

Charity number: 1081204

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chanter, Browne & Curry

Chartered Accountants

1 Plato Place

72-74 St Dionis Road

London SW6 4TU.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

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THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the 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 in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019) - (Charity SORP (FRS 102) Revised).

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

Our aims

The objects of the charity are set out in the charity's trust deed and are summarised as follows:-

- to advance education about Christianity in the Holy Land and other related subjects; and
- to relieve persons who are in conditions of need in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land, for the purposes of the registration of the charity, comprises Israel, the Palestinian areas of the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan and the neighbouring countries which include Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq.

Our objectives

The objectives of the charity are set to reflect its community aims. Each year the trustees review the charity's objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the charity. In carrying out this review the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and its supplementary public guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

This has been an extraordinary year by any stretch of the imagination. Covid 19 has meant that living within government guidelines, for our health and safety, has curtailed our ability to meet face to face and has impinged on organisation and communication efficiencies, levels of anxiety and work/study habits. Administration has met with new obstacles to communication with each other and commercial organisations like banks, insurance companies, accountants etc. as all our lives have been deregularised by working from home, home schooling and occasionally the extra pressure on communication systems with more frequent connection failures. We have been learning to make the best of the situation by exploring our use of technology, in particular zoom technology, and so despite these challenges, the Executive have met virtually five times in the twelve months since March 2020.

Scholarships

We have awarded £5,688 in scholarships and other student grants this year to five individuals which is significantly less than last year (£10,500). Our scholarship and grant strategy are for support of post graduate research particularly but not exclusively around contextual theology of concern to the Christian community in the Middle East. We would like to increase the total expenditure year on year and continue to request further financial help in building a restricted fund for this purpose.

Research consultant

We have spent £15,000 on a research consultancy this year provided by Anthony O'Mahony, Fellow of Blackfriars College, Oxford. Anthony has provided academic support to the Living Stones Research Community including some of our scholarship beneficiaries, the writers associated with articles published in our Yearbook and others engaged in active research among Trustees and our membership. In addition, the consultancy has helped resource the Theology Group programme and the planning for conferences and podcasts in the coming year.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Yearbook

The 2020 edition of the Yearbook has been delayed partly due to late arrival of some complex articles and partly due to Covid and its aftermath among some of our editors. This has pushed the publication date into 2021 and will be published before this summer as the 20-21 edition. We already have a substantial number of articles ready for publication for the edition following. We are incredibly pleased with the progress on distribution and acceptance of the Yearbook, and it is increasingly used by scholars and is cited in reference and so is being absorbed into the academic library system. The articles from all published Yearbooks to date are available as free downloads from our website: www.livingstones.ngo

Theology Group

The Theology group has 31 active members who have met on zoom and have been meeting, more recently, approximately every six weeks. The purpose of the Theology Group has a vital role as a research 'think-tank' unlike any other and contributes to the wider community of Living Stones, in particular researchers, scholars and those involved in public outreach on Christianity in the Middle East. In this year, we have heard from Robin Gibbons and Anthony O'Mahony on 'Coptic Christianity – religion and politics in Iraq', David Derrick on 'The Prize and Price of Zion', and from Peter Colwell on 'Christian Zionism: Some InterReligious and Ecumenical Observations.' Often contributions given to the Theology group are considered for publication in the Yearbook.

Membership

Our Membership team has been updating our lists of members and other contacts. Our membership subscription rates have been agreed at £30 pa or £8 per quarter with a reduced fee of £20 for the unwaged or those on low income. We currently have 53 members. All the work of the Trust is financially dependent on the interest from the original gift of £100,000 by the Michael Prior family, membership subscriptions and current donations. We have professional accounting and examination of our accounts to pay for each year. We are managing but we would like to do more, in particular to be more generous with scholarships. We have promoted a Christmas appeal and requested support from legacy considerations. Donations have increased to over £1,400 in this year. Our target is £10,000 from donations this year. Please help if you can.

Communication

We have had some criticism from our membership about the level of communication which we take very seriously. We are very thankful our communications team and in particular Stephen Sizer for his work on our website, Facebook and twitter streams which has much improved, we feel. The controversial issue is the question of a newsletter/e-zine which needs editing and distribution over and above website and social media provision. Are there any offers from anyone in our membership to help provide this additional resource? We need your help.

