



**The English  
Province of the  
Union of the  
Sisters of the  
Presentation  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary  
Charitable Trust**

**Annual Report and Accounts**

31 March 2022

Charity Registration Number  
327357

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## Reference and administrative information

<b>Trustees</b>	Sister Bernadette Healy Sister Anne Marie Buckley Sister Eleanor O’Gorman Sister Angela Murphy Sister Eileen Keating Sister Mary Deane
	The Trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011.
<b>Province Team Leader</b>	Sister Eileen Keating
<b>Province Bursar</b>	Sister Eleanor O’Gorman
<b>Administrative address</b>	The Lodge Chesterfield Road Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3FT
<b>Charity registration number</b>	327357
<b>Auditor</b>	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
<b>Investment managers</b>	Rathbone Investment Management Limited 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ
<b>Principal bankers</b>	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc St Ann Street Manchester M60 2SS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court Upper Borough Walls Bath BA1 1RG

The Trustees present the statutory report and the accounts of the English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 66 to 71 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, 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 to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

### **Introduction**

The Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Congregation) is an International Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Ireland in 1775, where its Generalate is still located. It is divided into several Provinces throughout the world. In the Union there are approximately 991 sisters.



The English Unit has a special relationship with the Irish Provinces. Our collaboration set up, in 2017, a Justice Desk with three sisters who are the co-ordinators for Interprovincial collaboration. These sisters are: Sister Jacinta McKillion of the English Unit, Sister Helen Lenehan of the North-East Irish Unit, and Sister Miriam Pollard of the South-West Irish Unit. This requires time and commitment. Brian O'Toole was appointed as the director of the Interprovincial Justice Desk and he is the Justice contact for the three provinces.

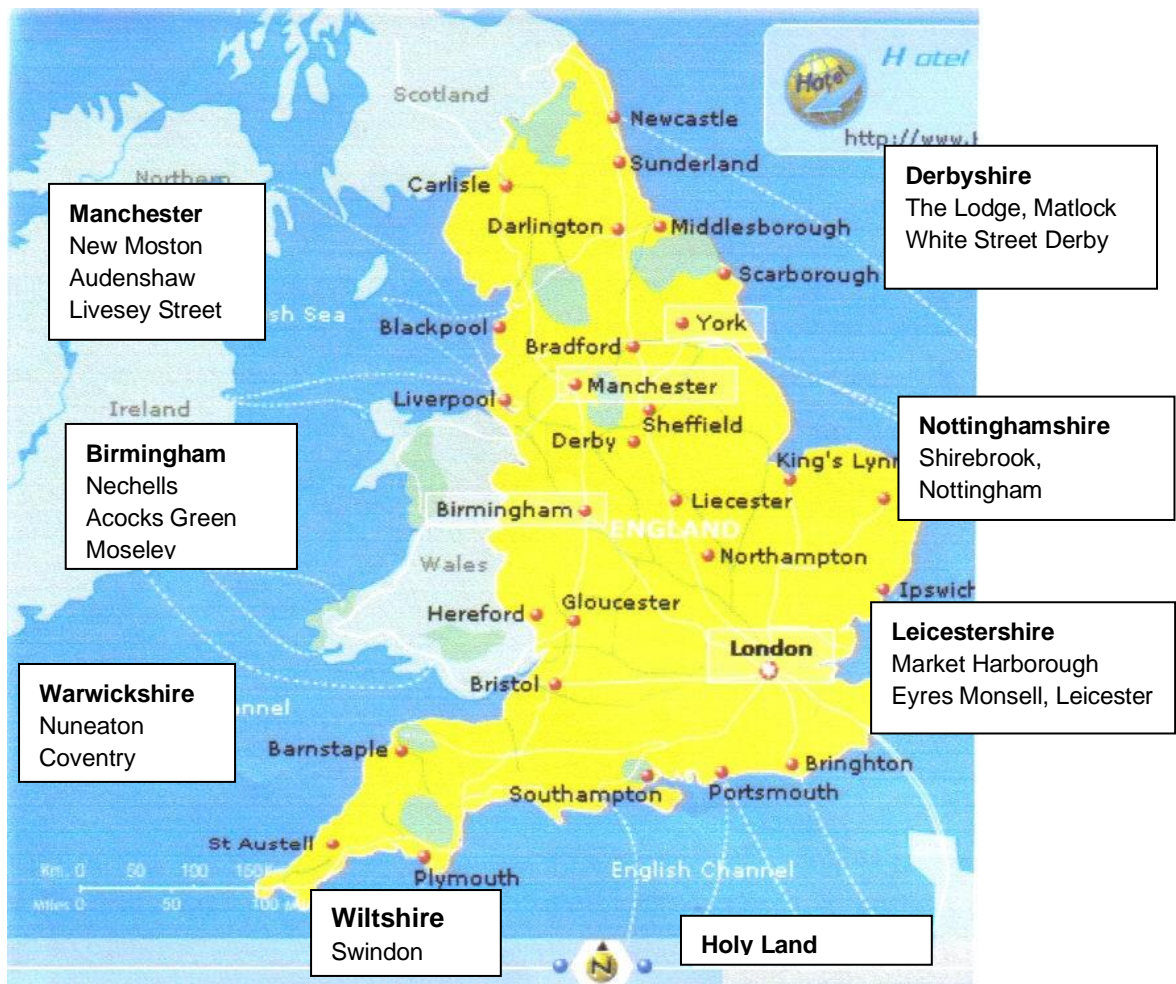
The Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is also affiliated to the International Presentation Association (IPA), which is a network of 14 Presentation Congregations in 22 countries, across the globe. Together there are some 2,200 Presentation Sisters throughout the world. Every five years representatives from the English Province attend an International Presentation Gathering.

**Introduction** (continued)

At 31 March 2022, the English Unit comprised 59 sisters who live in 16 communities and three single living sisters. Below is a map showing the location of each community. All of our sisters have given most of their working lives to the charitable activities of the Congregation both in England and abroad. The average age of the membership has increased. There has been no increase in membership.

The Community Houses are for the most part located in those areas of towns or cities where it is believed that the sisters can provide the most help to the poor and marginalised. Many of our houses were founded in order to minister in these areas and the sisters still give valuable service to the people of their area.

Below is a map showing the location of each community.



In 1836, the Presentation Sisters went one step beyond when they began their ministry in England.

In 2013, the Presentation Sisters went one step further and began their ministry in the Holy Land.

On 1 July 2018 the English Unit was expanded further to include the community in the Holy Land. As the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) wrote in their letter of 16 April:

**Introduction** (continued)

*This decision followed the recent evaluation of the mission in the Holy Land and consultation with the Sisters in England and the Holy Land.*

*It is our continued hope that this decision continues to support and develop the mission in the Holy Land and also grow and strengthen our missionary spirit and the bonds of connectivity between the Sisters in England and the Holy Land.*

The accounts accompanying this report are the accounts of the charity on which the assets of the English Province of the Congregation in the United Kingdom are held and through which its finances operate. The charity is governed by a Trust Deed dated 14 February 1986 and Charity Commission Schemes dated 5 January 1987 and 24 February 1995. It is registered under the Charities Act 2011, Charity Registration No 327357.

**Principal aims**

The aims of the charity are to support the charitable work of the English Unit of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This includes education in its broadest sense and engagement in other charitable works based on the Christian message of “bringing good news to the poor” in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith and traditions as well as the Constitutions and Chapter Documents of the Congregation. We are committed to care for each other and for our earth.

**Mission**

The charity has a continuing commitment to support the work of the sisters of the Unit and the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives. The following are some of the ministries in which the sisters are engaged. All of these ministries benefit members of the general public.

They fall into the following main headings:

*1 Residential and care establishment*

A Care Centre owned by the sisters provides care and nurture for members of the public and sisters of the Congregation who are in need of such care.

*2 Education, social, health and pastoral work*

Sisters in the Unit are engaged in education in schools. Some are also engaged in social and pastoral work as chaplains in schools, prisons, hospitals and to the travelling and gipsy community. The sisters work in parishes with the elderly, vulnerable women and children and with travellers and refugees.

Sisters also work in advisory roles in religious education, youth programmes and are also engaged in spiritual direction, counselling and therapeutic practice.

*3 Overseas support*

Members of the Unit support the work of our sisters abroad, especially in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Thailand and India.

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year, and when encouraging the work of individual sisters, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

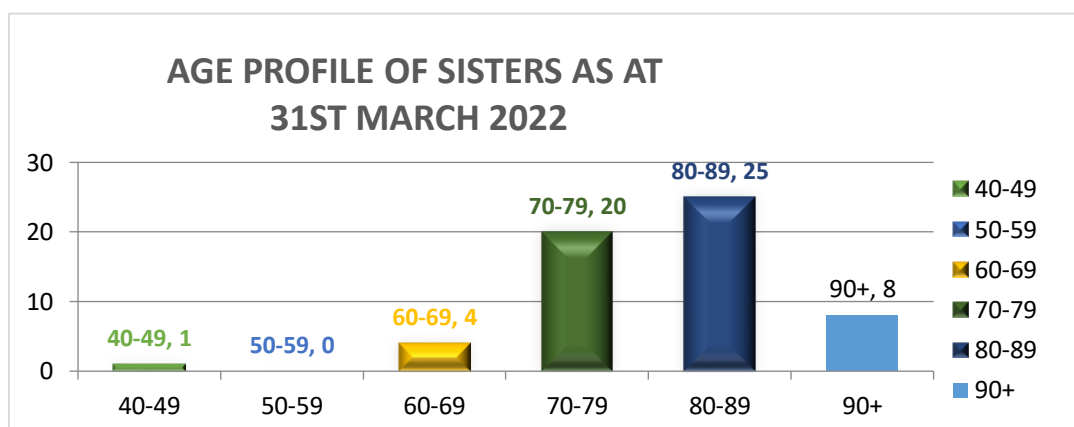
As stated above under "Mission", the activities of the charity can be divided into caring for members including older and frail sisters and three other principal areas:

- 1 Owning and operating of a residential and care establishment
- 2 Education, social, health, spiritual and pastoral work
- 3 Overseas aid and assistance

### Care of members

As with other Congregations, the age profile of the members is increasing as existing members grow older and there have been no new vocations in the last 29 years. The age profile is shown below.

The Congregation has an obligation, both moral and legal, to provide care for its members, none of whom have resources of their own and all of whom have devoted a significant part of their lives to the care of others who have been in need – both in this country and abroad. As the age profile of the Unit increases so too does the need to provide increasingly expensive care for the sisters.



We foresee that the number of sisters needing nursing/residential care will increase over the next decade.

The Trustees are giving careful consideration to the impact this will have on the Unit re:

- ◆ The work of individual members.
- ◆ The property requirements of the Unit.
- ◆ The financial implications for the Unit.

The aims of the Trustees in the forthcoming years include:

- ◆ Ensuring all members of the Unit receive the appropriate and good quality care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly expect.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Care of members (continued)***

- ◆ Reviewing the charity's properties and their location in order to assess the needs of our sisters living in our community houses.

***Operation of a residential and care establishment***

The following is the report from the Chairman of the Care Centre Management Board.



Steve Taylor Chairman with Mrs Julie Lowe – members of the Board of Management of the Care Centre.

**Background:**

The charity owns and operates a nursing and residential Care Centre for vulnerable elderly adults at its site in Matlock, and is registered with Care Quality Commission (CQC) for 36 residents.

The philosophy of the Care Centre, as stated in its Mission Statement, is: 'To strive to respect the individuality, dignity and need for privacy of each person and to encourage freedom of choice in daily living. Placing the person at the heart of their care, we work continually in partnership with them, their family, friends and associates as well as our healthcare professionals to achieve this.'

As the Care Centre is owned and operated by the Presentation Sisters, its ethos is Catholic. However, we have a strong belief in equal opportunities and inclusivity and warmly welcome people from other denominations who are happy to share the life of the Centre.

Throughout the year, the charity continued to assist members of the Province in their charitable and religious work. Currently five members are cared for in the charity's Care Centre whilst other members were enabled to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry.

Due to a second year of restrictions imposed through the prolonged coronavirus pandemic, the Province was only able to re-form its much anticipated and welcomed Chaplaincy Team in March 2022, led by sisters: Anne-Marie, Mary, Magdalene and Eileen, all of the Matlock community.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Operation of a residential and care establishment (continued)***

The team is now spending valuable time with the residents each week, supporting and running alongside the efforts of the activities team and volunteers. This great re-introduction to the service reflects the charism of the Presentation Sisters.

In addition to the re-introduction of the chaplaincy team, sisters have visited residents following strict infection prevention control measures which has re-ignited a supportive joint community between the care centre and Matlock community.

***Facilities and Services***

The Care Centre provides long-term residential and nursing care for the elderly in 36 bedrooms. Each room has TV, wash basin facilities and all are linked to the Nurse Call system; one room is also en-suite. All areas of the home are accessible by lift/stairs. Residents are encouraged to use the sitting rooms/dining areas throughout the Care Centre, as well as our beautiful outdoor space and we continue to ensure that the Care Centre remains of a high decorative standard.

During the second pandemic year reported, the care centre has benefitted from an infection control grant and has been able to use these funds to create more capacity for safe visiting, by increasing and replacing decking, creating a canopy off the recent summerhouse acquisition and for the benefit of our resident's enjoyment an external stage off the decking to



host entertainment. The care centre continues to invest in the environment – in particular the garden, adding sensory stimulation along with plants and shrubs

which attract the wildlife and bees for the well-being of

the residents as well as doing our bit for the planet!



**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Operation of a residential and care establishment (continued)***

***Facilities and Services (continued)***



The chapel that the residents had availed of, has been off limits during the covid pandemic, but the extensive gardens have been maximised to their full potential during this period by our residents and safe visiting for the families:



**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Operation of a residential and care establishment (continued)***

*Facilities and Services (continued)*

One of the Care Centre's primary objectives, alongside first-class care, is to make the lives of its residents as meaningful and purposeful as is possible and provide this focus through a blended programme of both group and individual activities. Song and entertainment focus heavily on the core activities of the Care Centre.

The Care Centre has continued to work hard this year at 'making its own entertainment' as well as dipping its toe back in the water with the much-awaited return of external entertainers as well as pet therapy in many guises: dogs, cats, guinea pigs and even a visit from a Shetland pony.



*Continuing financial pressures*

We are still working towards increasing the bed registration from 36 to 41 which has been hampered by the pandemic, in particular occupancy rates. However, work resumed during this year with a view to be able to offer additional beds during the latter part of 2022.

*Care Centre Management Board*

The Trustees, via the Care Centre Management Board they have established, aim to ensure the Care Centre meets the required standards and legal requirements and strives to improve.

The Management Board meets four times per year and supervises the operation of the Care Centre by: setting budgets, agreeing an annual business plan, receiving monthly reports from the Care Centre Manager, considering reports from the monthly providers' visits and general business supervision to give direction and compliance.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

***Operation of a residential and care establishment*** (continued)

*Care Centre Management Board* (continued)

Usual monthly visits normally undertaken on behalf of the charity as proved by the Chairman Mr Steve Taylor and Mrs Julie Lowe, a retired nurse and member of the Board, have been sporadic due to COVID restrictions for the second year running. Under normal circumstances, they select an area of the Care Centre each month to visit and check on the environment, care provided etc. They talk to staff, residents and relatives and inspect various paperwork, such as care plans, compliance records etc. These are reported at the quarterly management board meetings and action is taken on any points raised.

