

# **Sisters of Jesus Way**

## **Annual Report**

### **For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024**

#### **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 are open to receive overnight guests from a Thursday afternoon to a Tuesday morning for most weeks of the year. We also offer 3 day rooms for individuals or small groups. The house has continued to attract both returning and new guests, with an especially busy period for visitors during July and August. Many guests express gratitude for the rest and spiritual refreshment they experience here. In addition to our advertised programme, 16 day groups booked in during the year, six of which were led or part-led by the Community.

As usual we put on a programme of organised events throughout the year. The first of these was a Harvest Weekend in September 2023 when we reflected on God's faithfulness. This was followed by two Advent Weekends in December when we contemplated the wonder and mystery of Jesus' first and second coming. At New Year 2023-24 we gave thanks for the past twelve months, renewed our Covenant with the Lord at a midnight service in our Chapel, and shared a celebratory meal. We offered a Lent Quiet Day in February. At the end of March a number of day and overnight guests joined us for our special and moving Easter services. In May we held a small Pentecost Retreat, but the intended Praise & Walking Weekend was unfortunately cancelled due to illness. In early July a well-attended Quiet Day was held. The programme finished later in July when we again offered a Summer Barbecue, making use of our marquee.

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

#### **Cancer Support Group**

The Cancer Friends Together group continues to meet on an ad hoc basis for special events, which are very much appreciated. We again hosted and led 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). All of these involved times of worship together as well as shared food.

#### **Community**

It has been a joy this year to receive our Alongsider, Deborah, into the Community, first as a Call Sister (postulant) in November 2023, and then as a Sister of the Way (novice) in May 2024. Bishop Mark and Revd Nikki Eastwood conducted the latter service for us in our Chapel. Sister Deborah has fitted in well. Having an extra person on the team has made a big difference practically.

We are grateful for all those who have helped us during the year, not least two Swiss contacts who came in November and February to make blue dresses for us. This was a timely answer to prayer.

We continue to take our Safeguarding responsibilities seriously. We were pleased to have a visit from the new Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Lynn Everton, who came to introduce herself in November

2023. We also received a visit from our two local Police Community Support Officers. These visits were arranged by our Designated Safeguarding Person, Mrs Christine Allen. On the advice of the Diocese, we have now installed a CCTV system around the perimeter of the building and in the Entrance Hall.

We continue to provide 24-hour care for our disabled Sister. We have been especially grateful for the regular help of a Follower of the Lamb in this regard; much of the care is also given directly by the Sisters. Agency night carers come in four times per week. A number of additional health needs have arisen within the Community and we endeavour to support each other in these on a day-to-day basis.

Some special activities again added variety to the year. We value our contact with the Melanesian communities: two of our Sisters were able to attend the MMUK Mission Day at Chester Cathedral in September 2023; it was lovely that Sr Catherine CSC was also able to join us for this. Then in July 2024 we were pleased to receive a visit from Archbishop Leonard of Melanesia at Redacre. One Sister was able to make a privately funded short-term mission trip to Cambodia, where she has personal contacts, in January-February 2024. Within our own Diocese, in January, two Sisters again attended the Vocations Day at Foxhill, and in March, three Sisters were invited to the Chrism Service at Chester Cathedral. Contact with the wider network of religious communities has also been valuable: in April 2024 we all attended the Anglican Religious Communities Zoom Conference, and in July two of us were invited by Archbishop Justin to a meeting of community leaders at Lambeth. This trip also enabled us to stay with the Evangelical Sisters of Mary at Radlett, for which we were grateful.

## **Finance**

See separate Financial Report & Accounts for more detail.

We began the year with a cash and bank balance of **£292,019**. Total income for the year, including bequests, came to £132,810. Day-to-day running costs amounted to £103,102 and other expenditure came to £27,577 giving a total expenditure of £130,679.

We finished the year with a healthy cash and bank balance of **£294,150** (2023: £292,019). We again record our thanks to our loving Heavenly Father and to all who have supported us throughout the year. We also wish to express particular thanks to Mr Tim Pugh for acting as our Independent Examiner.

## **Website**

Our website received 16,486 hits, which was similar to the previous year. Many enquiries now come via our web contact form.

## **Followers of the Lamb**

As usual we held two weekend retreats for the Followers of the Lamb to meet together, in November 2023 and March 2024. These were led by Sister Florence and Sister Hazel.

