

The Vincent Society Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2016

CMJ UK is a working name of The Vincent Society - a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England no 00256264, registered charity no 1153457

Annual General Meeting

**To be held at Swanwick Conference Centre
on Sunday 16th July, 2017**

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

The trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Introduction

The Vincent Society has operated as a trust Company registered in England (00256264) since its incorporation in May 1931. Following the adoption of new objects as agreed with the Charity Commission, the Vincent Society was registered as a charity on 19 August 2013 (1153457). It is in this context that this report details the work of the Vincent Society in 2016 as it has taken on the operational work of CMJ (The Church's Ministry among Jewish people, registered charity number 228519).

Membership

At 31 December 2016, the Vincent Society had a membership of 555 members, up from 2015. Each member undertakes to contribute up to £1 towards the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member or within one year afterwards.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Vincent Society are directly elected by the members, although some of the present Trustees were appointed on the basis that when they became Trustees they were also the trustees of CMJ. The Trustees have met four times in 2016.

The Vincent Society has carried out its charitable aims for public benefit by taking on the work of the Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ) and pursuing the former activities of CMJ in line with the new objects. It has likewise taken over the former work of Olive Press Publishing (OPP) in providing Christian publications for public benefit.

Objects

The Object of the Charity is specifically restricted to the following: the advancement of Christianity, in ways that are sensitive to the needs of Jewish people by:

- undertaking evangelism which is appropriate for, but not exclusive to, Jewish people;
- providing ministry to and support for Jewish Christians;

- undertaking educational work about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith;
- supporting the advancement of Messianic Judaism.

The Work of The Vincent Society in 2016

This year has seen many blessings for the Society. It began with another very generous response of our supporters to the Spring Appeal; there was legacy income throughout the year and the Autumn Appeal exceeded expectations. This is on top of the continued generosity from our individual and church supporters' ongoing giving. We have also been blessed with significant opportunities for our outreach work and in sharing the work of the ministry in the UK and internationally.

We take the opportunity within this report to acknowledge the faithfulness of the Lord who calls us and equips us to fulfil our mission and to our members and supporters for their unfailing prayer and financial giving.

We are pleased to report that in 2016 we gained 11 new churches and 36 individuals to the mailing database.

Trustees' Activities

There were several areas of Trustee activity in 2016. The most notable aspects of our work in 2016 were enhancing our Safeguarding policies and reporting arrangements, developing a Social Media policy, releasing one of the trustees to take over the role of Director of the Anglican International School in Jerusalem and compassionately supporting Jacki Turnbull (Office Manager) wherever possible during her prolonged period of ill health. A key element of the Trustees work in the latter part of 2016 was devoted to reviewing, alongside senior staff members, the structure and management of the society in the light of Jacki's illness and determining the changes that would need to be made in 2017. These tasks were in addition to the regular oversight activities of the Society by the Trustees.

The ongoing situation in the Middle East has meant that the provision of Shoreside tours (part of CMJ Israel) from the UK has remained a considerable challenge. In spite of this, the Trustees and Society have continued to conduct tours and, in cooperation with CMJ Israel, we have continued to reduce the cost of such tours while maximising the benefit to our charitable work.

A key responsibility for the Trustees in any year is the setting of the budget. The Trustees were very pleased to be able to set a budget for 2016 that maintains the increased evangelism expenditure that began in 2014 as well as continuing our Youth conference work, linked to excellent feedback on the 2015 event. We remain excited about the potential impact this could have. As this report has indicated we have continued to benefit, not only from the generosity of our supporters in their regular giving but also from the blessings of a number of very generous legacies. These kind gifts help to put us on a more secure financial footing and to have a more solid basis for planning our work in the future. We would particularly like to thank those

supporters who remember us in this way and to put on record our appreciation for their valuable support.

