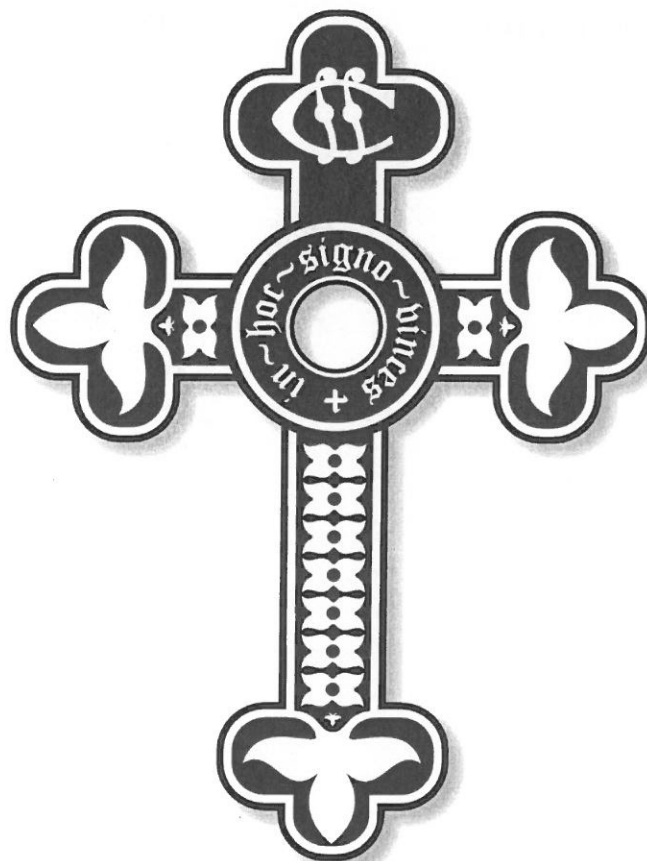


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# Societas Sanctae Crucis

(The Society of the Holy Cross)

Registered Charity 297891



Statement of Financial Activities  
& Annual Report 2024

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Societas Sanctae Crucis  
(The Society of the Holy Cross)  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
(The Society of the Holy Cross)  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Charity Details**

Name of Charity:	Societas Sanctae Crucis
Also known as:	The Society of the Holy Cross
Registered Charity number:	297891
Registered Address of Charity:	The Clergy House, 62 Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 3TX
Trustees:	Fr Carl Schaefer SSC Fr Simon Clark SSC Fr Robin Jones SSC Fr James Mowbray SSC
Bankers:	C.Hoare & Co 37 Fleet Street, London, EC4P 4DQ
Investment Managers:	CCLA 1 Angel Lane, London, EC4P 3AB
Independent Examiner:	Fr. Barry C.C. Compton ACA Barry Compton & Co Chartered Accountants 14 Hallsland Way, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9AL

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
(The Society of the Holy Cross)  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Trustees' Report**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **Governance of the Society**

A Master General, who is elected from the various Provincial Masters, governs the Society. He maintains a Council consisting of himself, the Provincial Masters, a Secretary General and a Treasurer General. In the past year these have been:

Fr. Nicolas Spicer SSC	Master General
Fr. Simon Clark SSC	Secretary General
Fr. Robin Jones SSC	Treasurer General
Fr. Carl Schaefer SSC	Provincial Master England & Scotland
Fr. Ben Andrews SSC	Provincial Master for Wales
Fr. Barry Swain SSC	Provincial Master of the Americas
Fr. Grahame Baldock SSC	Provincial Master of Australasia

A Master who is elected every four years by the members of the Province governs the Province of England and Scotland. He forms an Executive and Council to Govern the Society, ensuring that those appointed have the necessary skills. In the past year this has consisted of:

Fr. Carl Schaefer SSC*	Provincial Master England & Scotland
Fr. Simon Clark SSC*	Provincial Secretary
Fr. Robin Jones SSC*	Provincial Treasurer
Fr. Jeremy Sheehy SSC	Regional Vicar for the North
Fr. Giles Orton SSC	Regional Vicar for the Midlands
Fr. James Hill SSC	Regional Vicar for London and the East
Fr. Peter Edwards SSC	Regional Vicar for the South West
Fr. John Eldridge SSC	Regional Vicar for the South
Fr. Philip O'Reilly SSC	Mission Committee Officer
Fr. Mark Gilbert SSC	Communications Officer
Fr. James Mowbray SSC*	Trustee

The previous Masters of England and Scotland sit on the Council. In 2023 these were:

Fr. David Houlding SSC  
Fr. Nicolas Spicer SSC

\*These serve as the trustees of the Society. Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees, in consultation with the Master, ensuring they have suitable skills to run the charity and comply with appropriate legislation.

