

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 2024

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 Rosie Diffin Rev. Dorothy Dunwoody Mrs Judith Finch (to September 2024) Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster Mrs Helen Groves Rev. Graham Hare Mrs Alison Hutchinson Rev. Peter Jones – Chairperson Rev. Mark Lennox Rev John White Rev. Stephen McElhinney – Mission Director (to September 2024) Mrs Gillian Lynn – Administrator Miss Claire Holmes – Mission Development Officer
Accountants	Daly Park & Company Ltd 4 Carnegie Street Lurgan County Armagh BT66 6AS
Bankers	Ulster Bank Belfast City Office 1 PO Box 232 11-16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB

South American Mission Society (Ireland)

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 2024

Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the achievements and performance of the South American Mission Society Ireland during the year 2024. 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: The location of the Friday Night Live event again held in Annaghmore Parish provided an opportunity for enhanced collaboration and fellowship. The event, themed "Rooted: Standing Firm, Spreading Hope," was well-received and strengthened ties to mission in South America.
2. Mission Director Visits: The Mission Director's visit to Peru in June as part of a small group of church leaders helped to strengthen links with the Peruvian church and also to encourage the local church through a series of seminars for church leaders. 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 Chile who was based in Lisburn while welcoming 2 new volunteers from Chile. One has been volunteering in Lisburn (Connor Diocese) and the other in The HUB Chaplaincy at Queen's University, Belfast. These connections serve as a bridge between Church of Ireland parishes and overseas churches, fostering mutual understanding and support.
4. Prayer Pockets Launch: The Mission Development Officer (MDO) launched the new initiative in 2 areas, Saintfield and Ballymoney. This has been encouraging as people in the areas gather to specifically pray for projects in South America.
5. Mission Breakfast October: The first SAMS Ireland Mission Breakfast was held in the T3 Centre at Vic-Ryn in Lisburn. It was encouraging to hear from the Fusion volunteers and about Melissa Newell's ministry in Ecuador and welcome supporters at this intimate setting.
6. Church Meetings in Ireland: SAMS representatives traveled to various church meetings in Ireland, offering encouragement and support to local congregations engaged in mission activities.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. SAMS Ireland Partner in Mission: We were delighted to have Melissa Newell come on board as a SAMS Ireland Partner in Mission where she is based in Misahualli, Ecuador.

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. Mission Director, Rev Stephen McElhinney stepped down from his role in September 2024 after 6 years. We are very appreciative of Stephen and all that he has achieved in his time as SAMS Ireland Mission Director. We are thankful for Mrs Gillian Lynn who continued her role as Administrative and Communications Coordinator and Miss Claire Holmes who continued as the Mission Development Officer. 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 2024

Financial review

The charity's funds increased by £93,370 during 2024 following an increase of £31,704 during 2023. This was primarily due to an increase of restricted funds in 2024 and the increase in the value of the investment units by £4,262 during 2024, following the increase in value of £16,120 experienced in 2023. As can be seen from the annual accounts, total income and expenditure were both more in 2024 than in 2023. The restricted income was £108,520 more in 2024 compared to 2023, mainly due to legacy income. The restricted expenditure was also up by £34,600 (72%) compared to 2023.

This meant that in 2024 there was net unrestricted fund expenditure of £12,772 (2023: net unrestricted income £144) and net restricted income in 2024 of £106,142 (2023 net restricted income £31,560) including the gain in the value of the investment units. As you will see from the accounts, the work of the charity was not restricted by a lack of financial provision during 2024. As we look ahead, 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 needs 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 £192,915 on 31 December 2024 (2023: £188,653).

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