

Sisters of Jesus Way

Annual Report

For the year ended 31st Aug 2023

Aims and Purposes

We endeavour to enable the love of God in Christ to reach out and touch all those with whom we come in contact. We teach the Christian faith.

Guest Ministry

We have continued to offer 6 guest rooms (3 twin and 3 single), all with en suite bathrooms or equivalent. Four of these have outstanding views over the Dee Estuary. One is an accessible ground floor room with wetroom opposite. An additional accessible room can be made available if needed. We have been open to receive overnight guests from a Thursday afternoon to a Tuesday morning for most weeks of the year. We have also offered 3 day rooms for individuals or small groups. Whilst visitor numbers have been lower since the Covid pandemic, the house has continued to attract guests, both existing contacts and those who have not been before. Often they come looking burdened and leave with a smile on their faces. In addition to our advertised programme, eleven day groups booked in during the year, four of which were led by the Community.

As usual we held a number of organised days and weekends throughout the year. On Sunday, 18th September we held a Harvest Celebration in our Chapel, including produce from our own garden. Two Advent Retreats were held, as always a special time looking forward to our Lord's coming. We saw the New Year in with our guests at the customary midnight Watchnight Service, followed by a celebratory meal on New Year's Day. We held a Lent Day on 25th March. Both staying guests and day guests joined us for our Easter services as we followed Jesus's journey from Gethsemane to the Cross and the Empty Tomb. On Saturday 22nd April we led a Dance Day on the themes of Anguish and Joy. Our Praise and Walking Weekend was held on 12th-14th May, including a picnic lunch on Hilbre Island on the Saturday. Then from 26th-28th May we held our Pentecost Weekend, again with day guests joining those staying. Our Quiet Day on 17th June was well attended and provided an opportunity for personal reflection. The programme of events finished with a Summer Barbecue on Saturday 1st July. This was an experiment and also proved to be well attended. This year we introduced a marquee into the garden over the summer months, and the barbecue made good use of this.

During the year a number of our visitors turned to us for informal pastoral support. We also received many personal prayer requests by telephone or email.

We note that train strikes throughout the year and disruption associated with the Hoylake Open Golf Championship may have impacted our bookings.

Cancer Support Group

The Cancer Friends Together group can no longer sustain twice-monthly meetings, but it continues to meet on an ad hoc basis for special events. We have seen a significant increase in the number of people attending these. The programme was: a Christmas Dinner in December, a Pancake Party in February, a Cream Tea in June (in the marquee), and a Barbecue in August (also in the marquee).

Community

The year began with a change of leadership as our Co-Founder, Sister Sylvia, completed her term of office as Little Sister at the end of the previous year. From 1st September 2022, Sister Hazel took office as the new Little Sister, with Sister Louise as Companion Sister. Sister Louise was added as a Trustee for the Sisters of Jesus Way Charitable Trust and for the Redacre Property Trust. This year has been a season of transition for us all, as the Community has previously been led by its founders. On 19th November a special Commissioning Service for the new leaders was held in our Chapel, with 21 close friends of the Community attending. The service was kindly conducted at our request by our Bishop Guardian, Rt Revd Mark Tanner, and our Vicar, Revd Nikki Eastwood.

We continue to provide 24-hour care for our disabled Sister. Much of this is given directly by the Sisters, with some help from a Follower of the Lamb and with agency night carers coming in four times per week. A number of other health needs have also arisen within the Community and we endeavour to support each other in these on a day-to-day basis.

In May we welcomed a previous guest, Deborah, to live alongside us with a view to exploring a possible calling. This has been an encouragement and also a great help to us practically. We also received short-term help from three Swiss contacts during the year, and are grateful to Gill Brown for her regular help with our library.

It is with sadness that we record the loss of a longstanding friend and former Chair of Trustees, Rev. Dan Paterson. Four Sisters attended his funeral in June.

