avoid mistakes being repeated.

Local initiatives

- ◆ In order to improve our duty of care, the Safeguarding team have expanded the risk assessment form. This can be found on the focolare.org/gb website – together with the safeguarding policy and guidelines: www.focolare.org/gb/safeguarding/
- ◆ At the “Back Together” weekend in October 2022, the Safeguarding team spoke to a large part of our local community in GB to raise awareness of safeguarding, to encourage the reading of our safeguarding documents, to use our revised risk assessment form and to sign up to safeguarding training.
- ◆ In January 2023, the Safeguarding Team met with the youth leaders in our community and held a workshop on what safeguarding might look like in practice.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

Local initiatives (continued)

- ◆ Further questions arose out of this meeting and in 2023 the Safeguarding team has been seeking advice on specific scenarios from professionals in this field.
- ◆ At the end of 2022, the administrators started enrolling (or re-enrolling) and monitoring the people who have or need DBS checks for on-line safeguarding training through Educare, the organisation used by most RC Dioceses, as well as schools and local authorities.
- ◆ Since March 2022, there have been regular fortnightly meetings between the Safeguarding Officers and the Chair of Trustees/Directors of The Focolare Trust and Mariapolis Ltd and Co-directors for the Focolare Movement in GB, Elizabeth Taite and Mark Darcy.
- ◆ The team has been looking for an external expert to review what the team is doing and give advice on better practice. The search will continue into next year.
- ◆ The team has started looking at document retention and storage. This will continue in 2023-24.

Zonal activities (Western Europe level)

- ◆ In response to the publication of the report on abuse in France, the 'Listening Points' have been set up, to encourage 'safe space' discussions that provide an opportunity for members and previous members to share concerns around Focolare practice. www.focolare.org/gb/listening-points-for-adverse-experiences-or-concerns/
- ◆ Focolare members have also been encouraged during different meetings to talk to external agencies if they so wish.

International activities

- ◆ In August 2022, the safeguarding team in Rome circulated the draft copy of a revised safeguarding policy and asked for feedback. Our Safeguarding Officers produced an extensive response suggesting many points that needed clarification.
- ◆ In January 2022, Jane Evans (Safeguarding Officer) attended the first international on-line meeting for Safeguarding Leads within the Focolare Movement organised by CO.BE.TU. (Focolare International Commission for the Safeguarding and Wellbeing of Young People and Vulnerable Adults).
- ◆ The Safeguarding Officers contacted the Focolare Centre in Brussels to discuss the safeguarding structure within our Western Europe zone, and how that relates to CO.BE.TU. in Rome. This conversation is in progress.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

Plans for 2023-2024

- ◆ Renegotiate Focolare GB umbrella agreement with the CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) in England and Wales, including update our DBS clearance process. The agreement with the Scottish RC Bishops Conference remains.
- ◆ Find/appoint a trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding.
- ◆ Monitor the use of risk assessment forms with a view to making them part of our normal custom and practice.
- ◆ Monitor and support training.
- ◆ Revising / updating our Safeguarding Policy so that it more accurately reflects current thinking, current terminology and current practice. A new version has been published on the Focolare GB website in April 2023.
- ◆ Continue to look for an external expert to audit Focolare GB safeguarding.
- ◆ Continue to work within Western Europe zone and with the Focolare international to develop a robust safeguarding structure internationally.
- ◆ Continue to develop a team of people to act as "Listening points"

Specific objectives and relevant policies

Principal aims

The general objects of the Trust as set out in the charity deeds are the advancement of the Christian religion, the prevention or relief of poverty and education.

In particular, the Movement works towards establishing unity at all levels:

- ◆ fostering dialogue and promoting a culture of encounter. The Focolare achieves this through engaging in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue initiatives, engaging in dialogue among people of different convictions, and advocating unity within different areas of interest (e.g. ecology, politics, the arts)
- ◆ fostering greater equity among peoples and nations. To this end each year it supports Focolare projects with these aims in various countries, those affected by natural disasters, and people in need in GB.

Objectives and priorities

During the year 2022-23, the Trustees, together with the 'Core Group' identified the following specific areas upon which to concentrate much of the work of the movement in keeping with our general aims:

Specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Objectives and priorities (continued)

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue prioritising our work with young people.
- ◆ To continue accompanying Focolare communities, families and individual members and continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad.
- ◆ To join the campaign 'Dare to Care' (United World Project for the years 2021-23), striving to reach more sustainable practices in terms of ecology and working with other agencies promoting care for 'our common home'.
- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, both in GB and abroad, and Action for a United World (AMU) and New Families Actions onlus (AFN) projects for international solidarity.

Grant making policy

The Trust's grant making policy and procedures depend on decisions made in consultation with the members responsible for the Movement in Britain, our regional headquarters in Brussels, with the General Council in Rome and with those responsible for each local house. Priority is given to furthering Focolare projects. Financial support is sometimes given to close relatives of consecrated members who are in need. This help is given sensitively and it corresponds to individual needs.

With regards to objectives for overseas donations, grants are made in consultation with the International Centre in Rome to give support in places of great need; and in particular through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus (see below, Activities - point f).

The 'Covid and Hardship Fund' is managed by a committee of 5 members: two trustees of the Focolare Trust, the secretary of Mariapolis Ltd and 2 other Focolare volunteers. They manage donations received for this purpose and make decisions in respect of how the funds are distributed. Requests to the committee are made via the Focolare houses or local communities.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees have had regard to public benefit. Activities and achievements are described below in order to demonstrate the public benefit of Focolare Trust in relation to its specific objectives to foster dialogue and unity.

Review of activities

Following the objectives and priorities set out above:

a) Supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain and Focolare International Centres

In the year to 31 March 2023, the charity supported 24 consecrated members in Great Britain. These members are in the front line of our activities and events, be it with young people in particular but also in furthering our ecumenical and interfaith work at all levels.

The charity also gave a substantial contribution of £492,991 to the Focolare International Centre in Rome to support consecrated members of Focolare abroad and for the work of the Movement in poorer and developing countries. On behalf of the International Centre, we continue to hold funds in a separate deposit account (Centro Foco fund), which are drawn down when needed in response to needs as outlined above. This year, as requested by the Centre, the surplus of the focolare houses' monthly budget has been sent regularly to the Centre, rather than invested into the Centro Foco fund.

b) Working with young people

A group of girls (9-12 years old) spread across GB continues to meet on Zoom every month, and two groups of young children (4-8 and 4-12 years old) meet regularly in person in London and in Welwyn Garden City. One of their activities was a party for the Ukrainian families who have arrived in the area. A new group for 4-8 year old has started in Liverpool this year and the participation in these monthly meetings continues to grow.

Ahead of the Special European Council, on 9 February 2023, these groups participated in the 'Kids 4 Peace' initiative, sending letters and drawings to world leaders asking them to take action to bring about peace where there is war.

Beatrice from Wales received an answer from the office of the Canadian Prime Minister and from the British Prime Minister's office:

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Working with young people (continued)

Dear Leaders of the World,



I am a 10 year old girl, living in Wales, who is worried and scared about my future and the future of other kids.

I'm scared about the war between Ukraine and Putin, I'm worried about Climate change, I'm worried because the oceans are filling up with plastic, and probably like everyone else (except Putin) I WANT PEACE!!

I mean EVERYONE knows they want peace, RIGHT??

But not everyone knows that if you want something you cannot just sit back and let everyone else do the work for you.

If you want something, you need to work hard to get it.

Please help me, please help all the children of the world, the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia who are trying to escape, and all the animals, all living things, our planet!

Please work together, please do all you can to make our world the home we all dream it should be.

Thank you for reading this.

Beatrice Luce Haran



Head of the Direct Communications Unit

20 February 2023

Dear Beatrice

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your well-written letter.

It was very thoughtful of you to write to all world leaders with your concerns about current issues affecting the world. I am sorry that you are feeling worried about these matters. Please do talk to your parents, guardians, or teacher if you are feeling particularly concerned or upset.

It is very pleasing to see that you take an active and passionate interest in the world around you. It is encouraging to see young people like yourself thinking hard about the future of our planet. I can assure you that the Prime Minister works with many world leaders to take collective action to solve the many challenges currently facing the world.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I would like to send you my best wishes and thank you, once again, for writing and for taking the time to raise your concerns.

Yours sincerely

MANDY GODRIDGE

Youth Retreats

13 young adults met for the first time in person for a retreat in August 2022.

From their feedback, the participants were especially happy with the freedom and space they were given to express themselves without fear of being judged. Several said that it was the first time they had been encouraged to speak about things that challenge them and concern them in their daily lives. They expressed the desire to meet again and to continue the dialogue.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Working with young people (continued)

Youth Retreats (continued)



The young people were involved in the planning and running of the retreat. A further weekend was then held in February 2023, when a group of 14-17 years old met at the same time for a parallel residential, with some sessions all together.

Some feedback from the younger group:

***“To me this was all about figuring out and discovering how we can hear and connect with God.*”**

***It was very eye opening and probably the first time I felt very intrigued throughout the conversations.*”**

I also liked the fact that it was a range of different people with different ethnicities, ages, genders etc.”

“It was fun and interactive”

“I liked the weekend and liked to be challenged by it.”

“I liked how much time we got to reflect on ourselves and share our ideas with others and how little we were pressured to share. I also enjoyed making new friends with people around my age.”



The young people also provided suggestions such as to “have weekends like this more often”, “play more games and do more fun activities”, and to cover “a few more topics that are quite controversial in our society, such as LGBTQ+”, which will be constructive feedback to guide the planning of future events.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Working with young people (continued)

Down to Earth – with Malta and France



In July 2022 15 young adults also travelled to Malta for “Down 2 Earth (D2E)”, a project in partnership with Focolare Malta and France, funded by the EU Erasmus Programme. Initially planned for 2020, it had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The goals of this project were to raise awareness about environmental and social ecology, and build intercultural bridges, to help become better global citizens.

For a week, the young people took part in a programme comprising:

- ◆ Lectures by and discussions with local experts about the nature of social and environmental ecology;
- ◆ Brainstorming about this topic and coming up with a concrete plan for how to encourage more eco-friendly lifestyles;
- ◆ Learning about other cultures through interactive activities, cultural events and fun outings;
- ◆ Building new contacts with their peers around Europe to kindle future international cooperation;
- ◆ Guided tours around local sites of ecological significance;
- ◆ Planning and carrying out a mini-project to clear up the rubbish on a local beach, popular with tourists.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

b) Working with young people (continued)

Listening to the Young People

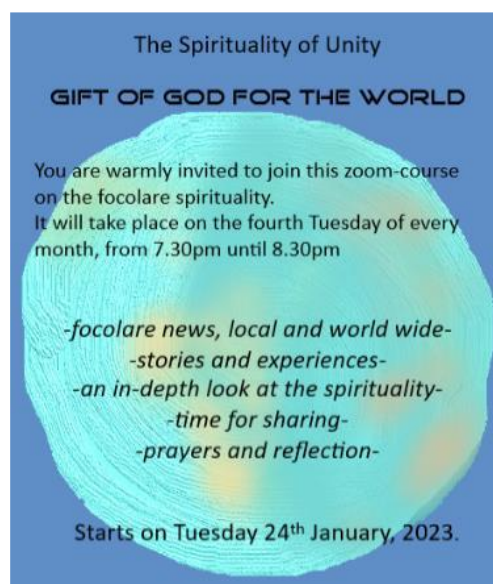
A few young people were present at a weekend that was organised in January 2023 for planning future youth activities, and later on in June 2023. Their contributions are key in ensuring that ideas of new activities are relevant to young people today.

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

Local and Online Communities

This year the local communities have begun meeting face to face again, discovering that relationships have been strengthened through having lived the challenge of the pandemic together.

Thanks to opportunities to meet online, there has been more engagement and growth in relationships. For example, a course on Spirituality, on Zoom, was attended by nearly 80 people from different countries and denominations. It has been so successful that it will start again in the autumn.



Here are some of the comments:

“The rich diversity of those attending and sharing. The real lived unity.”

“The variety of input was engaging and enjoyable. I look forward to more! Thanks for resources - most helpful!”

“My words that sums up the meetings: ‘To live is to encounter’”

A new development, is engagement with a number of people from Hong Kong, who have come to live in England. Focolare communities across GB are getting to know them better, creating links to Focolare members near them to give both moral and material support as they engage with a new country and culture. A day has been planned in the autumn in the Focolare Centre for Unity, providing translations for those who do not yet speak English. Local community coordinators are working together with friends from Hong Kong, who have been here longer, and therefore understand the needs of those arriving.

Whilst the series of Zooms ‘Time together as families’ continued in 2022 until September (see previous report), a new group of young families has also started to meet regularly in Bexleyheath in south London with children of all ages coming together.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue (continued)

Ecumenism

The Focolare Movement's **annual meeting for ecumenical Church Leaders** took place in January 2023 at the Focolare conference centre in Welwyn Garden City. The keynote speaker was Rev. Prof. Nicholas Sagovsky whose rich ecumenical and theological background enabled him to give a fascinating presentation on the role of synodality in Scripture and in its later development in the Church. Deep sharing and dialogue followed the presentation. The day - long meeting was attended by twenty- five Church leaders, including three arch bishops from the bishops' conferences in England, Wales and Scotland as well as Anglican, United Reform Church and Salvation Army members. Other representatives followed by Zoom.

Some feedback:

“Thank you all for an excellent day yesterday. There was a real sense of common purpose. Well done.”

“It truly was a very special time: Nicholas our speaker was superb; and it was evident, both from the moving contributions and in the discussions outside the formal sessions that everyone was engaged at a very profound level.”

“The atmosphere combined serenity with honest, frank exchange. It was clear from how people were contributing that it was an experience of light for those participating, bringing new insights and decisions for moving ahead on the synodal pathway.”



Ecumenical Prayers by Zoom have continued once a week during the last year. The 20 minute time of reflection & prayer attracts an average of fifty followers each week and is led by people from many different countries. Each session varies in style, topic and content but always strengthen the commitment to dialogue of those who follow.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue (continued)

Ecumenism (continued)

In last year's report the **4 ecumenical Zoom groups** were mentioned, working to promote a culture of welcoming difference within the Movement and to raise awareness on the ecumenical nature of the Focolare spirituality in countries that are predominantly Roman Catholic, to be able to reach out to Christians of various Churches and further foster Christian unity worldwide.

Some of the concrete initiatives they undertook:

- ◆ The 4 groups gave a substantial contribution to the programme of the annual retreat for Focolare members in Rome in December 2022. Some participants commented that it was the first time they experienced a retreat with Christians of various Denominations.
- ◆ Lesley Ellison, Church of England, the first non-Catholic consecrated member, was interviewed by the Focolare International Communication Office. The video of the interview was featured in the December "Link-up" (the quarterly live streaming appointment of the Focolare) and has 6.9K views.



Here is Lesley (left) with the film crew. The interview can be found here:

www.youtube.com/@CollegamentoFocolare_official

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJWtzhL2tew (direct link)

- ◆ The groups engaged with the organisers of the study courses delivered by the UPM (Universita Popolare Mariana), bringing ecumenical speakers to the programme for 2022-23, on Prayer. **www.universitapopolaremariana.org/en/**

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue (continued)

Inter-religious dialogue

The Movement's commitment to inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue is intrinsic in its nature but is taken forward predominantly by individuals who live and work in areas of the greatest diversity in the UK - London, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds and Glasgow, for example. In these areas, dialogue is happening on four different levels – dialogue of life, of action, of shared religious experience and of theological exchange.

Some of the activities undertaken include:

- ◆ In October 2022, in London, the Movement facilitated the involvement of interfaith groups in the Faithinvest conference, encouraging people of all faiths to make ethical investments. Also in London, members of the Movement supported celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Association of Muslim Schools.
- ◆ In Birmingham, a member of the Movement in collaboration with St. Mary's University, London, organised an evening on "Eternity" during which leaders of the six main faiths in Birmingham presented their beliefs about life after death and its impact upon the choices made by believers. This event attracted a large number of attendees. It has also developed into a bid being made to the Marie Curie Foundation to finance research into the barriers experienced by people in minority faith groups in accessing end of life care.
- ◆ Also in Birmingham, membership of the Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group, the Birmingham Council of Faiths and the RC Diocesan Commission for Dialogue enable members of the Movement to collaborate with the City Council and participate in the planning of public interfaith events such as the Holocaust Memorial, the annual Peace Service on the anniversary of 9/11, the launch of Interfaith Week and on-going Faith & Reflection events.
- ◆ Christian/Shi'a Muslim dialogue is also integral to the life of the Movement. Since 2016, a small ecumenical group of Christians has met regularly, usually in Welwyn Garden City, with a group of Muslims to share understanding of topics of theological significance. The bonds created in the group enable the members to journey ahead together in solidarity.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue (continued)

Focolare houses in the Birmingham area

In June 2022, the women's focolare completed the purchase of a house in the Smethwick area after living in rented diocesan accommodation for nearly two years. There are currently four members living permanently in the property. Thus, a women's community has been established in the West Midlands after a long period of intermittent visits that began in 2015. Smethwick is known for its cultural and religious diversity and history of racial tension: the community endeavours to create links with local residents as well as be a focal point for the Focolare community in this area.



The men's focolare also recently bought a house in Willenhall, Black Country (about 25 mins drive from Smethwick). They too work alongside the Focolare community in the north of the country. Furthermore, both the men's and women's groups are engaged with formation and various activities in the busy Roman Catholic parish cluster in the Willenhall area.

Local Mariapolis 2022

The Mariapolis (summer gathering for people of all ages and convictions) is always a highpoint of the Focolare year. In 2022 four small Mariapolis were held in local areas. The north of England hosted two, in Formby, Merseyside, in May, and in Ripon, Yorkshire, in June. Another two Mariapolis happened in July, in Stone, Staffordshire for the Midlands and Chilton in Oxfordshire, which brought together communities from London, the South of England and South Wales.

Another Mariapolis was held in Motherwell, Scotland in September.