Three Followers who work with us regularly underwent Safeguarding Training during the year.

We are grateful for all the faithful assistance we receive from the Followers. Two Followers stay in Redacre 2 – 4 nights per week and give considerable practical help. Another Follower gives a morning's help most weeks. Two other Followers stay from time to time for a long weekend and help then. All nine Followers support us in prayer and some give financial support.

## Structure & Governance

The annual General Meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and the following appointments were confirmed:

Charity Trustees: Sisters Sylvia, Hazel, Florence and Louise

Property Trustees: Sisters Sylvia, Hazel, Florence and Louise

Little Sister (Leader & Chair): Sister Hazel (appointed from 1st Sep. 2022, term ends Aug. 2025)

Companion Sister (Asst. Leader): 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)

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 aim to continue work on the Household Book, the landscaping and the updating of the website. Most of our computers are a number of years old and it would be advisable to replace them as Windows 10 nears end of life. Our DECT cordless telephone system is becoming obsolete so we need to take advice on a better solution for intercom calls. We plan to investigate installing a lightning conductor to further reduce fire risk. A Fire Risk Assessment is scheduled for the coming financial year. We continue to pray for the further growth of our Community as the Lord leads.

Signed: H. Ross

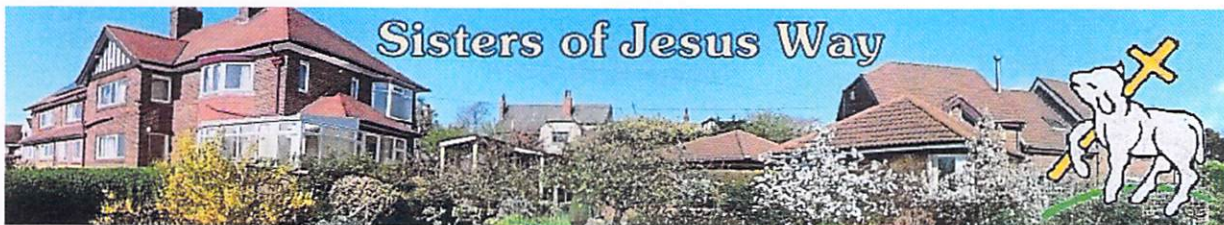
Date: 26/3/25

Little Sister (Community Leader) & Chair of Trustees

# **Sisters of Jesus Way**

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024  
Registered Charity No. 509284



**SISTERS OF JESUS WAY**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024**

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## **SISTERS OF JESUS WAY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024**

The trustees present their report and financial statements of the Sisters of Jesus Way for the year ended 31 August 2024.

#### **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 be together for planning, prayer and a time to be together away. 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 £292,019 (2023: £308,048). We received a small bequest of £100 in the first quarter and a larger bequest of £22,162 in the fourth quarter. There were no other exceptional gifts this year (2023: £29,000).

Regular giving and smaller one-off donations came to £71,184 (2023: £65,830). Interest rates continued at high levels throughout the period, so our deposits earned £14,531 (2023: £7,622), again helping to offset some of the effects of inflation on our costs.

We were able to claim £3,837 in Gift Aid (2023: £3,573). Our solar energy brought in £2,212 (2023: £2,654) during the year, with less sunshine in the first 6 months of 2024 compared with the first half of 2023.

An additional £17,580 was received earmarked for the care of a disabled Sister (2023: £16,814).

Total receipts for the year came to £132,810 (2023: £126,714). If the care money is excluded, the total received was £115,230 (2023: £109,900).

# **SISTERS OF JESUS WAY**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024**

### **Review continued**

Day-to-day running costs increased by £6,585 to £103,102 (2023: £96,518). Almost half of this increase was due to high utility bills totalling £26,409 (2023: £23,489); however it is hoped that we can recoup some of these costs in the coming year as our electricity Direct Debit is set much higher than necessary. Car running costs were also up by £2,138 to £9,520 (2023: £7,382); this was due to a big increase in the price of car insurance of £2,509. General cost-of-living price rises also affected the Hermitage: £5,768 (2023: £4,565). Office and Ministry costs increased to £1,646 (2023: £990); this increase includes a large stationery order not made the previous year, and various IT operating expenses. On the positive side, general repair costs were down by £917 to £2,777 (2023: £3,694). Excluding the £19,080 of care expenses (2023: £19,706), total running costs were £84,022 (2023: £76,811).