We have continued to take our Safeguarding responsibilities seriously and are grateful to our Designated Safeguarding Person, Mrs Christine Allen, for guiding us through these. In November we received some Mental Health Awareness training. In January, our Little Sister and our DSP undertook Safeguarding Leadership training. In February and in August a Safeguarding Day was held for the whole Community. In June our Alongsider underwent training and a DBS check. We also invited Deborah McGovern (National Safeguarding Team) to visit and discuss safeguarding in religious communities.

A number of special activities added colour to the year. In January two Sisters were invited to take part in the Diocesan Vocations Day at Foxhill. In March, we received a visit from Head Brother Augustine and Elder Brother Harry of the Melanesian Brotherhood. We also welcomed Sister Catherine CSC for a visit. In April, two Sisters attended the Chrism Service in Chester Cathedral. In July, we received a short visit from an Italian school group and their teachers.

Finance

See the separate Financial Report and Accounts for more detail.

We began the year with a cash and bank balance of £308,048 having received a large bequest at the end of the previous financial year. Total income came to £126,714. Total running costs during the year came to £96,517. Other expenditure (planned) amounted to £46,226.

We ended the year with a healthy cash and bank balance of £292,019 (2022: £308,048). We again give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His unfailing care for us, and express our gratitude to all those who have supported us.

Website

Our website received 16,506 hits. Many enquiries now come via our web contact form.

Followers of the Lamb

We are grateful for all the faithful help we receive from the Followers. Two Followers now stay in Redacre 2 – 3 nights per week and help practically. Three other Followers give a morning's help most weeks. All Followers support us in prayer.

In May we were pleased to hold a Dedication Service for Susan Morris to become a Follower of the Lamb. This was a joyful occasion.

Maria completed her DBS check to enable her to assist with the care of our disabled Sister.

Structure and Governance

The annual General Meeting was held on 18th January and the following appointments were confirmed:

Property Trustees: Sisters Sylvia, Hazel, Florence and Louise as the appointed Trustees
Little Sister: Sister Hazel (appointed from 1st Sep. 2022, term ends Aug. 2025)
Companion Sister: Sister Louise (appointed from 1st Sep. 2022, term ends Aug. 2025)
Secretary: (position vacant) a Bridal Sister is appointed meeting-by-meeting
Treasurer: Sister Louise (reappointed at this AGM, review annually)
Assistant Treasurer: Sister Florence (reappointed at this AGM, review annually)
Online Banking Contact: Sister Hazel (reappointed at this AGM, review annually)
Designated Safeguarding Person: Mrs Christine Allen (reappointed at this AGM, review annually)
Bishop Guardian: Rt Revd Mark Tanner (appointed 19th May 2021, term ends May 2026)

Future Projects

We are in the process of compiling a Household Book with practical guidelines for our day-to-day Community life.

We are hoping to update our website.

Some landscaping remains to be done.

There are some ongoing issues with plumbing.

We are looking into heat precautions for Redacre Kitchen in hot weather.

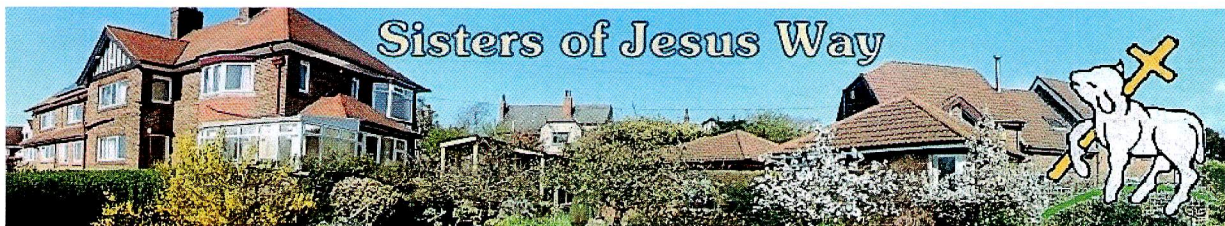
Sister Hazel Ross H. Ross
Trustee

10th April 2024

Sisters of Jesus Way

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023
Registered Charity No. 509284



SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

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SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements of the Sisters of Jesus Way for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Trust

The Sisters of Jesus Way was established on the 6th November 1979, its registered charity number is 509284.

