



THE RELIGIOUS OF ST ANDREW

The Community in Lewisham, London

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

For the Year ended 31st December 2016

Registered Charity No: 227315

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2016 and confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2015, the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP [FRS 102].

THE CHARITY

The trustees, who are all members of the Society, are responsible for the English charity of 'The Religious of St. Andrew', which is also known as the Sisters of St Andrew. It forms part of The Society of the Religious of St Andrew which is an international religious Order with communities in England, Belgium, Brazil, France and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Generalate of the Society is in Belgium.

The Order was founded in 1231 in Tournai, which was then part of France and is now in Belgium. Hospitality and a readiness to respond to the needs of the time - in the light of the Gospel - and in accordance with the Society's Constitution has always been part of the Congregation's history and tradition since the 13th century.

THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Objectives – What we aim to do.

The Trust Deed requires the charity to apply its resources to "such charitable purposes which advance the religious and other charitable work". The charity's mission is to encourage and support the ministries undertaken by the sisters of the Community in Lewisham.

It is inherent in the spirit of the Order that in its choice of Mission priority is given to ministries that contribute to creating awareness and experience in areas of the Christian Faith and belief, 'walking' alongside people as they journey through life.

This is in line with the mission of the Order which is to devote itself to the service of the Church (meaning Christians of all churches and traditions) as well as those of other faiths, and those who are searching for a deeper meaning in life.



Activities – This is what we do.

The work of the charity in Lewisham consists in providing a place of hospitality for individual guests and groups seeking spiritual resources, silence, rest and space. The work also includes, where possible, responding to requests for facilitating and leading different groups within the house, in the local area, and further afield. These include training days, spiritual formation, and both day and residential retreats.



Hospitality at St. Andrews is the main ministry of the Community and responds to the needs of today, where many people are looking for a place to belong, to be recognised and be valued in their own lives and work. The presence of the Community that lives, works and prays together provides a stable model in a society which is becoming more and more fragmented. Many of the visitors seek a place of

hospitality where they can share something of their life in a confidential situation.

Living together as a community with a certain pattern of daily living can attract others who wish to experience something of the lifestyle of the sisters for a day or for a longer period of time. Withdrawal from the rush of life and their usual activities certainly helps people to return to the ordinariness of life in a different way. Many of the visitors write to thank the sisters for their welcome and presence, conveying their appreciation and sharing with us the value of taking time and space in order to be more effective in their jobs and have a greater sense of well-being. The result being that a large number of visitors ask to return on a regular basis in order to refresh themselves.

The charity's home in Lewisham, besides providing accommodation for the Community, provides ample space for hospitality. There are several meeting rooms on the ground-floor, one of which is big enough to welcome day groups of up to 25 participants. Eight bedrooms allow for a residential welcome on a self-catering basis. There are a number of well equipped kitchenettes around the house.



Throughout the year the sisters have provided facilities to a number of people and groups in our location on the crossroads between Lewisham, Lee and Blackheath. The spacious house with a purpose built round chapel in the shape of an Oast House and surrounded by a large, attractive garden is like a 'spiritual oasis' at the heart of a busy location close to the centre of London.

A team comprising the Community's sisters co-ordinates and administers all aspects of the ministry of hospitality.

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

The Welcome

In 2016, we continued the varied kind of activities and welcome we offered in previous years.

We have welcomed some groups for a day, mostly church groups on Saturdays, sometimes but less often, on Sundays. We also had an increase in groups coming during weekdays either for a team 'away day', a Parish Council, an AGM, a choir or



a supervision meeting. We had several groups staying for 24 hours (readers, priests cell group...), or 48 hours (an AGM of a Spiritual Directors Trust) and a group of 12 people for 5 days (International Spirituality Commission of a Charity).

Around 60 people came for a day retreat and 80 for a private retreat of several days. 50 were guided by one of the sisters in an Individual retreat, not counting 35 people who made a guided retreat during one of the retreats offered in the 2016 Programme. More than 90 took part in one or more of the events in the programme: Quiet days, quiet mornings, Lent evenings... There is also regular participation in the Open Prayer with Taizé chants every last Wednesday

of the month.

