

Charity number: NIC 102236 (Charity Commission for Northern Ireland)

**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Trustees</b>	Br D Young (deceased 25 November 2023) Br B Monaghan Br C Glavey Br D Gibson Br R Maynes
<b>Charity registered number</b>	NIC 102236 (Charity Commission for Northern Ireland)
<b>Principal Address</b>	Westcourt Centre 8-30 Barrack Street Belfast BT12 4AH
<b>Main Portfolio Managers</b>	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland Limited Cantor Fitzgerald House, 23 Saint Stephen's Green Dublin 2
<b>Financial Advisors</b>	L&P Trustee Service Limited 23 St Stephens Green Dublin 2
<b>Independent auditor</b>	RBK Business Advisers Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Termini 3 Arkle Road Sandyford Dublin 18
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 12 Trevor Hill Newry Co. Down
<b>Solicitors</b>	Napier & Sons 1-9 Castle Arcade High Street Belfast Co. Antrim

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

#### INTRODUCTION

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation, founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice and since then has been engaged in religious and other charitable work in Ireland and across the world. The Congregation is now organised into five Provinces across the world - Africa, America, Europe, India and Oceania.

The accounts accompanying this report are for the Congregation of Christian Brothers Northern Ireland. This is a charitable trust through which the assets of the Congregation in Northern Ireland are held and finances operate.

#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year, the Trustees have complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (the public benefit requirement statutory guidance).

#### OBJECTS, AIM AND OBJECTIVES

##### Charitable Objects

As stated above under Mission, the activities of the charity can be divided into seven main areas:

- Formal Mainstream Education
- Non Mainstream Education
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Faith Development
- Peace and Reconciliation
- Positive Impact Investing
- Care and Welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

##### Formal Mainstream Education

Historically, the principal ministry of the charity was in primary and post-primary schools.

For a number of years, consideration was given by the then Trustees to the establishment of a new structure to take over the trusteeship of the primary and post-primary schools as the capacity of the Christian Brothers to continue as Trustees diminished. Following comprehensive consideration of this matter and significant preparatory work, the Trustees agreed to transfer the trusteeship of all of the primary and post-primary schools to a new entity, the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Northern Ireland Ltd (ERSTNI) in February 2009. The Company is not controlled or administered by the Christian Brothers. In addition, it was deemed necessary to transfer the mainstream school properties to Edmund Rice Schools Trust (Northern Ireland) to allow it fulfil its objects. The value attributed to these properties was £48m. ERSTNI is a registered charity in Northern Ireland.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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From February 2009, the Trust's activities in relation to Formal Mainstream Education involve the support of the work of ERSTNI and in that it has, whilst always acknowledging the independence of that Trust, specifically provided funding for ERSTNI including the provision and cost of refurbishing their office at Barrack Street, the cost of the employment of their Education Officer (Executive Officer) and the officer's support staff. The Education Officer is charged with the promotion and development of the ethos of ERSTNI in the schools and this includes Faith Development, Charter Implementation, Edmund Rice Awards, Developing World Immersion Programmes, Staff Induction, Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (including local and global networking), Safeguarding Children and Pastoral Care. ERSTNI is the Senior Responsible Owner of the school properties and is responsible for any change in the status of a school and for any capital works on any of the properties. The Company Members and Directors (Trustees) of Edmund Rice Schools Trust (NI) are actively involved in all endeavours and works of the Trust on a voluntary basis.

The Trustees regularly receive a written report from the CEO of ERSTNI at every Trustee meeting which encompasses such topics as ethos, school reports, recent and upcoming events, initiatives, amalgamations, capital works etc.

The Trustees have provided ongoing support to ERSTNI. This support is one of the charity's main activities under the heading of Formal Education. In addition, the charity has an active role in supporting the ethos of ERSTNI, being education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice and the delivery of the same as articulated in the Charter of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust.

#### **Non Mainstream Education**

The charity owns and operates the Westcourt Centre, which is committed to providing an accessible community facility with a particular focus on young people who do not attend mainstream schools. While the Westcourt Centre places particular emphasis on youth and young adult provision, the centre offers facilities and services for the whole community, irrespective of age.

The objectives of the Westcourt Centre are as follows:

- To provide a centre in the Greater Belfast area dedicated to enriching the lives of the young, especially those at greatest risk of social exclusion, by offering learning and personal development opportunities.
- To encourage the young to be confident, thoughtful, articulate and interested in their own social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development.
- To develop a capacity, as personnel and resources allow, to identify and meet holistically needs of young people who come to the centre.
- To create a distinctive location where all, particularly the young, can experience a caring and vibrant learning environment, interact appropriately and transcend differences of ability, gender, religious affiliation, social or ethnic background or political persuasion.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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**Westcourt Centre Activities during the Financial Year**

The following is an extract from the Westcourt Centre Annual Report 2023

**Rosemount House Classes:**

Rosemount House is a homelessness and recovery hostel. We ran weekly activities to help support men impacted by issues of homelessness, addiction and poor mental health. These include photography and guitar classes and a walking group.