Objectives

We endeavour to enable the love of God in Christ to reach out and touch all those with whom we come in contact. The consequence of this is that spiritual refreshment is brought to those who are in need of rest and renewal. Encouragement is given to the discouraged and comfort is brought to the distressed.

The Christian faith is taught enabling others to enter into, or deepen their trust in God, thus effecting a strengthening of Christian values in society.

Activities

We receive guests into our house for times of quiet and refreshment. We lead bible studies for small groups and lead quiet days. Small groups use the house to meet for planning, prayer and a time to be away together. We lead weekends with various themes such as a walking weekend, quiet weekend and at the major Christian festivals such as Easter. We are able to offer 6 guest rooms, receiving guests for up to five days as well as day guests and groups. This is more fully detailed in the Annual Report.

Financial Review

We have appreciated the help that has been given us this last year by many friends. This has been both practical and monetary. We are given many gifts in kind, especially from our visitors and are grateful to all those who have helped us in any way.

We began the year with a cash and bank balance of £308,048 (2022: £201,580), most of which had come from bequests received in a previous year.

Total income came to £126,714 (2022: £229,242). No bequests were received in the financial year (2022: £138,553).

As usual, the major part of the income was made up of gifts, totalling £111,645 (2022: £73,380); an exceptional gift was received in the year totalling £29,000. Included in these amounts are donations specifically for the care of our disabled Sister £16,814 (2022: £13,437).

A Gift Aid tax refund boosted our receipts by a further £3,573 (2022: £4,530). No vehicles were sold during the year (2022: £5,000). Energy from the solar panels brought in £2,654 (2022: £3,108; 2022 covers five quarters).

Interest rates were raised several times during the year, so our deposits earned £7,622 (2022: £557).

SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

Review continued

As anticipated from the general economic climate, day-to-day running costs were significantly higher this year: £96,517 (2022: £77,143). The biggest increase was in the utility bills, which were up by £8,631 to £23,489 (2022: £14,858) due to the soaring cost of gas and electricity both nationally and internationally. High inflation meant that household expenditure was also up by £1,775 to £19,063 (2022: £17,288). The process of switching over our telephone and broadband lines to a different provider was not as smooth a transition as anticipated and resulted in our having to pay amounts to both companies for part of Quarter 3, so this, along with adding a telephone maintenance contract, led to a figure of £4,150 i.e. £1,469 higher than the previous year (2022: £2,681). Postal costs, included in this total, were in fact slightly lower because the rental payments on the franking machine came to an end. The cost of general repairs and servicing also saw a big increase to £3,694 (2022: £2,488). Most of this related to fire and security equipment and to laundry equipment. Some categories of expenditure were however lower this year: travel was down by £880 (fewer flights made); car running costs were also down by £521.

Turning to other expenditure, we decided to make some larger one-off charitable donations to the combined value of £20,000 out of the Watson legacy that we had received in the previous financial year. These went to causes that encourage the Christian faith and/or relieve poverty: Open Doors UK (in memory of Sister Marie), Melanesian Mission UK, CAP Wirral, Besom in Wirral, St Mary's Church Upton, and the Stewardship Cost of Living Response Fund.

We continued the planned outside painting of Redacre (£7,775), and also replaced the glazing in a number of older windows (£2,875), totalling £10,650 (2022: £9,603). The telephone system upgrade (in anticipation of the forthcoming national PSTN switch-off) cost £5,830. The computer and printer in Bethany Office needed replacing and a second colour laser printer was required, £1,554. The old commercial washing machine was replaced at a cost of £3,202. Minor alterations, smaller items of equipment and furnishings came to £4,433.

The year ended with a cash and bank balance of £292,019 (2022: £308,048). This was held as follows: CBF Church of England deposit account (£273,814), CAF Bank reserve account (£11,961), CAF Bank current account (£3,626), NatWest current account (£1,297), NatWest reserve account (£7), cash (£1,314).

We give thanks to the Heavenly Father, and to all who have supported us, that we have finished the year in a healthy financial position.