The total number of meetings for one-to-one spiritual accompaniment reaches 350. Four sisters are involved in this ministry and they see people regularly, on a 4-6 weeks basis or less in some cases, around 4 times a year. Some of the visitors use a room for a quiet time when they come for their meeting. Some spiritual directors use a room to see their own directees. Some sisters meet



regularly people engaged in spiritual accompaniment for one-to-one supervision.

People come from varied backgrounds and varied churches, and sometime from no religious background. We are delighted to see that new people or groups come by recommendation of a previous visitor. At the end of the stay of a day group, for those who wish, we often show them around the house, especially the second floor for individual quiet days and retreats.

There is a weekly meeting to consider the requests and see how they are in tune with the mission and the possibilities of the house and of the sisters. There is time for global reviews as well, especially in summer when we work on the following year's programme.

The programme 2016 was successful. The 'Come Away' days for people caring for a loved one are answering to a real need. The Lent evenings 'Gaze upon the Lord' on the Way of the Cross were full and people found nourishment and quiet. The Lenten course 'Praying with art and creativity' was good, though some of the themes being unusual and the timing during a weekday could have been reasons for the small attendance. The day in the Half-term week was certainly the one with a big number of people.

The evenings during the first three days of Holy Week were diversely attended. We will change the format in 2017 as we wish to continue to make available the possibility to take quiet times of prayer and meditation on the Passion at this time of the year and in preparing the big liturgies of the Easter week-end.

The days 'Awakening the Senses' and 'When to Say Yes, When to Say No' were very successful, as were the Lent and Advent Quiet Days, and the Lent and Advent Quiet evenings.



Some questions arose when reviewing the year: We welcome mostly people over 50. Would there be a way to reach the younger generations too? On the 2017 programme there are 3 days planned more specifically for those 20-35 years old.

How to welcome groups with a more lively expression and ways of worshiping, coming sometimes with children and have at the same time people in quiet and silence in the house? Should we take a clearer orientation towards silent retreats and quiet days?



The Individually Guided Retreat of 3 to 8 days we planned in April was cancelled. It was too close to Easter and during the Spring Holidays. A better timing was the end of July and the retreat was overbooked. The individually guided retreat week-ends seem well adapted to beginners and people with many responsibilities.

Some of the days of the programme had little attendance; the two days repeating a Saturday event at the beginning of the following were cancelled.

We have been working on our publicity, for example we are now able to produce flyers in colours but we are aware that we could enhance this aspect.

Here are some of comments of people who have been welcomed at Saint Andrew as a group or individually.

I write to thank you and all the sisters for having us amongst you once more. We appreciate it hugely.



Thank you so much for all you are doing in our community of Lewisham for so many people and for providing that wonderful space for reflection and relaxation amidst the busy world we are part of with people who exclude care and god's grace. I have been personally blessed by my time spent with you.

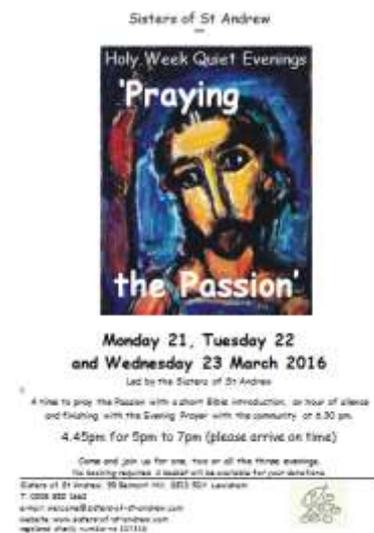
Hope to see more of you in 2017.

Thank you for your welcome and hospitality - although my stay with you was brief, it was so helpful.

Many thanks for hosting our Quiet Day last week, it was a most interesting and restful day in a lovely location. We enjoyed the rooms and the garden, and we all thought that the Chapel is outstandingly beautiful and inspirational.