**Mens Shared Skills Project:**

The Mens Shared Skills Group met weekly at Westcourt to help combat social exclusion amongst men aged over 50. The group work through a programme of activities including visits, discussions and workshops with a focus on promoting health and wellbeing. They focus a lot on the urban garden area and find it very therapeutic.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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ASIST Suicide Intervention Training

On May 4th & 5th we delivered a two days accredited training workshop on suicide intervention skills for staff working to support people impacted by homelessness, addiction, mental health and food poverty. Thanks to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for providing the training resource packs.

Homelessness Advocacy

We continue to raise awareness of the chronic issue of homelessness. We are involved in the design and delivery of activities at local, national and international levels to advocate with and give voice to people impacted directly by homelessness. We also engage with schools to encourage young people to make their voices heard around the issue.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

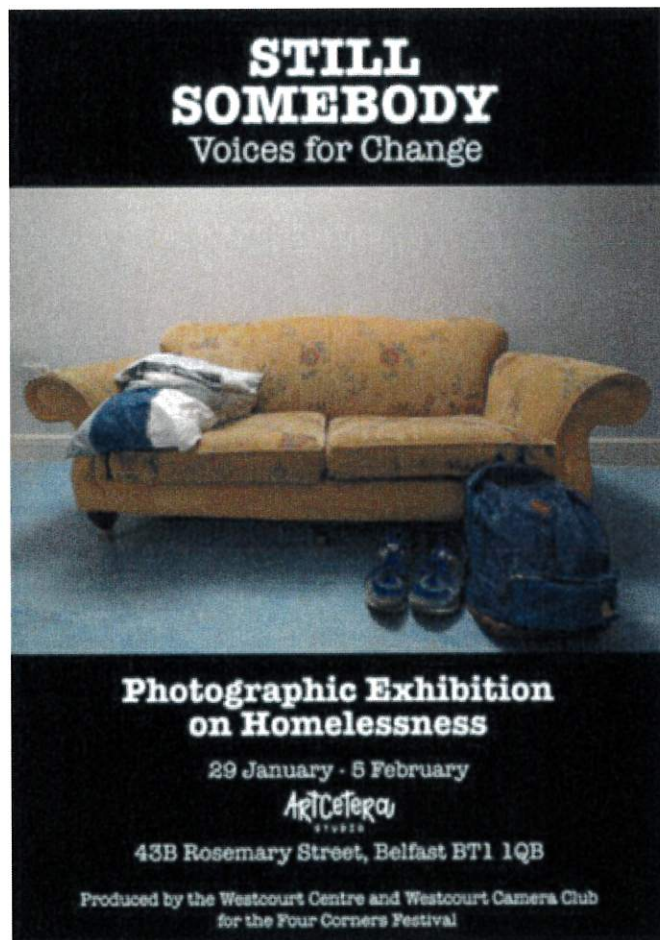
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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4 Corners Festival

In 2023, Westcourt was invited to produce a photographic exhibition for the 4 Corners Festival. Now in its 12th year, the 4 Corners Festival was conceived to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and wellbeing of all. The festival brings together people from the four main Christian churches and features a range of arts, discussion and faith-inspired events.



Members of Westcourt Camera Club worked with residents in a Belfast homeless hostel, holding weekly sessions to cover basic photography skills, discuss issues and (personal) experiences around homelessness from which to inspire and plan photographs. Four men attended regularly and produced images for the exhibition.

The other images were created by members of Westcourt Camera Club based on government statistics or testimonies from people impacted by homelessness who wished to share their stories but remain anonymous.

The exhibition was very well received, with more than 800 visitors viewing it during the week of the festival. These included politicians, city councillors, staff from the housing and homelessness sectors, residents from homeless services, schools and the general public. It attracted a lot of press coverage from broadcast, print and social media, including the BBC and ITV. It even gained a two-page feature in a newspaper in Berlin.

Claire Hanna (SDLP), the MP for Belfast South, stated: "[It's a] moving and necessary exhibition. We need to stop failing these fellow humans."

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Advocacy Through The Arts

A proud first for us in August as we exhibited our photographs on Homelessness simultaneously in Dublin and Belfast. The images were on display in Photo Museum Ireland the national centre for contemporary photography in Dublin throughout the month of August. And we also opened in St. Mary's University College in Belfast as part of Féile 2023 - Ireland's biggest community arts festival.



#### Engagement at the United Nations

Throughout the year, we submitted a number of statements on homelessness in Northern Ireland to the United Nations.

In March, two residents at a Belfast homeless hostel, were empowered by their participation in our photography project and became confident enough to present video statements to the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva. One of the men presented a statement to the Special Rapporteur on Housing who referenced it in his concluding remarks. To have someone currently experiencing homelessness highlighting the issue on behalf of others is an example of advocacy in action.

