

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rt Rev Andrew Forster	Church of Ireland, President
	Rt Rev Sarah Groves	Moravian Church, Vice-President
	Mr Jonathan Wilson (Resigned 30/03/2023)	Hon Treasurer
	Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson	Presbyterian Church, Immediate Past-President
	Mr William Hunter	Antiochian Orthodox Church
	Most Senior Apostle Olusola Obube	Cherubim and Seraphim Church
	Ms Georgina Coptý	Church of Ireland
	Dr Bridget Nichols (Appointed 17/2/23)	Church of Ireland
	Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum	Church of Ireland
	Mr George Sayegh	Greek Orthodox Church
	Fr Anish John	Indian Orthodox Church
	Ms Yvonne Langebach	Lutheran Church
	Rev Brian Anderson	Methodist Church
	Ms Gillian Kingston	Methodist Church
	Rev Dr Heather Morris	Methodist Church
	Mr Mark Kernohan	Moravian Church
	Rt Rev Colin Campbell	Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church
	Rev Helen Freeburn	Presbyterian Church
	Rev Trevor Gribben	Presbyterian Church
	Rev Barry McCroskery (Appointed 21/3/23)	Presbyterian Church
	Pastor Tunde Adebayo-Oke	Redeemed Christian Church of God
	James Nelson	Religious Society of Friends
	Fr Calin Florea (Appointed 23/5/23)	Romanian Orthodox Church
	Colonel Neil Webb	Salvation Army (Ireland Division)
Fr Dr Jobymon Skaria	Syrian Orthodox Church	
Charity number	NIC102643	
Principal address	48 Elmwood Avenue Belfast BT9 6AZ	
Independent examiner	Miscampbell & Co 6 Annadale Avenue Belfast BT7 3JH	

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements 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 their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

a. Public Benefit Statement

The Irish Council of Churches is committed to the advancement of the Christian religion and the promotion of religious harmony. Its vision is to be a benchmark of unity in Christ for churches and communities globally by developing and providing a channel for Ireland's churches to connect through a common belief in Christ. Five values underpin its work:

The goal and grounding of all that we do is our shared Faith in Jesus Christ; we seek to be faithful to God and committed to our journey together.

Holiness: willing to be opened and changed by God as we connect with each other and meet together in the Lord; experiencing God's holiness as we spend time together in prayer and seeking to be reconciled in Christ.

Respect: respecting and seeking to understand each other's beliefs; we are aware of our diversity while recognising the presence of Christ in each other as we seek to understand the fullness of God's revelation for the world.

Hope: hoping in Christ and living in the power of the Holy Spirit sustaining us and fueling our courage; we are courageous in our vision and mission having the strength together to fulfil our reason to be.

Witness: witnessing to God's kingdom of justice, peace and reconciliation through word and action; to our common discipleship in the way we live and work together; and as we listen to the world in which we live and serve.

The Irish Council of Churches meets the public benefit requirement in two ways:

1. The advancement of religion:

The formal ecumenical body in Ireland, established in 1922, its current membership reflects the changing landscape of Christianity in Ireland across Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Independent and Migrant-led churches. Since 1973 it has coordinated the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, a formal dialogue between the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Episcopal Conference. Together, the Council and the Meeting bring together senior leaders representing the majority of Christian traditions in Ireland. Member churches express their Christian witness working together for the benefit of all peoples, in Northern Ireland and internationally. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the ability of member churches to work together to raise awareness and understanding of their religious beliefs and practices. The Irish Council of Churches provides an opportunity for member churches to better understand each other; promoting co-operation, joint working, and greater efficiency. The direct benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the Irish Council of Churches' services and activities and through feedback from representatives of each of the member churches. The Irish Council of Churches is accountable to all its member churches and its work is reported to their governing bodies. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches. The beneficiaries also include the public generally in Northern Ireland specifically those involved in or associated with the Christian faith. There is no private benefit.

2. Through reconciliation and the promoting of religious harmony:

The Irish Council of Churches enables churches to work together to promote reconciliation across the historic political, social, ethnic and religious divides in Northern Ireland and through the island of Ireland. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the promotion of political, social, ethnic and religious harmony by promoting good relations between people of different Christian traditions, building cooperation and understanding, and sharing information with the general public. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are the public generally in Northern Ireland especially those who look to their church and the Irish Council of Churches to provide guidance on how they should treat others in society. There is no private benefit.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Principal Activities

Key activities of the Irish Council of Churches include:

Formally bringing together senior representatives from across our member churches to meet, dialogue and plan activities of mutual concern, at least quarterly.