The strength and importance of the local 'steering groups' in organising these days became evident. Each Mariapolis – or "city of love" as it has been defined - had different programmes but all were characterised by a joyful atmosphere and the shared desire to be builders of community.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue (continued)

Local Mariapolis 2022 (continued)

Some feedback:

“All the meditations, experiences, the contributions and presence of everyone there were Heavenly Blessings.

It was the perfect medicine for my soul, mind and body’.

“We were enriched by the experience of those forced to flee due to war or persecution, from Rwanda or Ukraine. The experience of one couple who are hosting a family from Ukraine led to some deep sharing.”



“It’s my first physical Mariapolis in the UK. With the Focolare Movement, even if you are far from home, you always feel at home. You can never explain the love that you get from places like this. From the experiences and what we lived today, deep down we realize that we are walking together.”

“There is the potential here that produces a real change in society.”



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Dare to Care campaign 'People, planet and our ecological conversion'

(see www.unitedworldproject.org/en/daretocare/)

Some members of the Focolare Integral Ecology group hosted an online session ("Eco Link Up") on 5th July 2022 to raise awareness around the "Eco-Plan" for the Focolare which was prepared by an international team in partnership with FaithInvest and EcoOne.

The Eco-Plan aims to inspire Focolare members and communities to re-examine their lifestyles in relation to the protection of people and the planet. It also represents a public declaration of ecological commitment as a response to the objectives expressed by the last Focolare General Assembly. It was presented at the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 3rd June 2022 in Stockholm along with other similar proposals from organisations that are part of Faith Plans for People and Planet (www.faithplans.org/).



The Focolare Eco Plan is available here:
www.focolare.org/en/2022/06/22/italiano-focolare-ecoplan-una-potente-intuizione/

In the online session on 5th July, Nino Puglisi, one of the Focolare team who prepared the Eco-Plan, gave some background to why this was developed. An update was given on the Halki V summit meeting in Turkey, attended by Margaret Karram, President of the Focolare Movement (www.halkisummit.com/hs5/). Experiences of ecological action were also shared from London, from Scotland and by some of those involved in the 'Hombremundo - Dare to Care' event for young people earlier in the year (see previous report).

In order to illustrate the extent of the commitment, and the impact, of some of the members of the Focolare Eco Group, we report one member's recent experience of being active in her Parish:

"Our Parish has just received a Silver Eco-Congregation award. We are the third RC church in Scotland (and the first in our diocese) to receive an award, and the second to receive a Silver award. We have developed the most amazing relationship with the local Church of Scotland who have asked us to speak at their session meeting about our journey to an eco award and guide them on doing the same. We have established links with the local Coptic Church and have inserted ourselves in the local community..."

We were given 4 commendations for the work being done in outreach to the wider community, with ecumenism, with the youth and with the liturgy.

I am convinced that working for our common home from a spiritual dimension really opens up opportunities of building unity in the world, and also presents a new way of sharing the Gospel message with many."

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Dare to Care campaign 'People, planet and our ecological conversion'

Ethical banking (first of the 7 areas of the Focolare Eco Plan)

After having moved all the Focolare Trust current accounts from NatWest to the Co-operative bank, in September 2022, the process of moving towards more ethical banking choices continued in 2023: 2 of the Shawbrook saving accounts have been closed and new saving accounts were opened, also with the Co-operative bank.

e) Focolare Centre for Unity

This has been a challenging year due to changes in personnel and also in finding the best way ahead. The need has arisen for a Management Committee to work together and make decisions to support the work of the Centre Manager (see Risk Management section above).



As a development of the last year's consultation on how best to progress, members of the Focolare Movement have come forward to offer their expertise. A member of Focolare now undertakes general maintenance tasks, eliminating the need to pay a local trader. Material costs and travel expenses are reimbursed by the Centre.

The Centre for Unity has an excellent reputation. There is no need for advertising as reputation for quality is spread by word of mouth. It is used by many outside groups (secular, charities, church and interfaith groups) and has hosted ecumenical initiatives. It is responding to the desire to reach out to the most vulnerable in society: e.g. English lessons and social events for refugees and hosting groups supporting people in need (e.g. Saint Vincent de Paul Society).

When the first Ukrainian refugees started to arrive in the UK, the Focolare Movement was asked if it would provide a room and refreshments at the Centre for Unity so that the visitors could learn English. Since then there have been ESOL classes every Monday and Wednesday excluding school holidays. Numbers vary but approximately 20 people, mainly women, come each week. To help alleviate their stress, another room, for weekly yoga lessons, has been provided.

The Ukrainian refugees were able to hold their Christmas celebration at the Focolare Centre. It was a very successful family event, with their traditional Christmas food and people of all ages involved.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)



The Centre for Unity is self-supporting due to its location and popularity with a diverse mixture of groups. Local Authorities groups (such as Herts Police, County Council and NHS) keep it affordable for charity groups and assist in making outreach possible. The income from the Local Authorities groups allows the Centre to subsidise charities and Focolare groups. This also enables the Centre to develop a contingency fund for building maintenance and emergencies.

Volunteer Perspective of the Focolare Centre for Unity:

“I became aware of the centre in January 2023, when, as a member of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, we hired the venue to host the Ukrainian Christmas Meal on 6th January.

Upon entering the building, I was overwhelmed by the feeling of sincerity, peace and comfort within the walls, to the extent that after the event, I felt compelled to return. Having time in my week to spare, I enquired as to whether I could volunteer which was graciously accepted. So I come along each Thursday morning, my role being to facilitate any of the groups which are in the building on that day, initially by welcoming them, ensuring the tea/coffee facility is maintained, the rooms are set up as required, essentially anything that will make their visit a memorable one. And this is the case – the serenity of the building seems to seep into the pores of the people working within it, who in turn extend this to visitors, and I have never seen an unhappy face within the building. All who leave are appreciative of their experience at the centre. It is a very fulfilling place to in which to be.”

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity

During 2022-23, the Covid & Hardship Emergency Fund has continued to offer support to people in need within the UK. One case was of a student whose family had been severely affected by Covid. Their job which involved night shifts, was also not sufficient to pay their university fees.

Many generous donations have been also received by the Focolare Trust towards Focolare Projects abroad, via the International Emergency Coordination Team of the Focolare Movement, Action for a United World - AMU (www.amu-it.eu) and Action for New Families - AFN (<https://afnonlus.org>).

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity (continued)

Donating to the Focolare Trust, rather than directly to AMU/AFN, allows donors who are UK tax payers to donate an extra 25% Gift Aid.

In 2022-23 3 of the biggest projects supported were in Pakistan, Ukraine and Syria.

Pakistan (from AMU website)

Pakistan experienced a real humanitarian and health emergency with the monsoon rains causing heavy floods in June 2022.



Photo: AMU website

Two medical camps were set up in remote areas (the district of Qamber Shahdaskot and in Nawa Killi, Quetta).

In Mastung, province of Baluchistan, a mountainous area where temperatures drop below zero, more than 250 people have been provided with blankets as well as medical care.

Ukraine (from AMU website)



Photo: AMU website

Since the beginning of 2023, Caritas-Spes (AMU's local partner) has been distribution hot meals, food parcels and non-food items such as toiletries and household products. They also provided safe shelter to 908 beneficiaries and funded houses renovation and construction projects in Kyiv and Kharkiv regions. More recent plans are in place towards the renovation of destroyed houses and construction of modular houses in the area of the Odessa-Simferopolis RC diocese.

Since January 2023, over 900 families have received monthly financial assistance and over 6,000 people received listening support and/or counselling services.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity (continued)

Syria (from AMU website)

The donations have been managed jointly by AMU and AFN to reach the people affected by the earthquake which struck Turkey and Syria on 6th February 2023. Basic aid for food, medical care, housing, heating, and hospitality have been provided in the Syrian provinces of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and in the Turkish region of Iskenderun.

In Syria two particular projects were supported: the RISE programme and RestarT.

RISE, in partnership with the Life Care association, provides care for the elderly and people with special needs, with the double outcome of assisting lonely people and creating work opportunities for carers.



RestarT (Restarting to Remain) supports the restart of small businesses. It is aimed at people who already have experience in business but have been unable to return to work because of the economic crisis. This allows entrepreneurs to stay in the country and contribute to rebuilding it after the war. RestarT is currently active in Homs and Aleppo.

One of the RestarT projects: Tony Attye's Shop in Sebaa – Photo: AMU website

Focolare activities in Scotland 2022-23

During the year we continued with our monthly Zoom meetings of the community. Gradually they became 'hybrid' with more people coming to the Focolare House.

On 3rd September 2022 we had our first bigger face to face event after the pandemic. A 'Mariapolis Day' open to everyone, not just members of the Focolare. There were 96 participants of all ages and the theme was 'Time out to Tune in – In tune with God, with ourselves and with creation and the world around us'. Some of the feedback:

"The openness of everyone and willingness to share very personal details. It was a very thought provoking day. There was a sense of belonging and being accepted."

Focolare activities in Scotland 2022-23 (continued)



“The sharing of experiences stayed with me, that to love and living in the present moment is all that matters”

Following the Mariapolis Day, we had a series of meetings and events that were aimed at the Focolare community in its widest sense or people who wanted to get to know the Focolare, including some film nights.

For example, we showed the feature film of Chiara Lubich to people of our parish (www.imdb.com/title/tt13462628/) or we organised a screening of the Laudato Si' film “The letter” together with our Muslim friends (www.theletterfilm.org/).

About 50 people attended on 25th November, both from the Ahl Al Bait Society and Focolare. The thought-provoking film spoke loudly to all the attendees and sparked a dialogue in small groups on the current climate crisis and on how spiritual values call us to take action. There was a general consensus that the answers are in being and working together, hence the shared desire to continue fostering and widening our experience of unity in diversity.



Around Christmas Time we had events aimed particularly for families with little children and young people:



- ◆ An afternoon Advent meeting in the Focolare House
- ◆ Christmas Carols in Daniel's House, a house for people with learning difficulties.



Future plans 2023-24

Following discussions with the Core Group, the Trustees confirmed the following specific objectives for the coming year in keeping with our general aims:

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue accompanying young people, families and individual members and building community in our local areas.
- ◆ To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad. In particular, to host a GB Mariapolis in the summer 2024.
- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting international projects via Focolare agencies AMU and AFN, as well as supporting people in need in GB.

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 30 of the attached financial statements.

For the year to 31 March 2023, the income of the charity amounted to £894,921 (2022 - £744,103), including £701,765 (2022 - £644,091) from voluntary income, £160,250 (2022 - £73,686) from charitable activities and interest receivable of £25,540.

Total expenditure in the year was £1,067,396 (2022 - £784,880) including £563,311 (2022 - £379,512) for donations and grants payments; £158,841 (2022 - £113,307) for provision of retreats, conferences and publications; £8,800 (2022 - £679) for interfaith and youth projects; and £336,444 (2022 - £291,382) for the support of the members of the Movement.

Net investment gains in the year were £nil (2022 -£479). The net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £172,475 (2022 - a decrease of £40,298).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for the free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed). In particular, at the current time, the reserves need to be sufficient to enable the charity to operate in the exceptional circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately between three and six months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,517,831 (2022 - £7,690,306). Of this, £4,855,362 (2022 - £4,329,618) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the Movement. Such assets are of fundamental importance to the charity; without these assets the charity would be unable to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives. The value of such assets, therefore, would not be easily realisable, if needed to meet future contingencies. To emphasise this point, the net book value of these assets has been set aside, by the trustees, in a tangible fixed assets fund. Other designated funds stood at £2,511,743 (2022 - £3,145,183) (see note 16).

Free reserves available to support the work of the members in the future are those shown on the balance sheet under the general fund and, at 31 March 2023 equate to £149,313 (2022 - £214,892). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2023 equates to approximately 3 months' of ongoing expenditure which is consistent with the desired reserves level as noted above.

Financial Review (continued)

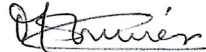
The charity's assets

Acquisitions and disposals of tangible fixed assets during the year are recorded in note 10 to the financial statements.

Employees and members of the Society

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to all their staff, volunteers, members and supporters of the Focolare Movement. Their total dedication, generosity and creativity has been invaluable. Thanks to them new ways are unfolding, of working and of spreading the message of unity – new paths which we look forward to walking together.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

Date: 06/12/2023

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Focolare Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Focolare Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ The identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and safeguarding regulations.
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and reviewing trustee meeting minutes and reports from regulatory bodies.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act and in accordance with Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 7 December 2023

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	653,886	47,879	701,765	584,734	59,357	644,091
Investments		25,540	—	25,540	16,157	—	16,157
Charitable activities							
. Retreat and conference centre fees		153,828	—	153,828	73,686	—	73,686
. Interfaith, youth projects and events		7,688	—	7,688	—	—	—
Other income							
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets		—	—	—	400	—	400
. Miscellaneous income	2	6,100	—	6,100	9,769	—	9,769
Total income		847,042	47,879	894,921	684,746	59,357	744,103
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Donations and grants payable	3	531,588	31,723	563,311	345,586	33,926	379,512
. Provision of retreats, conferences and publications	4	143,533	15,308	158,841	88,953	24,354	113,307
. Interfaith, youth projects and events	5	4,769	50	4,819	16	663	679
. Support of members of the Movement	6	340,425	—	340,425	291,382	—	291,382
Total expenditure		1,020,315	47,081	1,067,396	725,937	58,943	784,880
Net (expenditure) income before recognised investment gains and losses		(173,273)	798	(172,475)	(41,191)	414	(40,777)
Gains on investments	11	—	—	—	479	—	479
Net (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	(173,273)	798	(172,475)	(40,712)	414	(40,298)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 April		7,689,693	613	7,690,306	7,730,405	199	7,730,604
Balances carried forward at 31 March		7,516,420	1,411	7,517,831	7,689,693	613	7,690,306

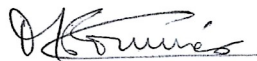
All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,855,364		4,329,620
Investments	11		—		6,313
			<u>4,855,364</u>		<u>4,335,933</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	21,566		85,704	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,668,331		3,297,009	
Total current assets		<u>2,689,897</u>		<u>3,382,713</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(27,430)		(28,340)	
Net current assets			<u>2,662,467</u>		<u>3,354,373</u>
Net assets			<u>7,517,831</u>		<u>7,690,306</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	14		1,411		613
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			149,313		214,890
. Tangible fixed assets fund	15		4,855,364		4,329,620
. Designated funds	16		2,511,743		3,145,183
Total funds			<u>7,517,831</u>		<u>7,690,306</u>

Approved by trustees and signed
on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on:

06/12/2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(134,808)	(90,401)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		25,540	16,157
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		—	400
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(519,410)	—
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		(493,870)	16,557
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(628,678)	(73,844)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	3,297,009	3,370,853
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	2,668,331	3,297,009

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:**A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows used in operating activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(172,475)	(40,298)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	51,166	61,815
Gains on investments	—	(479)
Investment income	(25,540)	(16,157)
Donated investments	6,313	—
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	(400)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	6,638	(66,941)
Decrease in creditors	(910)	(27,941)
Net cash used in by operating activities	(134,808)	(90,401)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	2,668,331	3,297,009
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,668,331	3,297,009

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2023.

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

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds needed at the year end in particular in respect to the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement fund.

Assessment of going concern

With the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees have assessed that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

In 2022-23 the Centre for Unity resumed its activities as per pre-pandemic. The level of reserves and income and expenditure of the Centre for Unity continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure in respect of a period of at least 1 year from the date of approval of these financial statements. They acknowledge the sharp increase in provisions and utilities costs and foresee a loss of income in the next 12 months, due to the Centre for Unity hosting an Art exhibition for 6 weeks which will put other bookings on hold; however, they are in favour of the outreach and profile-raising that the exhibition will bring.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

They are also of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and therefore to be able to continue as a going concern.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements have not been prepared as the subsidiary company remained dormant throughout the year.

Income recognition

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

Income comprises donations, investment income, income from retreat and conference centre fees, income from events and workshops and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual members of the Movement received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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

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

Income from retreat and conference centre fees and from events and workshops is usually recognised in the period to which it relates or the period in which the event or workshop took place.

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure comprises the costs of the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:

Expenditure recognition (continued)

- ◆ Donations and grants payable - these are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to receive the grant and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ◆ Provision of retreats, conferences and publications, including expenditure on the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City.
- ◆ Interfaith, youth projects and events, including expenditure on the Gen Verde project and other interfaith and youth projects and events.
- ◆ Expenditure on the support of the members of the Movement which enables the members to carry out the charitable work of the Trust in the areas of the advancement of Christianity, the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, including all support and governance costs associated with the administration of the charity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Freehold land and buildings
These are included on the balance sheet at cost.
 - ◇ Residential
No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings used as private residential accommodation. The value and condition of the buildings are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.
 - ◇ Conference centre
Freehold land and buildings used for the provision of the conference centre are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the properties off over their estimated useful life.

Investments

Investment in the subsidiary company is included in the balance sheet at cost.

Listed investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains (or losses) are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they arise.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise moneys raised for and their use restricted to a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The charity's unrestricted funds comprise a number of funds which are available for application towards the charity's objectives. Within unrestricted funds, the trustees have designated certain amounts for specific purposes and have identified those non-liquid funds represented by tangible fixed assets. Details of these funds are given in notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Listed investments are a basic financial instrument as detailed above. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial instruments (continued)

Financial liabilities – accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Services provided by members of the Movement

For the purposes of these financial statements, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Movement.

1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant	546,093	—	546,093
General donations	68,343	47,879	116,222
Legacies	39,450	—	39,450
2023 Total funds	653,886	47,879	701,765

Salaries and pensions include amounts totalling £75,371 (2022 - £43,505) from trustees.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant</i>	501,551	—	501,551
<i>General donations</i>	62,956	59,357	122,313
<i>Legacies</i>	20,227	—	20,227
<i>2022 Total funds</i>	<i>584,734</i>	<i>59,357</i>	<i>644,091</i>

2 Miscellaneous income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Sundry income	6,100	—	6,100
2023 Total funds	6,100	—	6,100

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant</i>	6,216	—	6,216
<i>Sundry income</i>	3,553	—	3,553
<i>2022 Total funds</i>	<i>9,769</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>9,769</i>

3 Donations and grants payable

The charity makes grants to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its grant making policy set out in the trustees' report.