## **Aims of the Society**

The Society is governed under the statutes adopted in 1981 and has as its charitable objects:

- To strengthen and consolidate the spiritual life of its members according to Catholic belief and practice.
- To maintain and extend the Catholic faith and discipline, and to defend truth against error.
- To unite its members in a special bond of mutual charity arising from their common faith.

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
**(The Society of the Holy Cross)**  
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## **Statement on Public Benefit**

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. In this year the Society has continued to support the spiritual life of its members through Chapters. As well as regional Synods. The Master, his Council, Regional and Local Vicars have continued to assist the brethren of the Society in their lives as priests in all things spiritual and temporal. Grants of £8,200 were made through Mission Direct to assist missionary activity. The majority of the members are engaged in parish work, often in disadvantaged locations. As members of the established Church, all without exception, are free to call on their services and frequently do. The Society supports them in this work.

## **Risk Management**

The trustees conduct an annual survey of the significant risks to which the Society might be exposed. They are currently satisfied that adequate controls are in place.

## **The Trustees' Report**

After a Provincial Synod in 2023 the more normal round of regional synods were held. The Southwest Synod was at St Marychurch on Founder's Day, the Northern Synod at S. Wilfred's Harrogate on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the Midlands at Holy Angels, Hoar Cross on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. Finally, the London and Southern Synod was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October at S. Barnabas Hove. Attendance was particularly good at the Northern and London/Southern Synods. Thanks are due to those who hosted and arranged these Synods.

As is customary, Acta, the magazine of the Society, was printed twice in the year, at Founders Day and at Assumptiontide, the second time in an expanded format.

The Society's Mission Committee was active and grants totalling some £8,200, as stated above, were made to a variety of causes and activities, enabling small level mission work to be undertaken. These included:

St Matthew's Carver Street	£350	Goldthorpe Parish Church,	£350
St Oswald's, Tile Hill	£350	St Columba, Anfield	£350
All Saint's, Lincoln	£350	Family Fest (Exeter)	£500
St John's Higham	£350	Parish of Swindon New Town	£500
St George's Preston	£300	St Petroc Hollacombe Festival	£400
St Nicholas', Fleckney	£350	Exeter Youth Pilgrimage Group	£500
St Mary's, Willsden	£350	St James', Colchester	£350
Chichester Diocesan Pilgrimage Group	£500	St Peter's, Horbury	£350
St Michael's, Abbey Wood	£350	S Anne's, Derby	£350

This was a significant increase on the previous year. The Mission Committee continues to find ways to support the brethren in missional activity. Income for Mission Direct was £4,085, almost double being given in grants. It remains the policy of the Society that every penny raised for Mission Direct will go in grants, and any support costs or costs of raising funds come from the Society's general fund rather than restricted Mission Direct monies.

Expenditure of £23,598 was made versus income of £159,111. This differential was largely due to legacies; a very generous one from Fr Donald Strachan SSC and one from Fr Timothy Liscomb SSC. It has been the policy of the Master's Council to invest such bequests in the CCLA funds to allow for increased income for the work of the Society and Mission Direct.

The Masters Council, on behalf of the Trustees, reviewed the Society's investments, currently held in two accounts in the CCLA CBF Investment Fund (Income). They noted that these had almost recovered their previous years' losses. The Master's Council in investments seeks to balance income with capital growth, along with an understanding that monies are appropriately invested. It judges the COIF income funds as commensurate with that aim.

Expenses totalling £3,617 (£2,275) 2023 were reimbursed to 4 Trustees (3 in 2023) in relation to travel, hospitality and function of office.

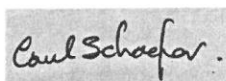
The majority of the Society's life is lived in the various chapters throughout the country. These continue to meet monthly or bi-monthly and to support the brethren by means that are both spiritual and temporal. The Master

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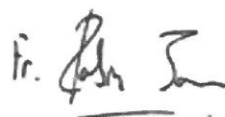
**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
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continues his visits to various chapters around the country to uphold and assist them in their keeping of the rule and their common life together. The reports delivered at Synod and Master's Council by the chapters, are critical in helping the Master and his council engage with and understand the needs of the brethren.

The Society of the Holy Cross continues to be the oldest and original Society in the Church of England for priests who live and work under Rule. It exists to increase the spirituality of the clergy, supporting them in all matters spiritual and temporal, and to support them in preaching, teaching and living the Catholic faith in their parishes, to evangelise the people, and to work for the eventual reunion of all Christians.



Fr Carl Schaefer SSC – Provincial Master



Fr Robin Jones SSC – Treasurer

10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
**(The Society of the Holy Cross)**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Societas Sanctae Crucis (The Society of the Holy Cross) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of the report.

As Trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and the SORP Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and the seeking of explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken to not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

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

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

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



Fr. Barry C.C. Compton ACA  
Barry Compton & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
14 Hallsland Way, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9AL

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
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**Statement of Financial Activities**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Donations & legacies	2	146,677	4,335	-	151,012	17,991
Income from charitable activities	3	2,450	-	-	2,450	4,732
Other trading activities	4	424	-	-	424	1,495
Investment Income	5	3,113	2,412	-	5,525	5,015
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>152,664</b>	<b>6,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>159,411</b>	<b>29,233</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
Purchases for Resale		-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6	2,856	-	-	2,856	4,665
Grants and donations	7	129	8,200	-	8,329	4,475
Governance costs	8	9,841	1,837	-	11,678	24,749
Independent Examination	9	650	-	-	650	350
Bank Charges	10	385	-	-	385	382
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>13,861</b>	<b>10,037</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,898</b>	<b>34,621</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>		<b>138,803</b>	<b>(3,290)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135,513</b>	<b>(5,388)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Transfers between funds – in		-	2,700	-	2,700	-
Transfers between funds – out		(2,700)	-	-	(2,700)	-
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>						
Gains/(losses) on investments		2,446	-	1,571	4,017	15,903
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>138,549</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>139,530</b>	<b>9,705</b>
<b>Total Funds at 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>		<b>110,458</b>	<b>18,492</b>	<b>78,125</b>	<b>207,075</b>	<b>197,370</b>
<b>Total Funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>		<b>249,007</b>	<b>17,902</b>	<b>79,696</b>	<b>346,605</b>	<b>207,075</b>

All activities relate to continuing activities.  
This Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
The notes of pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

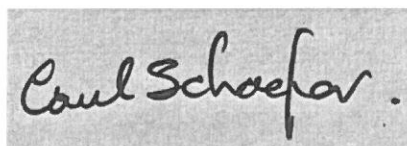


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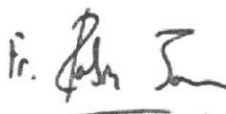
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Investments	10	109,310	-	70,210	179,520	175,503
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Cash at Bank and in Hand	11	142,003	20,636	9,486	172,125	33,629
Debtors	12	660	-	-	660	-
		<b>142,663</b>	<b>20,636</b>	<b>9,486</b>	<b>172,785</b>	<b>33,629</b>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(2,966)	(2,734)	-	(5,700)	(2,057)
Net Current Assets		<b>139,697</b>	<b>17,902</b>	<b>9,486</b>	<b>167,085</b>	<b>31,572</b>
Total Net Assets		<b>249,007</b>	<b>17,902</b>	<b>79,696</b>	<b>346,605</b>	<b>207,075</b>
Represented by:						
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>	14	<b>249,007</b>	<b>17,902</b>	<b>79,696</b>	<b>346,605</b>	<b>207,075</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and approved on their behalf by:



Fr Carl Schaefer – Master



Fr Robin Jones - Treasurer

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
(The Society of the Holy Cross)  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the applicable Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS 102).

#### 1.2 Funds Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes. Assets and Liabilities are attributed to appropriate funds.

Restricted and Endowment Funds are those to be used in accordance with the specific requirements of the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund and the endowment fund is set out below.

- **The Master General's Fund** – These are restricted funds contributed by the Provinces of Wales, The Americas, Australasia, and England and Scotland to be spent by the Master General in his work.
- **Mission Direct** – These are restricted funds to be spent upon Mission activities as recommended by the Mission Committee in consultation with the Master's Council.
- **Mission Direct Endowment** – This is an endowment fund set up using existing restricted Mission Direct Monies to provide an ongoing income for the making of grants by the Mission Direct Committee.
- **The Provincial Master's Discretionary Fund** – These are restricted monies to be spent by the Provincial Master of England and Scotland as he sees fit, within the aims of the Charity.
- **The SSC Conferences and Synods Fund** – These are monies given for conferences and training, such as 'Leading your Church into growth', 'Stand up for Jesus' and Synods.
- **The General Fund** – These are unrestricted monies, which may be spent by the Province of England and Scotland as required.
- 

#### 1.3 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognized where the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

#### 1.4 Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to the relevant activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

#### 1.5 Investments

Investments are stated at market value, any adjustment to the previous years' figures being stated in the Statement of Financial Activities, following the Master's Council's review.