The Care Centre has regular pharmacy inspections, and the Lead Nurse undertakes her own regular clinical and medication audits - corrective action being taken as a result of any findings. The contracting authorities (Social Services and NHS) who normally visit the Care Centre to monitor the contracts we have with them have also been absent due to the pandemic. They do however have regular contact with all their Healthcare Professionals through zoom meetings, Microsoft teams and telephone conversations.

Again, this year we have had no complaints about the care and service we provide, and many compliments have been received from relatives, whilst caring and nursing their loved ones through a difficult period.

*Notable activity and achievements for 2021/22*

We continue to control spending as much as possible and the additional grant funding has allowed safe visiting and adequate supply of PPE to ensure that our high standards remain. In the year being reported we continued our redecoration programme around the Care Centre.

*Financial performance 2021/22*

Operating conditions, particularly in relation to local authority fees remain tight but we are intending to maintain our financial performance in the coming year. We are seeking to increase bed numbers and thus employ economies of scale.

Fortunately, The Presentation Sisters Care Centre continues to enjoy an enviable reputation and this means that much care and hard work goes into the service we provide to our residents; our staff and volunteers are to be commended for this. Unfortunately, due to our reputation, we are often unable to provide care for some people who need and prefer the atmosphere and ethos at the Presentation Sisters Care Centre as we are often full and clearly demand for our care continues to grow.

***Education, social, health and pastoral work***

The Sisters continue to carry out various forms of educational, social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual ministries. Some of this continues to happen through letter writing, Microsoft teams and zoom meetings and via telephone as well as face to face. Examples of some of these ministries are given by way of illustration.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Education, social, health and pastoral work (continued)***

Due to age and declining health, of the 59 Sisters, 45 are ministering in various parts of England and 2 in The Holy Land. "Small but beautiful" might describe the numerical size of the Unit. In a country of approximately 57 million people made up of nearly every nation under the sun, we number just 59 sisters – Irish, English, Scottish and Indian. Many sisters have ministered in India, Africa, the Americas and Europe and their experience brings a richness and global feel to the Province. However, the average age of the sisters is 82, and this has had a significant impact, along with the coronavirus on the energy, vibrancy and involvement in ministry which is part of the life of the Province.

The England of today is a society enriched by multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-ethnicity. It has an ageing society – underpinned by the pandemic, causing a crisis in care and in the NHS. In addition, it is a country with 4 million children living in poverty/increased homelessness/drug abuse. It is more divided than ever between rich and poor, north and south, with issues regarding integration of migrants and refugees, and increasing levels of trafficking, homelessness and substance abuse.

In England today, the traditional family unit is no longer the norm and civil partnerships are increasing. There are increasing numbers of young people with mental health issues alongside becoming a country where the majority do not hold religious beliefs; where parishes are closing because of lack of priests/lack of consultation/fewer vocations/clericalism strong in some areas.

It is in this atmosphere that the ministries are carried out in the Unit. Through all forms of contact including social media; prayer, education, pastoral work, health care, social work, prison, catechetics, spirituality and faith development, chaplaincy, counselling, work with travellers, refugees and asylum seekers has been carried out. Through the giftedness of each sister, we try to meet the needs of individuals and society where possible, in the place where we find ourselves.

Our lifestyle tries to facilitate communion with the poor and availability to those in need. Living simply, we challenge materialism, exploitation and injustice and give witness to Christ and his values.

The Matlock building was bought and opened as a Convent in 1927.



**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***Education, social, health and pastoral work (continued)***

The Lodge has seen several changes in its use – from housing Sisters and then Boarders during term time, to the Chaplain, to Sisters, to being rented out and now back to the use of the Sisters.

Sister Eileen Keating is Unit Leader. Born and brought up in Kerry, where she entered the Presentation Sisters, she has ministered in New Zealand and Chile before coming to England. She was Youth Chaplain and



Parish ministry in Corsham and then moved to Holy Family, Sheffield – where she was Canonical Pastor for 27 years, before being elected as Unit Leader of the English Unit in the summer of 2014.

*In August 2021 the Leadership Team completed their term of office.*

*We remember with gratitude Sisters Catherine*

*O'Neill, Janette Brown, Eleanor O'Gorman and Eileen Keating and all the work they accomplished in their role of leadership.*

*A new leadership Team for the Province was appointed by the Congregational Leadership Team - Sisters Eileen Keating (Leader), Eleanor O'Gorman and Mary Deane. The new team took up office on 28 August 2021.*



The Leadership Team have taken part in an induction programme organised by the Congregational Leadership Team, and also team building and strategic planning with Caplor Horizons. Along with the other Trustees, they have participated in training sessions organised by Buzzacott and Stone King.



Leadership Team: Sisters Eileen Keating, Mary Deane and Eleanor O'Gorman.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

***The Heart of Presentation***

Hospitality and Community are at the heart of 'Presentation'. We share our stories, our ministries, our struggles and challenges with each other as well as celebrating with gratitude our journey in life. 'Presentation' is dynamic, being with people as we reach out to make Nano's vision alive in our time and place, following our models Mary and Nano. We listen and respond to God in our lives and journey into the unknown as Mary and Nano did. We aspire to live lives of commitment, dedication, availability and being of service to all, especially to those made poor, so that they become empowered. We give witness by living lives of simplicity, by living the present with passion and by allowing God to love each of us more deeply as we strive to live prophetic missionaries.

The Eucharist is central to our lives. The time we spend in silent prayer in community before the Blessed Sacrament is most helpful and the Presentation Day Novena unites us all powerfully. Growing in a deeper prayer life involves growing in the right relationships. Beginning the challenge of each day anew calls us to a deeper trust in a compassionate and loving God and to share his gifts with all we meet. Strengthened by His presence we can be filled with joy and open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled with Christ and to share the Word of God with others.

With our associates we are growing in our understanding of interconnectedness with creation and all people, striving to create a more just and peaceful world.

Below are examples of the work carried out by our sisters reported to the rest of the Province over the last twelve months:

***April 2021***

***Ministry with Travellers - Sister Bernadette Healy***

I am very aware that goodwill is essential in my ministry but also working with the marginalised and disadvantaged sometimes is not enough, but what is needed is a positive resilience and commitment to promote and defend the dignity of those I work with.



The Travellers are a group which are very often rejected, criticised because of their manner of life, their expressions used and beliefs they have.

They also have honourable values, especially their strong sense of family life and their faith, it is a part of them, part of their makeup. It is in their blood.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

**April 2021 (continued)**

**Ministry with Travellers - Sister Bernadette Healy (continued)**

I see my call as a Chaplain to be with them, to stand alongside them, to be able to identify what they need and help in improving their quality of life. Very often what this needs is to speak on their behalf at local and national level to promote, defend, uphold their inherent dignity and to oppose anything to undermine their dignity because of who they are.

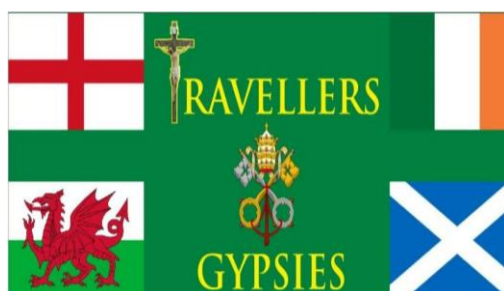
Faith and spreading the faith is important to the Travellers. Many Travellers experience conversion in their faith during early adolescence and often later in life and like to organise prayer groups and Bible study groups and have a desire for the Church to be more open to their needs and requests. Many want to be more involved in preparing their children and young people for the Sacraments. Some now are keen to train as catechists and support their young people in the Sacramental programmes.

I see it as important to listen to the Travellers. Their life is all about the family. They express themselves through Holy Icons in their homes and how they present their home and family. Jesus is at the centre of their life. Today they need to be more encouraged to stand up for their faith and beliefs. Some feel they have no voices or worth because they are very often persecuted. The role of the Chaplain can help to build their confidence and trust to help them see that they have a voice to move forward and how to do it. It gives Traveller's confidence and trust when they know someone is on their side.

Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp gives the Travellers confidence to come forward and explain their issues and how to fix them e.g., Schooling, housing. Some Travellers do not want to go into houses, their land is often taken from them and they are forced to go into a house and do not want it.

Young people now go into mainstream education more and want to keep their identity with confidence and be supported in this.

When I reflect on my ministry the words of Pope Paul VI come to mind that he said to Travellers when he celebrated Mass in a camp in Fromezia in Rome. 'You are at the heart of the Church'. I try to see my ministry each day to keep that statement as a desire and to try to make it a reality in the people I meet each day.



**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**April 2021** (continued)

***Ministry coming out ..... (od lockdown) - Sister Teresa Kennedy***

One of the most difficult things for me during lockdown has been the inability to be involved in ministry hands on, as it were. Yet these long months of virtual solitude and shielding have produced their own riches and blessing – a depth of prayer for ministry- which can only enhance whatever I may be able to do in the future. From the beginning I resolved to be positive, and to see the situation of pandemic and lockdown as allowed by God for some reason. I journeyed each day with thoughts from a book I was given last year “An Ignatian Book of Days” and with these thoughts I think I succeeded in finding God in most things, like Ignatius! I was delighted to learn recently that Nano had good links with the Jesuits too! Calls by phone, emails for help or prayer, individuals ringing the doorbell for a little socially distanced chat, kindnesses offered by folk on the streets around, all took on a new meaning and outreach in that way became a ministry. So many connections were formed that prevented me thankfully, from looking inward! With the easing of lockdown, I have begun seeing individuals on a one to one basis again in the wee space outdoors and I realise that what I share now has a much greater depth and understanding of our human conditions and spiritual journeys. As soon as restrictions allow, I hope to begin small group sessions on Fratelli Tutti (or Social Friendship) from Pope Francis as my effort for Caritas...some folks are already eager to begin! I hope also to revive and house for meetings the Anti Modern Slavery group, which aims to create awareness of what Pope Francis calls “the scourge of our time”

Outreach in prayer and compassion to the world in pain, became a vital part of my daily prayer as I made the Way of the Cross during Lent - Christ in His Suffering Body today. Any discomfort, ache or deprivation I might feel, paled into insignificance in the light of the immense suffering of those in Yemen, Myanmar, or on the Mexican border. Even individuals like Alexei Navalny or Naznene Zachari Ratcliffe, became the focus of my prayer for some days! Didn't Nano wish to reach out to the whole world?

Finally, I feel that there exists for me now a ministry of gratitude. First of all, gratitude that we have all come through this demanding time as more whole people-I hope! Gratitude for the friends from Mickleover who appeared every week to accompany me on a walk, and during these times problems were shared, advice sought and new ways of praying explored. Gratitude for the bouquets of flowers that appeared almost weekly from so many sources- the house has rarely been without. Gratitude to the Sisters, friends and family, who kept in touch often ringing during some lonely moments. Gratitude to my Mercy Sisters friends up the road, who were ever concerned that I was OK. Gratitude for the streamed Masses especially from Chaddesden with Father David, who always left us with an uplifting thought for the day. And last but certainly not least gratitude to the Team both Provincial and Congregational who have steered the Unit with care and concern so wonderfully through the most difficult of times, with many sacrifices which kept our Care Home Covid-free and managed as far as possible to preserve a sense of normality for all of us. I look forward to seeing the 'new' Matlock!

With Paul I say” let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” Col.3: 15-16.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**April 2021** (continued)

*Living Joyfully Event - Sister Mary Deane*

In preparation for Vocations Sunday on 25 April, several religious congregations came together to organise a 3-day online event from 22 – 24 April called 'Living Joyfully', aimed at giving young people an opportunity to meet with religious people from a broad range of religious communities present in England.

We contacted schools offering an opportunity for RE classes or other groups to meet with religious, on 22 and 23 April, to learn something about the different forms of religious life: Apostolic, Enclosed Contemplative, Missionary, Monastic and also the opportunity to ask questions about vocations and religious life.

The idea and planning for this event only began in March which was late notice for schools, especially with the Easter holidays in the middle of it, but it was agreed to give it a go with whoever responded. We had responses from nine secondary schools and between us, we met with 960 students over the two days. Most sessions lasted from 45 minutes to an hour and involved a panel of 4 or 5 religious meetings each group. It was an amazing feat of organisation to get us connected and apart from a few technical hiccups it worked amazingly well.

We met as a group to review this event and the feedback from both schools and the religious involved was generally very positive. Although this does not replace meeting with groups in person, it provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to encounter a diverse group of religious people and to learn something about their lives and stories of vocation. We held another on-line living joyfully school event on 18 June. There is also the opportunity for schools to request similar events as and when it fits in with their curriculum and teaching schedules.

The third day of the living joyfully event (Saturday 24 April) was open to young adults. This was attended by 11 people. Due to other commitments, I was not present at this event but again the sense is that these online meetings will continue for the foreseeable future along with the Vocation Cafes that also take place online every month.

*Celebrating Vocations Week at St Joseph's School Shirebrook – Sister Mary Deane*

Vocations was the word of the week (26- 30 April) and provided an opportunity for the children to reflect on the different vocations and what they may be called to be and do. During the week I was invited into each class to answer questions about vocations. The pupils were well prepared as prior to my visit, Sister Susan had met with all the classes and encouraged them and the staff to ask and write down whatever question they wanted. They each had an opportunity to ask me their question and there were some great ones there! It was very life-giving as well as challenging and just such a delight to witness their enthusiasm and interest as we continue to sow seeds hoping that one day they will grow.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**May 2021**

*World Youth Day Panama : Follow up – Sister Catherine O'Neill*

Yemi Davies is a young person from Nechells, who attended World Youth Day Panama 2019 and as a result was very keen to study Theology. Our Province agreed to sponsor her to study for an MA Degree at Maryvale. She started the course in January and is really excited about her studies. She was received into the Church at Saint Vincent's, Nechells on Easter Sunday. Yemi was a member of the Pentecostal Church before attending World Youth Day 2019.

Yemi writes: "I want to begin by thanking the Presentation Sisters for the most amazing opportunity to study for my MA in Catholic Applied Theology (Marriage and Family) at Maryvale Institute and am thoroughly enjoying my studies.

Dr Stephen Yates, director of the MA programme and my lecturers are phenomenal. They have been supportive and accessible even in the current climate. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the course has in store."

**June 2021**

*Women in Birmingham...Hope Projects and Presentation Sisters - Sister Catherine O'Neill*

Anna (not her real name) was refused Asylum in the UK five years ago. She was a victim of modern-day slavery and feared for her life if she returned to her home country. When a person is refused asylum in the UK, they are expected to return to their home country but many are terrified to return as they fear their lives are in danger. The solicitor who presented Anna's case to the Home Office in the first instance did not include all the evidence.

I have known Anna for eighteen months now as she shares the community house with me here in Nechells. I befriend and support her, mainly by listening and building up her courage and hope again.

When Anna was refused asylum, she was evicted by the Home Office and had nowhere to live. Even though she is a qualified nurse, with a nursing degree, she was not allowed to work being an asylum seeker.

The UK's flawed asylum system leaves vulnerable people street homeless and destitute.

"When your asylum appeal is refused, you are evicted from your house, all your money is stopped and you are not allowed work. You are left street homeless and destitute".

For a number of years Anna was welcomed at a night shelter run by a charity in Coventry, but had to leave every morning at 8.00am and could not return until 8.00pm. She described the humiliation, fear, uncertainty and agonising adjustment to hail, rain and snow over the winter months trying to find warmth, shelter and safety.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

*June 2021 (continued)*

*Women in Birmingham...Hope Projects and Presentation Sisters - Sister Catherine O'Neill (continued)*

A support worker from the night shelter told her about Hope Projects in Birmingham. Aliya, the solicitor from Hope Projects, studied her case and eventually realised she was entitled to asylum. Anna was helped to find a good solicitor who gathered all the evidence, including evidence from police that was withheld before.