Several donations have been sent via the Movement's centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in various countries including some specific projects for those in need, especially in Ukraine, Pakistan and Syria, as well as grants to support those in need as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The donations and grants payable during the year were for the following purposes:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Contributions to the Global Mission	492,991	—	492,991
Grants to international projects	94	24,833	24,927
Covid-19 emergency grants	—	2,700	2,700
Contribution to former members	8,736	—	8,736
Other grants	29,767	4,190	33,957
2023 Total funds	531,588	31,723	563,311

Included above are grants paid to 7 individuals totalling £22,317 (2022 – 9 individuals totalling £21,768).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Contributions to the Global Mission</i>	304,015	—	304,015
<i>Grants to international projects</i>	20,080	23,568	43,648
<i>Covid- 19 emergency grants</i>	—	5,570	5,570
<i>Other grants</i>	21,491	4,788	26,279
<i>2022 Total funds</i>	<i>345,586</i>	<i>33,926</i>	<i>379,512</i>

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Retreat and conference centre costs			
. Premises	60,659	—	60,659
. Centre for Unity running costs	54,260	14,473	68,733
. Staff costs (note 8)	27,683	—	27,683
. Office sundries	774	—	774
Other costs and publications	157	835	992
2023 Total funds	143,533	15,308	158,841

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Retreat and conference centre costs</i>			
. Premises	38,393	24,354	62,747
. Centre for Unity running costs	22,396	—	22,396
. Staff costs (note 8)	25,435	—	25,435
. Office sundries	676	—	676
Other costs and publications	2,053	—	2,053
2022 Total funds	88,953	24,354	113,307

5 Interfaith, youth projects and events

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Youth projects	4,769	50	4,819
2023 Total funds	4,769	50	4,819

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Birmingham project</i>	16	663	679
2022 Total funds	16	663	679

6 Support of members of the Movement

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	123,776	—	123,776
. Members' living expenses	174,774	—	174,774
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	20,021	—	20,021
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	21,854	—	21,854
2023 Total funds	340,425	—	340,425

6 Support of members of the Movement (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	91,636	—	91,636
. Members' living expenses	160,080	—	160,080
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	20,125	—	20,125
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	19,541	—	19,541
2022 Total funds	291,382	—	291,382

7 Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit services	9,210	8,370
. Other services	9,210	8,370
Depreciation (note 10)	51,166	61,815

8 Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	25,048	23,748
Social security costs	2,143	1,450
Pension contributions	492	237
Total staff cost	27,683	25,435

The charity employed an average of two staff members during the year (2022 – two) on a part-time basis.

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

All trustees are members of the Movement and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

9 Taxation

The Focolare Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings		Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Residential £	Conference centre £				
Cost						
At 1 April 2022	2,993,400	2,052,477	268,734	10,295	88,687	5,413,591
Additions	576,910	—	—	—	—	576,910
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>2,052,477</u>	<u>268,734</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>88,687</u>	<u>5,990,501</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2022	—	749,344	245,798	10,295	78,536	1,083,973
Charge for year	—	41,049	6,083	—	4,034	51,166
At 31 March 2023	<u>—</u>	<u>790,393</u>	<u>251,881</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>82,570</u>	<u>1,135,139</u>
Net book values						
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,570,310</u>	<u>1,262,084</u>	<u>16,853</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,117</u>	<u>4,855,364</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,993,400</u>	<u>1,303,133</u>	<u>22,936</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>10,151</u>	<u>4,329,620</u>

11 Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments	—	6,313
	<u>—</u>	<u>6,313</u>
Listed investments	2023 £	2022 £
Market value	6,313	5,834
Disposals	(6,313)	—
Unrealised investment (losses) gains	—	479
Market value	<u>—</u>	<u>6,313</u>
Cost of listed investments	<u>—</u>	<u>3,886</u>

The listed investments were donated to a former member during the year.

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Accrued income and prepayments	12,947	75,573
Other debtors	8,619	10,131
	21,566	85,704

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans payable	8,200	11,600
Accruals and other creditors	19,230	16,740
	27,430	28,340

All loans are interest free and repayable on demand. Loans payable relate to amounts borrowed before 2000 to purchase the Focolare Centre for Unity.

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2023 £
Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events	—	50	(50)	—
Centre for Unity	—	14,473	(14,473)	—
Overseas Project	—	24,833	(24,833)	—
Covid Emergency and Hardship	613	3,498	(2,700)	1,411
Other	—	5,025	(5,025)	—
	613	47,879	(47,081)	1,411

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2022 £
<i>Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events</i>	—	663	(663)	—
<i>Centre for Unity</i>	—	24,354	(24,354)	—
<i>Overseas Project</i>	—	23,568	(23,568)	—
<i>Covid Emergency and Hardship</i>	199	5,984	(5,570)	613
<i>Other</i>	—	4,788	(4,788)	—
	199	59,357	(58,943)	613

14 Restricted funds (continued)

- ◆ Interfaith, Youth Projects, Events
This fund consists of monies received towards various Focolare projects and events in GB, including interfaith and youth activities and other events such as local 'Mariapolis'.
- ◆ Centre for Unity
This fund consists of restricted donations received to support the work of the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ Overseas Projects Fund
This fund consists of donations received towards specific overseas projects, liaising with the International Centre in Rome, through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus, or via local Focolare centres in places of need.
- ◆ Covid Emergency & Hardship Fund
This fund consists of donations received towards families and individuals close to Focolare communities, who may need financial support, due to the consequences of Covid, or because of particular circumstances. The fund is managed by a specific committee.

15 Tangible fixed assets fund

	Total £
At 1 April 2022	4,329,620
Net movements in year	525,744
At 31 March 2023 (see note 10)	4,855,364
	<i>Total £</i>
At 1 April 2021	4,391,433
Net movements in year	(61,813)
At 31 March 2022 (see note 10)	4,329,620

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day to day work of the charity. The fund value, therefore, cannot be realised with ease or without jeopardising the ongoing work of the charity.

16 Designated funds

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

	At 1 April 2022 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2023 £
<i>Focolare UK major maintenance fund</i>				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	79,902	34,000	—	113,902
. Other Properties	201,557	17,506	(201,557)	17,506
Western Europe property repair fund	1,400,000	15,929	(1,217,523)	198,406
International property repair fund	—	1,383,400	—	1,383,400
Property replacement fund	540,000	—	(540,000)	—
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	61,574	52,716	(34,000)	80,290
Retirement fund	333,060	5,778	(4,176)	334,662
Volunteers fund	—	7,059	(2,117)	4,942
Centro Foco fund	529,090	300,189	(450,644)	378,635
	3,145,183	1,816,577	(2,450,017)	2,511,743

	At 1 April 2021 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2022 £
<i>Focolare UK major maintenance fund</i>				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	65,902	22,000	(8,000)	79,902
. Other Properties	216,057	—	(14,500)	201,557
Western Europe property repair fund	1,400,000	—	—	1,400,000
Property replacement fund	600,000	—	(60,000)	540,000
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	29,769	35,805	(4,000)	61,574
Retirement fund	338,400	1,850	(7,190)	333,060
Centro Foco fund	529,445	282,245	(282,600)	529,090
	3,179,573	341,900	(376,290)	3,145,183

16 Designated funds (continued)

- ◆ Focolare UK major maintenance fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the charity's residential freehold properties and the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ Western Europe property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across Western Europe.
- ◆ International property repair fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across the world (beyond Western Europe).
- ◆ Property replacement fund
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of replacing residential properties which were sold in 2021/22. The fund was utilised in 2022/23 to purchase a new property in Birmingham.
- ◆ The Focolare Centre for Unity fund
This represents the general fund balance attributable to the Centre which has been separately designated by the trustees for transparency.
- ◆ Retirement fund
This fund consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for members of the Movement in their retirement, calculated using actuarial principles as the members will not be entitled to a full pension.
- ◆ Volunteers Fund
this fund consists of donations from Focolare 'Volunteers of God', mainly destined to the 'Volunteer Centre' in Rome.
- ◆ Centro Foco fund
This fund consists of monies that the trustees have designated for future donation to the Movement's centre in Rome, in support of Focolare community houses on a worldwide scale.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15) £	Other designated funds (note 16) £	Restricted funds (note 14) £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023					
Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,855,364	—	—	4,855,364
Net current assets	149,313	—	2,511,743	1,411	2,662,467
Total net assets	149,313	4,855,364	2,511,743	1,411	7,517,831

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15) £	Other designated funds (note 16) £	Restricted funds (note 14) £	Total 2022 £
<i>Fund balances at 31 March 2022</i>					
<i>Are represented by:</i>					
<i>Tangible fixed assets (note 10)</i>	—	4,329,620	—	—	4,329,620
<i>Fixed assets investments (note 11)</i>	6,313	—	—	—	6,313
<i>Net current assets</i>	208,577	—	3,145,183	613	3,354,373
<i>Total net assets</i>	214,890	4,329,610	3,145,183	613	7,690,306

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 279072

Accounts

**The
Focolare
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2022

Charity Registration Number
(England & Wales) 279072

Charity Registration Number
(Scotland) SC039844

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees Marie Christine Fournier
Paola Grazia
Claudia Melis
Elizabeth Taite
Patricia Whitney

The trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011

Administrative address 67 Church Road
Roby
Liverpool
L36 9TN

Charity registration numbers 279072 (England & Wales)
SC039844 (Scotland)

Auditor Buzzacott LLP
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London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
7 St John's Hill
Clapham Junction
London
SW11 1TR

National Westminster Bank plc
145 Clapham High Street
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SW4 7SZ

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Reference and administrative information

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Solicitors

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London
EC1A 4HJ

HRJ Foreman Laws
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AL8 6HG

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Focolare Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 34 to 38 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1 January 2015 or later.

Governance, structure and management

The Focolare Movement is an international organisation which began in Italy in 1943 and is active in all five continents. It is an ecclesial Movement and its specific aim is to contribute to establishing unity in all areas and spheres of life, working to fulfil the words of the Gospel, "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21).

The Focolare's International Headquarters and General Council are in Rome. The movement is divided into a number of individual 'zones' (geographical areas) which are closely linked to the international centre. Since 2015, the Focolare Movement in Britain is part of the 'zone' of Western Europe which has its area headquarters in Brussels.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charitable trust on which the assets of the women's section of the Focolare Movement in Britain are held. The Focolare Trust is governed by a trust deed dated 11 October 1979 and is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No 279072 and with OSCR No SC039844.

Governance

In Britain, the Women's Section of the Focolare Movement is made up of 25 consecrated members who live in community and who are at the heart of a much wider movement made up of about 1,000 close members and approximately 11,000 who are more loosely associated.

The Trustees are responsible for the charity's assets, its development plans and activities.

They collaborate with the 'Core Group', a body of 23 people drawn from a wide range of Focolare membership, meeting regularly every month. The aim for this group is to be a focal point for the Movement in Great Britain. It comprises representatives of each Focolare house, as well as members of different ages, professional backgrounds, expertise, and from different Focolare groups in various parts of the country.

The Trustees are also in regular communication regarding specific issues with those responsible for the houses and the key activities of the Movement with whom they meet regularly.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees

Under the terms of the trust deed, new Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. The minimum and maximum number of Trustees is three and six respectively, and the following were in office during the year:

Trustees

Marie Christine Fournier

Paola Grazia

Claudia Melis

Elizabeth Taite

Patricia Whitney

Appointed 5 November 2021

The Trustees oversee all the developments of the Focolare in this country and its links with the Movement internationally. They keep up to date with changes in Trustees' responsibilities and charity law. They attend courses which are relevant to their role and always seek professional advice when necessary.

Key management personnel

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

Currently, all Trustees are consecrated members of the Movement; their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity but they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Working with other organisations

The Focolare Trust works together with Mariapolis Limited, a charity administered by the men's section of the Focolare Movement. One or more residential meetings are jointly organized each year and there is ongoing collaboration in the organisation of youth projects both nationally and internationally.

The Focolare Trust and Mariapolis Limited work together for the 'New City' publishing house and in the production of our monthly magazine, as well as in planning all the activities of the Movement in this country. Mariapolis Limited members also contribute to the daily running for the Centre for Unity.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The Trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the charity on a regular basis, they continue to maintain effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Centre for Unity sustainability and Covid impact

In 2021-22 the Centre for Unity was still at reduced activities but certain groups were able to use the Centre and bookings started to increase from September 2021. We still benefitted from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme; however, as mentioned in the previous report, the Trustees had to take the difficult decision to make two of the staff redundant. A new cleaner was employed in 2022. A new Manager was also employed in January after the previous Manager retired. After the summer 2022, the Centre is in higher demand and the Trustees are monitoring the activities of the Centre with reduced staff; often this means not accepting more groups than what is feasible.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Ageing communities

During 2021-22, we continued to be aware of the age profile of many of the consecrated members living in our houses. We have continued to be engaged in a process of discussion and discernment with the 'Core Group' and Focolare members both in this country and in Western Europe as to how to ensure the wellbeing of members in the future, as well as reaching out to new members.

Governance, widening participation, ensuring sustainability and enabling succession-planning

Our governance structures are under continuous review. The 'Core group' has continued to meet monthly to discern the way ahead and make decisions on priorities and events. The need for our members to understand the different roles and ways of working within the Movement is becoming clearer and conversations have been happening at different levels and among different groups.

In March 2021 the members of the Core Group attended a training session on Unconscious Bias. This was to support awareness and implementation of equality, diversity and inclusion practices within the Movement.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding team in 2021-2022 comprised four members, two Safeguarding Officers:

- ◆ Jane Evans (Safeguarding Officer)
- ◆ Paul Gateshill (Safeguarding Officer)

and three additional members:

- ◆ Claudia Melis (administration)
- ◆ Nic Innocent (administration)
- ◆ Anja Primbs (administration)

In March 2022 Paul Gateshill stepped down from his post as Safeguarding Officer and Nic Innocent was asked if he was willing to undertake the appointment process, which includes consulting the regional headquarters in Brussels. Following the appointment process, Nic Innocent was approved for the post of Safeguarding Officer.

Our Safeguarding Policy and guidelines are published on the Focolare GB website (www.focolare.org/gb/safeguarding). It follows the guidelines issued by Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS), now Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), with whom we have an umbrella agreement.

The Focolare Community in Scotland is also committed to follow guidelines by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Services (transitioning to become the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, SCSSA) and actively participate in safeguarding training and events organised by Glasgow RC Archdiocese's Safeguarding Office.

In 2021-2022 the Safeguarding team has continued to work on the annual review of the safeguarding policies and guidelines and started a review on training needs and monitoring. The policies are drawn from CSSA and SCSSA but have incorporated input from local authorities, health sector, as well as Anglican and Methodist safeguarding resources to reflect the ecumenical nature of the Movement. Particular focus was put into digital safeguarding (online meetings and the appropriate use of media).

Jane Evans participated in the international conference for Focolare designated Safeguarding Officers in Castelgandolfo (Rome) in February 2022. This was organised by CO.BE.TU. (Commission for the Wellbeing and Safeguarding of Minors), the Focolare International central body for safeguarding. The purpose of the conference was to review the International Focolare Safeguarding Policy (available on the Focolare International website at <https://www.focolare.org/en/wellbeing-and-protection-of-minors-and-vulnerable-persons/>) and share expertise and good practices.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

In addition to the periodic review of the safeguarding policy, the Safeguarding team develops and advises on the use of Risk Assessments, monitors the process of safe recruitment DBS/PVG checks for those who work with young people and vulnerable adults, maintains an advisory role for members of the Focolare movement, provides pointers to access training resources, and advises members to ensure we maintain a safe environment for all people who come into contact with the Movement.

The two Safeguarding Officers respond to any safeguarding concerns, allegations and disclosures within the Focolare, ensuring all safeguarding allegations are reported to the appropriate bodies. They act autonomously from the leadership of the Focolare, while briefing the two delegates for GB with concerns that require changes to practice (with due regard to confidentiality).

The safeguarding team had identified volunteer training and safeguarding vulnerable adults as objectives for 2022. However, the publication at the end of March 2022 of a report by GCPS Consulting has shifted the team's priorities. This was an independent investigation into the sexual abuse perpetrated by a former consecrated member of the Focolare in France.

The safeguarding team focussed on care for the victims and creating a service of 'listening points' for members of the Focolare across Western Europe. More information will be provided in the next Trustees' Report 2022-23.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

Principal aims

The general objects of the Trust are the advancement of the Christian religion, the prevention or relief of poverty and education.

In particular, the Movement works towards fostering dialogue and establishing unity at all levels. Focolare activities are all directed towards this end.

Unity through dialogue

The Movement began within the framework of the Roman Catholic Church but since 1960 a strong characteristic has been the engagement of members from various Churches and its ecumenical dialogue between Christians of many traditions.

Since the 1970s, dialogue with members of other faiths and people with no formal faith who share the aim of building a united world has also developed.

Unity through promoting social justice

The Focolare Movement is committed to fostering greater equality among peoples and nations. To this end each year it supports Focolare projects in the global South and those affected by natural disasters, as well as supporting people in need in Britain.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Objectives and priorities

During the year 2021-22, the Trustees, 'Core Group' (representing different memberships and local communities) and those responsible for the Focolare houses identified the following specific areas upon which to concentrate much of the work of the movement in keeping with our general aims:

- a) To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- b) To continue prioritising our work with young people.
- c) To continue accompanying Focolare communities, families and individual members and continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad.
- d) To join the campaign 'Dare to Care' (United World Project for the year 2021-22), strive to reach more sustainable practices in terms of ecology and work with other agencies promoting care for 'our common home'.
- e) To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- f) To continue supporting people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, both in GB and abroad, and AMU (Action for a United World) and AFN onlus (New Families Action) projects for international solidarity.

Public benefit

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees have had regard to public benefit and the activities and achievements described below seek to demonstrate the public benefit of Focolare Trust in relation to its specific objectives to foster dialogue and unity.