In July, our statement on Homelessness was presented by video to the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

#### Lobbying Local & National Policy Makers

We were very happy to see some of our images on display in the boardroom of the Housing Executive in Adelaide Street - giving a voice to those impacted by Homelessness and a stark reminder of the scale of the issue here.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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We met with the NI Housing Executive Head of Homelessness Policy and Strategy and also the Homelessness Strategy Manager as part of the ongoing 'Still Somebody - Voices for Change' initiative. They heard directly from people impacted by Homelessness and have invited Ed and Rob from Rosemount House to participate in the Lived Experience programme to help inform future policy and practice.



Pictured on the steps of Stormont with MLAs, City Councillors and front line staff as part of a powerful demonstration calling for more services for people impacted by issues of addiction, mental health and homelessness. People's Kitchen Belfast organised the event and we are humbled that their installation of 212 pairs of empty shoes to mark the government statistics for drug related deaths was inspired by a photo from our recent exhibition.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Facilitation of other charitable groups

From January to December 2023 a wide range of groups and organisations from the community, voluntary and education sectors used the Westcourt Centre facilities for various activities. These included:

- The Link Centre (The Belfast Education Authority) – Secondary Pupil Support Service.
- The Andersonstown Traditional and Contemporary Music School - which is a community based music project that provides opportunities for everyone to participate in music classes and associated activities.
- Belfast Hospital School TOPS Project - working with young people that are suffering from depression and other mental health issues.
- Suicide Awareness Training.
- Ascertainment Drug & Alcohol Support Service.
- National Centre for Suicide Prevention Training (UK).
- Edmund Rice Schools Trust NI.
- Youth Justice Agency.
- Homeless Connect.
- Mens Shared Skills Group.
- Rosemount House hostel for men with alcohol addiction.
- Public Health Authority.
- Project Zambia - Westcourt Camera Club.

#### Social and pastoral work

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by individual Brothers:

- Working as chaplains in schools and prisons;
- Spiritual direction and retreat work;
- Counselling;
- Adult education;
- Cross Community initiatives

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling the Brothers to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area;
- Encouraging and motivating the Brothers to reach out to those in need within society

#### International missionary work

Members of the European Province are working in Africa, India and South America. The Brothers teach in schools and engage in other educational projects. The purpose of these schools and projects is to promote the spiritual, moral, intellectual, cultural and social education of young people and adults who often come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In previous years, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust, an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

The aims of the Trustees in this area are to support the work of the members of the worldwide Congregation where needs arise.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### **Faith Development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where the Brothers reside. As noted earlier, some Brothers provide spiritual direction and retreats.

The Trustees, in conjunction with the European Province Leadership Team, are developing an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers. The Network consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and involving themselves in forms of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, involvement is open to all who wish in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The aim through the Edmund Rice Network is to provide, for all interested adults, opportunities for spiritual conversation and exploration and faith-based social action.

#### **Young Adult Leadership Development:**

The Trustees sponsor young adult leadership development through two projects:

- Edmund Rice Camps
- India Immersion Project

#### **Edmund Rice Camps**

Edmund Rice Camps are held in Newry and Omagh, with approx. 120 young leaders and 100 children involved. The children come from disadvantaged backgrounds and benefit hugely from their interaction with the leaders and fun-filled weeks of activities – art and crafts, drama, sport, music, outings etc. Children receive healthy food during Camp. The leaders undergo extensive training and preparation, are ACCESSNI vetted and undergo Child Safeguarding training.

#### **Peace and Reconciliation**

The Trust actively supports peace and reconciliation activities. In the mainstream education this is evidenced through the various inter-community projects. In the non mainstream education, this is evidenced by the work of the Westcourt Centre as outlined above.