Hope Projects have thirteen houses where they “offer a roof over your head, money for food and essentials and the legal advice and representation you need to overturn flawed refusals of asylum, so you can start to live a normal life in safety.” Hope Projects offered Anna accommodation and a little financial support for food and other essentials. Presentation Sisters in Nechells, Birmingham has some space in their house and offered this to Hope Projects to accommodate women whose asylum cases were flawed and who were made destitute.

Eighteen months ago, Anna came to live in the Presentation Sisters House in Nechells. Hope Projects provide a support worker and my role is to listen to and befriend Anna. I have spent much time listening and encouraging her to keep hoping as she waited and waited and waited day by day wondering if a letter with good news would arrive from the Home Office.



To our great joy and delight Anna recently received news that she had been granted asylum. She should have been given this news five years ago but for the injustice and flaws in the system.

Anna and Amanda, her support worker, asked if they could have a party for all the women housed by Hope Projects in our Convent Garden to celebrate Anna's good news. They also invited women who had lived here in the house, but who are now housed by the Home Office while awaiting their appeals. We have given shelter to seven women over the past few years. I stay in touch with these women and continue to befriend them.

We had a wonderful, joyous, celebration with about twenty women sharing the garden, chatting, dancing and reminiscing. They provided very tasty food from India, Eretria and the Congo. What variety!

Rose Ali, who spent a year here in our house pointed up to a bedroom window and said “that was my room.” Sahar said “Yes, that was my room also; it's so good to be back. I love this house and garden.”

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

**June 2021 (continued)**

***Women in Birmingham...Hope Projects and Presentation Sisters - Sister Catherine O'Neill (continued)***

Aliya, the solicitor from Hope Projects joined us also. She knows all the women's sad stories in great detail as she continually advises and helps, especially when they communicate with their solicitors. She can't take all their cases but is continually giving advice.



I asked about an elderly woman from Eritria whom everyone knows as Mama. She has a sad, sad story and for three years now has been housed by Hope Projects. She has been in this country much longer but now, with Aliya's help, hopefully will get asylum. Mama really enjoyed the garden party and led the dancing and singing. She has hit the "hostile environment" at its most raw but yet for a short time at the party could sing and dance and forget as did the other very vulnerable women.

Through collaborating with Hope Projects, we Presentation Sisters are offering life, friendship and protection to women who have experienced unbelievable violence and cruelty.



*Nano, "You kindled fire on homely hearths, small sparks of hope against the dark." May we like you "seize the time and run with it so all the broken will leap with joy".*

**July 2021**

***NANO NAGLE PLACE COMMITTEE...first impressions, reminiscences, and appreciation! - Sister Teresa Kennedy***

In July I had my first experience of the NNP committee and AGM, and what a revelation that was! Although we had copious papers, reports and a detailed agenda to browse through beforehand, I was totally unprepared for all that I came to see involved in the amazing project that is unfolding now as Nano Nagle Place.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**July 2021**

***NANO NAGLE PLACE COMMITTEE...first impressions, reminiscences, and appreciation! - Sister Teresa Kennedy (continued)***

In the late 60's I spent four years in what was then a thriving and alive South Presentation Convent, and my HDip year teaching in the huge school that drew pupils then from all over Cork. In the years that followed both convent and school declined and when I visited in 2012 to do a little personal research on Nano, I found little more than a damp and unused set of buildings. What a joy it was then to hear from various committee reports the wonderful things that have come about and are continuing to come to life in that revered place.

***“Nano Nagle Place will celebrate and bring alive Nano Nagle's educational, community inclusion and spiritual vision for a contemporary world”***

Truly the mission is in very safe hands and I feel privileged to have a tiny part in that ongoing development.

Reflecting during the meetings and since, many aspects come to mind and I will mention just a few. It seems to me first of all, that this project is driven forward by an extremely good, dedicated, and experienced **staff** led by a very able CEO and chairman. It is obvious that they have 'excellence' in mind in every case. Their interest and selflessness were apparent. Sister Julie rightly acknowledged this in her words to them concluding the meeting.

Under the direction of this staff a tremendous **number of programmes** and **ministries** are taking place catering for almost every aspect of life socially and spiritually especially to those on the margins who look to society for justice and acceptance, here I think especially of the Migrant Centre, Men's Group and Lantern Project. On a lighter note, there is the "The Fairy Tale of Nano Nagle's performance for schools, "The South Pres 250 Exhibition" and Nano's Walk. The establishment of a community of Sisters to carry out a spiritual ministry is one of the latest additions and will no doubt be a spiritual gift to many in the days to come especially as work is being envisaged to have webcams around the Tomb and graveyard from which prayer services can be relayed.

Then there are the **educational and cultural projects**, where hundreds have been touched with visits from schools before lockdown and through virtual means more recently. Lifelong learning projects and experienced based learning also have a place and an anti-race module has been prepared for schools. NNP would appear to have embraced digitality and virtual working to a very high standard and more is in the pipeline.

I was amazed by the **number of awards** that have been received for various aspects of what is being offered saying something of the quality of ministry exercised, the latest being the Failte Ireland Covid 19 Safety Charter. In the heritage category NNP is among the top 10% in the world according to TripAdvisor!! Some achievement!

Added to all of this **conservation work** has been taking place during lockdown to restore and rebuild with Nano's Tomb, the Graveyard and Convent Garden all in mind for new signage, lighting and interpretation so that these spaces can become **sacred sites** of spiritual reflection, healing and wellbeing in the centre of Cork city, much as they were to us in the 60's.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

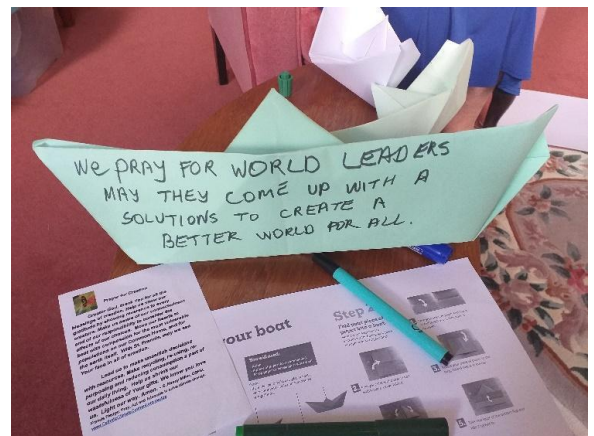
**July 2021**

**NANO NAGLE PLACE COMMITTEE...first impressions, reminiscences, and appreciation! - Sister Teresa Kennedy (continued)**

I feel Nano would be so proud of the good being done today in all the areas she herself deemed important and we also can feel rightly proud that her heritage and ours is so wonderfully preserved!

**September 2021**

**Environment Crisis : Cop 26 in Glasgow - Sister Margaret McCarthy**



The big meeting about the environmental crisis- Cop 26 in Glasgow - in November seems remote from our everyday lives and we can feel helpless about doing something for such a huge issue and making our voices heard.

Through prayer miracles can happen and the idea of the little boat sent out to us from Christian Aid asking us to make a model and write a prayer on our boat concerning all the needs that our world today has to face and only prayer can solve.

Here in Matlock, we have in such a simple way, made the effort to do three things to make our presence felt at Cop 26. We made lots of boats, we signed the petition on email and sent a letter to our local MP. All requesting for something to be done to save our planet.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**September 2021** (continued)

*A Home for all - Sister Jacinta*

On Saturday 25 September we celebrated our Season of Creation gathering - prepared by Associate Core Group and JPIC commission under the theme of: A Home for all.

We were pleased to welcome Sister Terry and Associates from the garden of Oneness in Zambia who opened our session with song and dance.

Through their creative ritual the associates reminded us that we are all one, responsible for each other and our common home.

They gifted us with their graciousness and presence and reminded us of how we have polluted the soil, trees, water and air. It was a wonderful opening to our morning especially for us here in the English Province with the links we have to the African Province. We were able to see in pictures the development of the Garden of Oneness and how it is the centre of the community. Our thanks to Sister Terry for enabling this opening to our celebration.

Our second session took the form of an interview with a young Asylum seeker and a worker from **the Stories of Hope and Home Project** in Birmingham. This project empowers refugees and asylum seekers to share their stories and we heard of the difficulties and stresses to families and children who seek shelter in the UK. In spite of these problems Angel was able to complete her studies and is looking forward to further studies when she hopes to work as an environmentalist. When asked what people could do to help Angel asked for prayers for her family and all asylum seekers. Her words and personality made a deep impression all.

As part of our renewed commitment to care for creation, we are invited to reflect on our responsibility to care for the world that God has made. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls on us all to make simple daily gestures to care for the world's poorest people, for future generations and for the earth, our common home. In the final part of our day on Saturday Brian O'Toole from the Justice Desk gave us the opportunity to do just that.

Three tasks were put before us which we were invited to attend before COP 26 in November. These were –

1. Signing the Catholic Petition - Healthy Planet Healthy People,
2. Writing to our MPs
3. Sending a prayer boat as recommended by Christian Aid.

All information about these actions has been sent to sisters and communities.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

**September 2021 (continued)**

*A Home for all - Sister Jacinta (continued)*

*We are calling on our leaders to put plans in place to rebuild a fairer, more just society after the coronavirus crisis, so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and to restore our common home for future generations.*

*Let us recognize this time as 'sacred time'...*

*In memory of Nano and all those on whose shoulders we stand, let us pray that we too may have the courage and fidelity to respond to the needs of our world today...*

**October 2021**

*Season of Creation - Sister Mary Deane and Sister Susan Richert*

In this Season of Creation, we are encouraged to do or take something on that will help our planet....

*Buckfast Bees at home with the Presentation Sisters in St. Joseph's, Langwith Junction*

In our efforts to care more for our earth, we decided to invest in a beehive. Our next-door neighbours, Julia and Eric, were a great help – they had a hive of bees AND a spare hive. Her son, Daniel and his wife are bee keepers and so our adventure started.



In late June, the hive was placed in an alcove in the church cemetery beside our house. Daniel took himself off to collect a swarm of bees from Buckfast. He had suggested these bees because they are gentle and had been bred as far back as 1919 (at Buckfast) so that they are more acclimatised to England. We were also conscious of the school children being next door and their playing field being on the other side of the hedge.



The bees arrived and were put in the hive but unfortunately some had died on the way and the others were struggling.

Daniel, the beekeeper, got back onto Buckfast – they needed to know in case there was a problem being bred in the bees. Another swarm was brought up and housed in the hive. These are thriving.

We have planted bee-friendly bushes and flowers in our garden and in the graveyard.

It is amazing to see them working in our garden and queueing to get into the hive to take back their nectar.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

**October 2021 (continued)**

*Season of Creation – Sister Mary Deane and Sister Susan Richert (continued)*

As a side line – they are doing a great job pollinating our flowers and bushes.

We are now collecting our empty jam-jars ready for the honey.

From cathedrals to candles, from vestments to the Easter Vigil Exultant, the church honours, depicts, and implements honeybees into its representation of life offered for others. Common words, like the “cell” in a monastery, derive from the cells of a hive. It’s a group of celibate worker bees, supporting one another for the survival of the whole. The high altar in St. Peter’s Basilica is covered in bees. St. John Chrysostom once shared in a homily:



*“The bee is more honoured than other animals, not because it labours, but because it works for others.”*

Martin Marklin took up beekeeping as a side line to his main business producing thousands of hand carved liturgical candles each year at the Marklin Candle workshop in Contocook, New Hampshire. Beekeeping became its own vocation, however, and the more Marklin learned about the life of bees, the more he saw the ways in which the beehive reflects the early church.

Martin has a 5-minute video in which he parallels the bees and us as Church. It’s called **Be the Bee** - <https://youtu.be/ZxDesicz62g>



In the light of seeing the video, reflect on the following questions –

Martin Marklin says he became interested in beekeeping when he realised he “had no idea how the bees did what they did.” What aspects of your work are you curious about? How might exploring those areas open up your imagination? Is there any anxiety you need to overcome to do this?

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)**

**October 2021 (continued)**

*Season of Creation – Sister Mary Deane and Sister Susan Richert (continued)*

Marklin says the bee community “is reflective of how the early church was.” Do you see powerful metaphors for the church around you?

In what ways do you “labour for others”? Is that a useful mindset in your organisation?

As a candle maker, Marklin derives joy from knowing that the work of his hands becomes “the light of Christ in the world.” Do you see your work in that way? Could you?

Marklin urges everyone to “be the bee” -- to find beauty and transform it into something even more beautiful. Are there places in your life and work where you can do that?



“This was first published in Faith & Leadership.” [www.faihandleadership.com](http://www.faihandleadership.com)

Finally, we invited the Parishioners and School children to get involved too - by donating some crocus bulbs helping to create a carpet of crocuses in the cemetery at St. Joseph's – and provide food for our bees.

We hope to get the children in St. Joseph's school to plant the bulbs.

***International Day for the Observance of the Eradication of Poverty 17 October 2021 - Sister Eleanor O’Gorman***

Just a reminder that each year IPA identifies a project that Presentation people all over the world can support both financially and with our prayer. This year we are being invited by members of the North American Conference to support two projects:

Justice in Motion is a North American project that helps migrants find legal representation. It builds partnerships between lawyers and advocates across borders so that wherever migrants go, their rights will follow.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*International Day for the Observance of the Eradication of Poverty 17 October 2021 - Sister Eleanor O'Gorman* (continued)

St. Vincent in the Grenadines are an island community that suffered devastation due to volcanic eruptions in 2021. They are in need of humanitarian aid.

We were invited to join together in prayer on this day and a reflection is attached for our use.

**Reflective Prayer for Eradication of Poverty 17 October 2021**



**Salford Safeguarding Network - Sister Helen Burke**

The 26<sup>th</sup> October Meeting of the Salford Safeguarding Network focussed on Safeguarding Adults in order to help our communities. This was attended by myself as designated safeguarding lead. Some examples of the risk to adults in later life which we can be alert with when attending to our communities;

**Financial Abuse:** Examples were given of older people who were cheated by family members and carers, by telephone scams (bogus charities) or by computer scams.

It was recommended that we be aware of these dangers to ourselves and where possible to help those who we know are at risk, perhaps by contacting the Statutory Agencies.

**Self-neglect:** Examples of this are:

- ◆ Lack of self-care such as neglect of personal hygiene, not asking for/accepting help when we can no longer look after ourselves or see to our needs.
- ◆ Inadequate nutrition: mental and physical health requires that we eat a varied diet.
- ◆ Not maintaining a healthy weight.
- ◆ Not taking care to ensure hydration: not drinking water regularly, especially in hot weather or centrally-heated premises.
- ◆ Neglecting careful use of medication, refusal to follow the advice of health-care personnel.
- ◆ Neglecting to attend medical or other appointments.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Salford Safeguarding Network - Sister Helen Burke* (continued)

- ◆ Mobility aids or adaptations are refused, thus risking falls.
- ◆ Hoarding: gathering things we no longer need/use, thus making our living/sleeping space unsafe/unhygienic.
  - ◇ Fire risk
  - ◇ Limiting one's movement.
  - ◇ Danger of infestation e.g., cockroaches
- ◆ Lack of care of one's environment: squalor is often the result of hoarding: not accepting help in clearing out/cleaning our environment.
- ◆ Refusal of services/essential care that would lessen risk of harm to safety and well-being.
- ◆ Not managing any daily living activities.
- ◆ Not engaging with any social or community activities which can affect mental health

During October all sisters were invited to embark on a journey together as part of the global church. This synodal journey was formally launched by Pope Francis on 10 October.

During his homily Pope Francis reflected on three key characteristics of the synod: *Encounter, listening and discernment*.