We are blessed hugely by what we have called the 'thin place' in your house. I understand that this is a Celtic Christian expression to describe those places where, as it were, the distance between heaven and earth appears less. This is of course a mystery of God's amazing grace. I encounter such places where prayer has been happening for a



long time, and also in some parts of nature. We are very grateful for all we heard and shared and experienced together last Thursday as a body, each of us different parts held together by Christ.

I really want to say that what you have created here at the welcome, well, it seems to me that nothing got lost on the way and nothing got left behind. The essence of what you are about and what you do... it is all here, I hear it the most in the house, in the trees, around the gardens, in the darkness lit by a single candle in the chapel. All that you are about breathes out of the rich silence. I just wanted to say 'Thank you' and 'well done'.

Thank you for this very special time here on retreat. It has been such a blessing to me. Thank you especially for your part in all this: your wise guidance, patience and listening have been a great help to me and I can't tell you how much I have appreciated it. You have 'the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God' of which Peter writes (1Peter 3.4) in abundance and it is a privilege to have met you. I hope I shall return many times.

The Welcome Finance

The Welcome does not charge a fee for participation in its activities but seeks donations towards its overhead costs. From this source donations of £60,722 were received on which £4,704 of tax was recovered under the Gift Aid scheme.

Most visitors come on a self-catering basis although light refreshments are made available from the Community's kitchen for which no separate costing records are available.

VOLUNTEERS

Our new home in Lewisham is spacious and thus we are able to accommodate not only the Community but also have space to welcome a small number of individuals and groups. However because the premises are much smaller than our property at Eden Hall we are no longer able to welcome live-in volunteers.

We are, however, fortunate to have friends who come and help us occasionally with various tasks. These include some who are willing to help with maintenance and to make our house ever more welcoming for our guests. It is not possible to quantify the value of this help in financial terms.

Volunteers Finance

Volunteers provide their time unpaid and the only cost incurred is in the provision of light refreshments for which no separate records are maintained.

COMMUNITY AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY SISTERS

The sisters of the Community in Lewisham come from many countries. At present there are eight sisters originally from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and England. The international nature of the members of the Sisters of St. Andrew is a characteristic of all of its communities in the European Region of the Order.

All of the sisters are actively involved to a lesser or greater degree in various aspects of our ministry of welcome and hospitality in the Community House in Lewisham and in the local area as well as further afield. They offer their service to the charity on a voluntary basis. Their contribution is vital for the running of all the activities offered and undertaken by the charity.

The Community comprises sisters from different generations. At present there is one sister over the age of 80 and one sister approaching the amazing age of 100. The charity is responsible for the care of its elderly sisters, all of whom live in the Community at Lewisham.

The Community's Finance

The Community's members received £57,088 from both state and professional retirement pensions. Their combined living costs for the year were £37,269 in addition to which £8,228 was spent on travel.

OUTREACH

Now that we have been in Lewisham for three years we are more familiar with the area and the contrasts of the population on our doorstep, with all its diversity. We are also more aware of the social and physical needs of the local population and further afield and remain challenged by how can we respond to the requests for help that we receive by phone, email, or to those who come to our front door. We are trying to build up a list of contacts to be able to refer those in need to others where we cannot help ourselves, especially for those who are homeless and have difficulty in finding even a night shelter. In the majority of cases all that we can provide is a one-off conversation sometimes on a regular basis with those we meet in the street.

We continue to be 'active' and present in our local Christian Churches, and one sister was asked to preach at the Anglican Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Whenever possible we are present at the different prayers, feasts and celebrations with other faiths in the area, including the local Muslim Community, and the Hindu temple. One sister is a member of Churches Together in South London. <http://www.ctslondon.org.uk> which is an organisation that looks at the different churches networking together to help people in social need, as well as working with the Churches in providing a network of resources to help those in need.



Working with the Homeless

One of the sisters continues to volunteer with the 999 Club in Deptford. www.999club.org 'Making change count for Homeless People'. During this year she has seen the organisation going through a major restructuring in order to respond more fully to the needs of homeless people in a more holistic way. The 'Centre' now offers



'Advice and Support' through their advocacy team, provides sessions and workshops to help people learn skills and grow in confidence and finally there is a Health and Wellness service provided by visiting health practitioners.