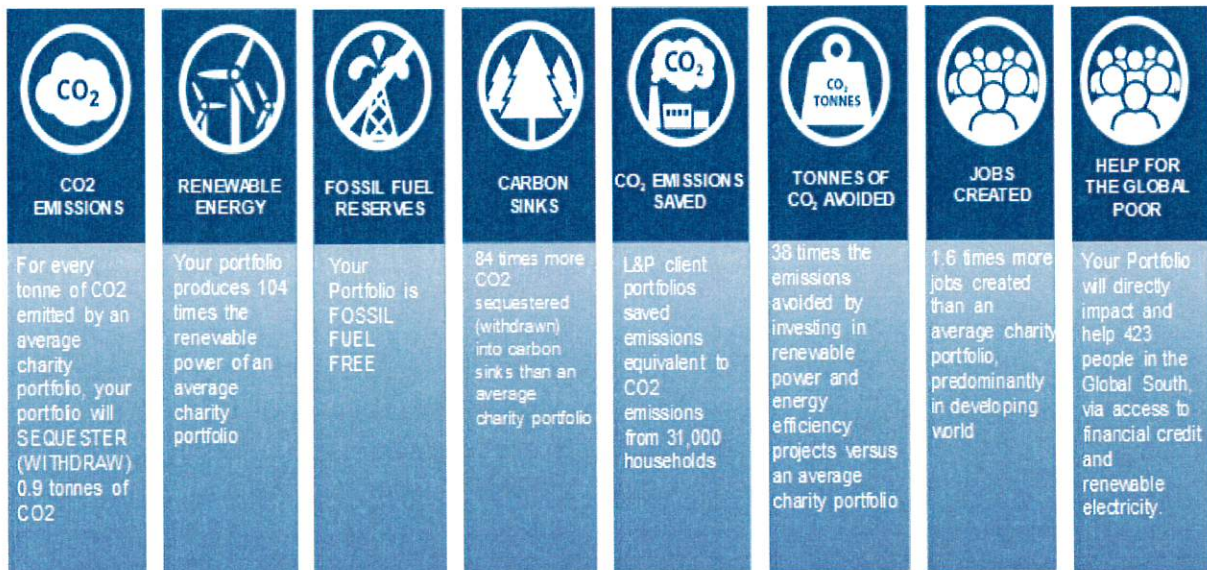
#### **Positive Impact Investing**

We view our investment portfolio as part of our Mission. Alongside our active Ministries, we seek to bring about change through positive impact investing in our investment portfolios. Additionally, our investment portfolio avoids investments deemed to be harmful, such as investments in fossil fuel companies or armaments companies. Avoiding these types of investments is an important step in ensuring that our investment portfolio is not involved in harmful activities.

While avoiding harmful activities is important, we believe that it is even more important to use our investments to bring about positive change in the world. We therefore seek to investment in activities that have beneficial impacts, for both individual wellbeing and for the environment.

We assess these positive impacts under a number of headings that we believe are important measures of how our investments are positively affecting the world around us. Below are some of the positive impacts achieved by the investment portfolio:

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

All the investments within the Portfolio contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are goals developed and adopted by all member states of the United Nations to achieve "a more sustainable future for all." They represent a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity and people's wellbeing by 2030. The SDGs are as follow:

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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Additionally, the SDGs are closely aligned with the charitable objectives of religious organisations. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has made a strong commitment to sustainable development. His appeal to "...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet," provides a firm ethical foundation for actions that need to be taken urgently at all levels. Pope Francis' speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly's formal adoption of the 17 SDGs gave further support to the ambitious and transformational vision of the goals.

To ensure alignment of the SDGs we use a comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact screen which guarantees the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening as it improves the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio.

#### Environmental Impact

##### *Overall, Carbon Footprint*



Measurement of carbon emissions is crucial to help us understand the role our investment portfolio plays in the climate crisis, while taking measures to address it. Limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who have done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also contributes to reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10), and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

The Portfolio includes a number of carbon sink-type investments, which sequester or draw carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Forestry is a very effective carbon sink, as trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of their growing process. Therefore, the presence of forestry funds means that any carbon emissions from the majority of the portfolio are effectively offset entirely by the forestry investments.

Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) -229 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 316 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

#### Fossil Fuel Reserves

Following the Trustees decision to entirely divest from fossil fuels in early 2017, the Portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. The Portfolio ensures no exposure to companies that own thermal coal, oil gas reserves and other unconventional sources of reserves such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas. Many of these reserves will become "stranded" and may not be useable if we are to keep the targeted temperature rise (as a result of global warming) below 2 degrees Celsius. Hence, in addition to the impact, not holding these assets reduces the financial risk within the portfolio.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The chart below shows the fossil fuel reserves held by investments within the Portfolio across the major fossil fuels in comparison to an unscreened portfolio. As the chart shows, the Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves at all. This is a key metric to ensure that the Portfolio is not supporting fossil fuel activities that are diametrically opposed to the impact the Portfolio is trying to achieve elsewhere in the investments, namely promoting transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.

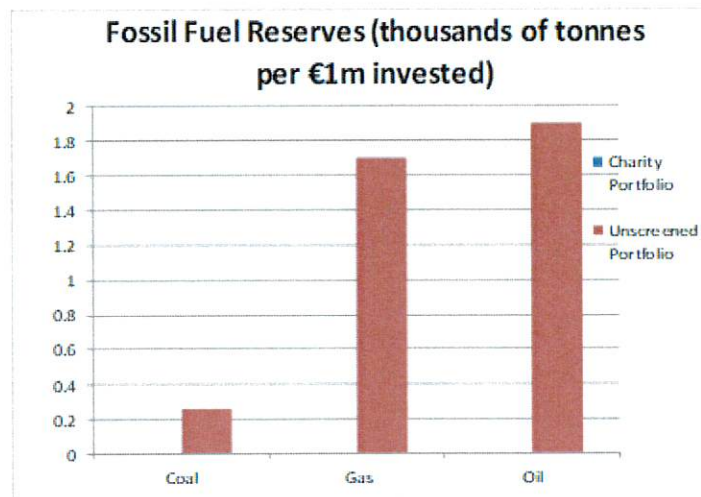


Chart showing the Charity's Investment Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)

### Renewable Energy

Given the importance of promoting renewable energy sources to address climate change, any investor interested in impact investing generally seeks a high level of renewable power output from their investment portfolio.