Words that are echoed in our **Way of Life** and hopefully integrated into our lives and mission

**Encounter** – taking time to encounter the Lord through prayer and time to encounter each other, to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say.

Every encounter – as we know – calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others. Pope Francis

*In a world where intolerance and fear of difference lead to great human suffering, we seek to transcend divisions and bear witness to the gospel message of love and unity.* C12

**Listening** - True encounter arises only from listening. The Spirit asks us to listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every Church, people and nation. And to listen to the world, to the challenges and changes that it sets before us. Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. So often our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another. Pope Francis

*As Presentation Sisters, we are called to listen attentively for the movement of the spirit.* C25

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Salford Safeguarding Network - Sister Helen Burke* (continued)

*To listen together with compassionate hearts to the Spirit of God in the cry of Earth and of people made poor.* c10

As we embark on this synodal journey we are also mindful of our journey towards COP26 and our engagement with the *Three Presentation Asks* identified by the Justice Desk. The Climate conference took place in Glasgow from 1-12 November. *Aware of our kinship with all creation.... We add our voices to those who work for healthier ecosystems and a healthier planet, knowing that where Earth is most exploited, those made poor suffer most.* c8

*Discern*

The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God. It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit. Pope Francis

*By our vow of obedience, we commit ourselves to a life of seeking God's will through prayer, dialogue and discernment.* c26

*As we embrace the wisdom of the season and journey inward; as we embark on the synodal journey and continue the journey to COP26, we join in prayer and hope with Pope Francis:*

*Let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first*

**Vocation Animation Conference : 4 and 5 October** - Sister Teresa Kennedy

I was invited to attend this zoom conference from Mt. St. Anne's organised by Sisters Aurea and Sharon. This was not the first such meeting of vocations personnel from the Congregation but it was my first and I had a bit of catching up to do!! Hopefully what I write here will give you a flavour of the content of the two days with a personal reflection here and there!

*Signs to consider*

Sister Lynn Barron, FCJ was the presenter for both days and she did an excellent job. The first day dealt mainly with 'making contact' and the signs we look for when a young person enquires: Spending time on:

- ◆ Where the basic call comes from;
- ◆ What is the attraction to the charism;
- ◆ Knowledge of the congregation;
- ◆ Generosity and spirit of service;

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Vocation Animation Conference : 4 and 5 October - Sister Teresa Kennedy* (continued)

- ◆ Openness to discernment and to God;
- ◆ Physical ability to undertake ministry.... etc.

Conversations around this time centre on how the young person sees the value of Religious Life in the Church today.

*Means of contact*

Lynn went on to speak in detail of the various means at our disposal for making contact- among the most popular were

- a. Social Media
- b. Come and see weekends

Social Media covered Facebook, Instagram, Tic Tok etc. all ways of stating who we are publicly. As we are an ageing group from different parts of the world and we are asking folk to join such a group we need to make contact with those who can cope with our present situation, remembering always that it is quality not quantity we are seeking.

Through these media we can communicate congregational values and vision, our ways of being and praying, ministries engaged in, particular focuses, issues of justice, and any events that might be interesting to an enquirer. We are letting the congregation be seen through our ministries, not by what we DO but more by what we can BE... praying, prophetic, God centred people.

We need to be aware also that there are personal and public accounts of those media, and care must be taken to use wisely and with understanding. As social media and especially Instagram are under the spotlight today, extra care must be taken when making something public to realise that what is put out, remains! Facebook tends to be pictorial and useful for videos etc. while Twitter is an in-depth form of communication and sharing of ideas.

In all forms of media communication, we must keep in mind that many may not have used broadband, or have the same understanding in different cultures. Nevertheless, all can be useful in sharing information, through coffee breaks, vocation weekends, prayer and social events.

b) Come and see weekends: These are self-explanatory and have been a useful way of allowing those interested in a non-committed way of acquiring information about the way of life in any particular group.

*Interviewing and assessing*

The second day of the conference was dedicated mainly to looking at the interviewing technique and information to be sought when asking 'Does this woman have the capacity to live our life?' The principal areas to be covered include:

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Vocation Animation Conference : 4 and 5 October - Sister Teresa Kennedy* (continued)

*Interviewing and assessing* (continued)

- ◆ Family
- ◆ Relationship with God
- ◆ Relationships – present or past
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Emotions
- ◆ Sexuality
- ◆ Mental Health
- ◆ Use of Finance

Lynn offered many pointers for VOCATION PERSONNEL tasked with the job of acquiring the information needed in each of these areas, and also listed the areas demanded by the Church which must be explored. While seeking the information individuals have to be encouraged to be truthful especially in the areas of emotional maturity, sexual and medical histories. Areas like the capacity for intimacy, trust, relationship with God, family expectations and reasons for entering are very sensitive and need to be treated as such while undertaking discernment.

Finally, Lynn suggested asking ourselves a very discerning question: Would I like this person to be my superior.

- ◆ A holiday companion or
- ◆ Someone I may have to live with?

All in all, I felt it was a very helpful, constructive and informative couple of days reviving for me much of what I had to put in place for in-service days during my time at the National Centre many years ago!!

*Capacitar's training weekend - Sister Susan Richert*

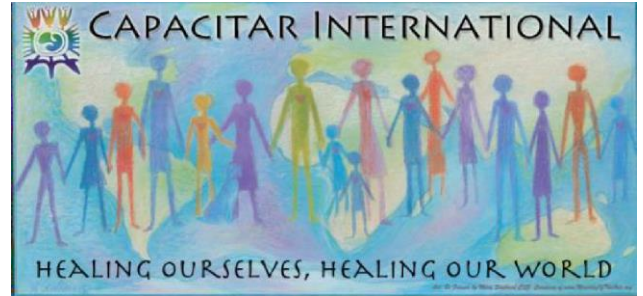
**Capacitar's** mission; is to heal ourselves and heal our world through simple, holistic, wellness practices that help people tap into the wisdom of their own body, .....

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Capacitar's training weekend - Sister Susan Richert* (continued)

Having attended a Capacitar weekend in Penmaenmawr, North Wales, in 2018, with the founder Pat Caine – we embarked on the training programme and at the same time, offered taster sessions for various groups in parishes and for children in school as well as integrating some of the practices into prayer and reflection. During lockdown, these practices were invaluable in helping us keep well and taking care of ourselves.



The Midlands training programme began in September 2020 and included four Presentation Sisters – myself, Mary Deane, Nora Delaney and Treasa Ridge. Due to lockdown, the majority of the training was done via zoom with Paul Golightly – who coordinates Capacitar training in the UK.

In between each module, there were opportunities to work with groups of staff, children, chaplains and share the well-being exercises.

After having done three modules via zoom, it was an experience for 14 of us to be able to come together in Woodbrooke in Birmingham for the last module. Apart from Paul we were all women and the group included ordained Anglican and Methodist Ministers, health care Chaplains, counsellors and other religious sisters. The group soon gelled together and the weekend was stimulating, relaxing, supportive and creative. We had been together via zoom so seeing each other in the flesh was a real blessing. The centre was excellent and ensured social distancing and fulfilling all the other regulations to keep people safe. The weather was kind to us and meant that we were able to do some of the sessions out on the lawn. Added to this was the presence of a labyrinth which everyone made use of at some stage during the two days.



Delegates attending the Capacitar weekend

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*JPIC Links meeting - Sister Carmel Clancy*

On 5 October Joanna, a friend of Sister Carmel's, had intended to speak to us about Asylum Seeking but withdrew feeling that she didn't want to be seen on social media at this time. Instead, she wrote her story and asked Carmel to read it to the group; below is a synopsis.

To escape conversion to Islam, Joanna and her mother had to flee Pakistan for Britain in 2008, seeking asylum claiming religious persecution.

The family are Christians and were friends with the Presentation Sisters in Rawalpindi. The mother was a nurse working with women encouraging them to use contraception. The Taliban men, who had moved into the area, did not appreciate new born girls, to the point that they were murdering them, which was very disturbing for the women.

The men were furious when they discovered about the contraception and a female worker in that clinic was murdered, so mother fled to another Province. They tracked her down and kept pressurising her to convert to Islam. She fled the country in fear, seeking asylum in the UK.

Her mother was 10 years in the asylum chain and was moved from one account to another repeatedly. At one point the process had to start again because the Home Office lost her original papers. Joanna got refugee status in 2015 and her mother then lived with her in her one-bedroom flat. The mother was detained after one of her monthly court hearings and taken to a detention centre where they were treated like criminals; the residents also suffered from the behaviour of other members, many of whom were suffering from psychological disorders.

Finally, mother got refugee status due to Joanna, who, despite meagre earnings, hired expensive solicitors to fight their cause. Mother now has her own place where her husband has joined her.

Joanna has changed her name because of fear of the long arm of the Taliban.

*COP26 and Climate Justice - Reported by Presentation Sisters Associate, Maurice Sadlier*

On the last evening of my time at COP26 in Glasgow I attended a Climate Vigil in St George's Tron Church in central Glasgow. After a few days of being in the Conference Centre and being one of the 100,000 people who marched for climate justice earlier that day it was a peaceful opportunity to reflect on what I have heard and observed in my time at COP26. Listening to renowned climate scientist, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, tell the room how "our future is in our hands". I was struck once again how we all must act in the interest of global solidarity if we are to address the climate crisis and protect the most vulnerable communities and people.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*COP26 and Climate Justice - Reported by Presentation Sisters Associate, Maurice Sadlier (continued)*

Among the group of us who travelled to Glasgow were two young people from Galway Ireland, Jakub and Ellen, who participated in a project on youth involvement in climate action SAUTI-Youth. The project brings together young people from Tanzania and Ireland sharing lessons of how they hold local government to account for climate action. Unfortunately, our Tanzanian colleagues were unable to travel due to the logistical challenges brought about by COVID-19 and vaccine inequity. We did arrange to talk to them while we were at COP26 to ensure that we included their messages in our engagements in Glasgow. Their message, along with their Galway colleagues, was simple and straightforward – children and young people must be involved in decisions on climate action. This was a clear call from all the young people I met or heard speak at COP26 – this is not only the right thing to do but it is the smart thing to do. Young people have much more to offer to the discussions than they are given credit for and indeed it is their right to be involved in decisions that impact their lives. It is positive to see youth engagement recognised in the final COP Decision and in the Action for Climate Empowerment decision taken at COP26.

A COP is a noisy place not just because there are 30,000 delegates but there is a myriad of events and meetings arranged in the margins. You need to figure out your structured expert dialogue from your discussion on ambition and the side event that you are asked to be at. But they are also an opportunity to meet old friends and new. This year I had the pleasure of spending time with old friends Agnes Leina from Kenya and Ambassador Dessima Williams from Grenada – both formidable women in their work for climate justice. I also had the opportunity to meet Rosemary Atieno from Kenya and learn about the great work she is doing with the Women's Climate Centres in East Africa. A common theme from these discussions is that women on the frontline of the climate crisis are those showing the most leadership in the response to climate change. They are working with their communities to answer the challenge - one which they are least responsible for causing. Access to funding is a core issue, we had many discussions in the midst of the numerous new pledges of funding wondering how this would flow to the local level and how it would make a difference in the most vulnerable communities.

One of the fundamental issues many of us going to COP26 this year had an eye on was ambition and finance. These we know are essential if we are to reach goals set out in the Paris Agreement. While there was some progress made at COP26 I am not sure we can claim it to be a huge success or one that sets us on a safer path. As I write this, I am sitting listening, with some sadness, to the closing statements of the Conference. While to come to a consensus with over 190 countries it is obvious that compromises have to be made but it seems the compromises of a small island state is far more than that of a large developed nation – the representative from the Maldives summed it up best saying of the final agreement "We put our homes on the line while those who have other options decide how quickly they want to act".

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*COP26 and Climate Justice - Reported by Presentation Sisters Associate, Maurice Sadlier (continued)*

But we must have hope, hope in the young people I travelled with, hope in the women leading their communities, hope that multilateral processes will deliver the ambitious action we need. Returning to the Climate Vigil where Dr. Hayhoe reminded us of 2 Timothy 1:7, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind, let us hope our leaders sound minds prevail. To quote another formidable climate champion, Ambassador Rita Mishaan, Guatemala.*

“We must do the right thing because it is the right thing to do!”



With Dessima Williams



*Conference of Senior Religious Bournemouth, 4 to7 October – Sister Margaret McCarthy*

Father Steven Ortiger from Worth Abbey who is now Parish Priest was the main speaker. His opening statement was about the “Gravitational Pull of God” - “I chose you” - “Make your home in Me”.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vocation is relationships. Relationships with my parents, my siblings and now my religious Sisters.

How am I energised? All your fruitfulness comes from Me. Take pleasure and delight in God's Presence.

Everything is a Gift.

The Lord delights in ME. Our memories have a Power – they are alive.

There is a difference between **FORGIVENESS** and **FORGETTING**.

We can be in a state where we cannot see – we are immobilised: it has a hold on us.

Jesus says – Today we can let go, we can move on. Peter and Paul had a past. Mary Magdalene had a past.

The English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Charitable Trust

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Conference of Senior Religious Bournemouth, 4 to 7 October – Sister Margaret McCarthy* (continued)

Every Saint has a past; every sinner has a future.

We identify people by their goodness. There is more to you than this one action. Jesus knew Peter would betray him.

Jesus says "I want your company." We need to name the reality. That is what happened – that is how I feel.

What do I do with my anger? I do not have to forget. It is important to remember. This happened but it no longer has Power over me. I am able to move forward. Try to remember creatively. Commend to God what has happened. We need the Power of Christ. If there is something holding me back. Not about being good, it is about being REAL. Take certain steps – to Forgive us our trespasses as we Forgive others.

Don't get discouraged. Jesus encourages us. Jesus put fresh heart into His Disciples

Sister Treasa Ridge gave two sessions on wellness and wellbeing. She used the theme of the Rainbow using the colours to represent different parts of the body. This was a very meditative and healing process. – Her message was "be good to yourself" She demonstrated with Prayer and action, relaxation and caring.

Then we had a special session backed by prayer as to the continuing of the S.R.G. annual meeting – keeping in mind, age, health, travel problems etc. it was decided to continue for one more year at least. We were fortunate in the travel problem as Sister Margaret McCarthy very willingly drove us there and back, thank you Margaret. Sisters. Anne Marie and Elizabeth.

It was a welcome break since the last meeting had to be cancelled because of Covid.

About 30 Sisters attended and since the numbers were down a decision had to be made whether to continue with the next meeting or not and so it was decided to have the next Conference in April 2022 just before Holy Week. Father. Stephen Ortiger from Worth Abbey was the speaker and he gave lovely talks about how we have coped with Religious Life down through the years and now in our mature years we have come into the stage of wisdom and prayer. Sister Treasa Ridge gave us some lovely mindful exercises at the end of the day to help us enjoy a relaxing moment. The journey from Matlock was very long but the weather was like summer and made our stay very enjoyable.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023 - Sister Susan Richert*

Was scheduled to begin in each diocese in England and Wales on the 17 October. In Bishop Patrick's words –

*“Pope Francis is calling the Church to discover its deeply synodal nature through a process of humbly learning together how God is calling us to be Church in the third millennium. It is not to be seen as a burden that competes with our own diocesan priorities, but rather as an opportunity to engage the whole of the People of God in this diocese, religious, laity and clergy so that our listening to each other, and our walking together, can be an experience of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit as together we strive to become a more missionary diocese.”*

So that in the Mansfield Pastoral Area, we could engage as many people as possible, it was decided to use the homily time at Mass – since had we had “gatherings” we may have managed to attract 25 or 30 people. Each one was given two cards with the first two questions on and asked to reflect, after a little input from ourselves – and write their responses on one of the cards. The two questions were -

*What is my dream for the Church, for my parish/school, so that it can become more outward looking, more missionary?*

*To achieve this dream, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that needs to be developed or done differently?*

Everyone is invited to take the other card home and give it to someone who doesn't come to Mass/can't get to Mass/ isn't a Catholic.... The result was across our Pastoral Area – we received about 240 responses.