Partnerships

Another major initiative this year has been some work on partnerships. We are very conscious of the number of organisations and associations which focus their interest on the Christian community and inter faith relationships in the Middle East and on Israel/Palestine. We strongly feel that we are more effective when working together than when we are working independently of each other. We sent out letters to all the recommended organisations on our website and had encouraging responses from Sabeel-Kairos, Musalaha, Sabeel Jerusalem, Bethlehem Bible College, Wi'am and Christians Aware. In partnership with these distinguished organisations, we believe there is excellent scope for strengthening relationships and deepening dialogue. Sabeel Jerusalem responded, 'Tell the Living Stones Committee that a cry comes from Jerusalem that the tomb is empty. Jesus is Risen, and that together we need to learn not to be a people of despair but to be a Resurrection people again. We can help each other do so.'

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Financial review

The attached financial statements summarise the charity's transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Total income for the year at £6,856 was higher than last year (2020: £6,274). Total expenditure at £23,513 was also higher than last year (2020: £16,657). This increase in income and expenditure resulted in a deficit before other recognised gains and losses of £16,657 (2020: deficit £10,383).

Total funds at the year end amounted to £92,359 (2020: £91,007), being unrestricted funds of £5,367 (2020: £4,891) and restricted funds of £86,992 (2020: £86,116).

Principal Funding Sources

The charity's principal sources of funding are:-

- (1) Membership subscriptions;
- (2) Donations;
- (3) Contributions to The Michael Prior Memorial Educational Fund.

Investment Policy

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using general funds of the charity. The charity held its investment in the COIF Charities Investment Fund throughout the year. By 31 March 2021, the value of this fund was £88,665 (2020: £88,656). The trustees noted that the £18,000 of funds sold during the year, was covered by investment gains totalling £18,009. The trustees had hoped for some bounce back in investment value during this year, which has materialised. We continue to encourage our friends and supporters to give as generously as they can to support our work.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately twelve months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration, and support costs.

Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining unrestricted reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Living Stones Of The Holy Land Trust was formed in 1986, and became a registered charity in May 2000. The charity is a public benefit entity established in England under a trust deed dated 20 May 2000.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Trust Deed of the Charity requires that Trustees are normally appointed at the AGM of the Trust. The Board of Trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee. Trustees have the right to co-opt members to serve as Trustees between AGMs.

Trustee induction

The trustees receive documents relating to the rules and obligations of trustees as set out by the Charity Commission and are supported appropriately.

Organisational structure

The charity has an Honorary President appointed for an indefinite period at an AGM.

There is a Chairperson, one Vice Chair and an Honorary Treasurer. These officers and the other Trustees are appointed at the AGM and normally serve for a year at a time. There is no maximum period of service. Since the AGM November 2020 and the end of the financial year, the Executive has had one resignation due to family circumstances.

Trustees form the Executive Committee which consists of between nine and fifteen members.

All current officers were appointed at the AGM on 21 November 2020.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reference and administrative information

President	Professor Mary Grey
Chair person	Colin South
Vice Chair	Rev Deacon Dr Duncan Macpherson
Honorary Treasurer	Chair person (until 21 November 2020) Len Harrow (from 21 November 2020)
Trustees	Rev Dr Andrew Ashdown Michael Doherty Philip Francis Len Harrow Catharine Langrish Genevieve Macklin Rev Deacon Dr Duncan Macpherson Rev Dr Stephen Sizer Colin South
Charity number	1081204
Registered office	c/o 22 Ebenezer Close Witham Essex CM8 2HX.
Independent Examiner	Chanter, Browne & Curry Chartered Accountants 1 Plato Place 72-74 St Dionis Road London SW6 4TU.
Accountants	Elizabeth Sanders Limited 25 Gordon Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 3RG.
Bankers	Santander UK PLC Customer Service Centre Bootle, Merseyside L30 4GB.
Investment Managers	CCLA Investment Management Ltd COIF Charity Funds Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the trustees on 20 November 2021 and is signed on their behalf.

.....
Colin South
Chair Person

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the above charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes on pages 9 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the financial statements did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

.....
P.G. Browne FCA CTA

Chanter, Browne & Curry
Chartered Accountants
1 Plato Place
72-74 St Dionis Road
London SW6 4TU.