Grant making policy

The Trust's grant making policy and procedures depend on decisions made in consultation with the members responsible for the Movement in Britain, our regional headquarters in Brussels, with the General Council in Rome and with those responsible for each local house. Priority is given to furthering Focolare projects. Financial support is sometimes given to close relatives of consecrated members who are in need: e.g. widowed mothers or young families. This help is given sensitively and it corresponds to individual needs.

With regards to objectives for overseas donations, grants are made in consultation with the International Centre in Rome to give support in places of great need; and in particular through the charitable arms AMU and AFN onlus (see above, point f).

The Covid committee was established in April 2020 to manage the Covid Emergency Fund. The committee comprises 5 members: two trustees of the Focolare Trust, the secretary of Mariapolis Ltd and other 2 focolare volunteers. With the ease of the pandemic it was agreed that its remit should be broadened to hardship of all kinds and that the committee should be renamed the 'Covid and Hardship Fund' committee and would be managing the donations received for this purpose.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

a) Supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain and Focolare International Centres

In the year to 31 March 2022, the charity supported 25 consecrated members in Great Britain. These members are at the heart of our activities and events, be it with young people in particular but also in furthering our ecumenical and interfaith work at all levels.

The charity also gave a substantial contribution of £304,015 to the Focolare International Centre in Rome to support consecrated members of Focolare abroad and for the work of the Movement in poorer and developing countries. On behalf of the International Centre, we continue to hold funds in a separate deposit account (Centro Foco fund), which are drawn down when needed in response to needs as outlined above.

b) Working with young people

Whilst there have been fewer meetings for young people and teenagers generally, the online activity has continued. In particular a group of young girls (9-12 years old) spread across GB have been meeting regularly on Zoom every month, and 2 groups of children (4-8 years old) from London and Welwyn Garden City. The characteristic of these gatherings now, in comparison with the past, is that more adult leaders are opting to help with the younger generations.

A first sleepover in November in Liverpool reunited children and teenagers from across GB for the first time in person, coming from Aberdeen to London, via Swansea. They met again during a 3-day congress in April 2022, at the Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City. The programme included sessions on the Life of the Gospel, forgiveness and reconciliation, loving your enemy, as well as indoor and outdoor games, craft activities, moments of prayer, reflection and sharing, movie night...



When asked what had changed in them before and after the congress, replies included:

“I feel more connected to God than I did before”

“I have become more free and open and just happy”

“I appreciate the Gospel more and how to ‘keep it in my pocket’ and use the Word to help others in my life. I am also more aware of how the Holy Spirit works in us and now Jesus is always waiting for us to ‘answer the door’”

3 participants to the Congress in Welwyn Garden City, April 2022

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working with young people (continued)

In some parts of GB, family meetings have resumed after the lockdown, it being a great joy to have entire families, with children of all ages coming together once more.

Hombre Mundo 2022

The uncertainty of the Covid situation after Christmas caused us to decide against hosting a large residential event in February in the Centre for Unity on the occasion of the worldwide 'Hombre Mundo' event (February 2022). We hosted smaller local gatherings instead, in Glasgow, Liverpool and London.

The title of this project is in Spanish and could be translated with 'Global Person', a person who carries in their heart the whole of humanity. This expression was suggested by Chiara Lubich to the young people as a way of life for future generations. The aims of 'Hombre Mundo' this year were to take care of others and of creation. Whilst the Scottish group went for a litter picking activity, in London and in Liverpool we reflected on Faith Plans/Eco Plans (see point d).



Young People gathered in London for 'HombreMundo'

This is a report by a youth leader supporting the younger ones who gathered in Liverpool:

“The Hombre Mundo day was a refreshing experience that connected a lot of us from different countries with shared goals in mind. In our global Time-out zoom call, we saw other young people who met up for their Hombre Mundo..., especially touching when we prayed for Ukraine together with the Ukrainian group at the beginning of an uncertain time.

It has been a new experience helping out the younger ones to express their ideas and thoughts on sustainability through Faith Plans.

This session allowed the young people to talk about what they would like to see the movement promote and apply to make the future more sustainable for all. This involved different activities that helped to prioritise the main categories for intervention such as lifestyle, education and wisdom.

Personally, this experience has strengthened my environmental activism and the desire for a sustainable future in which young people may have a chance”.

Mariachiara

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

Families

Throughout 2021 the Focolare Families in GB and Ireland produced a joint course 'Love creates a family' which was a series of 7 monthly zooms looking at aspects of family life through the lens of living the Gospel together. Following this course there was a desire to continue getting to know each other, creating further opportunities for talking, sharing and reaching out to others. A series of Zooms 'Time together as families' have been held throughout 2022 based on specific topics suggested by feedback at the end of the 2021 course. Each session is simple, informal and open to all.

"Thank you so much for such a beautiful programme for tonight's theme of Love Forgives. The warm and relaxed presentations and beautiful texts and experiences created such a moment of trust and openness in the breakout rooms that people could share deeply and honestly and really be a gift for each other in answering a question or responding to something shared..."

Sincere thanks! Great love and care went into tonight's session!"

A participant in 'Time together as families'

Local Communities

Focolare local communities across the country have continued to meet online and in person when possible. In particular, on the weekend of 26 June 2021 (coincidentally National Picnic Day!) some took the opportunity to gather together outside: for some it was the first meeting in person since lockdown. They gathered in Liverpool Calderstones Park, Astley Park in Chorley, South Wales, gardens in the Wirral, Newcastle upon Tyne and Ripon, and Derby – to name a few. The Word of Life group in Welwyn Garden City had a joyful garden gathering in August.

These simple gatherings were a chance to celebrate being together as 'family', to enjoy the beauty of nature and also to share some deep moments lived during the past 18 months – sufferings, joys and hopes for the future.

The trustees decided in March 2022 to purchase a new 4-bedroom property in Smethwick, West Midlands, for the Birmingham women's community who had been living in rented accommodation in Darlaston since November 2020. The purchase will be funded from the sale of the London house in March 2021.

The Midlands now hosts two Focolare houses: the women's house in Smethwick and the men's house who moved from Liverpool to Willenhall in March 2021. Opening permanent community houses meant that the 'Birmingham project' is now taken on by the communities houses themselves. Around Birmingham new networks with the local churches are being sown and existing links with interfaith contacts are being strengthened.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

Local Communities (continued)

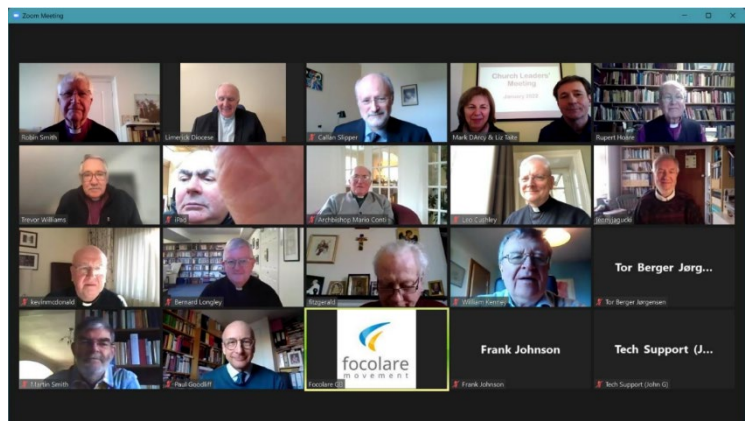
Following an international school for local community coordinators, five of our members from different parts of GB have formed a **working group**, aiming to nurture and support the life of the local communities in their outreach.

Ecumenism

Prayers for Unity – What started as a response to being isolated at the beginning of the pandemic, has continued each Monday evening for 20 minutes, the reflection is being led by a different person each time. Over two years later, there are regular participants from many countries of the world and from numerous different Christian traditions.

There are four **international zoom groups** working on developing areas where we live and work ecumenically; these started in October 2021 and include consecrated members from GB. Concrete actions have emerged from this rich exchange of the experience of members of various churches, which will have an impact on the whole Movement.

Ecumenical meeting of Church Leaders 2022 - During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2022, the annual meeting for church leaders took place, for the second time via Zoom. Those attending were drawn from the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran and Moravian churches, from the Church of England and the Church of Ireland. The advantage of Zoom is that those from further away were able to attend, from Scotland, Ireland and Norway. There were 17 participants in total and 15 others sent apologies.



The programme included a talk by Callan Slipper, Church of England National Ecumenical Officer, on *The Meaning of Ecumenism Today: What Insights does the Spirituality of Unity offer?* followed by dialogue groups and an update on the international bishops' meeting in Rome by Bishop Brendan Leahy. Straightaway there was a warm, friendly atmosphere. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was clear that they were already looking forward to the next time they would be together.

Interfaith

The **Study group with Dr Mohammad Shomali** has continued its regular meetings and has been focussing on some of Chiara Lubich's writings. Talking about these together – Christians and Muslims – is to share more deeply about the work of God in our lives.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

Interfaith (continued)

The 10 **Dialogue Group** zooms which happened during lockdown are now continuing 4 times a year. They have been an opportunity to educate and provide information about people of different faiths and have built bridges through sharing understanding, also of commonalities between our faith systems. In Britain, the experience within all faith groups, but especially those of the monotheistic religions, could be that young people are searching for very traditional forms of belief and practice and are not open to dialogue. Therefore, these zooms organised by the Focolare Dialogue group are important for countering a trend in society. It is part of learning to live in a space where we disagree and that people travel through life on different pathways and need not be a threat to one another. The contribution of the Movement is to point towards being the first to love.

Some feedback after the session on Judaism by Rabbi Emeritus Dr Thomas Salamon (Rabbi at the Jewish Reform Westminster Synagogue for almost 20years, until his retirement in 2017):

"I found Rabbi Thomas Salamon's talk very helpful in changing my perspective on Judaism".

Nic

And from the session on Jainism, led by Jaineel Shah, a member of the Public Relations team of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur UK:

"This is what I especially like about the Interfaith Dialogue, the chance to get to know and gain a basic understanding of other faith/belief systems.

I usually find myself comparing what I learn with my own Christian faith and whilst there are always some differences it is refreshing to find that in general, we seem to have more that unites than divides us.

Jaineel's insight was no different. I especially liked some of the descriptions he gave of the 5 Great Values..."

Julie

Politics and Unity - The Politics and Unity group was formed in July 2020 and it consists of 10-15 individuals who are eager, determined to enhance political dialogue, which Chiara Lubich had always very close to her heart. It was she who called politics the "love of all loves". The group meets every 4-5 weeks and we look at various interesting topics which affect our local communities, UK, Europe and the whole world. They had an opportunity to listen to powerful experiences from North Ireland, learn about the political system in Scotland, take part on the virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament and some of the group

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

members also took part in an online seminar organised by the International Movement for Politics and Unity, which is based in Rome.

“Building political dialogue has never been more important. On the other hand, politics today has never been more polarised. It might often feel that people are drifting away from being part of the political process and the democratic disengagement becomes a ‘social norm’.

In this, rather challenging environment, a number of people decided to try and bring together individuals from a wide range of political beliefs to create an opportunity for ‘political growth’”.

Michal

Walking the Synodal Pathway - Between 2021 - 2023, the Roman Catholic Church across the entire world is embarking upon a process of listening, reflection and dialogue to discern how to journey forward together. Pope Francis wants to involve everyone in this discernment process: religious leaders, believers of all churches and faiths as well as people of no religious convictions. His hope is that we can learn from one another and strengthen the already existing bonds of fraternity among people: simultaneously, the Catholic Church can learn how to better journey alongside others.

This process is called the “synodal pathway”; in some areas, it is called “Walking Together”. Members of the Movements were encouraged to get involved in their local parishes and dioceses “synodal pathway”.

Pat Whitney (Midlands) and Rumold van Geffen (Welwyn Garden City) coordinated a group from across GB who produced its own report which was shared with the central hub in Belgium.

Mariapolis 2021 with Malta - The 2021 annual event ‘Mariapolis’ was hosted by Britain and



Malta together on 2nd-3rd October. As in 2020, most of the programme was online, but some local communities this time met in person and followed the streaming together. This included a group of young adults gathered at the Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City, and another group of young people was meeting in person in Malta.

Many of the participants said that they experienced being one universal family, built on true relationships.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Focolare Communities, Families, Dialogue

The programme included moments of reflection, with testimonies illustrating the theme 'Our Heart, Our Home, Our World'. Personal stories of putting the 'Art of Loving' into practice reflected the diversity and the multi-cultural aspect of communities in Malta and Britain, giving a vision of a society inspired by the Gospel. Other international visitors included participants from Nigeria, Scandinavia and Italy.

Nine 'interest groups' covered a range of topics, highlighting initiatives that have developed in the past year. These included Ecology, Ecumenism, Art and a presentation of projects supporting refugees in Malta.

Children and young people made a significant contribution with their own experiences of putting love into practice, as well as presenting the **Dare to Care** pathway of care for the planet (see section d below).

The journey travelled over the months of preparation had also been positive and rich: teams from the different nations getting to know each other, working together, listening deeply. Unforeseen technological difficulties on the day challenged the team behind the scenes and the participants. However, many took this chance to 'love everyone', discovering new ways to listen and share with others.

Some feedback after the Mariapolis:

"How do you express the love and hard work of all the organisers of this wonderful two days spent together, what an imagination of God.

My profound thanks to everyone, the program was perfectly balanced with short sessions which incorporated spirituality, experiences, recreation and moments of deep communion with God..."

Teresa

"Big big thank you to each one who made this beautiful big family possible"

Vicky



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Dare to Care

In line with the Focolare General Assembly Final Document (see previous report), which identified as directions for the Movement in the next six years, responding to the “cries of humanity, of the new generations and of the earth”, the Dare to Care campaign launched at the end of United World Week 2021 focused on ‘People, planet and our ecological conversion’ (<https://www.unitedworldproject.org/en/daretocare/>).



Many people pledged themselves to make changes in their own lives and to work to care for our planet, joining initiatives both from Focolare and from other organisations we share common goals with, in order to continue to build the United World together.

An Eco community of interest group, later named Focolare Integral Ecology Group, started to meet in January 2021 for learning and sharing online sessions and supporting individual and local actions.

Ahead of the UN climate talks (COP26) in Glasgow, the group organised three evening online events in July, entitled Countdown to COP26: Time to Think – Time to Act. The event series offered a wonderful opportunity to reflect, learn more and get inspired on how to get



involved in taking action on the climate crisis in our local communities, in our churches and with our elected representatives.

Speakers included:

- ◆ **Lorna Gold**, Chair of the Laudato Si' Movement and Director of Movement Building at FaithInvest
- ◆ **Nino Puglisi**, Focolare / Eco One
- ◆ **Sarah Robinson**, Hope for the Future
- ◆ **Nick Thomas-Symonds MP**, Shadow Home Secretary
- ◆ **Maria Elena Arana**, CAFOD
- ◆ **John Paul de Quay and Eleanor Margetts**, Ecological Conversion Group
- ◆ **Elizabeth Perry**, Programme and Communication Manager at the Anglican Alliance, who coordinated the Anglican Communion Delegation at COP26, spoke at a follow up meeting post-COP26.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Dare to Care (continued)

Some feedback from the participants after the sessions:

“I thoroughly enjoyed the event - thank you so much for the invitation and I wish everyone well with their lobbying!”

Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP

“Thanks for this it's just what we need. An important contribution to a marvellous discussion”.

Seamus

“Each of the speakers brought something different to the table and both individually and collectively the content and presentation was first class. For me it was especially heartening to see even in a small way the work of the Movement showcased”.

Marie

The Focolare Integral Ecology Group also did a series of articles in New City before and after COP26 to keep people informed and have since then been involved in how the Movement in GB could adhere to the Faith Plans initiative (<https://www.faithplans.org/>), in collaboration with other faith groups and organisations.

New bank for the Focolare Trust current accounts

In April 2021, the desire to invest in a more ethical bank prompted the trustees and those responsible for the houses to take the decision to move all the Focolare Trust current accounts from the high street bank NatWest to the Co-operative bank, which has a customer-led Ethical Policy incorporated into its Articles of Association. The move to the Co-operative bank took some time and preparatory work but resulted in a successful switch in September 2022.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Focolare Centre for Unity

By April 2021 Covid was starting to fade and we were hosting Covid-19 testing in the car park. By this time, we were not being paid for the use of the car park but we were very happy to help the Council and local residents by accommodating the Testing Service.

The frequency and variety of groups using the Centre increased gradually through to the point in July 2021 when we accepted the first request for a residential event – St Albans Diocese. The type of groups we have continued to host were Churches, Charities, Focolare Groups, Police, Youth Service, local and County council events.

Due to the small number of events we were able to offer accommodation, in our largest flat, to a family of 4. This family were having major work completed on their house and, due to the disruption from Covid, the works were considerably delayed. They stayed in the flat from the end of June to mid – October.

In December 2021 our manager of the last 8 years retired. In the previous autumn we had begun the process of advertising locally for a replacement and alerting our members in the country to the need for a new manager. The advertisement was also placed in the local churches, on the Independent Catholic News, the Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) websites and with Indeed employment agency. We appointed a new manager in January 2022.

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity

During 2021-22, the Covid Emergency Fund has continued to offer support in a couple of cases to people in need within the UK. In addition, contributions have been sent to the Centre of the Movement in Rome for distribution to those most in need around the world.

Report from the Covid Emergency International Fund (7 July 2022)

The amount received so far at the International Centre was €1,044,253, the expenditure was €832,594 and the balance is €211,659 which will be used for requests currently under evaluation or for new emergencies. In our previous report we gave details of the projects that were supported internationally.