We have 3 primary schools in the area – a copy of the bishop's letter, a letter inviting participation and response cards were sent to all the parents. The reply cards were collected and collated.

Children were also consulted. A suggested process was sent to the 3 schools. Susan worked with Years 3,4,5 and 6 in St. Joseph's school and created a collage using their ideas. The green of the tree are the dreams and the trunk of the tree – is how the children think they can make the tree green and their dreams a reality. The orange leaves that have fallen – are those we exclude or are “outside”; the acorns are the way we can help them grow and be part of the church. The Spirit inspires us to reach out – by praying, caring, sharing and other ways. The notice “gate” is what we can do that is practical if we follow the inspiration of the Spirit.

The children's responses were clearly articulated to the point, thoroughly explored, and challenging. More importantly, the response of the parish echoed the responses of the children.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**October 2021** (continued)

*Preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023 - Sister Susan Richert* (continued)

For the Religious in the Nottingham Diocese, they were encouraged to join in at parish level but also, so that their voice in the Diocese is clearly heard, a "contemplative Dialogue" document was circulated to every community – with a request for responses to be returned to Susan. A zoom meeting to facilitate reflection across Congregations was organised. The same contemplative dialogue document was used. This was a very valuable experience

The children have done their work. The parishioners and the Religious are just embarking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Process. In the Pastoral Area, decisions will have to be made about an immediate action and a long-term action. The homily was once again used – to give the feedback from the collated responses in each community and to pave the way for the next part. Cards have been taken home and will be returned the week after. Core Groups and PPC's will gather together – with anyone who wishes to join them – to look at the responses and make decisions.

**November 2021**

*Global Day for Climate Justice – Sister Eleanor*

Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> marked the Global Day for Climate Justice and rallies were held in many towns and cities all over the UK and across the world. About five hundred people gathered at Millennium Point in Birmingham to march through the city centre. Many different faith communities were present and were invited to walk together as part of their witness to climate justice. There were also campaigners from environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth, as well as representatives from political organisations and unions. What we lacked in numbers, we made up for in enthusiasm. It was a noisy, joyful march with music, drums and whistles. Everyone was there to remind governments to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 and to work for a better future for all people and the planet.



Campaigners carrying a giant model of the RSPB emblem

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**November 2021** (continued)

*Vocation Talk - Telling them what they want to know.... - Sister Susan Richert*

For the past 5 years, towards the end of October or beginning of November, an email arrives asking us if we would visit Trinity School in Nottingham, to share about vocation to Religious Life. Last year, we responded on line – this year we were able to visit in person. The pupils, both boys and girls, are from Year 9 and their questions range from the sublime to – well not quite the ridiculous but to the mundane.

So, what do they want to know – what's your favourite colour? how does it feel to be so close to God? How do you become one? Why did you want to become a nun? Have you ever had a vision from God? What do you do? How does becoming a nun bring you closer to God? Was becoming a nun fully your choice? How long do you pray for? What's your view on women priests? Do you still get to talk to your family? What's the hardest part of being a nun? What's your favourite bible passage? What football club do you support? Do you ever regret becoming a nun? What do you think should be changed in the Church? What advice would you give to girls thinking of becoming a nun? Do you eat ordinary stuff? Did you ever get married? How was your home life? How supportive are the others to you? What do you enjoy about being a nun? Is it hard always trying to be a role model and living your life the way God wants you to?

And on they go. What is fascinating, is that there are very few questions about “doing” – a lot more about the way of life and about relationship with God. As you can imagine, the questions are searching and certainly, coming back to the community, many of the questions are still ringing in my ears and are still ripe for reflecting. There's a lesson here for me – it's not the doing, it's the being.

**December 2021**

*Holy Land - Sister Anna Manyonga*

**Sister Anna** has been the only Presentation Sister in the Holy Land since August 2020. After spending a few months at home in Zimbabwe, Anna returned to the Holy Land in October. She is living in Bethlehem and travels to Jerusalem where she is working with the Vicariate for Migrants and Asylum Seekers which seeks to direct the Church's efforts in serving, organising and catechising the extensive population of Catholic migrants in Israel.

We're grateful that Anna has continued to keep the flame of Nano alive there and also for the support of religious communities especially the Capuchin community, friends and colleagues who continue to journey closely with her in the Holy Land. Sr Julie Hurtado (from the USA Province), has begun the process of applying for her visa. We hope that in the coming months she will be able to travel and join Anna in Bethlehem.

The situation in the Holy land continues to be challenging in so many ways, not least our presence and mission there. We ask for your continued prayers and support for Anna and for the success of the visa process for Julie.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**February 2022**

*Holy Land – Sister Julie Hurtado*

February saw the wonderful news that Sister Julie Hurtado has arrived safely in the Holy Land. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv on Saturday 26 February, she had to take a PCR Test and then went into quarantine with the Comboni Sisters in Jerusalem. On Sunday having received a negative result of the PCR Test, she was free to travel to Bethlehem with Anna. We wish Julie and Anna every blessing and assurance of our prayers as they adjust to the new reality and another stage in the journey of the mission in the Holy land.

Julie will shortly begin learning Arabic and is also hoping to be involved in ministry at Bethlehem University. Sisters Anne McDermott and Mary Deane will be visiting the community in April. We hope that both Anna and Julie will be able to join us for our Province Assembly in June.

*Communications Team Appointment*

Following on the launch of the new website [www.pbvmengland.co.uk](http://www.pbvmengland.co.uk), we have appointed a Communications Team – Sisters Christina Dolan, Susan Richert and Maria Owen. We are grateful for their generosity in accepting this role.

The main role of the Team is to gather and share stories of the Sisters and Friends of Nano that communicate the life and mission of the English Unit of the Congregation for the website, e-newsletters and social media platforms. They will link with the Communications Contact for the Congregation in providing stories and articles for the E-News, Union Life and Nano's Echo.

They will work in collaboration with Bernadette Kehoe – Communications Consultant.

The Province has set up twitter and Instagram accounts as well as the vocations Facebook page. We are grateful to Bernadette Kehoe who is continuing to help us develop and expand the use of the social media platforms as well as provide training for us going forward. The various social media accounts can be accessed from the website or from the addresses below.

<https://twitter.com/pbvmengland>

<https://www.instagram.com/presentationistersengland/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pbvmengland.co.uk>

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**February 2022** (continued)

**At the Justice Commission meeting on 10 February**

Brian O'Toole our Director at the Justice Desk spoke to the group regarding the UK's upcoming **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**.

This is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. Brian, under the support of the International Presentation Association (IPA) has joined with Edmund Rice International (ERI) and other likeminded charities with a view to collaborating and making a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This Body provides assistance to Governments so they can implement the international human rights standards they've committed to. The combined submission must be forwarded by March 31.

Brian introduced us to the Universal Periodic Review Process using the video that can be seen [here](#) and this was followed by his presentation that you can view [here](#). The Review is focussing on two specific areas: - homelessness in Northern Ireland and the problems faced by asylum seekers and refugees. If you know of any asylum seekers or refugees who would like to share their experiences or reflections on the asylum process, (even a paragraph or a quote), or if you would like to share your experience of working in this area, please email Brian at [presinterprovjustice@gmail.com](mailto:presinterprovjustice@gmail.com)

**Experience of Volunteering in a Foodbank and Community Food Store - Sister Mary Deane**

Over the past years there has been a rise in the number of people needing support from food banks and charities. This number rose steeply during the pandemic and continues to rise as people struggle to meet the rising costs of living. Some of the shocking statistics on the state of hunger in the UK are highlighted in the report commissioned by the Trussell Trust. This can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or visiting the website: [www.stateofhunger.org](http://www.stateofhunger.org)

The local food bank operating from the Shirebrook Christian Centre, distributed over 7,000 bags of food during the pandemic. I began volunteering one day a week at the Food bank in September 2020. After running the foodbank for 8 years and following a review of its operations the Brook Community Church decided to develop a more sustainable model. After doing some research the Trustees of the charity decided on the Storehouse model, community food for all. A model whereby anyone and those in need in the community, can shop at their store.

In March 2021 the foodbank was replaced by a community food store where I still volunteer on a Friday when I can. The Storehouse is a shop filled with community food for all and is also helping to save lives and our planet by trying to reduce food waste. It is located within the Brook Centre which also includes a café.

The feelings of shame and embarrassment when entering a foodbank can be overwhelming. The church hopes by developing this community food for all stores, that there will be a more positive shopping experience for all its customers.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**February 2022** (continued)

*Experience of Volunteering in a Foodbank and Community Food Store - Sister Mary Deane* (continued)

Storehouse works closely with Business and Community including Food Manufacturers and Distributors, Supermarkets, Local Shops and Schools to reduce waste, save money and help improve our environment.

They also hope to be working soon with local farmers and allotment's associations. The food sector over produces to ensure they meet demand and some of that surplus is used by Storehouse and other community food organisations.

Food may also be received by Storehouse because of rebranding or print errors on packaging. The food they use is of good quality and people are encouraged to shop at the fair.

Storehouse serves the whole community, people in need and people that want to give support. People in need may join as members for £5. The membership lasts for six months and it can be renewed after that period. The membership includes an environmentally friendly shopping bag that is used every time you shop plus a membership card. Members may shop up to once per week for £5.

People who want to support the project may become partners for £10. We, as a community have joined as Partners. Partners pay £10 for membership and a weekly shop, which is still good value and also helps the project to continue.

No one is turned away. A special fund is set aside for those in financial crisis who cannot afford the membership or food, and people can support this fund by giving donations.

The storehouse provides more than just food, as well as a cup of tea and a friendly chat, practical support is also available from Recovery Plus, Citizen Advice and other Agencies.

Last Friday after finishing at the Storehouse and on my way into the town centre, I saw a young woman looking inside a large industrial bin at the back of the shops, then I saw there was someone inside the bin passing something out to her. Shocked by what I was seeing, I went up to them and asked if they were okay. The young women inside the bin scrambled out and in broken English said they were hungry, had no money and were from Romania. With their few English words and my lack of any Romanian, somehow with lots of hand gestures, I managed to communicate with them to come with me and I brought them to the Storehouse.

It was a stormy wet day, they only had sandals and socks although they did have jackets on. Thankfully the centre was still open and some of the volunteers and staff were still around. We got them hot drinks and within a short while one of the staff had managed to contact a colleague on the phone who spoke Romanian and was able to communicate with the two young women and translate. They were given free food and membership and invited to come back to the Storehouse whenever they needed.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**February 2022** (continued)

*Experience of Volunteering in a Foodbank and Community Food Store - Sister Mary Deane* (continued)

I am still shocked when I think of these young women, probably in their late teens or early twenties, searching for food in the bin, just seems so incredible to think of it happening literally on our doorsteps. I am grateful to have been able to direct them to somewhere where they can access food and on-going support. It does raise so many questions about why there are so many people in this country -which boasts the world's fifth largest economy, who need to access food banks.

**March 2022**

*Friends of Nano : Futuring Process - Sister Mary Deane*

In response to a request from Mary-Ann Greaney (International Animator for the Friends of Nano), we invited Friends of Nano and Sisters to join us for a zoom call on 20 January to engage in a process of reflection on our dream for the future.

Using a Contemplative Dialogue Process we engaged with the following questions:

- ◆ What is our dream for the Friends of Nano Movement?
- ◆ How may the movement look in five years from now?

From the Gathered wisdom, the Core Group were invited to attend one of the international group meetings on 26 February via zoom to share and listen to reflections from other groups.

The process is continuing to unfold and we await the gathered wisdom from these meetings.

If you have any ideas or suggestions especially about the future of the movement here in England, the core group would love to hear from you.

**Chaplaincy Team for the Care Home**

*Inspired by our Presentation Values and mission, we work to ensure the dignity of all people is respected and their rights upheld by engaging in compassionate service and bearing witness to the gospel message of love and unity.*

Over the years our sisters have provided pastoral and spiritual support to the staff and patients in the Presentation Care Centre. These past few years have been very difficult as the sisters have been unable to visit in the care home and have been missed by patients and staff. With the easing of restrictions, it was decided to highlight the importance of the pastoral and spiritual dimension of the Care Centre with the formal appointment of a Chaplaincy Team.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

***Chaplaincy Team for the Care Home*** (continued)

We are grateful to Sisters Anne- Marie Buckley, Mary O'Halloran, Magdalen Hughes and Eileen Hall who have generously agreed to offer their services in working together as part of the Chaplaincy Team.

*Role of Chaplaincy Team*

- ◆ To visit the residents, to provide friendship and a listening ear to those who want it.
- ◆ To work alongside other members of staff in providing spiritual care and support.
- ◆ To be available to provide pastoral support to residents and families if required.
- ◆ To provide Holy communion to those wishing to receive and who are unable to attend Mass
- ◆ To provide regular services of prayer and worship.
- ◆ To liaise with local Christian communities and other religious leaders to provide relevant religious services.

They will work in collaboration with the staff and be accountable to Jayne Carnall (Manager of the Care Centre). We wish them every blessing as they continue to shine the beam of Nano's lantern through their presence and ministry.

***Overseas***

During the year, we have continued to receive donations for our overseas missions and these have been forwarded to them. The Bursar oversees and ensures that these accounts are kept accurately. If a sister living abroad is in receipt of a pension from England, the pension will be forwarded to her Unit for her support.

We support missionary and care services overseas, particularly in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Presentation Associates are sponsoring children's education in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In one mission in Zambia, a Cheshire Home is administered by the sisters and staffed by nurses and carers. Here, children with physical disabilities and limitations are medically examined and treatment is made available.

***Volunteers***

Throughout the year, many of the sisters give their time to assist those in need. The majority of the Sisters receive no financial reward for this work which contributes to the overall achievement of the charity's objectives. In addition, members are involved in administering the work of the Unit and the Charity – without their contribution the Charity would not be able to function as effectively as it does.

Sisters often do voluntary work in more than one area. This is reflected in the table below as more sisters than are in the province are in these figures. Other sisters receive a small/nominal stipend for the ministry they undertake. These ministries are usually in the areas of Parish; Catechesis; Spirituality.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**Volunteers** (continued)

Area	No. of Volunteers	Approx. Hours Volunteered (over the year)
Hospital visiting, hospice/housebound	39	16,021
Chaplaincies: school, prison and hospital	8	2,338
General Parish Ministry/ Children's Groups	27	11,616
Assisting in Schools	6	1,238
Spirituality	23	5,110
Refugee service	7	1,552
Outreach to women / Homeless	4	138
Outreach to Special Needs Adults	3	504
Outreach to local community	24	7,269
Administration	21	11,482
Commissions	5	881
Vocation/Formation	3	148
Associates/Properties	22	2,611
Justice And Peace	18	864
Ministry to Travellers	4	2,262
Carers of sisters within own community	13	8,300
Counselling	1	40
Overseas volunteering (bi-annual)	1	240
Heritage Centre/Archives	1	120
Friendship Group/Ecumenism	1	72
Support of Other Charities (i.e., Cafod etc.)	2	240
<b>Total</b>		<b>73,046</b>

An example of this is that Sister Eleanor has been working with Cafod as a school's volunteer for about five years. Cafod (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is an international development charity which aims to reach out to people living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture. They also campaign for global justice, so that everyone can live their life to the fullest. Cafod's aims and values are very much aligned with the values of the Presentation Sisters.

