

Registered Charity number: NIC 103806
HMRC number: XR67448

The South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Trustees' report

for the year ended 31 December 2022

South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 103806 (HMRC Ref: XR67448)

Business address 1 Irwin Crescent
Lurgan
County Armagh
BT66 7EZ

Trustees Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster – Chairperson
Mr Noel Boyd
Ven. Elizabeth Cairns
Rev. Dorothy Dunwoody
Mrs Judith Finch
Mrs Ali Hutchinson
Rev. Peter Jones
Rev. Mark Lennox

Rev. Stephen McElhinney – Mission Director
Mrs Gillian Lynn – Administrator
Miss Claire Homes – Mission Development Officer
Miss Julie Allen – Administrator (from August 2022)

Accountants Daly Park & Company Ltd
4 Carnegie Street
Lurgan
County Armagh
BT66 6AS

Bankers Ulster Bank
14-16 Market Street
Lurgan
Co Armagh
BT66 6AP

South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and the Trustees' Report under the Charities SORP in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities : Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page one.

Structure, governance and management

SAMS (Ireland) is an unincorporated charity governed by its constitution. The charity works with the church in South America and in fellowship with the 'CMS international network' (formerly the SAMS International network) of Anglican Mission Agencies. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 28th October 2015.

Structure

The General Council are elected triennially at the AGM of the Society. 2022 was not a triennial year when elections were held. All members must retire after their three- year appointment but are eligible for re-election at this time. The Council is elected by the members of the charity. Membership is open to all those who are members of the Church of Ireland on the condition that they have made a contribution to the charity during the previous calendar year. The charity is under the control of the General Council. The General Council meet at least twice per year.

Purpose, objectives, activities and values

Our Purpose and Vision: The great commission fulfilled in South America

Our Mission: The charity's main activities focus on the proclamation of the Gospel and the building up of Christian Churches throughout the world but primarily in South America.

Objectives and activities: The South American Mission Society (Ireland) is a community of people in mission obeying the call of God, to proclaim the call of God, to proclaim the gospel in all places and to draw peoples into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The charity is also sometimes known as SAMS (Ireland) or SAMS.

Our Value: In relationship to God, His word and the human family, the charity always aspires to hold to the values of:

Biblical mission

A family led by the Spirit

Engaging

Empowering

Kingdom principles

Excellence in all things

Public Benefit

SAMS Ireland believes that the Christian faith is of benefit to society and individuals bringing a vision of transformation for peace and social harmony which grows from what Christians believe is God's ultimate purpose to bring all things into unity and perfection in Jesus Christ. Most people are likely to become disciples of Jesus Christ if Christians "live a Christ-like life amongst them, share the good news of Jesus, demonstrate God's love and prayerfully expect the spirit's power to transform individuals, communities and whole Nations". SAMS Ireland seeks to demonstrate this benefit through its mission activities in South America, Iberia, all of Ireland and Great Britain.

South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performance

This report will help outline some of the specific moments that SAMS Ireland as an organisation can be extremely thankful to God for during 2022. The work of SAMS Ireland continues despite the difficulties of recent years. We thank God that during this year, life was able to return to some sort of normality following the pandemic. With the restrictions lifted on air travel, more meaningful face-to-face relationships were able to be enacted once again. Building on the work begun by Alan Gardner in the 1850s, SAMS Ireland seeks to partner with the local church in many dioceses of the Southern Cone of South America. Partnerships have developed based on the gospel of Jesus Christ which seek to show His love in personal and practical ways.

One of the standout moments of 2022, was an event called 'Kingdom Voices.' In partnership with CMS Ireland, a week-long event was organised which allowed the attendance of 18 bishops and their partners from nations in South America, Africa and Nepal. This event followed the larger bishops gathering at Lambeth (Kent) during the month of August '22. Local N. Irish churches welcomed the overseas church partners who were able to encourage church members in world mission. The week's events culminated in a special event in St. Annes Cathedral, Belfast, where over 450 people attended to hear stories of service, church planting and reaching out in the name of Christ. One attendee to the event made the comment- "this event has put the spark back into world mission for me!"

New relationships were formed between churches in Ireland and overseas bishops, as well as older friendships being rekindled. What was lacking in the last two years since Covid, was dramatically overturned in a relatively short space of time. As a society, we look forward to building on these new relationships. We are very thankful to see new partnerships beginning to form as communication and friendship develop in this important two-way process. To facilitate this, we recognise that travel to South America needs to recommence. However, due to difficulties of fuel prices and the knock-on effect to aviation travel, it has not yet been possible for church groups to commence travel to South America at present. This remains a priority for the future plans of church engagement.