Achievements and performance (continued)**Review of activities** (continued)**f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity** (continued)*Report from the Covid Emergency International Fund (7 July 2022) (continued)*

Covid Emergency International Fund as per June 2022	2020	2021	2022	Total
Income	Euros			
General Donations	444,473	198,558	4,789	647,819
For families and people in need	93,406	45,933	30	139,369
For salaries social projects	37,201	1,200	0	38,401
Youth Formation	8,499	1,100	0	9,599
Other specific intentions	196,501	12,364	200	209,065
Total Income	780,080	259,154	5,019	1,044,253
Expenditure	Euros			
Families and people in need	85,194	23,425	28,339	136,957
Little towns	89,723	200,000	50,000	339,723
Salaries social projects	262,663	74,022	2,000	338,684
Youth Formation	0	4,930	12,300	17,230
Total Expenditure	437,579	302,376	92,639	832,594
Balance available	342,501	299,279	211,659	

Nepal

Some Focolare volunteers heard about the Covid emergency situations in India and decided to raise funds. We contacted our Focolare Centre in Mumbai who were feeling helpless with the situation and were overjoyed about the news of help from GB. They suggested that we support the people in Nepal, which is part of the regional Focolare zone of 'India' (with Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka), where many are suffering because of the lack of work and medical supplies.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity (continued)

Nepal (continued)

“In the name of our small community of friends who know our Focolare movement but especially in the name of our Nepalese people, I would like to thank you very much for the help you sent us.

The situation here in Nepal is not very rosy, although the government is doing its best to vaccinate the people, everything is going very slowly as there is always a shortage of vaccines...

Meanwhile the monsoon rains have already caused a lot of damage and countless people have seen all their belongings washed up in the floods.

Nepal's source of income is tourism, with more than 1 1/2 years without tourists, over 1 million people are out of work and more than 500,000 migrants have returned from India and the Middle East.

With the donations we have already received, we try to give food parcels to many families, pay school fees for children whose parents are unemployed, distribute stationery items to children on the start of the new academic year, pay house rent, medical bills, through a parish priests who knows the Movement”.

(Jo, August 2021)

“Your donations are being used to support some families who know the Movement, housing rent and medical expenses. In these families, both the mother and the father are unemployed. We also provided more than 40 families in the mountain region with food, rice, oil, and lentils, these families had a lot of problems because most of them were porters and there was no tourism, so there was no work for them”.

(Jo, June 2022)



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

f) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic and initiatives of International solidarity (continued)

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 a special fund was set up via the Focolare NGO AMU, Action for a United World. By April 2022 we had sent £8,800 to AMU from GB.

Focolare activities in Scotland 2021-22

Monthly community meetings

This year was still characterised by the effects of the pandemic, therefore most of the meetings continued to take place on zoom. When we changed them to hybrid meetings, about a third of the participants opted to actually meet in person in our Focolare house, whereas elderly participants or those living further away preferred the zoom option.

COP26

For over six years, the community in Scotland have been getting to know and deepening a friendship with the Ahl Al Bait Society Scotland, Shia Muslim community based in and around Glasgow. We have held several events together and our relationship has truly moved from friendship to a real unity, so much so that we all feel part of one family. Environmental action has been a specific focus of several of our shared activities.

Building on these ongoing interfaith relationships and activities, we were approached by Lorna Gold, from Laudato Si' Movement, who asked if we would be interested in holding interfaith events focused on the environment during COP26 in November 2021.

Through discussions with Lorna, Focolare wider community and our Shia Muslim friends we jointly decided to organise two events.

The first event was a public evening conference to promote interfaith understanding of the importance of caring for our common home. The event was held at the Islamic Al Mahdi Centre in Glasgow.

Speakers included prominent ecological activists from the Sikh and Jewish communities, the local Iman, people



Public Interfaith conference in Glasgow

Achievements and performance (continued)

Focolare activities in Scotland 2021-22 (continued)

COP26 (continued)

from the official COP26 delegation, Lorna and others. Around 90 people from a wide-range of faiths came and another 40 took part from across Scotland, the UK and further afield via zoom. It was a wonderful evening with a great atmosphere, lots of engaged discussion and many people sharing contact details with each other as new connections were made.

The second event was an evening buffet dinner, for around 30 'VIPs' in the Glasgow Focolare house: it was attended by official and unofficial COP26 delegates and global and local leaders all from different faith groups and organisations, together with members of our community. Our aim was to deepen dialogues and provide an opportunity for 'networking'. Among the participants were those of Sikh, Jewish and Muslim faiths; people from various Christian denominations – including representation from the Iona Community – and a representative of paganism. Several of the people commented positively as they left that they had never been to an event quite like that evening. Somebody said that they had never experienced so much joy in the company of such a diverse company as they did on that evening.

Focolare representatives also took part in other COP26 events: Talks, a Roman Catholic Mass for COP26 participants, an ecumenical service, an interfaith service, COP26 marches, and a viewing of the 'Laudato Si' documentary.

These days have been pivotal moments for us in Scotland in our interfaith dialogues – building new relationships and deepening existing ones.

The Focolare continues to work together with FaithInvest, an international organisation that encourages faith groups of all major religions to draw up 'Faith plans' of how to live integral ecology.

A video report on these events was shown at the quarterly Focolare International conference call streamed on YouTube ('Collegamento – Link Up' YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/CollegamentoFocolare_official) and can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfX3QEj07Ns>

Ecumenism

The presence of two of our members at the synods of the **Scottish Episcopal Church** over the last 3 years has brought about much fruits through their inputs and the relationships they built.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Focolare activities in Scotland 2021-22 (continued)

Young people

The young people continue to meet regularly, both on zoom and in person. One of the actions was the planting of trees in December '21. It was an event that was jointly organised by young people of the Focolare and the Ahl Al Bait society.



Another example of caring for the environment was a litter picking afternoon in March '22 during a weekend of the young people in the Focolare.

Future plans 2022-23

Following discussions with the Core Group and people responsible for the Focolare houses, the Trustees confirmed the following specific objectives for the coming year in keeping with our general aims:

- ◆ To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- ◆ To continue prioritising our work with young people.
- ◆ To continue accompanying Focolare communities, families and individual members and working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad.
- ◆ To continue the campaign 'Dare to Care' (United World Project for the year 2022-23), striving to reach more sustainable practices in terms of ecology and work with other agencies promoting care for 'our common home'.

Future plans 2022-23 (continued)

- ◆ To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- ◆ To continue supporting people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, both in GB and abroad, and AMU and AFN onlus projects for international solidarity.

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 30 of the attached financial statements.

For the year to 31 March 2022, the income of the charity amounted to £744,103 (2021 - £2,294,252), including £644,091 (2021 - £666,905) from voluntary income, £73,686 (2021 - £21,483) from charitable activities, interest receivable of £16,157 (2021 - £7,163) and £400 (2021 - £1,574,953) from the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Total expenditure in the year was £784,880 (2021 - £898,808) including £379,512 (2020 - £509,900) for donations and grants payments; £113,307 (2021 - £30,849) for provision of retreats, conferences and publications; £679 (2021 - £3,661) for interfaith and youth projects; and £291,382 (2021 - £254,398) for the support of the members of the Movement.

Net investment gains in the year were £479 (2021 – losses of £179). The net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £40,298 (2021 – a increase of £1,395,265).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for the free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed). In particular, at the current time, the reserves need to be sufficient to enable the charity to operate in the exceptional circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately between three and six months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,690,306 (2021 - £7,730,604). Of this, £4,329,618 (2021 - £4,391,433) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the Movement. Such assets are of fundamental importance to the charity; without these assets the charity would be unable to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives. The value of such assets, therefore, would not be easily realisable, if needed to meet future contingencies. To emphasise this point, the net book value of these assets has been set aside, by the trustees, in a tangible fixed assets fund. Other designated funds stood at £3,145,183 (2021 - £3,179,573) (see note 16).

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves policy and financial position (continued)

Free reserves available to support the work of the members in the future are those shown on the balance sheet under the general fund and, at 31 March 2022 equate to £214,892 (2020 - £159,610). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2022 equates to approximately 3 months' of ongoing expenditure which is consistent with the desired reserves level as noted above.


The charity's assets

Acquisitions and disposals of tangible fixed assets during the year are recorded in note 10 to the financial statements.

Employees and members of the Society

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to all their staff, volunteers, members and supporters of the Movement, especially in this difficult year. Their total dedication, generosity and creativity has been invaluable and deeply appreciated. As we navigate through uncertainties and change, their enthusiasm continues to inspire us and pushes us forward in working together for unity.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

Date: 01/11/2022

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Focolare Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Focolare Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ The identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and safeguarding regulations.
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and reviewing trustee meeting minutes and reports from regulatory bodies.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act and in accordance with Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buzzacott LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 2 November 2022

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	584,734	59,357	644,091	617,877	49,028	666,905
Investments		16,157	—	16,157	7,163	—	7,163
Charitable activities							
. Retreat and conference centre fees		73,686	—	73,686	21,483	—	21,483
Other income							
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets		400	—	400	1,574,953	—	1,574,953
. Miscellaneous income	2	9,769	—	9,769	23,748	—	23,748
Total income		684,746	59,357	744,103	2,245,224	49,028	2,294,252
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Donations and grants payable	3	345,586	33,926	379,512	472,266	37,634	509,900
. Provision of retreats, conferences and publications	4	88,953	24,354	113,307	112,790	18,059	130,849
. Interfaith and youth projects	5	16	663	679	3,636	25	3,661
. Support of members of the Movement	6	291,382	—	291,382	254,398	—	254,398
Total expenditure		725,937	58,943	784,880	843,090	55,718	898,808
Net (expenditure) income before recognised investment gains and losses		(41,191)	414	(40,777)	1,402,134	(6,690)	1,395,444
Gains (losses) on investments	11	479	—	479	(179)	—	(179)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	(40,712)	414	(40,298)	1,401,955	(6,690)	1,395,265
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 April		7,730,405	199	7,730,604	6,328,450	6,889	6,335,339
Balances carried forward at 31 March		7,689,693	613	7,690,306	7,730,405	199	7,730,604

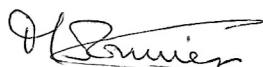
All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,329,618		4,391,433
Investments	11		6,315		5,836
			<u>4,335,933</u>		<u>4,397,269</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	85,704		18,763	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,297,009		3,370,853	
Total current assets		<u>3,382,713</u>		<u>3,389,616</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(28,340)		(56,281)	
Net current assets			<u>3,354,373</u>		<u>3,333,335</u>
Net assets			<u>7,690,306</u>		<u>7,730,604</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	14		613		199
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			214,892		159,399
. Tangible fixed assets fund	15		4,329,618		4,391,433
. Designated funds	16		3,145,183		3,179,573
Total funds			<u>7,690,306</u>		<u>7,730,604</u>

Approved by trustees and signed
on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on:

01/11/2022

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(90,401)	(101,084)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		16,157	7,163
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		400	2,829,525
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		—	(685,524)
Net cash provided by investing activities		16,557	2,151,164
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(73,844)	2,050,080
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	3,370,853	1,320,773
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	3,297,009	3,370,853

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows used in operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(40,298)	1,395,265
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	61,815	66,080
(Gains) losses on investments	(479)	179
Investment income	(16,157)	(7,163)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(400)	(1,574,953)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(66,941)	4,887
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(27,941)	14,621
Net cash used in by operating activities	(90,401)	(101,084)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,297,009	3,370,853
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,297,009	3,370,853

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2022.

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

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds needed at the year end in particular in respect to the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement fund.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have given consideration to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and concluded that there is no immediate significant threat to the charity's finances.

In 2021-22 the Centre for Unity was still at reduced activities and the Trustees had to take the difficult decision to make two out of three members of staff redundant. After the summer 2022, the Centre is in higher demand. The Trustees are monitoring the activities of the Centre with reduced staff (two employed staff in total). The level of reserves and income and expenditure of the Centre for Unity continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements and are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and therefore to be able to continue as a going concern.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements have not been prepared as the subsidiary company remained dormant throughout the year.

Income recognition

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

Income comprises donations, investment income, income from retreat and conference centre fees, income from events and workshops and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual members of the Movement received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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

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

Income from retreat and conference centre fees and from events and workshops is usually recognised in the period to which it relates or the period in which the event or workshop took place.

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Expenditure comprises the costs of the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:

- ◆ Donations and grants payable - these are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to receive the grant and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ◆ Provision of retreats, conferences and publications, including expenditure on the Movement's retreat and conference centre in Welwyn Garden City.
- ◆ Interfaith and youth projects, including expenditure on the Gen Verde project and other interfaith and youth projects.
- ◆ Expenditure on the support of the members of the Movement which enables the members to carry out the charitable work of the Trust in the areas of the advancement of Christianity, the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, including all support and governance costs associated with the administration of the charity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Freehold land and buildings
These are included on the balance sheet at cost.
 - ◇ Residential
No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings used as private residential accommodation. The value and condition of the buildings are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.
 - ◇ Conference centre
Freehold land and buildings used for the provision of the conference centre are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the properties off over their estimated useful life.

Investments

Investment in the subsidiary company is included in the balance sheet at cost.

Listed investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains (or losses) are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they arise.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise moneys raised for and their use restricted to a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The charity's unrestricted funds comprise a number of funds which are available for application towards the charity's objectives. Within unrestricted funds, the trustees have designated certain amounts for specific purposes and have identified those non-liquid funds represented by tangible fixed assets. Details of these funds are given in notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Listed investments are a basic financial instrument as detailed above. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Services provided by members of the Movement

For the purposes of these financial statements, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Movement.

1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant	501,551	—	501,551
General donations	62,956	59,357	122,313
Legacies	20,227	—	20,227
2022 Total funds	584,734	59,357	644,091

Salaries and pensions include amounts totalling £43,505 (2021 - £43,464) from trustees.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant</i>	<i>460,945</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>460,945</i>
<i>General donations</i>	<i>50,426</i>	<i>49,028</i>	<i>99,454</i>
<i>Legacies</i>	<i>106,506</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>106,506</i>
<i>2021 Total funds</i>	<i>617,877</i>	<i>49,028</i>	<i>666,905</i>

2 Miscellaneous income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	6,216	—	6,216
Sundry income	3,553	—	3,553
2022 Total funds	9,769	—	9,769

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant</i>	<i>22,452</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>22,452</i>
<i>Sundry income</i>	<i>1,296</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1,296</i>
<i>2021 Total funds</i>	<i>23,748</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>23,748</i>

3 Donations and grants payable

The charity makes grants to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its grant making policy set out in the trustees' report.

Several donations have been sent via the Movement's centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in various countries including some specific projects for those in need, especially in Ukraine, Nepal and Syria, as well as grants to support those in need as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The donations and grants payable during the year were for the following purposes:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Contributions to the Global Mission	304,015	—	304,015
Grants to international projects	20,080	23,568	43,648
Covid-19 emergency grants	—	5,570	5,570
Other grants	21,491	4,788	26,279
2022 Total funds	345,586	33,926	379,512

Included above are grants paid to 9 individuals totalling £21,768 (2021 – 14 individuals totalling £83,763).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Contributions to the Global Mission</i>	<i>377,918</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>377,918</i>
<i>Grants to international projects</i>	<i>6,651</i>	<i>20,481</i>	<i>27,132</i>
<i>Covid- 19 emergency grants</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>10,157</i>	<i>10,157</i>
<i>Other grants</i>	<i>87,697</i>	<i>6,996</i>	<i>94,693</i>
<i>2021 Total funds</i>	<i>472,266</i>	<i>37,634</i>	<i>509,900</i>

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Retreat and conference centre costs			
. Premises	38,393	24,354	62,747
. Centre for Unity running costs	22,396	—	22,396
. Staff costs (note 8)	25,435	—	25,435
. Office sundries	676	—	676
Other costs and publications	2,053	—	2,053
2022 Total funds	88,953	24,354	113,307

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Retreat and conference centre costs</i>			
. Premises	86,389	12,600	98,989
. Centre for Unity running costs	1,994	—	1,994
. Staff costs (note 8)	22,216	5,459	27,675
. Office sundries	1,093	—	1,093
Other costs and publications	1,098	—	1,098
2021 Total funds	112,790	18,059	130,849

5 Interfaith and youth projects

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Gen Verde	16	663	679
2022 Total funds	16	663	679

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Birmingham project</i>	3,636	25	3,661
2021 Total funds	3,636	25	3,661

6 Support of members of the Movement

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	91,636	—	91,636
. Members' living expenses	160,080	—	160,080
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	20,125	—	20,125
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	19,541	—	19,541
2022 Total funds	291,382	—	291,382

6 Support of members of the Movement (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds</i> £	<i>Restricted funds</i> £	<i>Total funds 2021</i> £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	93,356	—	93,356
. Members' living expenses	135,134	—	135,134
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	7,626	—	7,626
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	18,277	—	18,277
. Central administration	5	—	5
2021 Total funds	254,398	—	254,398

7 Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit services	8,370	7,750
. Other services	8,370	7,750
Depreciation (note 10)	61,815	66,080

8 Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages and salaries	23,748	27,059
Social security costs	1,450	230
Pension contributions	237	386
Total staff cost	25,435	27,675

The charity employed an average of two staff members during the year (2021 – three) on a part-time basis.

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

All trustees are members of the Movement and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

9 Taxation

The Focolare Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings		Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Residential £	Conference centre £				
Cost						
At 1 April 2021	2,993,398	2,052,477	268,734	10,295	97,437	5,422,341
Disposals	—	—	—	—	(8,750)	(8,750)
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,993,398</u>	<u>2,052,477</u>	<u>268,734</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>88,687</u>	<u>5,413,591</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2021	—	708,295	237,083	10,295	75,235	1,030,908
Charge for year	—	41,049	8,715	—	12,051	61,815
Disposals	—	—	—	—	(8,750)	(8,750)
At 31 March 2022	<u>—</u>	<u>749,344</u>	<u>245,798</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>78,536</u>	<u>1,083,973</u>
Net book values						
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,993,398</u>	<u>1,303,133</u>	<u>22,936</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>10,151</u>	<u>4,329,618</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,993,398</u>	<u>1,344,182</u>	<u>31,651</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>22,202</u>	<u>4,391,433</u>

11 Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Investment in subsidiary company	2	2
Listed investments	6,313	5,834
	6,315	5,836

The charity has a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Focolare Projects Limited, which was incorporated in England and Wales on 16 April 1992 (Company number 02707840). The company remained dormant during the year and was dissolved on 6 April 2021.