Date: 20 November 2021.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total £	2020 Total £
INCOME	1.2				
Subscriptions and donations	2	2,916	875	3,791	3,108
Investment income	3	-	3,065	3,065	3,166
Total income		<u>2,916</u>	<u>3,940</u>	<u>6,856</u>	<u>6,274</u>
EXPENDITURE	1.3				
Charitable activities	5	2,440	21,073	23,513	16,657
Total expenditure		<u>2,440</u>	<u>21,073</u>	<u>23,513</u>	<u>16,657</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		476	(17,133)	(16,657)	(10,383)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/(losses) on investments	4	-	18,009	18,009	(2,365)
Net movement in funds for the year		<u>476</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>1,352</u>	<u>(12,748)</u>
Total funds brought forward		4,891	86,116	91,007	103,755
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>5,367</u></u>	<u><u>86,992</u></u>	<u><u>92,359</u></u>	<u><u>91,007</u></u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		Total funds		Total funds	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		88,665		88,656
Current assets					
Debtors	7	240		50	
Cash at bank		<u>13,062</u>		<u>4,353</u>	
		13,302		4,403	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>9,608</u>		<u>2,052</u>	
Net current assets			3,694		2,351
Net assets			<u>92,359</u>		<u>91,007</u>
Funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	9, 10		86,992		86,116
Unrestricted income funds	9		5,367		4,891
			<u>92,359</u>		<u>91,007</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:-

.....
Colin South
Chair Person

Date: 20 November 2021

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AT 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The charity is a public benefit entity established in England under a trust deed dated 20 May 2000.

The financial statements 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019) - (Charity SORP (FRS 102) Revised), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:-

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Subscriptions, donations and legacies are recorded as income in the accounting period in which they are received, except where the donor specifies that they should be used for a specific period.

Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

2 Income from subscriptions and donations

	Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership fees	2,104	-	2,104	2,501
Donations received	657	750	1,407	570
Gift Aid receivable	155	125	280	37
	<u>2,916</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>3,791</u>	<u>3,108</u>

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Dividends received	-	3,065	3,065	3,166

4 Gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Gains/(losses) on sale of investments	-	8,194	8,194	5,012
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	-	9,815	9,815	(7,377)
	<u>-</u>	<u>18,009</u>	<u>18,009</u>	<u>(2,365)</u>

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
AT 31 MARCH 2021

5 **Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total £	2020 Total £
Activities undertaken directly and support costs				
Direct costs	9	-	9	-
Co-ordinator	-	-	-	594
Printing, postage and stationery	-	350	350	1,036
Subscriptions	-	35	35	100
Travel costs	-	-	-	260
Scholarships paid	-	5,688	5,688	10,500
Research consultant	-	15,000	15,000	-
Pilgrimage	-	-	-	1,650
AGM and other meetings	-	-	-	375
Computer/website/bank charges	117	-	117	90
	<u>126</u>	<u>21,073</u>	<u>21,199</u>	<u>14,605</u>
Governance costs				
Accountancy fees	1,354	-	1,354	1,092
Independent examiner's fee	960	-	960	960
	<u>2,314</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,314</u>	<u>2,052</u>
	<u>2,440</u>	<u>21,073</u>	<u>23,513</u>	<u>16,657</u>

No staff were employed by the charity during the two years ended 31 March 2021.
No remuneration was paid to trustees in the two years ended 31 March 2021.

6 **Fixed asset investments**

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total £	2020 Total £
COIF Charities Investment Fund:-				
Market value at start of the year	-	88,656	88,656	103,521
Additions in year	-	-	-	-
Disposals at cost	-	(9,806)	(9,806)	(7,488)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation	-	9,815	9,815	(7,377)
Market value at year end	<u>-</u>	<u>88,665</u>	<u>88,665</u>	<u>88,656</u>

7 **Debtors**

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total £	2020 Total £
Gift Aid receivable	<u>240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>50</u>

THE LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
AT 31 MARCH 2021

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

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total £	2020 Total £
Accruals	1,008	8,600	9,608	2,052
	<u>1,008</u>	<u>8,600</u>	<u>9,608</u>	<u>2,052</u>

9 **Statement of income funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
At 1 April 2020	4,891	86,116	91,007
Incoming resources	2,916	3,940	6,856
	<u>7,807</u>	<u>90,056</u>	<u>97,863</u>
Resources expended	(2,440)	(21,073)	(23,513)
	<u>5,367</u>	<u>68,983</u>	<u>74,350</u>
Gain/(loss) on investments	-	18,009	18,009
At 31 March 2021	<u>5,367</u>	<u>86,992</u>	<u>92,359</u>

10 **Restricted funds**

Restricted funds comprise the Michael Prior Memorial Educational Fund, which was set up with an initial legacy of £100,000 in 2005. Various donations since that date have been added to the fund. The aim of the fund is to promote the study of Christian and Holy Land studies among Palestinian people.