The Future

Our projects for this coming year include:

- compiling a Household Book with practical guidelines for our day-to-day Community life
- updating the website
- completing the landscaping
- addressing plumbing issues
- investigating heat precautions for Redacre kitchen in hot weather

SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

Trustees

We are grateful to our Trustees who have served during the course of the year:-

Sister Sylvia Macey

Sister Hazel Ross

Sister Florence Berger

Sister Louise Coward was appointed a Trustee from 1st September 2022.

Accountability

We are a Recognised Anglican Community.

Bishop Mark Tanner, Diocesan Bishop of Chester, is our Bishop Guardian.

PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND CONTACT

Bankers:	Sisters of Jesus Way
CAF Bank Ltd	Contact Address
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ	Sister Hazel Ross 24 Abbey Road Wirral CH48 7EP
Central Board of Finance Church of England	
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC1A 9BD	
	Website: www.redacre.org.uk

Sister Hazel Ross

H. Ross

Date 10th April 2024

Trustee

SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Income		
Gifts	94,831	59,943
Gifts - restricted	<u>16,814</u>	<u>13,437</u>
Bequest	-	138,553
	111,645	211,933
Tax refund	3,573	4,530
Solar energy	2,654	3,108
Booklets and cards	181	139
CDs	196	195
Books	214	215
Sale of Motor Vehicle	-	5,000
Other income	629	3,565
Interest receivable	7,622	557
Total income	126,714	229,242
Expenditure		
Household costs	19,063	17,288
Travel and Accommodation	1,280	2,160
Donations	2,140	2,320
Office and Ministry	990	786
Car Insurance and running costs	7,382	7,903
General repairs, servicing, decoration	3,694	2,488
Helpers expenses	1,684	1,260
Council Tax	3,856	3,708
Post, telephone and internet	4,150	2,681
Utilities	23,489	14,858
Building and Other Insurance	4,439	4,687
Annual Fees Hermitage	4,565	4,438
Care Costs for Sister	19,706	12,442
Bank charges	79	124
Total running costs of houses	96,517	77,143
Other expenditure		
Chapel	474	924
Outside Painting and Reglazing	10,650	9,603
Household works, furnishing and equipment	4,433	4,296
Purchase of cars	-	29,400
Commercial washing machine	3,202	-
Telephone system upgrade and IT equipment	7,384	-
One off donations	20,000	-
Landscaping / Marquee	<u>83</u>	<u>1,408</u>
	46,226	45,631
Total expenditure	142,743	122,774
Excess of Income / (Expenditure)	(16,029)	106,468

Sister Hazel Ross
Trustee

H. Ross

10th April 2024

SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance Sheet		
Cash and Bank	<u>292,019</u> 292,019	<u>308,048</u> 308,048
Creditors – Accruals	-	-
Net assets	<u>292,019</u>	<u>308,048</u>
Reserves:		
General fund b/fwd	308,048	201,580
Movement during year	(16,029)	106,468
General fund c/fwd	<u>292,019</u>	<u>308,048</u>

Sister Hazel Ross
Trustee

H. Ross

10th April 2024

SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the Financial Statements of the Sisters of Jesus Way for the year ended 31 August 2023 as set out on pages 6 and 7.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trust is responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements. In accordance with the guidance provided by the Charity Commission, It considers that an audit is not required. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified by the Charity Commission, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

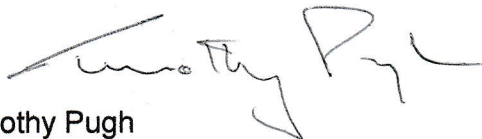
Basis of the Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the guidance given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trust and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeks explanations concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Financial Statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, nothing has come to my attention that gave cause to believe otherwise than that the Financial Statements accord with the accounting records of the Trust and that those records satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission. I am not aware of any matter to which attention should be drawn in order that a proper understanding of the Financial Statements can be reached.

Signed by the Independent
Examiner.....



Timothy Pugh
30 Queensbury
Newton
Wirral
CH48 6EP

10th April 2024