'As a school's volunteer, I visit primary schools, mainly in the Birmingham Diocese, and offer assemblies and workshops on specific themes using the resources provided by the Cafod schools team. I have recently given assemblies on themes such as the Amazon rainforest and the effect of climate change on people living in Uganda. There have been interactive workshops where children have imagined what it would be like to live without easy access to water and opportunities to design posters based on the UN rights of the child. I have particularly enjoyed giving workshops to individual classes on Laudato Si and the children have made promises to care for the environment.

I enjoy working with children who are already aware that we are all one family and that we need to take care of each other and care for the earth, our home.'

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

***Grants, donations and support of missionary work and ministry***

*Grants and donations*

Grants and donations are made by the Trustees in consultation with other members of the Unit. In the main, the charity supports the work of the Presentation Sisters in those overseas countries where there is the most need. The charity has in this present year responded to requests from our sisters in areas affected by natural disasters.

The Trustees continue to give financial support also to United Kingdom organisations whose work is within the objects of the charity e.g., CAFOD and C.A.P. The Unit also supports short term requests for charity in relation to natural disasters, famine etc.

The charity does not regard itself as a grant making entity and applications for grants and donations are not invited.

*Use of our buildings for networking and collaboration*

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to maintain a policy of "open house". However, in normal circumstances our houses are used by others for various activities. In this way, we share our resources with the local community.

Examples of such uses are:

- ◆ Each week the Main Hall in the Convent in Matlock is used by different groups e.g., music, yoga and tai chi. The Care Centre uses the hall and the new small Conference Hall for in-service training.
- ◆ Halls in many of our houses are regularly used by organisations, Churches and charity groups e.g. "Assisted Reading for Children" and local mother and toddler groups and refugees.
- ◆ Our buildings have also been used by local churches for joint fundraising events for needs abroad.
- ◆ SVP groups and ladies' clubs meet on a regular basis and Parishes run various catechetical programmes in several of our houses.
- ◆ People are welcome to join in prayer or to use our chapels for prayer; coffee mornings are held as are prayer groups; student groups, members of the deaf community and various other groups also use our facilities.

Outside of the Covid Pandemic, the following Diocesan and Parish organisations hold meetings within the charity's properties and make use of its facilities:

- ◆ Knights of St Columba
- ◆ Presentation Associates
- ◆ Justice and Peace

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**Grants, donations and support of missionary work and ministry** (continued)

*Use of our buildings for networking and collaboration* (continued)

- ◆ Ecumenical Conference
- ◆ Choir Practices
- ◆ Café Meetings

In addition, the following religious instruction programmes take place:

- ◆ Preparation for Baptism
- ◆ Preparation for Confirmation
- ◆ R.C.I.A

*Solidarity Fund set up in 2001*

We contribute to the Solidarity Fund which has been set up by the Congregational Leadership Team to further the work among the poor and to assist in the provision of training for ministry in new situations. In this way, while we ourselves are an ageing group, we can support the younger and more active members of the Congregation to continue our ministry of bringing "good news to the poor" in those parts of the world which are desperately poor.

*Ministry Of Justice*

The ministry of Justice is a core commitment of the members of the Presentation Congregation and their Associates. To carry out this statement we see the following as our vision:

- ◆ To act justly in all our dealings with each other.
- ◆ To promote justice within our own community and province structures.
- ◆ With others we wish to challenge unjust structures, especially those that exploit and oppress women and children.
- ◆ We stand in solidarity with all the oppressed for liberation and self-empowerment.
- ◆ We will be alert to any violation of human rights and call on one another to take immediate action for justice.
- ◆ We commit ourselves to seeking
  - ◇ Trade justice
  - ◇ Care of our earth
  - ◇ Sustainable development

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

**Grants, donations and support of missionary work and ministry** (continued)

*Ministry Of Justice (continued)*

In order to ensure the on-going commitment of members a 'Towards Creating Just Systems' is active in the Province.

The sisters, Associates and all with whom we network, are committed to change at personal, local, country and world level in order to bring about more just systems, fair trade issues, care of our earth and sustainable development.

We write letters, protest peacefully, challenge respectfully on behalf of those unable to do so themselves. We network with other groups both in localities and globally to bring about change. We look at our own use of resources and try to be responsible and careful.

Re-cycling is encouraged and taken seriously as is the use of energy in our houses; so also, is the whole area of ecology and care of the earth.

**Vocations**

While it is the responsibility of every member of the Congregation to pray for and encourage women to think about our way of life, there is a Vocation Team which consists of three sisters. The team meets regularly to plan Vocation Days and support communities in their responsibility of praying and encouraging women to think about this way of life.

They also respond to enquiries and accompany some who request help in discerning their vocation in life. They organise events for young adults to deepen their Faith and prayer life and thus discover their vocation in life. Events include retreats, Lectio Divina groups, Flame Rally, World Youth Events and Bible Study.

**Investment policy**

The charity's investments are managed by professional investment managers under a discretionary investment agreement. The investment strategy is set by the Trustees, with help and advice from the Finance Team and Investment Manager and takes into account income requirements, risk profile and the investment managers' views of the market prospects in the medium term.

The policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio whilst providing a level of income advised by the Trustees from time to time.

The charity has an ethical policy precluding investment in any company which, after reasonable enquiry, clearly has significant profits from an activity which is contrary to the objectives of the Christian Church. The charity has divested from Fossil fuel companies in line with the Congregational Finance policy and mission focus.

The performance of the portfolio and the charity's investment strategy are reviewed by the Trustees and the Congregational Bursar who meet with the investment managers annually.

**Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies** (continued)

***Fundraising policy***

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. The charity takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practices to protect supporter's data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity and the group manage its own fundraising activities to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

**Financial report for the year**

***Income and expenditure***

Total income for the year was £3.14 million (2021: £3.41 million), of which £1.1 million (2021: £1.7 million) comprised voluntary income. This included £1.02 million (2021: £1.53 million) in respect to sisters' salaries and pensions including lump sum pension receipts. A further £1.51 million (2021: £1.37 million) of income comprised fees for care services.

During the year the charity incurred expenditure of £3.26 million (2021: £2.99 million), of which £1.2 million (2021: £1.08 million) related to the upkeep of the sisters and enabling them to carry out their charitable work. £1.79 million (2021: £1.69 million) was spent on providing care services at Matlock. Donations in support of miscellaneous charitable activities, including to the work of the Congregation overseas, amounted to £207,594 (2021: £152,550).

The net expenditure for the year before investment gains totalled £127,402 (2021: net income before investment gains £419,110). Net investment gains totalled £329,752 (2021: £3,038,061) and resulted in an increase in funds over the year of £202,350 (2021: £3,457,171).

The charity's investments are managed by Rathbone Investment Management Limited. They have invested in accordance with the Trustees' (and the Congregation's) investment policy set out above and in compliance with the ethical guidelines given to them. The investments together with cash held by the investment managers for investment had a market value of £13.9 million at 31 March 2022.

During the year, the charity's listed investments achieved an income yield of 2% and a capital yield of approximately 2%. Further details of the investment portfolio are included in note 12 to the attached accounts.

The Trustees continue to take a long term view and believe their investment policy remains appropriate.

## **Financial report for the year** (continued)

### ***Financial position and reserves policy***

The balance sheet shows total reserves of £23.1 million (2021: £22.9 million). £68,401 (2021: £126,677) of these reserves represent restricted funds held primarily for the Congregation's missions overseas.

Of the balance, £8.1 million (2021: £8.4 million) is represented by tangible fixed assets used to support the work of the sisters. A further £12 million (2021: £12 million) represents a retirement reserve designated to provide income to communities for the care of elderly sisters. It is the charity's policy to designate as a separate fund an amount to provide for the sisters in the future, as they are wholly dependent on the charity, and to give the level of resources necessary to continue to support their work. Given the increasing age profile of the sisters and the lack of new vocations this sum will only provide modest resources to look after them.

The Trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be approximately six to twelve months' annual expenditure, to provide for contingencies and unevenness in future income. At the date of the balance sheet, free reserves amounted to £2.95 million (2021 - £2.37 million) which is within the amount implicit in the policy. The Trustees will continue to monitor reserves but do not regard the overall reserves of the charity as inadequate or excessive.

### ***The charity's assets***

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets during the year are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

### **Future plans**

The Trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the charitable company and its other activities during 2022-2023. It is their intention to continue to meet the objectives of caring for members of the Congregation and to support the charitable work of the sisters and the wider Congregation for the foreseeable future and to meet the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to care for the sisters and enable them to carry out their pastoral work and ministry. We will continue to focus on the poor and marginalised and reaching out to as many as possible.
- ◆ To work with a consultant to develop the future management of the health and welfare of the sisters both in communities and other care environments.
- ◆ To continue to operate our Care Centre and provide the highest possible quality of care for the residents.
- ◆ To continue to aim to achieve occupancy rates of 95+% within the Care Centre.
- ◆ To meet the care requirements laid down by law within the Care Centre and ensure the reports of the CQC are of an excellent standard.
- ◆ To continue a rolling programme of refurbishment for the Care Centre.

**Future plans** (continued)

- ◆ To continue to employ high quality staff in the Care Centre and elsewhere and ensure that they receive appropriate and relevant training.
- ◆ To monitor the needs of the sisters as they grow older and, if necessary, adapt the charity's plans in respect of property needs and the provision of care to elderly members.
- ◆ To work with the Congregational Bursar in looking at restructuring our finances in order to ensure continued good stewardship.
- ◆ To support the Congregation's missions overseas.
- ◆ To ensure that on-going formation is provided for our sisters and our co-workers.
- ◆ To ensure that the policy of sharing our resources is continued.
- ◆ To seek and encourage new members to the Congregation.

**Governance, management and community structure**

***Governance***

The Trustees are incorporated under the Charities Act 2011. They are appointed by the Unit Leader and their number is specified in the Trust Deed. At any one time, there must be a minimum of five trustees. The Unit itself is administered by the Unit Team Leader, a Team of four and other Trustees including the Province Bursar. In assisting and supporting the Unit, the Trustees work closely as a team and meet regularly throughout the year. The members of the Unit Team are elected by members of the English Unit and are accountable to the Congregational Leadership Team.

The Unit Team is elected by the members of the Unit for a six-year term. On being elected the incoming Unit Team is required to spend some time with those leaving office. They also meet with the Unit's legal, financial, investment and property advisers to obtain a full briefing of their responsibilities and the charity's position.

Each community in England is visited regularly by the Unit Leader and/or her Team and there is a system of accountability operational in the Unit ensuring that the Team is aware of developments in the work and life of each community. This ensures that progress of the ministries undertaken by the sisters is kept under review.

The Congregational Leader Sister Julie Watson and Sister Anne Mc'Dermott, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team, visited the English Province between October-December 2021. They initially met with the Province Leadership Team for an induction programme and then visited each community and met with the sisters. Following their visit, a report was sent to the Sisters and the Province Leadership Team

### Governance, management and community structure (continued)

#### **Management**

The names of the Trustees who served during this year 2021-2022 are set out as part of the reference and administrative details on page 1 of this annual report and accounts. Brief biographical details on each Trustee in office at 31 March 2022 are given below. The leadership team began their term of office in August 2022.



*(from left to right)*

Sister Eleanor O’Gorman made her first profession of vows in 1985. She has lived in communities in Scunthorpe, Acocks Green, Glossop and Gorton and has taught in primary schools in Scunthorpe, Birmingham and Stockport. She is currently living in Acocks Green where she is doing voluntary work with Cafod and at Tabor House, a centre for people experiencing homelessness.

Sister Eileen Keating, elected the Unit Leader in April 2014, came from her 25-year ministry in Sheffield where she was the Canonical Pastor. Among her many other roles was advocacy for asylum seekers. Prior to that Sister Eileen had spent some years in New Zealand and South America, where her ministries were many and varied, and so brings a wealth of experience to the Leadership role.

Sr Mary Deane made her first profession in 1987. She is resident in Shirebrook and has lived in communities in Redditch, Coventry and Nottingham. She has worked in a number of ministries including teaching, school and university chaplaincy. From 2006-2012 she served on the Congregational Leadership Team and from 2012-2018 was Congregational Leader. She currently is involved with vocation ministry and is the Link sister with the Friends of Nano in the Province.

The above sisters are members of the Province Leadership Team.

The following sisters make up the full complement of the board of Trustees:

Sister Anne-Marie Buckley is resident at Presentation Convent in Matlock. She has retired from a very active life in teaching and pastoral ministry.

Sister Angela Murphy is resident in Acocks Green, Community, Birmingham. Sister Angela continues to minister in the prayer and spirituality area.

**Governance, management and community structure** (continued)

**Management** (continued)

Sr Bernadette Healy lives in Market Harborough and is a member of the leadership team for the Matlock community. She has taught in primary schools in Bicester, Huddersfield and Birmingham and currently has pastoral responsibility for the Traveller community in the Nottingham Diocese.



**Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and accounts 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 accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

## **Governance, management and community structure (continued)**

### ***Trustees' responsibilities (continued)***

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's 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.

### ***Structure and management reporting***

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. The Unit Leader and her Leadership Team meet once a month to review developments and make decisions. The full board of Trustees meet twice a year and when necessary, meet with the charity's professional advisers including property consultants, accountants, and investment managers. The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and the carrying out of its policies is delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation.

### ***Community structure***

On 31 March 2022, the Province consisted of 59 sisters. For the most part the sisters live in small communities of between two and five sisters. However, we have three communities of between five and six members and another community, attached to the Care Centre, of 24 sisters. Four sisters live on their own for the sake of mission. The largest community has named leadership while other communities work on a collaborative model, and have a designated Cluster Leader.



### ***Care Centre***

The Charity owns and operates a highly regarded Care Centre for older people within the Matlock Community. The Care Centre is open to all regardless of belief.

The Care Centre fulfils the aim of the charity to both provide an appropriate care facility for sisters of the Congregation and for members of the public who need care and would benefit from a peaceful and religious environment. Whilst fees are charged for the Care Centre, assistance is given for residents to be able to claim state assistance, subject to Government qualification criteria. Top-Up fees are reduced when there is an inability to pay and any specific cases of hardship are put to the Trustees if the resident does not qualify for state assistance. All residents have access to pastoral services provided by the sisters and the on-site chapel is available for services and contemplation.

The Business Manager of the Care Centre during the year was responsible for the day-to-day administration. This post is held by Mrs Jayne Carnall. Medical care was supervised by the Matron, and Nicola Wilson, again, held this post during the year.

## **Governance, management and community structure** (continued)

### ***Structure and management reporting*** (continued)

#### *Care Centre* (continued)

A Management Board, chaired by Mr Steven Taylor, of Axiom Healthcare, meets every three months. The Board reports to the Province Leader on matters regarding residents, finance and premises. The Chairman of the Board, the Administration Manager and Matron attend these meetings. Members of the Province, Sisters Eileen Keating, Eleanor O'Gorman and Bernadette Healy and Mrs Julie Lowe (a retired nurse), are members of this Board. Sister Eileen Keating represents the Province Leadership Team on this Board. The Care Quality Commission liaises with the Province Leadership.

The charity has a serious and continuing commitment to the care, support and maintenance of the members who are being cared for in our Care Centre at Matlock. We continue to be aware of the increasing age and fragility of the members of the Province and seek always to find the best ways to care for them.