The total reserves of the company at 31 March 2022 were £[] (2021 – £2).

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments		
Market value	5,834	6,013
Unrealised investment (losses) gains	479	(179)
Market value	6,313	5,834
Cost of listed investments	3,886	3,886

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Accrued income and prepayments	75,573	15,399
Other debtors	10,131	3,364
	85,704	18,763

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Loans payable	11,600	18,800
Accruals and other creditors	16,740	37,481
	28,340	56,281

All loans are interest free and repayable on demand. £[] (2021 - £11,800) of the loans payable relates to amounts borrowed in 2007 to purchase the property at Cloisters.

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2022 £
Interfaith & Youth Projects	—	663	(663)	—
Centre for Unity	—	24,354	(24,354)	—
Overseas Project	—	23,568	(23,568)	—
Covid-19 emergency fund	199	5,984	(5,570)	613
Other	—	4,788	(4,788)	—
	199	59,357	(58,943)	613

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2021 £
Interfaith & Youth Projects	—	25	(25)	—
Centre for Unity	—	18,059	(18,059)	—
Overseas Project	6,889	13,592	(20,481)	—
Covid – 19 emergency fund	—	10,356	(10,157)	199
Other	—	6,996	(6,996)	—
	6,889	49,028	(55,718)	199

15 Tangible fixed assets fund

	Total £
At 1 April 2021	4,391,433
Net movements in year	<u>(61,815)</u>
At 31 March 2022 (see note 10)	<u>4,329,618</u>
	<i>Total</i> £
At 1 April 2020	5,026,561
Net movements in year	<u>(635,128)</u>
At 31 March 2021 (see note 10)	<u>4,391,433</u>

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day to day work of the charity. The fund value, therefore, cannot be realised with ease or without jeopardising the ongoing work of the charity.

16 Designated funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2022 £
Property repair fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	65,902	22,000	(8,000)	79,902
. Other Properties	216,057	—	(14,500)	201,557
Western Europe property repair fund	1,400,000	—	—	1,400,000
Property replacement fund	600,000	—	(6,000)	540,000
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	29,769	35,805	(4,000)	61,574
Retirement fund	338,400	1,850	(7,190)	333,060
Centro Foco fund	529,445	282,245	(282,600)	529,090
	<u>3,179,573</u>	<u>341,900</u>	<u>(376,290)</u>	<u>3,145,183</u>

	At 1 April 2020 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2021 £
Property repair fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	81,068	—	(15,166)	65,902
. Other Properties	96,057	149,000	(29,000)	216,057
Western Europe property repair fund	—	1,400,000	—	1,400,000
Property replacement fund	—	600,000	—	600,000
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	38,414	—	(8,645)	29,769
Retirement fund	412,400	—	(74,000)	338,400
Centro Foco fund	514,340	275,105	(260,000)	529,445
	<u>1,142,279</u>	<u>2,424,105</u>	<u>(386,811)</u>	<u>3,179,573</u>

16 Designated funds (continued)

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

- ◆ **Property repair fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the charity's residential freehold properties and the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ **Western Europe property repair fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across Western Europe.
- ◆ **Property replacement fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of replacing residential properties which were sold in 2021/22.
- ◆ **The Focolare Centre for Unity fund**
This represents the general fund balance attributable to the Centre which has been separately designated by the trustees for transparency.
- ◆ **Retirement fund**
This fund consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for members of the Movement in their retirement, calculated using actuarial principles as the members will not be entitled to a full pension.
- ◆ **Centro Foco fund**
This fund consists of monies that the trustees have designated for future donation to the Movement's centre in Rome, in support of Focolare communities on a worldwide scale.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15) £	Other designated funds (note 16) £	Restricted funds (note 14) £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,329,618	—	—	4,329,618
Fixed assets investments (note 11)	6,315	—	—	—	6,315
Net current assets	208,577	—	3,145,183	613	3,354,373
Total net assets	214,892	4,329,618	3,145,183	613	7,690,306

Notes to the financial statements 31 March 2022

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	<i>General fund</i>	<i>Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15)</i>	<i>Other designated funds (note 16)</i>	<i>Restricted funds (note 14)</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</i>					
<i>Are represented by:</i>					
<i>Tangible fixed assets (note 10)</i>	—	4,391,433	—	—	4,391,433
<i>Fixed assets investments (note 11)</i>	5,836	—	—	—	5,836
<i>Net current assets</i>	153,563	—	3,179,573	199	3,333,335
<i>Total net assets</i>	159,399	4,391,433	3,179,573	199	7,730,604

THE FOCOLARE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 279072

Accounts

**The
Focolare
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2021

Charity Registration Number
(England & Wales) 279072

Charity Registration Number
(Scotland) SC039844

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees Marie Christine Fournier
Paola Grazia
Claudia Melis
Elizabeth Taite
Patricia Whitney

The trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011

Administrative address 67 Church Road
Roby
Liverpool
L36 9TN

Charity registration numbers 279072 (England & Wales)
SC039844 (Scotland)

Auditor Buzzacott LLP
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EC2V 6DL

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
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London
SW11 1TR

National Westminster Bank plc
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Reference and administrative information

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Solicitors

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HRJ Foreman Laws
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AL8 6HG

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Focolare Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 34 to 38 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1 January 2015 or later.

Governance, structure and management

The Focolare Movement is an international organisation which began in Italy in 1943 and is active in all five continents. It is an ecclesial movement and its specific aim is to contribute to establishing unity in all areas and spheres of life, working to fulfil the words of the Gospel, "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21).

The Focolare's International Headquarters and General Council are in Rome. The movement is divided into a number of individual 'zones' (geographical areas) which are closely linked to the international centre. Since 2015, the Focolare Movement in Britain is part of the 'zone' of Western Europe which has its area headquarters in Brussels.

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charitable trust on which the assets of the women's section of the Focolare Movement in Britain are held. The Focolare Trust is governed by a trust deed dated 11 October 1979 and is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No 279072 and with OSCR No SC039844.

Governance

In Britain, the Women's Section of the Focolare Movement is made up of 25 members who live in community and who are at the heart of a much wider movement made up of about 1,000 close members and approximately 11,000 who are more loosely associated.

The Trustees are responsible for the charity's assets, its development plans and activities. They collaborate with the 'Core Group', an advisory body of 23 people drawn from a wide range of Focolare membership, meeting regularly every month.

The Trustees are also in regular communication regarding specific issues with those responsible for the houses and the key activities of the Movement with whom they meet regularly.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Trustees

Under the terms of the trust deed, new trustees are appointed by the existing trustees. The minimum and maximum number of trustees is three and six respectively, and the following were in office during the year:

Trustees

Marie Christine Fournier	
Paola Grazia	
Claudia Melis	Appointed 5 November 2021
Elizabeth Taite	
Patricia Whitney	
Elisa Zuin	Resigned September 2020

The trustees oversee all the developments of the Focolare in this country and its links with the Movement internationally. They also keep up to date with changes in trustees' responsibilities and charity law. They attend courses which are relevant to their role, and always seek professional advice when necessary.

Elisa Zuin resigned from her role as Trustee in September 2020, as she was asked to move to the International Centre in Rome.

Key management personnel

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

All trustees are members of the Movement; their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity but they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Working with other organisations

The Focolare Trust works together with Mariapolis Limited, a charity administered by the men's section of the Focolare Movement. One or more residential meetings are jointly organized each year and there is ongoing collaboration in the organisation of youth projects both nationally and internationally.

The Focolare Trust and Mariapolis Limited work together for the 'New City' publishing house, the production of our monthly magazine, supporting the Focolare Centre for Unity, as well as planning all the activities of the Movement in this country.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Covid-19 impact

The Covid-19 pandemic has been certainly the main area of concern for the Focolare Movement. It has, and will continue to have, an impact on the charity's activities, especially on the activities of the Centre for Unity. Despite this impact, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Financial Impact

The charity finances have been affected by the pandemic especially in relation to the Centre for Unity's activities (see the Risk Management section below).

The majority of members are key workers or have been able to continue working from home and their salaries have been unchanged. Only a few of the members were furloughed; therefore the income levels from their salaries were reduced for a limited period.

To respond to the global needs of the community members, each house agreed to reduce their monthly budget for living expenses from April 2020 and shared the surplus generated with the Centro Foco Fund. This included savings related to reduced travel and holidays.

Donations have continued to be received towards the different projects.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The Trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the charity on a regular basis, they continue to maintain effective systems to mitigate those risks.

In 2020-21 the Centre for Unity activities were considerably reduced. At the same time, some activities continued (see Centre for Unity section of this report). We benefitted from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Having considered that the bookings were minimal and uncertain in the long term, the Trustees have taken the difficult decision initially to make two of its staff redundant. However one redundancy was not implemented, and the contract was changed to flexible furlough. In September 2021 it seems clear, though, that this second redundancy still needs to be implemented. The staff, however, have accepted to return to work in a sessional capacity when needed. The manager, by her own request, is now working on reduced hours and a reduced salary. After 8 years in her role, she has stated she will retire from the post in January 2022.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Two of the Focolare community members who had key roles in the team moved to other houses in September 2020, one to Liverpool the other to Rome. As a result, the active team is greatly reduced. The Trustees are actively looking for a suitable replacement for the manager and an assistant.

Our volunteers have been active in encouraging donations to subsidise to the loss of income coming from bookings, for example, the roof works have been totally covered by donations. Income and expenditure continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

During 2020-21, we continued to be aware of the age profile of many of the members living in our houses. We have continued to be engaged in a process of discussion and discernment with Focolare members both in this country and in Western Europe as to how best to prepare for the future. We continue to work towards meeting a double need: to maintain the spirit and consequent activities of the Focolare; to make decisions regarding human resources and accommodation now that will help ensure the wellbeing of members in the future.

Our governance structures are under continuous review. The 'Core group' – comprising representatives of each Focolare house, as well as members of different ages, professional backgrounds, expertise, and from Focolare groups in other parts of the country – continues to be a robust and effective consultative body and is demonstrating to be a valuable tool to widening participation, ensuring sustainability and enabling succession-planning.

Safeguarding

The new safeguarding team comprises of two Safeguarding Officers (Lucy Williams, from June 2020 to April 2021, and Paul Gateshill) and other three members (Anja Primbs, Claudia Melis and Nicholas Innocent).

During 2020 the team has reviewed the Focolare Safeguarding Policy, which was published in January 2021 on the Focolare GB website (www.focolare.org/gb/safeguarding) and will be reviewed on an annual basis. The policy follows the guidelines issued by Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS), with whom we have an umbrella agreement; but has been adapted to Focolare structure and particular circumstances, for example, the ecumenical nature of the Movement. The team began reviewing the Good Practice Guidelines drawing on expertise from a number of up to date sources, e.g. NSPCC, the Government Care, Support Statutory Guidance, Statutory Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage, the Diocese of Oxford, the National Youth Agency (NYA) and other youth organisations.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

The Focolare Community in Scotland is also committed to follow the RC Bishops' Conference's safeguarding manual 'In God's Image' and actively participate in safeguarding training and network events organised by Glasgow RC Archdiocese's Safeguarding Office.

With the new format of hosting youth events online in time of the pandemic, the safeguarding team focussed on reviewing digital safeguarding procedures ('Appropriate Use of Media'), which are now published on the website as a separate document. The team has supported youth workers with advice during this year and continues to carry out safe recruitment checks for new volunteers.

In April 2021 Jane Evans took over from Lucy Williams in the Safeguarding Officer role.

The team has identified volunteer training and safeguarding vulnerable adults as areas to be enhanced – these are the team's objectives for 2022.

Safeguarding is a standing item during Core Group meetings and a representative of the safeguarding team is a member of the Group. This is to put into action Focolare's commitment to integrate safeguarding into everyday life, initiatives, events and communication.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

Principal aims

The general objects of the Trust are such charitable purposes connected with the advancement of the Christian religion, the prevention or relief of poverty and education.

In particular, the Movement works towards fostering dialogue and establishing unity at all levels. Focolare activities are all directed towards this end.

Unity through dialogue

The Movement began within the framework of the Roman Catholic Church but since 1960 a strong characteristic has been its ecumenical dialogue between Christians of many traditions.

More recently, dialogue with members of other faiths and people with no formal faith who share the aim of building a united world has increased. In this country these dialogues are fostered and encouraged particularly through the Focolare Centre for Unity at Welwyn Garden City.

Unity through promoting social justice

The Focolare Movement in this country is also committed to fostering greater equality among peoples and nations. To this end each year it supports Focolare projects in the global South and those affected by natural disasters, as well as supporting people in need in Britain.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Objectives and priorities

During the year 2020-21, the Trustees, Core Group and those responsible for the Focolare houses identified the following specific areas upon which to concentrate much of the work of the movement in keeping with our general aims:

- a) To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- b) To be actively engaged in the elections and discernment process for the Focolare International General Assembly, planned for September 2020, then postponed to January 2021.
- c) To continue prioritising our work with young people.
- d) To continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad.
- e) To support people who most suffered the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, both in Britain and abroad.
- f) To invest in communications and in new creative ways to continue pursuing Focolare aims and activities during the pandemic.
- g) To continue reviewing our governance structure and sustainability, investing at the same time in greater accompaniment of Focolare communities, families and individual members. In particular to monitor the Centre for Unity sustainability.
- h) To continue supporting AMU (Action for a United World) and AFNonlus (New Families Action) projects for international solidarity.

Public benefit

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the trustees have had regard to public benefit and the activities and achievements described below seek to demonstrate the public benefit of Focolare Trust in relation to its specific objectives to foster dialogue and unity.

Grant making policy

The Trust's grant making policy and procedures depend on decisions made in consultation with the members responsible for the Movement in Britain, our regional headquarters in Brussels, with the General Council in Rome and with those responsible for each local house. Priority is given to furthering Focolare projects. Financial support is sometimes given to close relatives of community members who are in need: e.g. widowed mothers or young families. This help is given sensitively and it corresponds to individual needs.

With regards to objectives for overseas donations, grants are made in consultation with the International Centre in Rome to give support in places of great need; and in particular through the charitable arms AMU and AFNonlus– see below, point h).

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

a) Supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain and Focolare International Centres

In the year to 31 March 2021, the charity supported 25 consecrated members in Great Britain. These members are at the heart of our activities and events, be it with young people in particular but also in furthering our ecumenical and interfaith work at all levels.

The charity also gave a substantial contribution of £377,918 to the Focolare International Centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in poorer and developing countries. On behalf of the International Centre, we continue to hold funds in a separate deposit account (Centro Foco fund), which are drawn down when needed in response to needs as outlined above.

b) Focolare General Assembly

From 24 January to 7 February 2021 the General Assembly of the Focolare Movement took place on-line, engaging 359 representatives from all over the world. Christopher Evans, CoE, participated to the Assembly from GB.

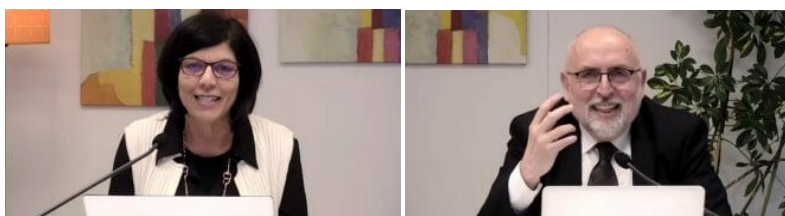
Prior to the Assembly, local communities in GB, adults and young people were involved in sending proposals, questions and contributions which were collected in a preparatory document. They also participated in a survey to sound out the priorities in terms of topics which the Assembly should have focussed on.

The Assembly ended with a final document which invites the members of the Movement in all the world to make themselves close to “those who don't matter or those who live in under-privileged situations”.

“Listening to the cry of humanity, of creation and of the new generations” are the orientations that have been developed by the General Assembly for the next 6 years, with the aims of seeking out to “those who suffer, those who are excluded, beginning from those whom we ourselves have made suffer or have excluded” and “to be in dialogue with everyone, to have a preference for those whom we perceive as being more different from us”.

There was also a call to all the adherents of the Focolare to a commitment to live simply and to collaborate with other agencies working for the same goals. A priority was also identified in supporting families and young people.

Margaret Karram, from the Holy Land, was elected President of the Focolare Movement and Jesus Moran was re-elected Co-President.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working with young people (continued)

It has been a very challenging year for youth work, many events were cancelled and not all young people who are in contact with Focolare found themselves at ease with online meetings.

At the same time, following the desire to support our young people who are scattered across GB and keep them connected, an appeal was launched for new volunteers and 11 new youth workers came forward. Thanks to their dedication and their support, 7 small groups (units) of teenage girls were set up. They include 5-12 girls of the same age and from the different nations and have been meeting online, on average every fortnight, since May 2020. The families of those girls who have participated in the meetings have expressed very positive feedback and encouraged the youth workers to go ahead.

***“Thanks a lot for organising the meetings with the girls.
It brings many good things in my daughter’s life”***

A parent

Run4Unity-In Time for Peace and Dare to Care

Young people together with adults are participating in the United World Project (www.unitedworldproject.org/en/) and its six-year campaign ‘Pathways for a United World’, providing a space and tools for being creative and taking actions in the local communities, as well as feeling part of a global network.

In May 2020 for ‘United World Week’ (UWW) the young people hosted an online event, ‘Run4Unity – in Time for Peace’, linking up with young people from Serbia, Slovakia, Hungary and Italy.

Every day at midday they also linked with adults for a short moment of prayer or reflection and the end of the week was celebrated by an online concert.

The week started with Run4Unity, an international relay, where across the world at different latitudes, sporting events, acts of solidarity and experiences of active citizenship got under way for 1 hour. Throughout the week we had daily sharing and reflections including poetry by Maya Angelou, excerpts from Chiara Lubich and discussion of teachings of Mohandas Gandhi. This gave a focus each day on how we could live to build a more united world.