Within the Portfolio, renewable power is produced by a number of investments based in Ireland, Europe, the US, and the developing world. We note some of the key impact metrics of these funds below:

#### Renewable Energy Fund

Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects

- Energy for 300,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum
- 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Solar Income Fund

Fund holding approx. 40 solar plants in Europe

- Energy for 150,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum
- 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) it replaces. In 2023, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 412 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is equivalent to:

Removing 89 cars from the roads every year

947 barrels of oil saved

343 acres of pine forest absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> for one year

45 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 1,124 MWh in 2023, enough energy to power approx. 225 homes.

### Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber.
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere.
- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Social Impact**

**Job Creation**



Providing employment is one of the best methods of reducing poverty, and therefore it has a number of positive beneficial effects across the SDGs, from poverty reduction (SDG1) to providing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8). As the majority of the jobs created by the impact investments are in the developing world and tend to favour women as much (if not more) than men, then job creation in these areas improves Gender Equality (SDG5) and Reduces Inequalities (SDG10), both between sexes and between the developed and developing regions of the world.

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore additional capital from investors should enable these companies to create jobs, albeit that the job creation impact from additional investment in these typically large, established businesses is low. However, other funds that operate in the developing world tend to produce far higher job creation and comprise the majority of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 3 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create circa 6 direct jobs in 2023.

**Homelessness Crisis**

In Ireland, there were 13,000 homeless people in 2023, and an increase of over 250% of homeless families since 2015. Social housing in Ireland is therefore at crisis levels mainly due to limited supply of residential property and a booming population (at the time of the report writing, the population in Ireland had reached 5 million, the highest level since 1851).

The portfolio now includes the New Haven Social Housing Fund which addresses this chronic shortage of housing for vulnerable groups in Ireland. The goals of the fund are shown below:

**Social Housing Fund**

Innovative fund acquires properties for social housing purposes

- Provide €100m+ in long term capital to housing sector
- Target high ESG and sustainability standards
- 500+ new homes to be provided for social housing needs



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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Care and Welfare of Members

Those members of the Trust who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members can continue to further the mission of the Trust
- Enabling all members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.
- Ensuring all members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

##### Results for the year

A summary of the year's results can be found on page 26 of this report and accounts. During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £687,417 (2022: £940,091). Of the incoming resources, a total of £539,187 (2022: £712,472) related to the pensions of the Brothers, was gift aided to the charity. Other income totalled £5,874(2022: £6,766).

Resources expended totalled £2,333,373 (2022: £1,634,722) with 99% (2022: 98%) being spent on direct charitable activities. Investment management costs totalled £19,359 (2022: £32,556). Investment losses of £114,219 (2022: £30,040) resulted in a net deficit for the year of £1,760,175 (2022: £724,671).

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### **Investment Policy**

At 31 December 2023, the Trust had investments valued at £3,685,027 (2022: £3,887,057). These funds are managed by Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland.

These funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that contravene certain ethical criteria and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to the community. These funds are likely to hold investments that are compatible with the charity's religious ethos. In this regard, the investment portfolio is screened according to the following criteria:

- Damage to the environment
- Infringement of human rights
- Manufacture of armaments and supplies to the military
- Manufacture of anti-life products
- Irresponsible marketing of breast milk substitutes
- Stem cell research
- Cosmetics testing on animals
- Gambling
- Pornography
- Tobacco

The Trustees, with their investment advisors, review the investments on a regular basis.

#### **Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £1,074,427 (2022: £2,834,602). Of this, £511,690 (2022: £516,496) is represented by properties and other tangible assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees are intending to designate the remaining funds to provide for the future activities.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees do not anticipate any significant change to the activities over the next year. They intend to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity's aims.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Governing Document

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 August 1994 amended, by special resolution dated 21 January 2015. The charity is registered with the UK Revenue Commissioners under charity number XN 46693. The charity is also registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under charity number NIC102236.

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Congregation Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a Congregation Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province.

##### Recruitment and Training of Trustees

In accordance with the Trust Deed, there shall be a minimum of four and a maximum of eight Trustees. The statutory power of appointment and removal of a Trustee is vested in the Provincial Leader of the European Province.

Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries of the members. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

##### Organisational Structure

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with the regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity's professional advisors.

The day to day running of the Westcourt Centre is delegated to a sub-committee. The Trustees receive regular reports from the sub-committee.

