

Registered Charity number: NIC 103806  
HMRC number: XR67448

**The South American Mission Society (Ireland)**  
**Trustees' report and financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **South American Mission Society (Ireland)**

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## **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**

Mr Noel Boyd  
Ven. Elizabeth Cairns  
Rev. Dorothy Dunwoody  
Mrs Judith Finch  
Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster – Chairperson to September 23  
Mrs Helen Groves (from September 2023)  
Rev. Graham Hare (from September 2023)  
Mrs Alison Hutchinson  
Rev. Peter Jones – Chairperson from September 2023  
Rev. Mark Lennox

Rev. Stephen McElhinney – Mission Director  
Mrs Gillian Lynn – Administrator  
Miss Claire Holmes – Mission Development Officer  
Miss Julie Allen – Administrator (to September 2023)

#### **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 2023**

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 2023**

#### **Introduction**

The following report provides an overview of the achievements and performance of the South American Mission Society Ireland during the year 2023. Throughout the year, SAMS Ireland continued its mission to work in partnership with the local church in Ireland and various countries in South America, particularly in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Peru. The society remains committed to fostering meaningful relationships, facilitating mutual support, and advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ through practical endeavours.

#### **Achievements and performance**

1. Annual conference Friday Night Live Relocation: The relocation of the Friday Night Live event to Annaghmore Parish provided an opportunity for enhanced collaboration and fellowship. The event, themed "Enlarge and Expand," was well-received and strengthened ties to mission in South America as well as welcoming several Chilean clergy.
2. Mission Director Visits: The Mission Director's visits to Peru, Bolivia, and Chile in February and March marked the reestablishment of vital links following disruptions caused by the pandemic. Face-to-face interactions emphasised the importance of personal relationships in gospel mission.
3. FUSION Volunteer Program: SAMS bid farewell to a valued volunteer from Paraguay who was based in Sligo while welcoming a new volunteer from Chile who has been volunteering in Lisburn (Connor Diocese). These connections serve as a bridge between Church of Ireland parishes and overseas churches, fostering mutual understanding and support.
4. Tribute to Retired Treasurer: In March, the funeral of retired Southern Treasurer Felix Blennerhassett served as a poignant reminder of the dedication, faithfulness and sacrifices made by volunteers in furthering the society's mission.
5. Indigenous Church Network: The Mission Development Officer's (MDO) contribution to the formation of an Indigenous Church Network in South America via Zoom underscored SAMS's commitment to empowering local communities.
6. Sunday School Resource Development: SAMS MDO collaborated with Penny de Marces in Peru to develop Spanish Sunday school resources, enriching educational opportunities for church communities.
7. Church Meetings in Ireland: SAMS representatives traveled to various church meetings in Ireland, offering encouragement and support to local congregations engaged in mission activities.
8. Membership in Association of Mission Societies: SAMS demonstrated its commitment to the wider church by maintaining involvement in the Association of Mission Societies (AMS), participating in events such as the Church of Ireland General Synod in Wexford.
9. Diocesan Links: SAMS Helped to facilitate the development of new diocesan links between Santiago Diocese, Chile, and Down and Dromore Diocese, here in Ireland, fostering mutual learning and collaboration.

We are deeply grateful for those who serve on General Council (trustees), in a voluntary capacity giving their time, wisdom and energy in the cause of mission. Bishop Andrew Forster, who continues as a trustee, retired as chair of the SAMS Council and was succeeded by Rev Peter Jones in mid 2023. Mission Director, Rev Stephen McElhinney continues in his role. As SAMS Administrative and Communications Coordinator, Mrs Gillian Lynn returned from maternity leave in August 2023. We were grateful for the services of Julie Allen who has assisted during the maternity period. Both staff and Council are thankful for Mr Phil Tadman 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. 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 2023

#### Financial review

The charity's funds increased by £31,704 during 2023 following a decrease of £42,253 during 2022. This was primarily due to the increase of restricted funds in 2023 and the increase in the value of the investment units by £16,120 during 2023, following the decrease in value of £22,696 experienced in 2022. As can be seen from the annual accounts, total income and expenditure were both less in 2023 than in 2022. However, the restricted income was 17% up, but the restricted expenditure was down by 44% compared to 2022 for various reasons. This meant that in 2023 there was net unrestricted fund expenditure of £15,976 and net restricted income of £31,560, excluding the unrealised gain on the value of the investment units. The gain on the value of the investments exceeded the net unrestricted fund expenditure by £144, which was an encouraging endorsement of expenditure commitments in 2023. As you will see from the accounts, we give thanks that the work of the charity was not restricted by financial provision during 2023. As we look ahead and give thanks, we go forward 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.

#### 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 £188,653 at 31 December 2023 (2022: £172,533).

#### 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  
Peter Jones  
Trustee



Mark Lennox  
Trustee