#### 1.6 Reserves

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
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The Society maintains Reserves of at least six months worth of monies, required to fund the activities of the Society.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Note 2: DONATIONS &amp; LEGACIES</b>					
Master General's Income	--	250	—	250	629
Gift Aided Subscriptions	11,485	—	—	11,485	10,822
Income Tax Recoverable on Subscriptions	2,533	—	—	2,533	881
Non -Gift Aided Subscriptions	836	—	—	836	1,734
Donations	--	300	--	300	
Donations for Mission Direct Gift Aided	—	2,530	—	2,530	1,660
Income Tax Recoverable on Mission Direct	—	--	—	--	85
Donations for Mission Direct Non-Gift -Aided	—	825	—	825	745
Mission Direct Collections	—	730	—	730	1,435
Bequests	131,523	--	—	131,523	--
<b>Donations and legacies Totals</b>	<b>146,377</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>151,012</b>	<b>17,991</b>
<b>Note 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>					
Retreat Income	2,450	--	—	2,450	4,732
<b>Note 4: TRADING INCOME</b>					
Sale of Books, Crosses, etc.	424	—	—	424	1,495
<b>Note 5: INVESTMENT INCOME</b>					
Bank Interest	147	507	--	654	218
CCLA Dividends	2,966	1,905	--	4,871	4,797
<b>Investment Income Totals</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>5,015</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>152,364</b>	<b>7,047</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>159,411</b>	<b>29,233</b>

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
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## Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2024 Total £	20223Total £
<b>Note 5: Expenditure on Charitable Activities</b>					
Retreat Costs	2,856	—	—	2,856	4,665
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>4,665</b>
<b>Note 6: GRANTS &amp; DONATIONS</b>					
Mission Direct Grants	—	8,200	---	8,200	4,450
Other Donations	129	—	—	129	25
<b>Grants and Donations Totals</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>8,329</b>	<b>4,475</b>
<b>Note 7: GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>					
Pusey Guild	235	—	—	235	523
Provincial Master's Expenses	680	--	—	680	859
Master General's Expenses	--	1,837	---	1,837	1,707
Secretary's Expenses	50	--	—	50	276
Treasurer's Expenses	303	---	—	303	180
Master's Council and Executive	2,037	—	—	2,037	4,085
International Synod Expenses	--	---	—	--	--
South/London Synod	1,677	--	—	1,677	15,666
Midlands Synod	1,120	—	—	1,120	--
Northern Synod	1,012	—	—	1,012	--
South West Synod	1,071	—	—	1,071	--
ACTA	1,475	—	—	1,475	1,372
Master's Council Residential	--	---	---	--	--
Publications	171	---	---	171	-
Mailing	10	--	—	10	81
<b>Governance Costs Totals</b>	<b>9,841</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,678</b>	<b>24,749</b>
<b>Note 8: Independent Examination</b>					
Annual Fee	650	---	---	650	350
<b>Independent Fee Totals</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Note 9: Bank Charges</b>					
Bank Charges	385	---	---	385	382

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
(The Society of the Holy Cross)  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

<b>Bank Charges Totals</b>	385	---	---	385	382
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## Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Note 10: INVESTMENTS</b>					
CBF SSC Investment	109,310	—	--	109,310	106,864
CBF Mission Direct Endowment	—	—	70,210	70,210	68,639
<b>Investment Income Totals</b>	<b>109,310</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,210</b>	<b>179,520</b>	<b>175,503</b>

### Note 11: CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Current Account	(10,053)	7,461	--	(2,592)	8,928
Bank Deposit Account	149,967	—	—	149,967	0
Mission Direct Deposit Account	1,996	(3,292)	9,486	8,190	9,810
Master General's Deposit Account	—	15,757	—	15,757	14,763
Petty Cash	93	710	—	803	128
<b>Totals</b>	<b>142,003</b>	<b>20,636</b>	<b>9,486</b>	<b>172,125</b>	<b>33,629</b>

### Note 12: DEBTORS

Retreat Money	660	--	—	660	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>--</b>

### Note 13: Creditors

Independent Examiners Fee	350	--	--	350	350
Master General's Expenses	--	1,634	—	1,634	1,707
Retreat Costs	2,616	--	--	2,616	--
Mission Direct Grants	--	1,100	—	1,100	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>2,057</b>

**Societas Sanctae Crucis**  
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## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Note 14: CHARITY FUNDS

Fund and type	Balance at 1.1.24	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balance at 31.12.24
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>110,509</b>	<b>152,664</b>	<b>(13,861)</b>	<b>(2700)</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>249,058</b>
<b>Restricted</b>						
Mission Direct	3,566	6,497	(8,200)	--	--	1,863
SSC Conferences, Synods, etc.	1,157	--	--	--	--	1,157
Provincial Master's Discretionary Fund	66	--	-	---	--	66
Master General's Fund	13,652	250	(1,837)	2700	--	14,765
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>18,441</b>	<b>6,747</b>	<b>(10,037)</b>	<b>2700</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>17,857</b>
<b>Endowment</b>						
<b>Mission Direct</b>	<b>78,125</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>79,696</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>207,075</b>	<b>159,411</b>	<b>(23,898)</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4,017</b>	<b>346,605</b>