##### Risk Management

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on a half-yearly basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

**Governance and management:** considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

**Financial:** considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

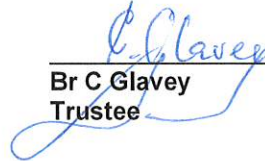
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**Age Profile:** considers the aging population of the Brothers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Trust meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Br D Gibson  
Trustee



Br C Glavey  
Trustee

Date: 30/09/2024

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping 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 financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. 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.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



**Br D Gibson**  
Trustee



**Br C Glavey**  
Trustee

Date: 30/09/2024

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 applying that framework the trustees have elected to have regard to the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities (SORP).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charity's assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in Northern Ireland as applied with regard to Charities SORP'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

#### 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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements 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 charitable trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements 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.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (CONTINUED)

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#### Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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 this is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN  
BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (CONTINUED)

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**Respective Responsibilities**

*Responsibilities of trustees*

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable trust'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.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (CONTINUED)

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#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 financial statements.

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 of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect to irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the Charity's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- results of our enquires of management and other key persons about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - o identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; and
  - o detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - o the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the areas in which management is required to exercise significant judgement. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the competition and anti-bribery laws, data protection, employment, environmental and health and safety regulations.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (CONTINUED)

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#### **Audit Response to Risks Identified**

As a result of performing the above we identified several potential risks of fraud. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical and substantive procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members who remained alert to any indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN  
BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (CONTINUED)

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**The purpose of the audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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**Ronan Kilbane**  
**Statutory auditor**  
for and on behalf of  
**RBK Business Advisers**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
Termini  
3 Arkle Road  
Sandyford  
Dublin 18

Date: 30/09/2024

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 31 December 2023 (12 months) £	Total funds 31 December 2023 (12 months) £	Total funds for the 16 months ended 31 December 2022 (16months) £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Charitable activities	2	539,187	539,187	712,472
Social Investments	3	82,653	82,653	97,413
Investments	4	59,703	59,703	123,440
Other income	5	5,874	5,874	6,766
<b>Total income</b>		<u>687,417</u>	<u>687,417</u>	<u>940,091</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	6	19,359	19,359	32,556
Charitable activities	7	2,314,014	2,314,014	1,602,166
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>2,333,373</u>	<u>2,333,373</u>	<u>1,634,722</u>
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<u>(1,645,956)</u>	<u>(1,645,956)</u>	<u>(694,631)</u>
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains:</b>				
(Losses)/gains on investment assets	12	(114,219)	(114,219)	(30,040)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(1,760,175)</u>	<u>(1,760,175)</u>	<u>(724,671)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	14	2,834,602	2,834,602	3,559,273
Net movement in funds (see above)		(1,760,175)	(1,760,175)	(724,671)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	14	<u>1,074,427</u>	<u>1,074,427</u>	<u>2,834,602</u>

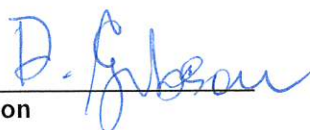
The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	511,690	516,496
Investments	12	3,685,027	3,887,057
		<u>4,196,717</u>	<u>4,403,553</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	52,634	39,383
Cash at bank and in hand	18	1,116,408	1,315,278
		<u>1,169,042</u>	<u>1,354,661</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(4,291,332)</u>	<u>(2,923,612)</u>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(3,122,290)</b>	<b>(1,568,951)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b><u>1,074,427</u></b>	<b><u>2,834,602</u></b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	14	1,074,427	2,834,602
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>1,074,427</u></b>	<b><u>2,834,602</u></b>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Br D Gibson  
 Trustee

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Br C Glavey  
 Trustee

Date: 30/09/2024

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	17	<b>(280,181)</b>	69,913
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	10	<b>(6,500)</b>	-
Net movement in investments		<b>202,030</b>	160,656
(Losses)/gains on investments	12	<b>(114,219)</b>	(30,040)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		<b>81,311</b>	<b>130,616</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year/period</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year/period	18	<b>1,315,278</b>	1,114,749
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year/period</b>	18	<b>1,116,408</b>	<b>1,315,278</b>

The notes on pages 30 to 44 form part of these financial statements

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

##### 1.2 Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities arises on a weekly/monthly basis from pensions. All such income is credited to the income and expenditure account only when received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

##### 1.3 Income from donations and legacies

These are included in the financial statements of the Charity when the entitlement of the income has been notified to the Trustees and there is a certainty of receipt.

##### 1.4 Income from social Investments

Investment income, realised and unrealised, is accounted for in the year in which the Charity is entitled to receive it and is reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

##### 1.5 Investment Income

The investment income included in incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities is comprised of dividends received directly by the Charity together with all bank interest to which the Charity is entitled in the year.

##### 1.6 Investment managed fund

Investments are shown at market value at the balance sheet date. Market value comprises the capital cost together with realised gains invested, net cash inflows/outflows and unrealised gains and losses.