Promoting reconciliation across historic political, social, ethnic, and religious divides.

Facilitating joint co-operation through our liaison groups, enabling collaboration, co-operation and the sharing of information by bringing together representatives with specific responsibilities for a wide variety of aspects of the mission and ministry of our members.

Coordinating working groups which advise on topics of mutual concern, bringing together nominated experts representative of the diversity of views expressed by our members.

Enabling dialogue, sharing and joint action with the Irish Episcopal Conference through the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, representatives of which meet at least quarterly.

Highlighting the work of member churches before each other and the wider public in Ireland through disseminating resources, aggregating news on our website, sharing information on initiatives and communicating joint statements.

Engaging with government and civil society on issues of mutual concern and advocating on public policy issues, as requested by our members, for the benefit of society at large.

Working with our member churches on externally funded projects which fulfil our charitable purposes. Assisting the churches in relating to newer migrant-led churches and building informal relationships with leaders of other faiths.

Working closely with other national and international ecumenical bodies, particularly those established to work in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Representing the member churches at keynote public events, including supporting joint public worship. Exploring the ongoing development of our networks to achieve our purposes.

Full details of Council activities are available at: www.irishchurches.org.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial review

The accounts for the year show a deficit of £19,153 which is more than was budgeted (£15,051.63). The primary reason for this larger than budgeted deficit is due to one off costs associated with events marking the centenary of the Irish Council of Churches and the 50th anniversary of the Ballymascanlon Talks. These Talks led to the establishment of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. In January we held a service of celebration and thanksgiving in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. In September we organised "Being Churches Together in 21st Century Ireland": a Symposium at which "Called to be One" - an updated history of ICC and IICM was launched. These events were significant, both in marking the occasions of the anniversaries, and in providing an opportunity for us, as churches in Ireland, to consider how to continue the vision of hope for reconciliation to which our forebears responded decades ago. The Trustees agreed that these events should be funded from reserves.

The Church Leaders' visit to Rome at the invitation of the British and Irish Ambassadors to the Holy See was a particularly significant event. This visit offered the opportunity to speak about the role of the churches in peacebuilding in Ireland, North and South, before and since the Good Friday Agreement at a symposium at which many of the ambassadors to the Holy See were present. Another significant journey was that of the ICC President to the Coronation of King Charles in May.

The theme of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting was "Our Reconciling Vision of Hope: Fifty years since the Ballymascanlon Talks". It explored the context around the Ballymascanlon Talks, including the priorities, challenges and achievements of those early years. There was also a session exploring current dynamics in international Inter-Church Relations. Fr. Martin Browne (Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity) shared about recent developments and directions in international ecumenical relations and how they can inform our journey here in Ireland.

A varied approach to meetings, whereby some are held in-person and some online-only, continues to prove useful and allows for more efficient use of time and resources, whilst also fostering the connection and trust that underpin the relationships essential to the effectiveness of the organisation. We find these relations are only truly developed through in-person encounter.

During 2023 we continued to prioritise partnership working, both with our neighbouring ecumenical organisations, and in our ongoing relationships with Christian Aid, CTBI and the DCU Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations. We are grateful for the continued support of our member churches and their commitment to the work that is done together through ICC and IICM.

Particular thanks are due to the members of the Joint Management Committee, ICC Executive and Irish Inter-Church Committee for their support and careful attention to matters of finance and governance during the year, as well as the staff team for their ongoing diligence and commitment in pursuing the mission of ICC and IICM.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The charity incurred deficit of £19,153 mainly due to the cost of the anniversary events mentioned above, and expenditure on meetings and travel costs for staff and trustees, which has returned to pre-covid levels.

In response to the underlying deficit, the ICC Trustees have agreed to an increase in membership subscription levels of 5% for 2024, which will reduce our anticipated deficit to about £9,000, with a view to further measures in subsequent years in order to reduce it further. This increase comes after five years in which subscriptions were maintained at the same level, resulting in an effective decrease in funding, as a result of inflation. Nevertheless, due to the cautious management of the organisations' financial resources, despite increasing costs, underlying deficits have been kept at a manageable level up to this point.

Our total reserves now stand at £526,144 and are sufficient to provide for the financial requirements of the organisation going forward.