#### *Key management personnel*

The Trustees consider that they comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

As noted above, the day-to-day operations of the Care Centre are overseen by a Management Board. Steve Taylor (a director of Axiom Healthcare Limited and a member of the Management Board), the Registered Manager and Care Centre Manager, and the Matron oversee the running of the Care Centre and report to the Province Leader on matters regarding residents, finance and premises.

The pay of the Registered Manager and Care Centre Manager and the Matron are reviewed annually by the Trustees and the members of the Management Board. Their pay generally is increased in line with average earnings within the Care Centre. Consultancy fees payable to Axiom Healthcare Limited are paid under a service agreement, the terms of which are agreed by the Trustees.

#### *Working with other organisations*

The charity works closely with a number of other charities and public bodies in various fields to achieve its mission. In some instances, sisters are employed by organisations whilst in other instances the relationships are more informal. In working together, the sisters further the Congregation's mission. They also work in coordination with other organisations in order to further their objectives in relation to care and education.

Examples of other organisations with which members cooperate are as follows:

- ◆ Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham/Hallam and others
- ◆ NHS Trusts – e.g., N.E. Derbyshire/Tameside
- ◆ Education Authorities e.g., Manchester/ Derbyshire/Stockport
- ◆ Christian Alliance, Padley Centre – Homeless: Birmingham/Derby.

**Governance, management and community structure** (continued)

***Structure and management reporting*** (continued)

*Working with other organisations* (continued)

- ◆ Church Action on Poverty/CAFOD
- ◆ Conference of Religious
- ◆ MIND / CRUSE
- ◆ TRAC
- ◆ YCW – Young Christian Workers
- ◆ Faith Justice

***Risk management***

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the Trustees have looked at the risks the Congregation currently faces, including those in the Care Centre, and have reviewed the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to mitigate them.

The following main areas where risks may occur have been identified:

*Governance and management*

The Unit Team Leader works closely with her team ensuring that responsibility and information regarding the charity is shared. This mitigates the risk of one key person holding all the responsibility and information for the charity. Management of key areas of the charity (care of the elderly sisters, the Care Centre, finance) have been delegated to the appropriate members of the Congregation and competent individuals who are accountable to and work closely with the Trustees.

*Financial*

All local houses are accountable to the Unit Bursar regarding finance and resources. The Unit Leader and her Leadership Team meet once a month to review developments and make decisions. As regards the Care Centre, a Management Board meets every three months. The Board reports to the Unit Leader on matters regarding residents, finance and premises.

All sisters and staff receive training and formation in appropriate skills. It also ensures the good use of the charity's resources and members are enabled to learn new skills and constantly update their training in the light of new developments.

## **Governance, management and community structure** (continued)

### ***Risk management*** (continued)

#### *Properties and investments*

The principal financial assets of the charity are its properties and investment portfolio. The Unit Bursar oversees the maintenance and management of properties in conjunction with the Trustees and advisers. All the properties are fully insured with a reputable insurance company. The investment portfolio is subject to market fluctuations and so is managed by a competent and reputable firm of investment managers who act in accordance with the Trustees' investment policy which is reviewed annually. The Trustees meet annually with the investment managers to review the performance of the portfolio and to ensure that funds are at appropriate levels to meet the charity's needs both now and into the future.

#### *Care of sisters*

An analysis of the age profile of the sisters in the Unit shows that the main group of sisters are in their 70s and 80s. Recent experience has shown that this is the group likely to have unexpected health issues. Therefore, the planning for the future needs to take provision for the future of these sisters into account alongside the more obvious needs of the more elderly. The Trustees are aware of their legal and moral responsibility to care for their members. None of the sisters has resources of her own as all pensions, salaries and other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant. Key to managing this risk is: ensuring there are financial resources available to finance this care now and into the future by setting aside designated funds for this purpose; also, regular reviews of the ministries and needs of the sisters in order to identify and address those needing more support or care.

#### *Care Centre*

The Care Centre operates in a highly regulated field of activity and as such is subject to regular inspection by a number of agencies. The result of this degree of scrutiny is that operational risk policies are very well developed in the areas of quality of service, health and safety of residents and employees and employment issues. The Management Board, the Registered Manager and the Lead Nurse with experience of running health care organisations advise the Trustees on the myriad of clinical, care and other risks associated with the operation of the Care Centre including, for example, safeguarding (see below); the chronic shortage of qualified nurses and care assistants; the impact of the planned changes in the provision of care funding with effect from April 2020 as a result of the Care Act 2014; and the changing regulatory environment including alterations to the inspection regime of the Care Quality Commission and the need for specific written policies.

The Care Centre complies with all regulations regarding fire alarms, emergency lighting, fire doors, emergency exits, and procedures for alerting the fire brigade. Fire tests are regularly carried out and handbooks are provided for workers. In all our properties, a qualified engineer annually inspects our machinery and plant equipment.

#### *Safeguarding*

Sisters engaged in any ministry in Great Britain and all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults (including our elderly sisters) must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

**Governance, management and community structure** (continued)

**Risk management** (continued)

*Safeguarding (continued)*

The sisters commit themselves to care in this area, guided by CSSA, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. This entails being aware of the need to protect those who are vulnerable. The Catholic Church has unified the structures for Safeguarding, using a 'One Church Approach'.

*'The Catholic Church in England and Wales is striving towards a culture of safeguarding where all are safe from harm and abuse.*

*This commitment calls the whole Church to live the values and principles. Whilst all members of the Church have a role to play in promoting a culture of safeguarding, clear leadership is crucial. Bishops and Congregation Leaders need to be vigilant in exercising their ministry of leadership, ensuring that a culture of safeguarding is both understood and embraced by the whole Church.*

*(Extract from CSAS Document)*

The Unit Leadership has appointed a Safeguarding Coordinator for the Unit. This has involved a financial outlay in order to enable the safeguarding lead sister to fulfil her role.

**Employees, volunteers and members of the Congregation**

The Trustees wish to record their recognition of the professionalism and commitment of all their staff, volunteers and the individual members of the Province and Congregation. Their dedication and positive approach are very much appreciated.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Eileen Keating PBVM

Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on: 4th November 2022

**Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of The English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Charitable Trust**

**Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of The English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Charitable Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect to irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

***How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud***

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with management and Trustees and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- ◆ We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the activities of the charity. These included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011; Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); the Care Act 2014 and related legislation/regulations; and Safeguarding Regulations; and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and review of minutes of Trustees' meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ Making enquiries of management and Trustees as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts** (continued)

***How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud***  
*(continued)*

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ Carried out substantive testing of expenditure;
- ◆ Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ Reading the minutes of meetings of Trustees and the Care Centre Management Board; and
- ◆ Enquiring of as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

We did not identify any irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of this report**

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP  
Statutory Auditor  
130 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 6DL

30 November 2022

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

## Statement of financial activities Year to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	1	1,029,004	79,849	1,108,853	1,626,200	73,369	1,699,569
Investments and interest receivable	2	267,555	4	267,559	245,965	18	245,983
Charitable activities							
. Charges for care services		1,506,132	—	1,506,132	1,373,791	—	1,373,791
Other sources:							
. Coronavirus Infection Control, Rapid Testing and PPE grants		76,570	—	76,570	41,182	—	41,182
. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding		—	—	—	31,639	—	31,639
. Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3	167,701	—	167,701	1,000	—	1,000
. Miscellaneous		10,756	—	10,756	14,847	—	14,847
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3,057,718</b>	<b>79,853</b>	<b>3,137,571</b>	<b>3,334,624</b>	<b>73,387</b>	<b>3,408,011</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds							
. Investment manager's fees		69,492	—	69,492	61,524	—	61,524
Charitable activities							
. Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	4	1,199,023	—	1,199,023	1,083,716	—	1,083,716
. Provision of care services	5	1,786,123	2,741	1,788,864	1,690,372	739	1,691,111
. Grants and donations in support of miscellaneous charitable purposes	6	72,206	135,388	207,594	102,785	49,765	152,550
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>3,126,844</b>	<b>138,129</b>	<b>3,264,973</b>	<b>2,938,397</b>	<b>50,504</b>	<b>2,988,901</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) income before net investment gains</b>	8	<b>(69,126)</b>	<b>(58,276)</b>	<b>(127,402)</b>	396,227	22,883	419,110
Net investment gains	12	329,752	—	329,752	3,038,061	—	3,038,061
<b>Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>		<b>260,626</b>	<b>(58,276)</b>	<b>202,350</b>	3,434,288	22,883	3,457,171
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2021		22,778,267	126,677	22,904,944	19,343,979	103,794	19,447,773
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2022		23,038,893	68,401	23,107,294	22,778,267	126,677	22,904,944

All of the charity's activities comprised continuing operations during the above two financial years.

**Balance sheet** 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		<b>8,086,350</b>		8,409,741
Investments	12		<b>13,926,401</b>		13,421,530
			<b>22,012,751</b>		21,831,271
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	<b>394,626</b>		574,202	
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>1,066,932</b>		910,714	
		<b>1,461,558</b>		1,484,916	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<b>(247,015)</b>		(271,243)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>1,214,543</b>		1,213,673
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>23,227,294</b>		23,044,944
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	15		<b>(120,000)</b>		(140,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<b>23,107,294</b>		22,904,944
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	16		<b>68,401</b>		126,677
Unrestricted income funds					
. Tangible fixed assets fund	17	<b>8,086,350</b>		8,409,741	
. Designated funds	18	<b>12,000,000</b>		12,000,000	
. General fund		<b>2,952,543</b>		2,368,526	
			<b>23,038,893</b>		22,778,267
			<b>23,107,294</b>		22,904,944

Approved by the Trustees and signed  
on their behalf by:

Eileen Keating PBVM

Trustee

Date: 4th November 2022

## Statement of cash flows Year to 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	<b>(146,690)</b>	110,248
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Investment income and interest received		<b>253,632</b>	246,032
Proceeds from the disposal of tangible fixed assets		<b>264,552</b>	1,000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(39,023)</b>	(472,130)
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		<b>958,837</b>	1,272,886
Purchase of investments		<b>(1,227,333)</b>	(977,675)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		<b>210,665</b>	70,113
<b>Cash inflow from financing activities:</b>			
Capital element of finance lease rentals		—	(8,037)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		—	(8,037)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>63,975</b>	179,297
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2021</b>	B	<b>1,074,431</b>	895,758
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements</b>		<b>(1,134)</b>	(624)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2022</b>	B	<b>1,137,272</b>	1,074,431

### Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2022.

#### A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>202,350</b>	3,457,171
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charge	<b>265,563</b>	264,543
Gains on investments	<b>(329,752)</b>	(3,038,061)
Investment income and interest receivable	<b>(267,559)</b>	(245,983)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<b>(167,701)</b>	(1,000)
Exchange losses	<b>1,134</b>	624
Non cash transactions – movement in provision against loan	—	(34,000)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	<b>193,503</b>	(305,355)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	<b>(44,228)</b>	12,309
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(146,690)</b>	110,248

#### B Analysis of net debt (i.e. cash and cash equivalents)

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,066,932</b>	910,714
Cash held by investment managers	<b>70,340</b>	163,717
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,137,272</b>	1,074,431

## Principal accounting policies 31 March 2022

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

### **Basis of preparation**

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2022 with comparative information provided for the year to 31 March 2021.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

Preparation of the accounts requires the Trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purposes of determining the annual depreciation charge;
- ◆ assessing the probability of the receipt of legacy income;
- ◆ determining the apportionment of expenditure between governance and support costs and between support costs and the various categories of expenditure on charitable activities;
- ◆ assessing the recoverability of outstanding debtors especially in respect to care fees and loans advanced to thirds parties;
- ◆ the assumptions applied in determining the size of the sisters' retirement reserve created in order to provide for the sisters in their retirement; and
- ◆ the estimation of future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern.

### **Assessment of going concern**

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

**Assessment of going concern** (continued)

The Trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The most significant areas of judgement that affect items in the accounts are detailed above. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 March 2023, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the level of investment return and the performance of the investment markets (see the investment policy and the risk management sections of the Trustees' report for more information).

**Income recognition**

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to the income, the amount of the income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations and legacies, investment income and interest receivable, charges for care services and other income including the surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual religious received under Gift Aid or deed of covenant, are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having being transferred to the charity.

**Income recognition** (continued)

Investment income is recognised once the dividend or similar distribution has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from fees and related charges in respect to care services is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the revenue can be reliably measured. It is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Other income is measured at fair value and is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Income from the Government's Job Retention Scheme in respect to the Covid-19 pandemic, and other coronavirus related grants and other income, is accounted for when the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

The surplus on the disposal of tangible fixed assets is calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds net of sale costs and the net book value of the asset immediately prior to disposal. It is accounted for once legal completion of the disposal has taken place.

**Expenditure recognition**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment 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.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the charity. This relates to investment management fees only.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include costs in respect to the support of members of the Congregation; expenditure incurred in the provision of care services to residents at the charity's Care Centre in Matlock, Derbyshire; and charitable grants and donations.

Donations relate, in the main, to the support of the Congregation's own work overseas and the support of other Roman Catholic charitable organisations. Donations are included in the statement of financial activities when approved for payment. Provision is made for donations approved but unpaid at the period end.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment. The nature of the charity's structure means that support costs applicable to each of the charity's activities can be identified directly and there has been no need for any apportionment between headings.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to compliance with regulation and good practice.

Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the direct expenditure incurred on the support of members of the Congregation and their ministry and on the provision of care services. No apportionment is made to expenditure on donations and grants or to expenditure on raising funds as the amounts are not deemed material.

### Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

- ◆ Freehold and long leasehold land and buildings  
Freehold and long leasehold land and buildings purchased on or prior to 31 March 1996 are included in the accounts at a valuation determined by the Trustees as at that date with professional assistance, based on replacement cost for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 July 2014 the value assigned to this property is now deemed its cost. Land and buildings purchased on or after 1 April 1996 are shown on the balance sheet at cost. Freehold land and buildings comprise:
  - ◇ Non-specialised buildings are those designated as, and used wholly or mainly for, private residential accommodation. Such buildings are not depreciated. Their value and condition are reviewed annually by the Trustees and an impairment provision made where their residual value is materially less than their book value.
  - ◇ Specialised buildings comprise the charity's care home and large residential convents. Depreciation is provided at 2% per annum on a straight-line basis to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.
- ◆ Furniture, plant and equipment and motor vehicles  
Expenditure on the purchase and replacement of furniture, plant and equipment and motor vehicles is capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis in order to write each asset off over its estimated useful economic life.
  - ◇ Furniture and equipment                      5 or 10 years
  - ◇ Motor vehicles                                      5 years

### **Fixed asset investments**

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

As noted above the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

### **Debtors**

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

### **Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

### **Foreign currencies**

Income received and costs incurred overseas are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange in force at the year end. This policy does not comply with FRS 102 but has been adopted to avoid over-complexity. The amounts involved are not material.

Exchange differences arising on translation of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are recorded as movements on general funds.

**Pension contributions**

The charity offers its employees membership of a defined contribution pension scheme administered by the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). Contributions to the scheme are debited to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are payable to the scheme. The assets of the scheme are held by an independent corporate trustee, whose activities are governed by the National Employment Savings Trust Order 2010, made by the Secretary of State in exercise of powers confirmed under the Pensions Act 2008.

**Finance leases**

Assets held under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over their useful lives. The corresponding lease obligation is treated in the balance sheet as a liability. The interest element of rental obligations is charged to the statement of financial activities over the period of the lease at a constant proportion of the outstanding balance of capital repayment.

**Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as the rentals fall due.

**Funds structure**

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

The general fund comprises those monies which may be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the charity and which may be applied at the discretion of the Trustees.