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Expenditure**

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

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.8 Foreign currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

All fixed assets held for the beneficial use of the Charity have been capitalised and are included in the financial statements. These assets are included at original cost where it can be determined or at a reasonable notional cost. Such notional cost has been determined by taking the historic consumer price indices produced by the Central Statistics Office and applying those to the insurance valuations of the properties concerned.

Such property is not held for investment purposes and is carried in the assets of the Charity at cost.

The figure for cost, or notional cost where utilised does not take account of the separate value of the underlying land of any property. The original cost of the land would not be material to the amounts stated for fixed assets.

The land owned by the Charity has been included at a nominal value of £1,000 per acre. This includes two playing fields retained by the Charity which have been let on short term licences to the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (Northern Ireland).

Consequently the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings of the charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes such charges which might be applicable to the full value of the assets.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2%
Motor vehicles	-	20%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

##### 1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

##### 1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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## CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.12 Creditors

Creditors are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### 1.13 Contingent assets

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the company's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

##### 1.14 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities 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.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

##### 1.15 Fund accounting

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

##### 1.16 Taxation

Arising from its charitable status, there is no liability to Corporation Tax on the Charity.

##### 1.17 Reserves

The reserves consist of unrestricted funds.

General reserves are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees.

A significant portion of the unrestricted funds are designated to provide for various activities in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.18 Critical judgements and estimates

The estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

**Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets**

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

**Fair value of fixed asset investments**

The fixed asset investments are carried at fair value which has been determined based on independent professional valuation carried out at year end by investment management companies holding those investments.

**Accruals - litigation costs**

The charitable trust has accruals recorded in the balance sheet at the year end in relation to litigation costs for the ongoing legal court cases. Estimates of these accruals are based on an assessment made by the trust's legal advisors in relation to the liability based on current litigation and an established pattern of settlement agreements.

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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**2. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 16 months £</i>
Teachers pensions	403,900	<b>403,900</b>	547,120
Old age pensions	135,287	<b>135,287</b>	165,352
<b>Total 2023</b>	<u>539,187</u>	<u><b>539,187</b></u>	<u>712,472</u>

**3. Income from social investments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 16 months £</i>
Rental income (Westcourt)	82,653	<b>82,653</b>	97,413
<b>Total 2023</b>	<u>82,653</u>	<u><b>82,653</b></u>	<u>97,413</u>

**4. Income from investments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 12 months £</b>	<i>Total funds 2022 16 months £</i>
Investment income	53,689	<b>53,689</b>	123,440
Interest received	6,014	<b>6,014</b>	-
<b>Total 2023</b>	<u>59,703</u>	<u><b>59,703</b></u>	<u>123,440</u>

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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5. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2022 16 months £
Other income	5,874	5,874	6,616
Donations received	-	-	150
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>6,766</b>

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2022 16 months £
Investment management and advisory fees	19,359	19,359	32,556
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>19,359</b>	<b>19,359</b>	<b>32,556</b>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2023 12 months £	Total funds 2022 16 months £
Property costs and depreciation	11,306	11,306	21,714
Support of members and their mission	425,695	425,695	507,855
Costs incurred associated with former students	1,622,335	1,622,335	738,774
International missionary support	-	-	16,697
Former mainstream education	118,000	118,000	158,000
Non mainstream education	124,520	124,520	149,796
Governance	12,158	12,158	9,330
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>2,314,014</b>	<b>2,314,014</b>	<b>1,602,166</b>

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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**8. Staff costs**

	<b>For the year ended 31 December 2023 12 months £</b>	<i>For the year ended 31 December 2022 16 months £</i>
Wages and salaries	<b>90,574</b>	109,513
Social security costs	<b>7,613</b>	9,188
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>3,802</b>	4,546
	<b>101,989</b>	123,247

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>For the year ended 31 December 2023 12 months No.</b>	<i>For the year ended 31 December 2022 16 months No.</i>
Employees	<b>5</b>	5

During the year ended 31 December 2023, no Employees received remuneration exceeding £60,000.

**9. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland includes the Trustees and Head of Finance. The compensation paid to key management personnel for employee services was £0 (2022: £0).

**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**10. Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2023	720,545	15,775	261,045	997,365
Additions	-	6,500	-	6,500
Disposals	-	(3,900)	-	(3,900)
At 31 December 2023	<u>720,545</u>	<u>18,375</u>	<u>261,045</u>	<u>999,965</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2023	204,257	15,567	261,045	480,869
Charge for the year	9,798	1,508	-	11,306
On disposals	-	(3,900)	-	(3,900)
At 31 December 2023	<u>214,055</u>	<u>13,175</u>	<u>261,045</u>	<u>488,275</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2023	<u>506,490</u>	<u>5,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>511,690</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>516,288</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>516,496</u>

**11. Investments**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Listed investments at market value:</b>		
At 1 January	3,887,057	4,047,713
Investment income	53,689	123,440
(Losses) on investments	(114,219)	(30,040)
Cash (withdrawn)	(141,500)	(254,056)
At 31 December	<u>3,685,027</u>	<u>3,887,057</u>