It seems important for those who attend the centre that the sister is there to welcome them and be available to listen to those who need a 'sympathetic ear'. Once a week the same sister also volunteers in an Anglican Church in Greenwich – 'St Alfege'

<http://st-alfege.org> that works in link with the 999 club providing hot, home-cooked evening meals for the 999 night shelter from December to March.

It was a great joy for the sisters this year when they decided not to spend Christmas Day 'at home' but at a Centre for the homeless. Whilst in Edenbridge they had several times welcomed a group of socially deprived people from Deptford/New Cross organised by an Anglican vicar. Having linked up again they were able to go and help in the All Saints Centre preparing the tables and welcoming about 80 people for the Christmas meal.

Many of those who came were homeless, some physically disabled, and others living alone. This was a very moving experience and many friends were made just by sitting at table together and sharing each other's stories.



Social Justice

The sisters continue when possible to be involved with Citizens UK/ South London where local communities come together to act for the promotion of social justice and the common good. The Lewisham Council had pledged to give hospitality to 10 Syrian refugee families. The challenge has been to find 20 flats to welcome everyone. When possible the sisters take part in the larger gatherings outside Parliament Square where with Citizens UK and other organisations they meet and



listen to the debates with some members of Parliament trying to hold the government to account in their initial promises of welcoming Refugees in the UK.

As we are situated in close proximity to the centre of London this also means that the sisters have been able to participate in several National Marches/Protests also

looking at 'the safeguarding of the creation' and sharing resources for renewable energy, eco products, etc... challenging us as a community to reflect on what ways can we contribute towards climate justice.

Education

This year has been less fruitful when it comes to looking at our contact with the chaplaincies of the adjoining sixth form college and the Academy just at the back of our house. In previous years we have had some contact with the chaplains, staff and a small group of pupils. This past year making contact has been more difficult - not that there are fewer opportunities - but that as none of us have been involved in education for a number of years we do not feel we have the skills necessary and any invitation has been quite a challenge. For the moment it is difficult to see what our role can be. The only possibility we can envisage is to find ways where the students could share something of our house, our life style, our community life and our prayer and that alongside an academic setting this could contribute to a reflection on the different ways and choices we make in life. This still needs to be explored.

We do, however, have a new opening in the Education field as one of our sisters who arrived from our community in France last September has made contact with an organisation called Springboard for Children that was founded nearly 25 years ago. Its aim is to provide one-on-one tutoring sessions (half an hour each and twice per week) to primary school children who are at least 6 months behind their age level in literacy skills. The sister has already visited the school in Crystal Palace where she will start volunteering in early 2017.

Outreach in the local area:

Another door has opened as a sister has begun helping with the Lewisham 20th Division Scouts, part of Scouts UK, which was founded in January 2015.

This division was born from the need for a Scout UK group with an adapted programme for Scouts with significant disabilities and is the only Division of its kind in London.

Meetings take place with the group for one hour on Thursday evenings. This group certainly responds to the needs of young disabled people and the group is starting to expand and **(Photo - Art Class create from nothing –Brown Bear)** explore and welcome more scouts, there is even a waiting list!

In our first year here we had contact with a local Dance Group called Springs Dance Company which was founded by a group of dancers wanting to explore the link between dance and the Christian faith. The Company also runs a half year and full year apprentice programme, based in Lee, within walking distance from our community. Since our first visit to the Dance Company in 2014 we have been making links with the apprentice programme Elevate, hosting and providing input for their quiet days. One of the sisters has already been to their 'school' and led their morning devotion, and other sisters have also attended the graduation ceremony of the apprentices. We hope this is a link that will develop and continue.



In February one of the sisters took part in a Week of Accompanied Prayer in a locality of South London. Prayer pilgrims and hosts belonged to different churches and denominations. She also led an Advent evening in the Catholic Church at the same place. In the autumn she gave 2 workshops in an Anglican church in Kent with a Team from the Rochester Diocese offering introductions to different ways of praying.