On the final day GB’s UWW celebrations were rounded off with a concert. Alongside my co-presenter Mhairi Claire, I had the opportunity to present the evening’s entertainment. Across the country, through innovative use of video conferencing technology, we were welcomed into each other’s homes to enjoy a few minutes of musical sharing.

At a time when we were all perhaps more physically distant from each other than ever, there was a tangible sense of unity.”

Martin

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working with young people (continued)

Run4Unity-In Time for Peace and Dare to Care (continued)

On 20 September 2020 the young people of the Focolare had an online event on Zoom ('Wings of Peace') to celebrate International Day for Peace.

They discussed resources and propositions from the 'Living peace' project (www.livingpeaceinternational.org/en/) and chose to do some fundraising to help those in need in Lebanon, in the light of the explosions in Beirut, and in Yemen because of the ongoing humanitarian crisis there.

They walked, ran and cycled over 500 miles among them in two weeks and split their funds between AMU's emergency project in Lebanon and Tearfund's Yemen Crisis Appeal.

They also made small origami and sent them to the young people in Lebanon, through Focolare contacts, as a sign of unity with them.

"During the big lockdown from March I didn't have much to do so I regularly went for a walk around my local area to keep myself healthy and to help clear my mind.

But since I have started university remotely I struggled to find the time to get out so this challenge gave me the motivation needed to find time in my day to get out for a walk making me feel better when going back to my work and helping the team get closer to the target.

We made it to the end of our challenge and completed a total of 542 miles over two weeks and have raised over £1,600 for our chosen charities."

Niamh, 19

'Dare To Care' has been the slogan for this very challenging year, trying to put 'care' at the roots of daily lives and activities.

Young children have also participated in the Dare To Care campaign, with initiatives to look after the elderly in their local area. In Yorkshire for example they made some cards which were delivered to a care home.

"I wanted to make these cards because I thought of all the elderly people stuck at home who have nothing to do so maybe I could make the cards so they won't be too bored. Our brains also need some exercise. I have made 10 cards so far. I might make some more for my neighbours."

Gaia, 8

Working together

Critical points remain outreach and how to engage with those young people who do not like online events. However, with the possibility of meeting outside and the gradual ease of restrictions new hopes and aspirations for our youth work arise, especially since when youth workers have started working more collaboratively.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

c) Working with young people (continued)

Working together (continued)

In 2020 a new voluntary role was created for a Youth Coordinator (Chris Ronayne) to facilitate communication and working together among youth workers of the different age groups. This has strengthened unity among youth workers and opened new opportunity to share joys and challenges and to smooth young people's transition across age groups.

d) Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue

Ecumenism

Over the last few years a short service of 'Prayers for Unity' was held in the chapel at the Focolare Centre for Unity. This took place every Monday evening before the Anglican Eucharist and the Catholic Mass. These ecumenical prayers were a moment of unity before we split into two groups.

The prayers for unity moved online during the pandemic. Using a simple formula we hosted the event and invited others to lead the prayers each week, including bishops from different Churches, priests, religious, lay people, families etc. Some know the Focolare well and others are new.

It started as an experiment with just 20-30 members of the local community joining in. However, the news spread by word of mouth. Zoom enabled the event to move from local to global – from Anglican/Roman Catholic to multi-denominational within a few months.

Now there are between 60-100 links each week involving not just England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland but also USA, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, France and Italy. The Churches represented include: Russian Orthodox, Finnish Orthodox, Swedish Lutheran, United Reformed, United Church of Christ, Moravian, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland and Anglican.

"I feel happy and truly blessed to be part of this big family of the Focolare.

I have felt so welcomed, sometimes in the middle of the week I find myself smiling at the thought of meeting up again for the Monday prayers.

As I am in Finland the only way I can join in this event is online and I really hope the prayers will continue even after the lockdown and pandemic have ended."

Iraida, Finland

"Six o'clock on a Monday is now a very special time of the week.

The variety of styles, themes and topics has been a great enrichment, and it has been a real experience of learning, and receiving gifts from each other.

You never know what you're going to get, but you always know you're going to get God."

Martin and Kirsty, UK

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue (continued)

Ecumenism (continued)

The annual Church Leaders' meeting also moved online. These were some of the messages of feedback:

"I really enjoyed the meeting. It was a coming together of minds, experiences and concerns as we seek the way ahead."

Canon John McLuckie, Scottish Episcopal Church

"Once again, thank you for all that you do to enable us to fulfil our mission together as Church Leaders."

Archbishop Bernard Longley, RC Church

"It was a joy!"

Canon Aled Edwards, Church in Wales

"Good to be with friends from across Britain and around the world for our annual Focolare Church Leaders' meeting, this year, like so many things, looking a little different. The joyous fellowship, however, is just as I remember and have always experienced."

Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Church



Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

d) Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue (continued)

Interfaith

The **Interfaith Study Group** (Muslim-Christian group meeting every 6 weeks and exploring each time a topic from the perspective of the different traditions) has also continued online; whereas a new **Dialogue Group** was formed during this year.

The Dialogue Group is interested in all kinds of dialogue, but initially focussed on interreligious dialogue, reflecting the way the group came about.

A programme of Zoom events was held monthly exploring different faith traditions, and one session was on Humanism.

"I think that by providing opportunities like this dialogue on-line meetings, Focolare is doing something really worthwhile. It is helping to create a network of fraternal relationships among people."

Christina

e) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic

A special appeal was launched in April 2020 to all our members and volunteers to consider financial support for people in need in GB and, through our Focolare family, abroad. For this purpose, a Covid Emergency Fund and relevant committee were created to look at managing the donations which were received thank to the great generosity of many. The committee comprises five members, including a trustee of the Focolare Trust and the secretary of Mariapolis Ltd, and during lockdown met weekly. They liaised with the Focolare International Covid Committee in Rome, as well as the Western European Covid Committee in Brussels.

Throughout the year, 5 families were given financial support in GB, one of which on a regular basis, and we supported 2 individuals living abroad connected to our Focolare family in GB. The remnant of the contributions were sent to the International Fund.

Report from the Covid Emergency International Fund (28 June 2021)

The amount received so far at the International Centre is £776,908 and this has made it possible to intervene in situations of total emergency covering approximately 57% of the requests received to date, which correspond to £1,367,605. Part of the resources that have not been allocated will be used for requests currently under evaluation or for new emergencies that are expected to arise due to the continuing pandemic that is affecting entire populations.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

e) Supporting people who suffered because of Covid-19 pandemic (continued)

Report from the Covid Emergency International Fund (continued)

The different recipients of this worldwide communion of goods were:

- Families and people in serious difficulty due to the loss of their jobs, homes or having contracted Covid-19 *Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Benin, Syria, Lebanon, India*
- Vulnerable people who have been able to find new ways to self-sustain *Zambia, South Africa, Paraguay, Syria*
- Conference centres' facilities of the Movement, to minimize layoffs and support their basic functioning and, consequently, the use of the premises for the spread of the ideal of a united world *Mariapolis Centres in Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Colombia, Brazil, American Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)*
- Activities in the little towns of the Movement where no work was available and it was not possible to welcome visitors or guests, supporting the permanent inhabitants and some participants in temporary schools, who were blocked for months due to the lockdown *Mariapolis Lia in Argentina, Mariapolis Piero in Kenya, Loppiano in Italy, Montet in Switzerland*
- Social projects in favour of the poorest or of children *American Southern Cone, Mexico, Guatemala, Central African Republic, India*
- Scholarships for some young people who were thus able to finish their studies and continue to build their future *Venezuela*

f) Communications

Since the first lockdown, it was clear that the need to tackle isolation had to take the priority. The Focolare Communication Team started a 'GB Newsletter' on 1 April 2020, sent via email, to share the experiences of solidarity and building family of our members, instilling hope and keeping people connected, especially those who struggled with technology. 15 Newsletters were sent between April and December 2020, then monthly in 2021.

A monthly online event, the 'GB Link Up', also started in May 2020 and continued until March 2021, a get together of all Focolare members, volunteers and communities and aiming to reach the furthest and the lonely.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

f) Communications (continued)

As all Focolare events moved to the virtual space, the Communication Team supported members arranging Zoom meetings and a network of a dozen technical helpers was formed to assist 60 people who had difficulties with technology prior the Mariapolis online event which was held in July 2021, with around 550 attendees.

Through these efforts, a new wider family dimension is being experienced, across GB, going beyond local and national boundaries and often the meetings opened out to people from other countries.

16 months on, having experienced continued uncertainties and Zoom fatigue, our members have great desire to meet in person. At the same time, virtual platforms remain the main space for activities and working groups. The Mariapolis 2021 will be happening online again, on the first weekend of October.

“We are all part of a family and for many the pandemic has heightened the importance of relationships, care and connection which the family intrinsically expresses.”

Rosaleen and Phil

g) Accompaniment of Focolare communities and families, Focolare Centre for Unity

From January 2021, the Focolare 'New Families' in GB launched a course ('Love creates a family') of monthly Zoom meetings looking at the different aspects of Love and how these can be lived practically in our lives together as families - whether it is how we work, share, communicate, reach out to others and find a balance. The course was open to all who were interested in its topics.

A separate online training course was held from February 2021 to June 2021 for those who accompany people individually and in various Focolare groups.

Focolare Centre for Unity

From April 2020 to March 2021 the Focolare Centre for Unity had a very different year due to Covid restrictions and national lockdowns.

Although for the vast amount of this time period there were no groups using the Centre for conferences, some activities continued.

- A number of Police Misconduct Hearings were held, legitimately even during the lockdown, as the Justice System was not closed. Adjustments had to be made to enable social distancing, hand sanitising, provision and wearing of face coverings.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

g) Accompaniment of Focolare communities and families, Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

- We were approached by Public Health Hertfordshire to use the Centre as a Covid testing station. This was facilitated from January 2021 to the end of March 2021, usually 3 12-hour days a week. This allowed us to be an active part of the community during the most difficult moment. An unexpected spin-off was that many of the 200 people who passed through the premises each day, had no previous knowledge of the Centre for Unity. The name spread organically throughout the area and we received very positive feedback on the beauty of the building and the facilities.



- We were very happy to be able to be a collection point for clothes for refugees in the Spring 2021. This was another opportunity, with minimal contact, to help those in need and get to know local residents.
- A local Thai lady who had a takeaway business from a Community Centre lost her workspace when the Community Centre closed. We were happy for her to use the Centre for Unity kitchen for 2 months before she went to Thailand to see her very ill father. She used the opportunity of being in a large kitchen to coach young apprentices.



In March 2021 we were approached by a home carers company asking if we could be used as their PPE collection point and we have continued this once a fortnight.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

g) Accompaniment of Focolare communities and families, Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

Focolare Centre for Unity (continued)

- At various points throughout the pandemic we have been able to provide self-isolation facilities for Focolare member who have travelled from overseas or who had been in contact with positive cases.
- From March 2021 we have been able to accommodate 2 evening meetings per week for vulnerable youth, organised by the County Council.
- A small room has also been used by a psychotherapist for consultations.



Building works

The subsidence in the chapel and bedroom above was stabilised and full redecoration completed.

A funding appeal was made to help with the cost of replacing the roof over the dining room, there had been a long history of leaks. The appeal resulted in covering the whole cost.

Focolare Houses

Following the decisions made in March 2020 (see previous report), this year has seen a number of radical changes in the location of the Focolare houses.

The women's house in London (62 Kings Avenue) was sold in March 2021; whilst the pied-a-terre near Birmingham has become a permanent house, with 3 members moving to Darlaston in November 2020.

The project to dedicate one of the houses in Welwyn Garden City to support members from abroad wishing to study English or having a respite in Britain has also been suspended. Visiting members may continue to come and will be welcomed in one of the houses in GB.

The property in Lemsford, close to Welwyn Garden City, was sold in February 2021 to purchase a house at n.18 Parkfields, adjacent to the existing property at n.16 Parkfields. Some of the benefits included downsizing, accessibility to public transport, shops and services, in line with long term plans concerning the aging of our members and future returns of British members from abroad.

The desire to travel the road ahead together, with everyone in each of the local communities affected in these changes, has brought about many important conversations which continue and enlighten the future steps.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

h) Initiatives of International Solidarity

Lebanon

Following the explosion and after the first emergency interventions, AMU launched a project to support around 50 families in restoring destroyed homes, activities and assets. To identify the needs, questionnaires were distributed in each family unit so that they could sum up the estimated damage.



The interventions on site are coordinated by Humanité Nouvelle in collaboration with other Lebanese associations and communities (Parrainages Liban, IRAP, Muslim communities and the Apostolic Council of the Laity).

In GB James Buchanan cycled over 100 miles towards AMU's and CAFOD's Lebanon emergency appeals. Following his example, the young people of the Focolare also started their fundraising run for Lebanon.

Yemen

The young people decided to split their fund between Lebanon and a project tackling the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The Tearfund Yemen appeal was chosen as the recipient: "We have been helping protect people from diseases such as cholera, as well as providing safe water, food, and seeds and tools to enable people to grow their own vegetables" (from the Tearfund website: www.tearfund.org/campaigns/yemen-appeal).

Syria



In Syria, after years of war and difficult conditions due to international sanctions, public services are practically non-existent, first of all school services. Children cannot follow well the lessons in overcrowded classes and with few teachers and at home they cannot study well. To face exams they all need very expensive remedial and advanced

courses. Damascus After-School offers these services, as well as leisure activities, at low prices to be a support to the most humble families who want to give their children a good education. In June the intensive courses begin and then in September the children choose the subjects in which they have the most difficulty and for which they need to be accompanied by the teachers and operators of the centre.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

h) Initiatives of International Solidarity

Syria (continued)

At the July 2021 final secondary school exams 36 students out of 45 were successful, achieving good results. For the others, who still need to improve in different subjects, there will be a chance to re-sit the exam in August. (from: www.amu-it.eu/siria-i-ragazzi-di-damasco-si-sono-diplomatil/)

"The best thing this year is that we were together... you guys helped us and supported us so much, and you were like brothers to us. Thank you for everything. I think without you guys, we wouldn't have gotten to where we are today. I love you guys with all my heart."

Malak, one of the young people of the After-School Centre

Pakistan, a message from The Nest, Community Centre (August 2020)

"The Nest was never officially closed during lockdown: three times a week we met with all the staff to see the situation and figure out how and where we needed to help the students and their families the most. So we personally followed up with each child.



The mother of one boy, Sameer, had a serious heart problem, and his father lost his job. He is the oldest of four siblings, and he went to collect paper and then buy food for his family. So we were able to help them with medicine.



Like all over the world, schools here in Pakistan were supposed to continue online. But - since our kids didn't have that option - our teachers wrote down the homework on paper. They would then send photocopies of it to the various homes.

When the kids finished their homework, their parents would bring it back to school. On lockdown days for some older students, we bought cell phones so they could do their lessons online.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Review of activities (continued)

h) Initiatives of International Solidarity

Pakistan, a message from The Nest, Community Centre (continued)

It was felt that some of the families were under a lot of tension because of the lack of work. Where it was most needed, we intervened financially so that they could survive.

We also started calling our students to school to feed them and help them get back to school. In fact they were falling behind in their studies while we continue to pay their fees in a big way. Privately the school gives the possibility, with three teachers, to have small groups come every day. Some children said that Nest is like a mother to them, and the parents are very happy that the children have this opportunity for a clean and healthy atmosphere.

In addition to the pandemic tragedy from which we still haven't emerged, there was another misfortune in Karachi: a heavy monsoon rain that lasted two weeks in a row. It hadn't rained this much in years, and the city wasn't organized to deal with it. The monsoon destroyed a large part of the city of Karachi. Our people, who were already living in shacks or under bridges, lost everything! Some nights they didn't even know where to sleep. So we tried to help them in various ways.

After the heavy rains, skin diseases broke out and we helped the kids get treatment. When we went to visit the families, it was a frightening thing to see how they had lived and are living in the tragedy. However, we are with them to support them and they are very grateful to God and Nest" - Poulien Samsom.

Focolare activities in Scotland 2020-21

House extension

The extension outside the house has been completed. The meeting room outside (which was previously a garage) has now been connected to the main house and a bigger bathroom has also been built on the ground floor, more suitable for people with disabilities.

Outreach

'Encounters' were lived:

- On a daily contact through WhatsApp group messages of mutual encouragement, both with the members of the Focolare, groups in our local parishes and with Muslim friends, mainly from the Ahl Al Bait Society;
- Through regular telephone calls, letters, video messages of support, sent to people who were anxious, grieving or lonely;

Achievements and performance (continued)

Focolare activities in Scotland 2020-21 (continued)

Outreach (continued)

- Through monthly Zoom calls with the wider community of the Focolare as well as people who wanted to get to know the spirituality of the Focolare and members of the Ahl Al Bait community. Since these events happened online, also other members of Muslim communities outside Scotland were able to take part in these moments together, where “we experienced mutual understanding and friendship, thus bringing ahead unity”.

"This was the year where the pandemic prevented us from having any direct contact with anybody outside our household.

Like everybody else, our 'outreach' was lived online, mostly on Zoom. It was very impressive to experience how nevertheless we felt united with all the people we had been in close face-to-face contact before."

Mil, Glasgow

Youth work

During this year we met weekly, fortnightly or monthly on Zoom with those children and young people that were happy to meet online. This age group found it particularly hard to switch to online meetings (harder than most of the older generation). We also needed to ensure that these Zoom calls were conducted in ways that followed the newly developed guidelines of safeguarding children and young adults.

Future plans 2020-21

Following discussions with the Core Group and people responsible for the Focolare houses, the Trustees confirmed the following specific objectives for the coming year in keeping with our general aims:

- To continue supporting Focolare consecrated members in Great Britain, as well as our Focolare International Centres in Rome.
- To continue prioritising our work with young people.
- To continue accompanying Focolare communities, families and individual members and continue working for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue locally and abroad.
- To join the campaign 'Dare to Care' (United World Project for the year 2021-22), strive to reach more sustainable practices in terms of ecology and work with other agencies promoting care for 'our common home'.
- To continue supporting the Centre for Unity and monitoring the sustainability of the Centre.
- To continue supporting people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, both in GB and abroad, and AMU and AFN onlus projects for international solidarity.