Turning to other expenditure, the largest single item was the installation of a CCTV system around the perimeter of the buildings and in the Entrance Hall, totalling £8,634.

Minor household building works, including constructing an internal soundproof wall, replacing a WC, repointing an external wall, and fitting two extractor fans, came to £7,435; installing air conditioning in Redacre Kitchen came to £4,405; and various equipment was purchased, including a replacement Instanta water heater, a replacement commercial microwave, a vacuum cleaner and a fully adjustable office chair; the total for the Household Works & Equipment category amounted to £14,982.

A total of £3,063 was spent on IT and mobile phones: six iPhones dating from 2016 were struggling, so using some of the bequest money they were replaced for £2,414; the Visitors' Wi-Fi coverage in Redacre was improved and a faulty access point in Bethany replaced, costing £570.

Overall, exceptional expenditure came to £27,577 (2023: £46,226), and total expenditure including running costs came to £130,679 (2023: £142,743).

[Note: During 2022-23 a number of one-off charitable donations were made totalling £20,000. These were made out of a legacy received in the previous financial year. These went to causes that encourage the Christian faith and/or relieve poverty.]

The year ended with a cash and bank balance of £294,150 (2023: £292,019).

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 website
- continuing landscaping
- replacing old computers and review of obsolete cordless telephone system
- fire risk assessment scheduled for coming year

## SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024

#### 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

#### Accountability

We are an Anglican Community.

Bishop Mark Tanner, Diocesan Bishop of Chester is the 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: <a href="http://www.redacre.org.uk">www.redacre.org.uk</a>

Sister Hazel Ross

H. Ross

Date 26th March 2025

Trustee



# SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£		£	
<b>Income</b>				
Gifts	71,184		94,831	
Gifts - restricted	17,580	88,764	<u>16,814</u>	111,645
Bequest		22,262		-
		<b>111,026</b>		<b>111,645</b>
Tax refund		3,837		3,573
Solar energy		2,212		2,654
Booklets and cards		124		181
CDs		163		196
Books		265		214
Other income		652		629
Interest receivable		14,531		7,622
<b>Total income</b>		<b>132,810</b>		<b>126,714</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Household costs		19,606		19,063
Travel and Accommodation		1,141		1,280
Donations		2,241		2,140
Office and Ministry		1,646		990
Car Insurance and running costs		9,520		7,382
Repairs, servicing, decoration		2,777		3,694
Helpers expenses		1,855		1,684
Council Tax		4,055		3,856
Post, telephone and internet		4,190		4,150
Utilities		26,409		23,489
Building and Other Insurance		4,742		4,439
Annual Fees Hermitage		5,768		4,565
Care Costs for Sister		19,080		19,706
Bank charges		72		79
<b>Total running costs of houses</b>		<b>103,102</b>		<b>96,517</b>
<b>Other expenditure</b>				
Chapel	-		474	
Outside Painting and Reglazing	340		10,650	
Household works, furnishing and equipment	14,982		4,433	
CCTV Installation	8,634		-	
Commercial washing machine	-		3,202	
Telephone system upgrade and IT equipment	3,063		7,384	
One off donations	-		20,000	
Garden and landscaping	558		83	
		27,577		46,226
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>130,679</b>		<b>142,743</b>
<b>Excess of Income / (Expenditure)</b>		<b>2,131</b>		<b>(16,029)</b>

Sister Hazel Ross H. Ross  
Trustee

26th March 2025

# SISTERS OF JESUS WAY

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 month period to 31 August 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Cash and Bank	<u>294,150</u>	<u>292,019</u>
	294,150	292,019
Creditors – Accruals	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>294,150</u>	<u>292,019</u>
<b>Reserves:</b>		
General fund b/fwd	292,019	308,048
Movement during year	2,131	(16,029)
<b>General fund c/fwd</b>	<u>294,150</u>	<u>292,019</u>

Sister Hazel Ross  
Trustee

H. Ross

26th March 2025

## **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 2024 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.

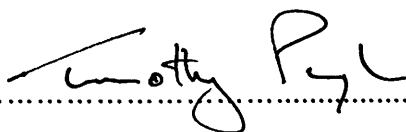
#### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's report**

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.....



March 2025

Timothy Pugh  
30 Queensbury  
Newton  
Wirral  
CH48 6EP