Another sister facilitates a number of Religious Congregations at Community and Provincial level in different parts of London, as well as accompanying the Community, a Christian residential community in Kent, which seeks to provide an environment where people can rebuild their lives after experiencing a crisis, whether it is sudden or progressive. She also facilitates 3 times a year a Spirituality Day for a group of elderly sisters in Southampton.

Outreach abroad:

Giving personally guided retreats both in this country and abroad, means that the sisters are in close contact with a large number of influential people from all walks of life who take time to stand back and reflect on their lives. This naturally will have an impact on all those under their care and with whom they meet, hopefully contributing towards a greater understanding of helping people towards embodying better values and quality of life in society today.

One sister continues to go regularly to Sweden to give retreats in the Ignatian tradition in Bjarka Saby at a Pentecostal Centre near Linköping. The training course in Ignatian Spirituality where she was part of an ecumenical team teaching Ignatian Spiritual Direction to Lutheran Priests and deacons in the Diocese of Uppsala held its final session in the Autumn of 2016.

In the past 6 years 36 Lutheran men and women Priests and deacons have been trained to give Spiritual Direction and short retreats in the Swedish Church in the Dioceses of Uppsala and Linköping.

A new course is being envisaged for 2018 to provide training in Spiritual Direction for three different religious communities Bridgettines, Benedictines and Dominican sisters.

Outreach Finance

Some income was received by way of donations for the provision of Outreach services. No separate record was kept of expenses incurred in the provision of these facilities although these would have been limited to travel costs.

Counselling

The counselling practice which one of the sisters started in August 2014 responds to a real need. She has a constant flow of enquiries and maintains a number of 8-10 clients at any one time.

SUPPORT FOR THE ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITIES

IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

The Sisters of St Andrew arrived in the DRC in 1932. Ever since they arrived they have been involved in education, healthcare and religious and spiritual formation. At present they have three communities in the DRC where they run different institutions for the purposes stated above.

In *Lubumbashi* (which is in the Province of High Katanga) they started a school in 2005, where the intake of pupils increases year after year (1,100 pupils in 2015 and 1,400 pupils in 2016).

In *Kikwit* (which is in the Province of Kwilu) they have been running a school and health centre for many years.

In *Kinshasa*, the capital, the Sisters are ministering at the university and providing formation courses for pastoral workers.

Last year, in 2015, the Charity received requests from its Generalate in Belgium for financial support. This was used for:

The purchase of a house in Kinshasa (Bandal) and its urgent refurbishment. This has enabled the sisters to welcome individual guests and groups seeking spiritual accompaniment and training. They have also been able to offer much needed new pastoral ministries to the families and young people of this developing



neighbourhood.

The construction of an operating theatre in the healthcare centre in Kikwit.



The construction of classrooms, administration offices and a library for St Andrew's College in Lubumbashi.

This year, in 2016, the Generalate of the Sisters of St Andrew requested further financial support for two projects in Lubumbashi.

1. St Andrew's College, which was in need of four new classrooms and a multipurpose hall. This has cost £131,885.



2. Maani Miwame Farm, owned and managed by the Sisters, which keeps livestock, farms fish and has its own market garden. The produce



contributes to the livelihood of the Sisters as well as providing employment for local workers and work experience for students of

agriculture and veterinary medicine. The Farm was in need of a new brick wall to surround it and make it secure, which requires ongoing maintenance. This has cost £46,981.



The English Trustees, after due consideration of all the issues involved, decided to provide funding for these much needed projects. They have since received an update concerning the work undergone, together with supporting photographs. Further reports will be submitted to the trustees on a regular basis.

FUTURE PLANS

Since arriving in Lewisham, the community has continued the process of listening and discernment. Little by little, the sisters are getting to know and identify the needs of the new neighbourhoods and how the Charity can respond through its particular ministries and how best to use the premises for the greater benefit of a wide public seeking space for silence and reflection. This is important in the short term as well as in the long term.

SHORT TERM

After carrying out an evaluation of the events of the 2016 programme, noticing what appeared to be more or less 'popular' and that responded to people's needs the sisters have prepared a programme with various new features for 2017 and one of their aims is to implement this over the coming year. They are also in the process of improving publicity through renewing their website and leaflets. As new requests for hospitality for individuals and groups arrive constantly, a team of sisters meets weekly in order to discuss and discern how to respond in line with the charity's mission and bearing in mind the greater benefit to the public.