Monitoring of projects that are overseen by the society was able to recommence during this year. Travel by the mission director and mission development officer meant that local partners were encouraged to continue in their strategic collaborative project work. A new initiative by the Anglican church in North Argentina, welcomed members of the indigenous church from neighbouring countries. A conference looked at issues of mission contextualised from the vantage point of the indigenous church. With greatly reduced numbers of overseas mission partners present in these areas, small local churches continue to seek encouragement from each other in efforts to remain faithful to the call of the gospel.

Holistic ministry needs are being met in such places like the far north of Argentina. Alec Deane and the garden project continue to meet the basic needs of freshwater and horticultural techniques to provide nutritious food for communities in these often forgotten rural isolated areas. Clean water and the ability to learn new techniques in growing vegetables, has provided increased self-esteem in these small communities.

Even in the isolated areas of South America, the mobile phone is never far away. Mission partnership must look at providing assistance in the utilisation of this technology with local churches. We continue to seek ways of partnering with the local church to access and build on these new means of modern communication.

Collaboration continues to drive many new partnership initiatives. Travel has really helped facilitate the ongoing work within this area. Many fruitful conversations have planted the seed for future partnership developments. We pray that progress will be made with the provision of skilled personnel. The development of trust is key in this regard, and a highly prized outcome. This year, safeguarding was an example of an ongoing partnership initiative.

In response to local requests over many years, SAMS Ireland has this year once again offered theological training grants. These grants have been provided mostly to those in full-time education training to assist those in preparation for church leadership. And future objectives would be to look at ways in which discipleship can be enhanced, building on such things which will strengthen and deepen a mature understanding of effective Christian leadership.

We are deeply grateful for those who serve on General Council (trustees), and have served, in a voluntary capacity giving their time, wisdom and energy in the cause of mission. Our Chairperson, Bishop Andrew Forster, continues to chair the SAMS Council meetings with skill and wisdom. Mission Director, Rev Stephen McElhinney continues in his role. As SAMS Administrative and Communications Coordinator, Mrs Gillian Lynn took maternity leave later in the year. We are grateful for the services of Julie Allen who has assisted during this maternity cover. Both staff and Council are thankful for Mr Phil Tadmán who provides valuable and diligent oversight of the finances of SAMS Ireland. Billy Blair and his wife Laura continue to open their hearts and home to SAMS volunteers from South America. The annual Friday Night Live event at the beginning of February was this year held in person for the first time following the pandemic. A live 'Video Premier' enabled viewing participation from South American partners. The event is a useful source of information and an evening of inspiration too many SAMS supporters. SAMS Ireland has an intergenerational feel to it with a strong support base in many local churches and generous praying individual supporters. Finally, to all who have served and who are serving in the SAMS Ireland family we say a very sincere thank you.

South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Financial review

Although the charity's funds decreased by £42,253 during 2022 (2021: an increase of £81,776), this was primarily due to the use of restricted reserves, which were increased significantly in 2021, and the decrease in the value of the investment units in 2022, which we expect to rise again in due course. As can be seen from the annual accounts, total income and expenditure were both less in 2022 than in 2021. However, it was the restricted income that was 40% down, due to the exceptional restricted income in 2021, but the restricted expenditure was greater in 2022 than in 2021. This meant that in 2022 unrestricted fund expenditure only exceeded unrestricted income by £2,027, which was encouraging as 2022 was a challenging financial year for many supporters of charities. As you will see from the accounts, we give thanks that the work of the charity did not have to be held back during 2022 due to finance, and as the work of the charity progresses in 2023 we go forward in confidence, aware of our dependence on God, and his people, the church, for the financial provision to enable the charity to fulfil its purpose and mission going forward.

Reserves Policy

The charity operates a reserves policy whereby the trustees aim to hold a minimum of six months of the previous year's expenditure as unrestricted reserves, to ensure the Charity can continue its mission and activities in the event of some unforeseen difficulty. The reserves policy is an integral part of the charity's planning.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Investment decisions are based on low risk/high return and are made with the interests of the charity in mind. The charity sometimes needs to react quickly to particular situations and has a policy of keeping adequate surplus liquid funds in short term deposits, which can be accessed readily. The trustees currently retain £130,000 in the COIF Charities Investment Fund, managed by CCLA Investment managers, the value of which was £172,533 as at 31 December 2022 (2021: £195,229).

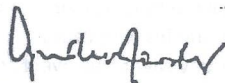
Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

Law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of 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 the Charities SORP (Updated January 2015) has been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law. 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.




On behalf of the board

Andrew Forster

Trustee

Date: 22 May 2023



Mark Lennox

Trustee