Structure, governance and management

Irish Council of Churches is a registered charity, number NIC102643, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rt Rev Andrew Forster

Rt Rev Sarah Groves

Mr Jonathan Wilson (Resigned 30/03/2023)

Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson

Mr William Hunter

Most Senior Apostle Olusola Obube

Ms Georgina Coptly

Dr Bridget Nichols (Appointed 17/2/23)

Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum

Mr George Sayegh

Fr Anish John

Ms Yvonne Langebach

Rev Brian Anderson

Ms Gillian Kingston

Rev Dr Heather Morris

Mr Mark Kernohan

Rt Rev Colin Campbell

Rev Helen Freeburn

Rev Trevor Gribben

Rev Barry McCroskery (Appointed 21/3/23)

Pastor Tunde Adebayo-Oke

James Nelson

Fr Calin Florea (Appointed 23/5/23)

Colonel Neil Webb

Fr Dr Jobymon Skaria

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Funds held as custodian trustee

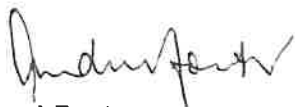
No funds are held as custodian on behalf of others.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Rt Rev A Forster
Trustee

14 March 2024

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 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 incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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 the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 sufficient 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the 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.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Irish Council of Churches (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's financial statements carried out in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Independent examiner's statement

It is my responsibility to:

- 1 examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- 2 follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 3 state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

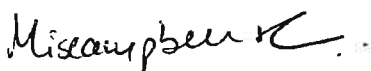
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Miscampbell & Co

6 Annadale Avenue
Belfast
BT7 3JH

Dated: 14 March 2024

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	58,687	57,803	116,490	59,124	58,027	117,151
Other income	4	6,649	-	6,649	3,009	-	3,009
Investments	5	8,605	212	8,817	4,519	296	4,815
Total income		73,941	58,015	131,956	66,652	58,323	124,975
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	6	151,109	-	151,109	130,782	-	130,782
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(77,168)	58,015	(19,153)	(64,130)	58,323	(5,807)
Gross transfers between funds		75,554	(75,554)	-	65,391	(65,391)	-
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(1,614)	(17,539)	(19,153)	1,261	(7,068)	(5,807)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		463,717	81,580	545,297	462,456	88,648	551,104
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		462,103	64,041	526,144	463,717	81,580	545,297

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

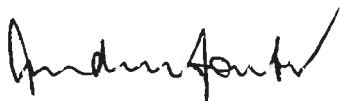
IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		267,409		266,470
Current assets					
Debtors	12	15,274		14,687	
Cash at bank and in hand		311,066		305,080	
		<u>326,340</u>		<u>319,767</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(67,605)</u>		<u>(40,940)</u>	
Net current assets			258,735		278,827
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>526,144</u>		<u>545,297</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		64,041		81,580
Unrestricted funds			462,103		463,717
			<u>526,144</u>		<u>545,297</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 14 March 2024



Rt Rev A. Forster
Trustee

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Irish Council of Churches is a registered charity with the Charity Commission NI and has the charity number NIC102643. The principal activity of the charity continued to be the advancement of the Christian religion and the promotion of religious harmony

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit 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 is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Not depreciated
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	58,687	57,803	116,490	59,124	58,027	117,151
Donations and gifts						
Irish Episcopal Conference	-	28,898	28,898	-	28,904	28,904
The Church of Ireland	22,166	10,918	33,084	22,166	10,918	33,084
The Presbyterian Church of Ireland	22,166	10,918	33,084	22,166	10,918	33,084
The Methodist Church in Ireland	5,631	2,774	8,405	5,631	2,774	8,405
The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church	1,454	716	2,170	1,454	716	2,170
The Religious Society of Friends	1,454	716	2,170	1,454	716	2,170
The Redeemed Christian Church of God	1,478	726	2,204	1,398	688	2,086
The Salvation Army	1,454	716	2,170	1,454	716	2,170
The Moravian Church Irish District	361	178	539	361	178	539
The Lutheran Church in Ireland	361	178	539	361	178	539
The Greek Orthodox Church in Ireland	361	178	539	361	178	539
The Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland	352	173	525	1,010	497	1,507
The Cherubim and Seraphim Church in Ireland	366	180	546	344	170	514
The Antiochian Orthodox Church in Ireland	361	178	539	361	178	539
The Indian Orthodox Church in Ireland	361	178	539	354	174	528
The Syrian Orthodox Church in Ireland	361	178	539	249	124	373
	58,687	57,803	116,490	59,124	58,027	117,151