MEDIUM TERM

In addition to the short term plans and in order to plan for future years a team of sisters will meet in summer 2017 in order to review and evaluate the activities and

the hospitality offered over the past year and their impact on the beneficiaries. This review will form the basis for planning our programme and hospitality for 2018.

In this way the charity endeavours to develop further the welcome offered to people from many different backgrounds and respond appropriately to the needs of the surrounding population.

LONG TERM

The charity does not anticipate any major changes and expects that the medium term plans will continue into the future.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustees undertake an annual review of the risks and uncertainties that the charity faces with regard to the governance, management, operation, finance and the reputation of the charity as well as risks due to changes in government policy, laws and regulations.

The key risks are described below together with the principal ways in which they are being mitigated.

RISK No 1

The trustee board does not have all of the necessary competencies with regard to governance, administration and accounting in the charity.

The trustees have, therefore, contracted for the provision of these services to assist them in the execution of these tasks. In addition the sisters participate in ongoing training to keep up to date with charity law, administration and financial accounting for charities.

RISK No 2

The charity has donated a significant amount in support of the Congregation of The Sisters of St Andrew in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is accepted that political instability in that country may expose the amount spent to be at risk.

The trustees have received assurances that the properties on which money has been spent are properly registered in the name of the Congregation and full written reports of how the monies have been utilised are submitted annually to the trustees.

RISK No 3

The trustees are aware of their moral and legal obligation to care for their older members. An analysis of the age profile of the sisters, which ranges from 32 to 99, shows that the average age is 69. The two oldest members are the recipients of teacher's pensions and three other sisters are recipients of small pensions.

Because none of the sisters have any financial resources of their own the trustees are aware of the need for them to secure a reliable income from the assets available to the trust. A key element of the management of this risk is to ensure that the charity has the available resources to finance the sisters' care, should it be needed both now and in the years to come, by setting aside assets in a designated fund, the value of which has been based on actuarial principles.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Details of the accounting policies are set out in the notes to the Accounts.

ADMINISTRATION FINANCE

The costs incurred in administering the charity were modest comprising £8,508 for administrative support and £5,053 for professional accountancy support, all of which are provided under contract.

TRUSTEE & STAFF REMUNERATION

All trustees are members of the Congregation and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees.

The Trust does not employ any staff.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

The trust does not act as a custodian for any other organisation.

THE LEWISHAM COMMUNITY 2016

Incoming resources during the year were £131,924 while resources expended were £354,154, resulting in a deficit of £222,230. Of the resources expended £179,030 related to a gift to the Generalate in respect of expenditure incurred on the Congregation's properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. If the non cash items of the gift and depreciation were to be ignored there would have been a surplus of £23,535.

ALLOCATION OF COSTS BY ACTIVITY

Please refer to the separate notes under each activity.

FINANCIAL RISKS

Please refer to the section on Risk Assessment & Management.

LOAN TO GENERALATE

Following the sale of the Eden Hall estate in 2014 the English charity granted a loan of £2,400,000 to the Generalate of the Congregation to further the international

activities of the Congregation. The trustees, after seeking professional advice, sought and obtained confirmation from the General Council with regard to the compatibility of the trust deeds and the missions of both organisations. Having received the appropriate assurances and given due consideration to the request the trustees decided to grant the loan on an interest free basis for a period of 10 years, subject to earlier repayment should the need arise.

GIFT TO THE GENERALATE

During 2016 the trustees received a request from the Generalate to provide financial support, by way of gift, to enable the Congregation to construct one new building and provide a secure fence around another of the properties that it owns in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After due consideration the trustees approved a conditional gift of £179,030. This was evidenced by an exchange of letters resulting in a reduction in the value of the loan from £2,093,427 to £1,914,397.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITY BY TRUSTEES

During the year the trustees donated a total of £6,550 to the charity.