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CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	52,634	39,383
	<u>52,634</u>	<u>39,383</u>

13. Creditors: Amount falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	3,745	2,304
Christian Brothers European Province - ROI	64,163	331,585
English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers	21,726	6,407
Accruals	4,201,698	2,583,316
	<u>4,291,332</u>	<u>2,923,612</u>

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Fixed asset fund	516,496	-	(11,306)	6,500	-	511,690
Former mainstream education	236,639	19,901	(118,000)	(20,000)	-	118,540
Non mainstream education	279,981	19,901	(124,520)	(50,000)	-	125,362
International mission fund	217,475	19,901	-	(180,000)	-	57,376
Support of members	727,995	269,594	(425,694)	(350,000)	-	221,895
General charitable activities fund	856,016	358,120	(1,653,853)	593,500	(114,219)	39,564
	<u>2,834,602</u>	<u>687,417</u>	<u>(2,333,373)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(114,219)</u>	<u>1,074,427</u>

Statement of funds - prior period

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	537,761	-	(21,265)	-	516,496
Former mainstream education	353,492	41,147	(158,000)	-	236,639
Non mainstream education	388,630	41,147	(149,796)	-	279,981
International mission fund	193,025	41,147	(16,697)	-	217,475
Support of members	844,405	356,236	(472,646)	-	727,995
General charitable activities fund	1,241,960	460,414	(816,318)	(30,040)	856,016
	<u>3,559,273</u>	<u>940,091</u>	<u>(1,634,722)</u>	<u>(30,040)</u>	<u>2,834,602</u>

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

15. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
General funds	2,834,602	687,417	(2,333,373)	-	(114,219)	1,074,427

Summary of funds - prior period

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2022 £</i>
General funds	3,559,273	940,091	(1,634,722)	(30,040)	2,834,602

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	511,690	511,690
Fixed asset investments	3,685,027	3,685,027
Current assets	1,169,042	1,169,042
Creditors due within one year	(4,291,332)	(4,291,332)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,074,427</b>	<b>1,074,427</b>

CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

16. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	516,496	516,496
Fixed asset investments	3,887,057	3,887,057
Current assets	1,354,661	1,354,661
Creditors due within one year	(2,923,612)	(2,923,612)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,834,602</b>	<b>2,834,602</b>

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Net (expenditure) for the year/period before other recognised gains and losses (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>(1,645,956)</b>	<b>(694,631)</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	11,306	21,262
(Increase) in debtors	(13,251)	(25,766)
Increase in creditors	1,367,720	769,048
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(280,181)</b>	<b>69,913</b>

18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,116,408</b>	<b>1,315,278</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,116,408</b>	<b>1,315,278</b>

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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**19. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,315,278	(198,870)	1,116,408
	1,315,278	(198,870)	1,116,408

**20. Contingencies**

A number of legal actions have been initiated against the Charity. The Trustees have appointed solicitors and barristers to act on their behalf in defending these actions. Due to the nature of the actions, the lengthy passage of time since the alleged offences occurred, and the significant legal and practical difficulties in resolving these cases, the determination of the final liabilities is uncertain.

The accruals provided are based on current litigation and an established pattern of settlement agreements. As the litigation and negotiations progress, it is possible that the ultimate liability may be different from the amount of the accruals currently recorded.

Since the year end, 4 new cases have been notified and in accordance with the accounting policies, provision is only made in the year of notification of such claims.

**21. Commitments**

A commitment exists to provide funding of £118,000 (2023: £118,000) the next year to Edmund Rice Schools Trust (Northern Ireland) to meet the costs of that body.

**22. Related party transactions**

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind.

The Charity shares two common trustees with Congregation of Christian Brothers, European Province - Republic of Ireland (CBEP). During the year CBEP recharged £64,163 (2022: £331,585) in respect of costs incurred on behalf of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland. At the financial year end, the Charity owed £64,163 (2022: £331,585) to the Congregation of Christian Brothers, European Province - Republic of Ireland.

The Charity shares one common trustee with the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees (English Province), (CCBT). During the year CCBT recharged £10,336 (2022: £11,509) in respect of costs incurred on behalf of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland. At the financial year end, the Charity owed £21,726 (2022: £6,407) to the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees (English Province).

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**CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

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**23. Custodian trustee holdings**

The trustees held an amount of £74,352 (2022: £74,352) in a bank account as a custodian for a member of the congregation. The account is held securely and separately from those of the trustees who are responsible for safe custody of the funds. These funds are not therefore included in the balance sheet of Congregation of Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland at the year end (2022: £Nil).

**24. Post balance sheet events**

Apart from those disclosed, there have been no significant events affecting the charitable trust since the period end that require disclosure in the financial statements.

**25. Approval of financial statements**

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30/09/2024