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Miscellaneous income	6,649	3,009

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rent received	2,825	-	2,825	2,700	-	2,700
Interest receivable	5,780	212	5,992	1,819	296	2,115
	8,605	212	8,817	4,519	296	4,815

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure	Charitable Expenditure
	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	90,536	83,305
Committees and working groups	11,547	7,330
Cost of trustee meetings	10,058	1,433
Write backs	(929)	3,345
Exchange Rate Variance	19	(329)
Travel and subsistence staff	10,098	9,070
Office expenses	4,724	2,373
	126,053	106,527
Share of support costs (see note 7)	18,958	17,855
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	6,098	6,400
	151,109	130,782

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	2,514	2,514	-	2,508	2,508
Depreciation	470	-	470	-	-	-
Insurance	1,966	-	1,966	2,138	-	2,138
Office expenses	3,064	-	3,064	2,222	-	2,222
Travel and subsistence staff	3,696	-	3,696	1,697	-	1,697
Cleaning and upkeep	1,149	-	1,149	1,199	-	1,199
Publication costs	131	-	131	40	-	40
Bank charges	297	-	297	526	-	526
Utility costs	3,974	-	3,974	2,846	-	2,846
Staff recruitment costs	79	-	79	257	-	257
Legal and professional	360	-	360	1,669	-	1,669
Repairs and maintenance	3,772	-	3,772	5,261	-	5,261
Accountancy and legal fees	-	3,584	3,584	-	3,892	3,892
	<u>18,958</u>	<u>6,098</u>	<u>25,056</u>	<u>17,855</u>	<u>6,400</u>	<u>24,255</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>18,958</u>	<u>6,098</u>	<u>25,056</u>	<u>17,855</u>	<u>6,400</u>	<u>24,255</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiners of £2,700 (2022- £2,100) for independent examination fees.

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Employees

(Continued)

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	78,013	72,691
Social security costs	6,736	5,452
Other pension costs	8,301	7,670
	<u>93,050</u>	<u>85,813</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	266,470	1,870	2,595	270,935
Additions	-	-	1,409	1,409
	<u>266,470</u>	<u>1,870</u>	<u>4,004</u>	<u>272,344</u>
At 31 December 2023	266,470	1,870	4,004	272,344
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	-	1,870	2,595	4,465
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	470	470
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,065</u>	<u>4,935</u>
At 31 December 2023	-	1,870	3,065	4,935
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2023	266,470	-	939	267,409
	<u>266,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>266,470</u>
At 31 December 2022	266,470	-	-	266,470
	<u>266,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>266,470</u>

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	7,424	7,539
Other debtors	6,161	3,537
Prepayments and accrued income	1,689	3,611
	<u>15,274</u>	<u>14,687</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	3,935	3,873
Trade creditors	156	-
Other creditors	286	996
Accruals and deferred income	63,228	36,071
	<u>67,605</u>	<u>40,940</u>

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 Unrestricted funds

The income funds of the charity include unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 January 2023	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers		Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	
General Funds									
The Inter-Church Secretariat	384,662	66,652	-	(65,391)	385,923	73,941	-	(75,555)	384,309
Repairs and Maintenance Fund	-	-	(130,782)	130,782	-	-	(151,109)	151,109	-
Programme Fund	36,375	-	-	-	36,375	-	-	-	36,375
	41,419	-	-	-	41,419	-	-	-	41,419
	<u>462,456</u>	<u>66,652</u>	<u>(130,782)</u>	<u>65,391</u>	<u>463,717</u>	<u>73,941</u>	<u>(151,109)</u>	<u>75,554</u>	<u>462,103</u>

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 January 2023	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers		Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	
Irish Inter-Church Meeting	88,648	58,323	-	(65,391)	81,580	58,015	-	(75,554)	64,041
	<u>88,648</u>	<u>58,323</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(65,391)</u>	<u>81,580</u>	<u>58,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(75,554)</u>	<u>64,041</u>

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	267,409	-	267,409	266,470	-	266,470
Current assets/(liabilities)	194,694	64,041	258,735	131,856	146,971	278,827
	<u>462,103</u>	<u>64,041</u>	<u>526,144</u>	<u>398,326</u>	<u>146,971</u>	<u>545,297</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).