INVESTMENTS

During the year the trustees reviewed their financial situation with both their professional advisers and their Generalate. As a result the decision was taken to invest 66% of their cash resources in medium term common investment funds. Two investments each of £400,000 are to be made in ethical funds early in 2017.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees reviewed their reserves policy during the year and decided that the appropriate level of reserves to be maintained should remain at the amount required to cover the trust's normal expenditure for a period of six months.

With gross annual expenditure in 2016 of £354,154 the level of reserves required was £177,077. This level is covered by the value of the Net Current Assets.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees are confident, supported by the level of net current assets available to them, that they have adequate resources to ensure their medium term continuity.

POST BALANCE SHEET DATE EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet date events of any significance other than the implementation of the agreed investment programme.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees are aware of the applicable principles of public benefit as set out in guidance from the Charity Commission. The trustees are also aware of the need to

demonstrate that the public derives benefit from the use of the trust's facilities and the activities initiated by the trust. This benefit is mainly provided by the sisters and their volunteer helpers to those members of the public who wish to participate in retreats held at Lewisham and elsewhere.

The welcome of retreatants caters for the spiritual and material needs of individuals and groups of both medium and small size. The trust aims to recover the additional costs it incurs in running retreats by seeking donations from the participants. It is, however, the trust's policy that those who cannot afford the suggested donation should be accepted at a reduced, or even a nil, rate. The availability of concessions is publicised in the trust's literature and on its website.

The website of The Welcome has also contributed to a greater awareness of the activities of the Community and of its benefit to the public. This has resulted in reaching out to local schools, a wider public and a catchment area outside the Lewisham locality.

Details of the public benefit provided are also included under the achievements paragraphs relating to The Welcome and Spiritual Guidance. In addition to running retreats the trust also makes the facilities at Lewisham available to visiting groups and for special events.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE

The trustee board comprises of five members, all of whom are members of the Community. Sr Regula Hug was elected the Chair for a period of three years from September 2015.

GOVERNANCE

The administration of the Trust is the responsibility of all of the trustees who meet regularly. The trust secretary monitors governance issues and is the trust's interface with its professional advisers.

TRUST MANAGEMENT

Sr Regula, the Superior and the Trust's Chair, is in charge of the day to day administration in consultation with the other trustees. Support with both book keeping and trust secretarial duties are outsourced.

TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Newly appointed trustees are provided with an induction information pack. All trustees are encouraged to undertake continuation training, including attendance on relevant courses, conferences and seminars. Should not all of the trustees be able

to attend a relevant event those unable to attend are provided with notes of the meeting and they are briefed on the major topics that had been discussed. Copies of relevant press and magazine articles and professional reports are circulated to ensure that the trustees are kept informed about relevant current events.

TRUSTEES

The power to appoint new trustees is vested in the Superior General, who is the head of the Congregation. The Superior recommends the names of sisters suitable to become trustees to the Superior General based upon their personal skills and the needs of the trustee board. The trustees may also co-opt either general or specialist advisers to provide advice to the trustee board.

The Superior General has the power to remove any trustee and to request the resignation of a trustee if she considers it appropriate for the good government and benefit of the charity. She also appoints the Local Superiors of each Community.

The trustees throughout the year were: Sister Regula Hug, Sister Christiane Lehair, Sister Diane Reynolds, Sister Isabelle Vitry and Sister Marie-Christine Berg.



Sister Regula Hug

Sr. Regula arrived from one of the communities of the Sisters of St Andrew in France in 1998. She was part of the community in London (first in Vauxhall and then in Tooting) for 10 years until she moved to Edenbridge in September 2008. She worked as a Prison Chaplain until 2004 and as a Mental Health Chaplain with the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust until her retirement in September 2013. She has been Superior of the Edenbridge and now the Lewisham community since October

2011. She is now involved in administration, management, retreat work and spiritual accompaniment.

Sister Christiane Lehair

Sister Christiane was part of the London community from 1996 until September 2008, first in Vauxhall (1996 to 2004) and then in Tooting Bec (2004 -2008). She worked in a voluntary capacity in Trinity Hospice for 3 months and then as a nurse for 2 months in a nursing home. At the same time she did voluntary work with the Methodist Vauxhall Youth Club (5 to 11years of age) and worked at the Day Centre of the Refugee Council. She



worked at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust for 12 years as a Palliative and Supportive Care Senior Chaplain.