Financial Review

Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 31 of the attached financial statements.

For the year to 31 March 2021, the income of the charity amounted to £2,294,252 (2020 - £763,481), including £666,905 (2020 - £602,001) from voluntary income, £21,483 (2020 - £146,172) from charitable activities, interest receivable of £7,163 (2020 - £11,456) and £1,574,953 (2020 - £1,350) from the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Total expenditure in the year was £898,808 (2020 - £1,085,885) including £509,900 (2020 - £578,968) for donations and grants payments; £30,849 (2020 - £165,262) for provision of retreats, conferences and publications; £3,661 (2020 - £4,808) for interfaith and youth projects; and £254,398 (2020 - £336,847) for the support of the members of the Movement.

Net investment losses in the year were £179 (2020 -£33). The net movement in funds for the year was an increase of £1,395,265 (2020 - a decrease of £322,437).

Reserves policy and financial position

The trustees have examined the requirement for the free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed). In particular, at the current time, the reserves need to be sufficient to enable the charity to operate in the exceptional circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately between three and six months' ongoing expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income, adequate working capital to cover core costs, and will allow the charity to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies.

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,730,604 (2020 - £6,335,339). Of this, £4,391,433 (2020 - £5,026,561) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the Movement. Such assets are of fundamental importance to the charity; without these assets the charity would be unable to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives. The value of such assets, therefore, would not be easily realisable, if needed to meet future contingencies. To emphasise this point, the net book value of these assets has been set aside, by the trustees, in a tangible fixed assets fund. Other designated funds stood at £3,179,573 (2020 - £1,142,279) (see note 16).

Free reserves available to support the work of the members in the future are those shown on the balance sheet under the general fund and, at 31 March 2021 equate to £159,399 (2020 - £159,610). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2021 equates to approximately 2months' of ongoing expenditure which is slightly below the desired reserves level as noted above.

Financial Review (continued)

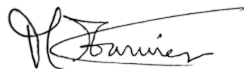
The charity's assets

Acquisitions and disposals of tangible fixed assets during the year are recorded in note 10 to the financial statements.

Employees and members of the Society

The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to all their staff, volunteers, members and supporters of the Movement, especially in this difficult year. Their total dedication, generosity and creativity has been invaluable and deeply appreciated. As we navigate through uncertainties and change, their enthusiasm continues to inspire us and pushes us forward in working together for unity.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trustee

Date: 15/12/2021

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Focolare Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Focolare Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ The identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and safeguarding regulations.
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, inspecting legal correspondence and reviewing trustee meeting minutes and reports from regulatory bodies.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with the Charity Commission and other regulators.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act and in accordance with Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 17 December 2021

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	617,877	49,028	666,905	575,106	26,895	602,001
Investments		7,163	—	7,163	11,456	—	11,456
Charitable activities							
. Retreat and conference centre fees		21,483	—	21,483	146,172	—	146,172
Other income							
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets		1,574,953	—	1,574,953	1,350	—	1,350
. Miscellaneous income	2	23,748	—	23,748	2,502	—	2,502
Total income		2,245,224	49,028	2,294,252	736,586	26,895	763,481
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
. Donations and grants payable	3	472,266	37,634	509,900	559,590	19,378	578,968
. Provision of retreats, conferences and publications	4	112,790	18,059	130,849	160,226	5,036	165,262
. Interfaith and youth projects	5	3,636	25	3,661	4,432	376	4,808
. Support of members of the Movement	6	254,398	—	254,398	336,847	—	336,847
Total expenditure		843,090	55,718	898,808	1,061,095	24,790	1,085,885
Net income (expenditure) before recognised investment gains and losses		1,402,134	(6,690)	1,395,444	(324,509)	2,105	(322,404)
Losses on investments	11	(179)	—	(179)	(33)	—	(33)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	1,401,955	(6,690)	1,395,265	(324,542)	2,105	(322,437)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balances brought forward at 1 April		6,328,450	6,889	6,335,339	6,652,992	4,784	6,657,776
Balances carried forward at 31 March		7,730,405	199	7,735,604	6,328,450	6,889	6,335,339

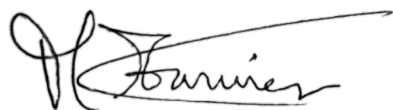
All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,391,433		5,026,561
Investments	11		5,836		6,015
			4,397,269		5,032,576
Current assets					
Debtors	12	18,763		23,650	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,370,853		1,320,773	
Total current assets		3,389,616		1,344,423	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(56,281)		(41,660)	
Net current assets			3,333,335		1,302,763
Net assets			7,730,604		6,335,339
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	14		199		6,889
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			159,399		159,610
. Tangible fixed assets fund	15		4,391,433		5,026,561
. Designated funds	16		3,179,573		1,142,279
Total funds			7,730,604		6,335,339

Approved by trustees and signed
on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 15/12/2021

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(101,084)	(294,644)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		7,163	11,456
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		2,829,525	1,350
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(685,524)	(37,553)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		2,151,164	(24,747)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		2,050,080	(319,391)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	1,320,773	1,640,164
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	3,370,853	1,320,773

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows used in operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,395,265	(322,437)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	66,080	67,299
Losses (gains) on investments	179	33
Investment income	(7,163)	(11,456)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(1,574,953)	(1,350)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	4,887	(14,743)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	14,621	(11,990)
Net cash used in by operating activities	(101,084)	(294,644)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,370,853	1,320,773
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,370,853	1,320,773

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2021.

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

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets; and
- ◆ determining the value of designated funds needed at the year end in particular in respect to the assumptions made in determining the value of the retirement fund.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have given consideration to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and concluded that there is no immediate significant threat to the charity's finances.

In 2020-21 the Centre for Unity activities were considerably reduced and continue to be reduced in 2021. The Trustees have taken the difficult decision to implement the second redundancy as mentioned in the previous annual report. The staff have accepted to return to work in a sessional capacity when needed. The level of reserves and income and expenditure of the Centre for Unity continue to be subject to three monthly reviews in order to assess the financial sustainability of the Centre.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements and are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and therefore to be able to continue as a going concern.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements have not been prepared as the subsidiary company remained dormant throughout the year.

Income recognition

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

Income comprises donations, investment income, income from retreat and conference centre fees, income from events and workshops and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual members of the Movement received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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

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

Income from retreat and conference centre fees and from events and workshops is usually recognised in the period to which it relates or the period in which the event or workshop took place.

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Expenditure comprises the costs of the charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the trustees' report. Such costs include:

- ◆ Donations and grants payable - these are included in the statement of financial activities when approved and when the intended recipient has either received the funds or been informed of the decision to receive the grant and has satisfied all related conditions.
- ◆ Provision of retreats, conferences and publications, including expenditure on the Movement's retreat and conference centre in Welwyn Garden City.
- ◆ Interfaith and youth projects, including expenditure on the Gen Verde project and other interfaith and youth projects.
- ◆ Expenditure on the support of the members of the Movement which enables the members to carry out the charitable work of the Trust in the areas of the advancement of Christianity, the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, including all support and governance costs associated with the administration of the charity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- ◆ Furniture and equipment – 10% to 20% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Computer equipment – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Motor vehicles – 25% per annum based on cost
- ◆ Freehold land and buildings
These are included on the balance sheet at cost.
 - ◇ Residential
No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings used as private residential accommodation. The value and condition of the buildings are reviewed annually by the trustees, who are satisfied that their residual value is not materially less than their book value.
 - ◇ Conference centre
Freehold land and buildings used for the provision of the conference centre are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write the properties off over their estimated useful life.

Investments

Investment in the subsidiary company is included in the balance sheet at cost.

Listed investments are included in the financial statements at their market value at the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains (or losses) are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they arise.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise moneys raised for and their use restricted to a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The charity's unrestricted funds comprise a number of funds which are available for application towards the charity's objectives. Within unrestricted funds, the trustees have designated certain amounts for specific purposes and have identified those non-liquid funds represented by tangible fixed assets. Details of these funds are given in notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Listed investments are a basic financial instrument as detailed above. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Services provided by members of the Movement

For the purposes of these financial statements, no value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Movement.

1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant	460,945	—	460,945
General donations	50,426	49,028	99,454
Legacies	106,506	—	106,506
2021 Total funds	617,877	49,028	666,905

Salaries include amounts totalling £43,464 (2020 - £29,163) from trustees; general donations include £nil from trustees (2020 - £9,550).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
<i>Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant</i>	<i>501,178</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>501,178</i>
<i>General donations</i>	<i>70,489</i>	<i>26,895</i>	<i>97,384</i>
<i>Legacies</i>	<i>3,439</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>3,439</i>
<i>2020 Total funds</i>	<i>575,106</i>	<i>26,895</i>	<i>602,001</i>

2 Miscellaneous income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	22,452	—	22,452
Sundry income	1,296	—	1,296
2021 Total funds	23,748	—	23,748

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
<i>Sundry income</i>	<i>2,502</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2,502</i>
<i>2020 Total funds</i>	<i>2,502</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2,502</i>

3 Donations and grants payable

The charity makes grants to both individuals and institutions in accordance with its grant making policy set out in the trustees' report.

Several donations have been sent via the Movement's centre in Rome for the work of the Movement in various countries including some specific projects for those in need, especially in Syria, Africa and Lebanon, as well as grants to support those in need as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The donations and grants payable during the year were for the following purposes:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Contributions to the Global Mission	377,918	—	377,918
Grants to international projects	6,651	20,481	27,132
Covid-19 emergency grants	—	10,157	10,157
Grants to individuals	83,763	—	83,763
Other grants	3,934	6,996	10,930
2021 Total funds	472,266	37,634	509,900

During the year, grants were paid to 14 individuals (2020 – 9).

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
<i>Contributions to the Global Mission</i>	<i>470,842</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>470,842</i>
<i>Grants to international projects</i>	<i>6,023</i>	<i>7,384</i>	<i>13,407</i>
<i>Grants to individuals</i>	<i>78,559</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>78,559</i>
<i>Other grants</i>	<i>4,166</i>	<i>11,994</i>	<i>16,160</i>
<i>2020 Total funds</i>	<i>559,590</i>	<i>19,378</i>	<i>578,968</i>

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Retreat and conference centre costs			
. Premises	86,389	12,600	98,989
. Centre for Unity running costs	1,994	—	1,994
. Staff costs (note 8)	22,216	5,459	27,675
. Office sundries	1,093	—	1,093
Other costs and publications	1,098	—	1,098
2021 Total funds	112,790	18,059	130,849

4 Provision of retreats, conferences and publications (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
<i>Retreat and conference centre costs</i>			
. Premises	98,141	—	98,141
. Centre for Unity running costs	16,262	5,036	21,298
. Staff costs (note 8)	43,239	—	43,239
. Office sundries	1,048	—	1,048
<i>Other costs and publications</i>	<i>1,536</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1,536</i>
2020 Total funds	160,226	5,036	165,262

5 Interfaith and youth projects

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	Total funds 2021 £
Birmingham project	3,636	25	3,661
2021 Total funds	3,636	25	3,661

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
<i>Birmingham project</i>	<i>4,432</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>4,808</i>
2020 Total funds	4,432	376	4,808

6 Support of members of the Movement

	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	Total funds 2021 £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	93,356	—	93,356
. Members' living expenses	135,134	—	135,134
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	7,626	—	7,626
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	18,277	—	18,277
. Central administration	5	—	5
2021 Total funds	254,398	—	254,398

6 Support of members of the Movement (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds</i> £	<i>Restricted funds</i> £	<i>Total funds 2020</i> £
<i>Direct costs</i>			
. Premises	89,116	—	89,116
. Members' living expenses	220,597	—	220,597
. Education, training and spiritual renewal	10,948	—	10,948
<i>Support and governance costs</i>			
. Legal and professional fees	15,543	—	15,543
. Central administration	643	—	643
2020 Total funds	336,847	—	336,847

7 Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Statutory audit services	7,750	7,750
. Other services	7,750	7,750
Depreciation (note 10)	66,080	67,299

8 Staff costs and trustees' remuneration

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	27,059	34,381
Social security costs	230	1,386
Pension contributions	386	822
Temporary staff costs	—	6,650
Total staff cost	27,675	43,239

The charity employed an average of three staff members during the year (2020 – four) on a part-time basis.

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

All trustees are members of the Movement and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

9 Taxation

The Focolare Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings		Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Residential £	Conference centre £				
Cost						
At 1 April 2020	3,568,998	2,045,925	268,734	10,295	111,321	6,005,273
Additions	678,972	6,552	—	—	—	685,524
Disposals	(1,254,572)	—	—	—	(13,884)	(1,268,456)
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,993,398</u>	<u>2,052,477</u>	<u>268,734</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>97,437</u>	5,422,341
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2020	—	667,311	228,371	10,295	72,735	978,712
Charge for year	—	40,984	8,712	—	16,384	66,080
Disposals	—	—	—	—	(13,884)	(13,884)
At 31 March 2021	<u>—</u>	<u>708,295</u>	<u>237,083</u>	<u>10,295</u>	<u>75,235</u>	1,030,908
Net book values						
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,993,398</u>	<u>1,344,182</u>	<u>31,651</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>22,202</u>	4,391,433
At 31 March 2020	<u>3,568,998</u>	<u>1,378,614</u>	<u>40,363</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>38,586</u>	5,026,561

11 Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Investment in subsidiary company	2	2
Listed investments	<u>5,834</u>	<u>6,013</u>
	5,836	6,015

The charity has a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Focolare Projects Limited, which was incorporated in England and Wales on 16 April 1992 (Company number 02707840). The company remained dormant during the year and was dissolved on 6 April 2021.

The total reserves of the company at 31 March 2021 were £2 (2020 – £2).

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed investments		
Market value	6,013	6,046
Unrealised investment (losses) gains	(179)	(33)
Market value	<u>5,834</u>	<u>6,013</u>
Cost of listed investments	<u>3,886</u>	<u>3,886</u>

12 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Accrued income and prepayments	15,399	23,650
Other debtors	3,364	—
	18,763	23,650

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Loans payable	18,800	26,000
Accruals and other creditors	37,481	15,660
	56,281	41,660

All loans are interest free and repayable on demand. £11,800 (2020 - £19,000) of the loans payable relates to amounts borrowed in 2007 to purchase the property at Cloisters.

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2021 £
Interfaith & Youth Projects	—	25	(25)	—
Centre for Unity	—	18,059	(18,059)	—
Overseas Project	6,889	13,592	(20,481)	—
Covid-19 emergency fund	—	10,356	(10,157)	199
Other	—	6,996	(6,996)	—
	6,889	49,028	(55,718)	199

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 1 April 2020 £
Interfaith & Youth Projects	—	376	(376)	—
Centre for Unity	—	5,036	(5,036)	—
Overseas Project	4,784	9,489	(7,384)	6,889
Other	—	11,994	(11,994)	—
	4,784	26,895	(24,790)	6,889

15 Tangible fixed assets fund

	Total £
At 1 April 2020	5,026,561
Net movements in year	(635,128)
At 31 March 2021 (see note 10)	4,391,433

	Total £
At 1 April 2019	5,056,307
Net movements in year	(29,746)
At 31 March 2020 (see note 10)	5,026,561

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day to day work of the charity. The fund value, therefore, cannot be realised with ease or without jeopardising the ongoing work of the charity.

16 Designated funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2021 £
Property repair fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	81,068	—	(15,166)	65,902
. Other Properties	96,057	149,000	(29,000)	216,057
Western Europe property repair fund	—	1,400,000	—	1,400,000
Property replacement fund	—	600,000	—	600,000
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	38,414	—	(8,645)	29,769
Retirement fund	412,400	—	(74,000)	338,400
Centro Foco fund	514,340	275,105	(260,000)	529,445
	1,142,279	2,424,105	(386,811)	3,179,573

	At 1 April 2019 £	New designations £	Utilised/ transferred £	At 31 March 2020 £
Property repair fund				
. The Focolare Centre for Unity	84,968	—	(3,900)	81,068
. Other Properties	113,557	—	(17,500)	96,057
The Focolare Centre for Unity fund	7,006	31,408	—	38,414
Retirement fund	433,400	—	(21,000)	412,400
Centro Foco fund	408,151	239,324	(133,135)	514,340
	1,047,082	270,732	(175,535)	1,142,279

16 Designated funds (continued)

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

- ◆ **Property repair fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the charity's residential freehold properties and the Centre for Unity.
- ◆ **Western Europe property repair fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of financing large scale repairs to the Focolare Movement's properties across Western Europe.
- ◆ **Property replacement fund**
This fund consists of monies set aside for the purpose of replacing residential properties which were sold in 2020/21.
- ◆ **The Focolare Centre for Unity fund**
This represents the general fund balance attributable to the Centre which has been separately designated by the trustees for transparency.
- ◆ **Retirement fund**
This fund consists of funds that the trustees have designated to provide for members of the Movement in their retirement, calculated using actuarial principles as the members will not be entitled to a full pension.
- ◆ **Centro Foco fund**
This fund consists of monies that the trustees have designated for future donation to the Movement's centre in Rome, in support of Focolare communities on a worldwide scale.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15) £	Other designated funds (note 16) £	Restricted funds (note 14) £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 Are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets (note 10)	—	4,391,433	—	—	4,391,433
Fixed assets investments (note 11)	5,836	—	—	—	5,836
Net current assets	153,563	—	3,179,573	199	3,333,335
Total net assets	159,399	4,391,433	3,179,573	199	7,730,604

Notes to the financial statements 31 March 2021

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	General fund £	Tangible fixed assets fund (note 15) £	Other designated funds (note 16) £	Restricted funds (note 14) £	Total 2020 £
<i>Fund balances at 31 March 2020</i>					
<i>Are represented by:</i>					
<i>Tangible fixed assets (note 10)</i>	—	5,026,561	—	—	5,026,561
<i>Fixed assets investments (note 11)</i>	6,015	—	—	—	6,015
<i>Net current assets</i>	153,595	—	1,142,279	6,889	1,302,763
<i>Total net assets</i>	159,610	5,026,561	1,142,279	6,889	6,335,339