The designated funds are monies or other assets set aside out of general funds and designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of those tangible fixed assets used for the support of the sisters and their ministry. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund in recognition of the fact that the assets are used in the day to day work of the charity, and the fund value would not be realisable easily if needed to meet future contingencies.

**Services provided by members of the Congregation**

For the purposes of these accounts, no monetary value has been placed on administrative and other services provided by the members of the Congregation.

### 1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Salaries and pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant (including lump sum pension receipts)	1,023,387	—	1,023,387	1,525,036	—	1,525,036
General donations	5,617	79,849	85,466	84,359	56,564	140,923
Legacies	—	—	—	16,805	16,805	33,610
	<b>1,029,004</b>	<b>79,849</b>	<b>1,108,853</b>	<b>1,626,200</b>	<b>73,369</b>	<b>1,699,569</b>

### 2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from listed investments						
. UK fixed interest	34,444	—	34,444	36,039	—	36,039
. UK equities	129,567	—	129,567	115,761	—	115,761
. Overseas equities and alternatives	91,553	—	91,553	84,235	—	84,235
	<b>255,564</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>255,564</b>	<b>236,035</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>236,035</b>
Interest receivable						
. Bank interest	9,695	4	9,699	7,632	18	7,650
. Other interest	2,296	—	2,296	2,298	—	2,298
	<b>11,991</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11,995</b>	<b>9,930</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9,948</b>
	<b>267,555</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>267,559</b>	<b>245,965</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>245,983</b>

### 3 Income from: Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Surplus on disposal of non-specialised freehold property	162,110	—
Surplus on disposal of motor vehicles	5,591	1,000
	<b>167,701</b>	<b>1,000</b>

#### 4 Expenditure on: Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs (note 9)	124,433	—	124,433	118,967	—	118,967
Premises	318,824	—	318,824	310,580	—	310,580
Sisters' living and ministry expenses	549,017	—	549,017	526,496	—	526,496
Education, training and spiritual renewal	28,120	—	28,120	6,832	—	6,832
Depreciation of buildings	92,943	—	92,943	92,943	—	92,943
Provision against loan (note 13)	—	—	—	(34,000)	—	(34,000)
Other support costs	75,854	—	75,854	53,970	—	53,970
Governance costs (note 7)	9,832	—	9,832	7,928	—	7,928
	<b>1,199,023</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,199,023</b>	<b>1,083,716</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,083,716</b>

#### 5 Expenditure on: Provision of care services

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs (note 9)	1,280,146	—	1,280,146	1,220,905	—	1,220,905
Depreciation of buildings	95,490	—	95,490	95,490	—	95,490
Other costs	395,819	2,741	398,560	361,805	739	362,544
Governance costs (note 7)	14,668	—	14,668	12,172	—	12,172
	<b>1,786,123</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>1,788,864</b>	<b>1,690,372</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>1,691,111</b>

#### 6 Expenditure on: Grants and donations in support of miscellaneous charitable activities

The charity makes grants and donations, principally in support of the overseas missions of the Congregation and to other causes which further the Roman Catholic faith.

The grants and donations payable during the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Institutions						
. Generalate of the Congregation	69,806	—	69,806	69,969	—	69,969
. Irish Province of the Congregation	—	—	—	24,966	—	24,966
. Overseas missions of the Congregation	—	135,388	135,388	1,950	49,765	51,715
. Church Action on Poverty	2,400	—	2,400	2,400	—	2,400
Grant to one individual	—	—	—	3,500	—	3,500
	<b>72,206</b>	<b>135,388</b>	<b>207,594</b>	<b>102,785</b>	<b>49,765</b>	<b>152,550</b>

## 7 Governance costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Legal and professional fees	<b>24,500</b>	20,100
Allocated as follows:		
	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry (note 4)	<b>9,832</b>	7,928
Provision of care services (note 5)	<b>14,668</b>	12,172
	<b>24,500</b>	20,100

All governance costs related to unrestricted funds in both 2021 and 2022.

## 8 Net (expenditure) income before net investment gains

This is stated after charging:

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs (note 9)	<b>1,404,579</b>	1,339,872
Auditor's remuneration, including VAT		
· Statutory audit services	<b>20,500</b>	20,100
Depreciation	<b>265,563</b>	264,543
Exchange losses	<b>1,134</b>	624

## 9 Staff costs, Trustees' remuneration and key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	<b>1,252,140</b>	1,213,424
Social security costs	<b>87,141</b>	82,004
Pension contributions	<b>19,057</b>	17,385
	<b>1,358,338</b>	1,312,813
Agency staff	<b>46,241</b>	27,059
	<b>1,404,579</b>	1,339,872
Staff costs by function were as follows:		
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry (note 4)	<b>124,433</b>	118,967
Provision of care services (note 5)	<b>1,280,146</b>	1,220,905
	<b>1,404,579</b>	1,339,872

**9 Staff costs, Trustees' remuneration and key management personnel** (continued)

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 per annum (including benefits) during the year (2021: none).

The average number of employees during the year expressed as both full time equivalent (FTE) and average numbers, analysed by function, was:

	<b>2022 FTE</b>	2021 FTE	<b>2022 average</b>	2021 average
Support of members of the Congregation and their ministry	<b>5</b>	5	<b>10</b>	10
Provision of care services	<b>58</b>	56	<b>65</b>	64
	<b>63</b>	61	<b>75</b>	74

As members of the Congregation, the Trustees' living expenses during the year were borne by the charity, but they received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees during the year.

**Key management**

The Trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

All Trustees are members of the Congregation and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees or work as key management (2021: £nil).

The Registered Manager; Care Centre Manager and the Matron are considered key management personnel of the charity's Care Centre in charge of running and operating the Care Centre under the supervision of the Management Board. The total remuneration for the year (including employer's pension contributions) was £107,441 (2021: £99,595).

Steve Taylor of Axiom Healthcare Services Limited is Chair of the Care Centre Management Board. Consultancy fees payable to Axiom Healthcare Services Limited were £24,415 (2021: £23,890).

**10 Taxation**

The English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Charitable Trust is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold and long leasehold land and buildings		Furniture, plant and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Non- Specialised £	Specialised £			
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 April 2021	2,529,312	9,421,706	264,383	305,003	<b>12,520,404</b>
Additions	8,000	—	31,023	—	<b>39,023</b>
Disposals	(96,847)	—	—	(48,813)	<b>(145,660)</b>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,440,465</u>	<u>9,421,706</u>	<u>295,406</u>	<u>256,190</u>	<b><u>12,413,767</u></b>
At deemed cost (1996 valuation)	1,611,525	6,475,476	—	—	<b>8,087,001</b>
At cost	828,940	2,946,230	295,406	256,190	<b>4,326,766</b>
	<u>2,440,465</u>	<u>9,421,706</u>	<u>295,406</u>	<u>256,190</u>	<b><u>12,413,767</u></b>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1 April 2021	466,033	3,261,467	140,615	242,548	<b>4,110,663</b>
Depreciation charge for the year	—	188,433	47,344	29,786	<b>265,563</b>
On disposals	—	—	—	(48,809)	<b>(48,809)</b>
At 31 March 2021	<u>466,033</u>	<u>3,449,900</u>	<u>187,959</u>	<u>223,525</u>	<b><u>4,327,417</u></b>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,974,432</u>	<u>5,971,806</u>	<u>107,447</u>	<u>32,665</u>	<b><u>8,086,350</u></b>
At 31 March 2020	<u>2,063,279</u>	<u>6,160,239</u>	<u>123,768</u>	<u>62,445</u>	<b><u>8,409,741</u></b>

Included within freehold and long leasehold land and buildings is a property held on a 999 year lease signed on 5 March 1964. The property is included in the accounts at a net book value of £971,048 (2021: £1,006,697). There were no additions to the property in the year (2021 – none) and accumulated depreciation was £811,420 (2021: £775,771). The lease provides for the charity to occupy the property at an annual rent of £1 but to take responsibility for all costs relating to the building including repairs, maintenance and insurance. Under the lease the charity covenants to occupy and use the property solely as a Roman Catholic institution for religious and charitable purposes in accordance with its trust deed. At any time, should the charity wish to cease to occupy the premises, the Trustees are to give the lessor six months' notice in writing and, on surrender of the lease, the lessor is required to pay to the charity an amount equal to the value of the lease term surrendered, such value to be determined between the two parties.

As permitted under FRS 102, the charity has opted to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The book value of the land and buildings owned at 1 April 1996 is based on Trustees' valuation made, with professional assistance, as at that date on the basis of replacement cost for existing use. As permitted by FRS 102, with effect from 1 April 2014 the value assigned to this property is now deemed its cost. Additions in subsequent years are stated at cost. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

The historical cost of the freehold land and buildings included above at a valuation cannot be obtained without significant time and expense researching past records. The Trustees are of the opinion that such information would not add to the understanding of the accounts.

## 11 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

It is likely that the open market values of certain of the charity's land and buildings are materially greater than their book values. The amount of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant costs, which, in the opinion of Trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the accounts.

### Capital commitments

At 31 March 2022, the charity had no capital commitments (2021: £nil.)

## 12 Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Listed investments</b>		
Market value at 1 April 2021	13,257,813	10,514,963
Additions	1,227,333	977,675
Disposals at book value (proceeds: £958,837; gains: £108,822)	(850,015)	(1,119,527)
Net unrealised investment gains	220,930	2,884,702
Market value at 31 March 2022	<u>13,856,061</u>	<u>13,257,813</u>
<b>Cash held by investment managers for re-investment</b>	<u>70,340</u>	<u>163,717</u>
	<b>13,926,401</b>	<b>13,421,530</b>
Historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2022	<u>8,813,677</u>	<u>8,259,637</u>

Listed investments held at 31 March 2022 comprised the following:

	2022 £	2021 £
UK fixed interest	2,077,674	1,601,992
UK equities	4,643,358	5,438,048
Overseas equities	5,499,848	4,855,182
Alternatives	1,635,181	1,362,591
	<u>13,856,061</u>	<u>13,257,813</u>

All listed investments were dealt in on a recognised stock exchange.

At 31 March 2022 listed investments included no individual investment holdings deemed material when compared to the overall portfolio valuation as at that date (2021 – none).

## 13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Care charges receivable	137,624	128,129
Loan (see below)	122,426	120,130
Investment income receivable	14,908	3,277
Prepayments and accrued income	2,079	55,398
Pensions of individual religious received under deed of covenant including lump sum pension receipts	117,589	267,268
	<u>394,626</u>	<u>574,202</u>

**13 Debtors (continued)**

The loan represents an amount advanced to a former member of the Congregation to facilitate the purchase of a property. The loan, which is secured by way of a first legal charge over the property, is repayable on the sale of the property or the death of the former member. On repayment the loan attracts interest of 3% per annum calculated from the date it was advanced to the date of repayment. The accrued interest to 31 March 2022 of £45,910 (2021: £43,614) has been added to the loan.

	2022 £	2021 £
Loan amount	76,516	76,516
Accrued interest	45,910	43,614
	<b>122,426</b>	<b>120,130</b>

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts payable in respect to capital works	22,217	22,217
Expense creditors	56,400	60,759
Amount due to the Generalate of the Congregation (including grant payable of £20,000 (see note 15))	86,900	94,297
Taxation and social security costs	19,274	16,776
Other creditors	4,926	19,009
Deferred grants	7,936	6,973
Accruals	49,362	51,212
	<b>247,015</b>	<b>271,243</b>

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts due to the Generalate of the Congregation	120,000	140,000

In 2019 the charity committed to make a ten year grant of £200,000 in aggregate to the Generalate of the Congregation towards the cost of a building project to develop the Western Apex of Nano Nagle, Cork, Ireland. £20,000 is payable per annum.

**16 Restricted funds**

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

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2022 £
Overseas missions fund	124,478	79,038	(135,388)	68,128
Care Centre residents' fund	2,199	815	(2,741)	273
	<b>126,677</b>	<b>79,853</b>	<b>(138,129)</b>	<b>68,401</b>

**16 Restricted funds (continued)**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2021 £
Overseas missions fund	102,972	71,271	(49,765)	124,478
Care Centre residents' fund	822	2,116	(739)	2,199
	<u>103,794</u>	<u>73,387</u>	<u>(50,504)</u>	<u>126,677</u>

Funds held at 31 March 2022 to be applied as follows:

***The overseas missions fund***

The overseas missions fund represents monies received for the purposes of supporting overseas missions of the Congregation.

***The Care Centre residents' fund***

The Care Centre residents' fund represents donations to be applied for the benefit of all residents of the Care Centre and used to pay for entertainment and other items to be decided on after consultation with the residents.

**17 Tangible fixed assets fund**

	2022 £
At 1 April 2021	8,409,741
Net movement in year	(323,391)
At 31 March 2022	<u>8,086,350</u>
	2021 £
At 1 April 2020	8,213,241
Net movement in year	196,500
At 31 March 2021	<u>8,409,741</u>

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund and other designated funds of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be realisable with ease, in order to meet future contingencies.

## 18 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds, which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2021 £	New designations £	Released £	At 31 March 2022 £
Retirement reserve	12,000,000	—	—	12,000,000

	At 1 April 2020 £	New designations £	Released £	At 31 March 2021 £
Retirement reserve	10,000,000	2,000,000	—	12,000,000

### *Retirement reserve*

The retirement reserve consists of monies which the Trustees have set aside in order to provide for the sisters in their retirement. The value of the fund has been calculated using actuarial principles, but is adjusted as necessary in the light of available resources and changes in the number of the Province's members and their age profile.

## 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds £	Tangible fixed assets funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	—	8,086,350	—	—	8,086,350
Investments	1,926,401	—	12,000,000	—	13,926,401
Net current assets	1,146,142	—	—	68,401	1,214,543
Long term liabilities	(120,000)	—	—	—	(120,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,952,543</b>	<b>8,086,350</b>	<b>12,000,000</b>	<b>68,401</b>	<b>23,107,294</b>

	General funds £	Tangible fixed assets funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	—	8,409,741	—	—	8,409,741
Investments	1,421,530	—	12,000,000	—	13,421,530
Net current assets	1,086,996	—	—	126,677	1,213,673
Long term liabilities	(140,000)	—	—	—	(140,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,368,526</b>	<b>8,409,741</b>	<b>12,000,000</b>	<b>126,677</b>	<b>22,904,944</b>

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds** (continued)

The total unrealised gains as at 31 March 2022 constitutes movements on revaluation and are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Total unrealised gains at 31 March 2022 on investments</b>	<b>5,042,384</b>	4,998,176
<b>Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains</b>		
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2021	4,998,176	1,947,833
Net (losses) gains in respect to disposals of listed investments in the year	(176,722)	165,641
Net gains arising on revaluation of listed investments arising in the year	220,930	2,884,702
<b>Total unrealised gains at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>5,042,384</b>	4,998,176

**20 Commitments under operating leases**

At 31 March 2022, the charity had future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Equipment</b>		
Payments falling due:		
. Within one year	2,444	2,444
. Between two and five years	—	2,444
	<b>2,444</b>	4,888

**21 Related party transactions and transactions with Trustees**

As members of the charity, none of the Trustees have resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity under a Gift Aid compliant Deed of Covenant. During the year, the total amount donated by the Trustees to the charity was £92,197 (2021: £154,928).

Details of other transactions with Trustees are given in note 9 to these accounts

During the year the Care Centre Manager, who is member of key management personnel at the Care Centre, purchased a used vehicle from the charity on an arm's length basis for £2,500. There were no other related party transactions in the year (2021: none).

**22 Ultimate control**

The charity, which is constituted as a trust, was controlled throughout the period by The English Province of the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by virtue of the fact that the Provincial Leader of the Congregation appoints the Trustees.