She was part of the Edenbridge community from 2008 until 2013 when it closed. During this time she trained as a psycho-synthesis counsellor. She now runs a small private counselling practice where she works with 8-10 clients at any given time.

She is part of the management and maintenance team of the Lewisham House. With the other sisters she facilitates the welcome of the guests, be they individuals or groups. She also undertakes spiritual accompaniment.

Sister Diane Reynolds



After 20 years in France where Sister Diane worked with her community alongside the brothers of Taize, she returned to London in 1994 to be part of a new foundation in Vauxhall.

In the last 23 years she has lived in the communities in London, Edenbridge and since the closure of Eden Hall in 2014 is a member of the community in Lewisham.

For 20 years she was actively involved in the management and running of St Andrew's Residential Home for the Elderly and the Preparatory School at Eden Hall in Edenbridge until their closure in 2001. During the period of 2001 -2013 she was involved in the initial setting up of a Spirituality and Retreat Centre at Eden

Hall, until its closure in 2013, and the subsequent move to Lewisham in 2014.

Since May 2014 she continues her work of accompaniment, outreach – and facilitation in different parts of London and further afield.

Diane is part of the sisters' Welcome team and involved in the administration and welcome of the guests. In the house she gives spiritual direction, leads retreats, facilitates workshops and liturgies for groups both within the house and outside. Sister Diane has been working in Sweden for over 10 years. This Autumn was the final session of the second 3 year Training programme in the teaching Ignatian Spiritual Direction. She will continue to give Ignatian Retreats in Sweden.

Sister Diane represents the Catholic Bishops' Conference on a number of Ecumenical Committees in the area of spirituality, both locally and nationally, and is chair of the Spirituality Commission of the Southwark Diocese. She continues to be a consultant for the Catholic Network for Spirituality and Retreats and a Company member of the Retreat Association.

Sister Isabelle Vitry

Since September 2015 Sister Isabelle has been the Delegate Superior of the General Superior for the St Andrew's communities in the European Region (in England, Belgium and France). She visits and is attentive to the local needs of each community. She encourages the sisters to live their religious lives and undertake their engagements according to the values of the Gospel, both within the St Andrew's Order and in our contemporary world's cultural, social and political contexts.



From 1987-2001 she was ministering in pastoral works in the Diocese of Lyon (France) with students and Seekers of God. From 2001-2006 she worked as a psychologist in different institutions and formation centres in Lyon.

After one year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and two years in Brussels she is now currently living in Ameugny (South Burgundy – France) next to the Ecumenical Community of the Brothers of Taizé where she is involved in spiritual accompaniment for young adults.

Sister Marie-Christine Berg

Sister Marie-Christine Berg was part of the community in Ameugny (France) from 1984 taking part in the ministry of the sisters with the Taize Community. From 2004 to 2009 she worked with Jesuits in Lyon (France) to support the formation of medical students. She was sent to join the community and work at Edenbridge in 2010 and was one of the seven sisters moving to Lewisham in January 2014. She is now involved full time at St Andrew's, giving spiritual direction and supervision, leading retreats and quiet days. She is part of the administration team and welcomes guests in the house.



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

TRUSTEES

The trustees are Sister Regula Hug [Chair], Sister Christiane Lehair, Sister Diane Reynolds, Sister Isabelle Vitry and Sister Marie-Christine Berg.

SUPERIOR, LEWISHAM COMMUNITY

Sister Regula Hug

SECRETARY

Mr C J Ahern TD ACIB

REGISTERED ADDRESS

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CHARITY NUMBER

227315

GOVERNING INSTRUMENT

Trust Deed dated 15 February 1963

Scheme L[S] 227315 sealed 27 August 1996

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

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INVESTMENT POWER

Under the Society's Trust Deed dated 15 February 1963 and supplemented by a Section 26 authority CD[T] 227315 sealed by the Charity Commission 12 January 1995.