UK

We have continued to promote the teaching and training resource: 'Putting People on the Moon'. This resource has been updated in 2016 in the light of experience gained in the field and will be re-launched as the JET (Jewish Evangelism Training) course in 2017. Our evangelism workers have continued to develop a good network of personal contacts and friendships which lead to worthwhile encounters with the Gospel. This was reviewed in November in preparation for the contracts ending in early 2017. In addition to this "day-to-day" work, the Society invested in three other major outreach projects in 2016. In all our outreach work the primary focus is to reach Jewish people sensitively and appropriately, but it is never our intention to exclude other people from any of our outreach or educational activities. These outreach projects are listed below:

1. The Mind, Body, Soul (New Age) outreach at Alexandra Palace, London, where three of our staff members worked in partnership with other similar ministries under the heading of the Jesus Experience Team. Over the four days, many hundreds of people engaged in conversations and, linked to their contact with CMJ staff, 3 specifically prayed for salvation.
2. Two staff members organised much of the 7th Spring Fair at Christ Church in Jerusalem in April with a team of UK volunteers. This event brings local people (Jewish and Arab) into the Church environment and many important conversations take place and contacts are made. In addition, almost £7,000 was raised for the Mercy Fund for the needy of Jerusalem.
3. Street outreach in Stamford Hill - we continued to support the outreach meetings during the spring and summer of 2016. Prayer walks organised by and attended by our staff and others have continued to be part of our ministry.

The use of our artefacts has continued to be used as a key strategic part of CMJ's ministry. The exhibition has now become a ministry tool in its own right and relaunched as the renewed Bible Comes To Life (BCTL). After advertising the exhibition at the CMJ annual conference in summer 2016 six conference delegates requested details of hosting the exhibition. Those requests turned into five firm bookings in the first half of 2017. The exhibits also lend themselves to evangelistic teaching. The need for a permanent storage site continues to be researched. The "continuing joint use" agreement with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is at an end as they began work with an alternative display, making the CMJ model more readily available for our use. It is anticipated that the exhibition will become self-funding. The need for a permanent storage site continues to be researched, but by the end of 2017 we expect to have a permanent storage and exhibition site, which will facilitate renovation and repair of key parts of the exhibition.

In further seeking to educate the Church and encourage Jewish Believers, staff led or organised numerous church meetings, deputation events, Passovers, Olive Press parties, and Shabbat meal teaching events. Staff and local visitors have been able to benefit from monthly teaching sessions from various speakers, including a local rabbi, linked to Staff days. Some of this deputation work has also been done in partnership and with representation on the group of similar focused ministries, "Love Never Fails".

Key speakers from other CMJs during 2016 were Aaron Eime, Kelvin Crombie, Robert Sakr, and David Pileggi. In addition to these church based meetings, work took place in colleges, theological symposiums and conferences. We have continued to attend and provide speakers for "anti-Semitism" events.

Staff also represented the Society at UK Christian conferences.

Staff (and local reps) led numerous Passover celebrations and helped many churches explore the link between Passover and Holy Communion and the person and work of Jesus.

In July our annual three day conference at High Leigh Conference Centre was well attended. The theme was "The King's Highway: Think biblically. Act regionally" with the three organisers of "At the Crossroads" conference in Israel: David Pileggi, Michael Kerem and Robert Sakr. The Youth conference was a success on many levels, including generating its first volunteer to CMJ Israel. 2016 also marked the death of our much loved Patron Bishop John Taylor, so a Book of Condolence was available at the Conference.

In addition to these major events, staff members promoted CMJ via a range of media contacts and this included an interview on the topic of CMJ's history recorded and televised by the Centre for Contemporary Ministry and an interview on Premier radio.

Staff also attended the At The Crossroads Conference in Israel.

In terms of theological reflection and education we have continued to publish and widely distribute Olive Press Research Papers. This year's subjects were The London Jews Society and The Balfour Declaration by Paul Hames; Where was God during the Shoah? by Sister Scholastica; The Psalm, the Gospel and the Kingdom by Frank Booth and Understanding Hasidic Jews by Michael Eldridge. These papers are given free of charge to CMJ members and complimentary copies sent out to a range of Bible Colleges etc. Other articles that staff have generated have been published in various Christian publications.

Staff also marked the Holocaust memorial event and Yom Kippur by taking part in or hosting a number of remembrance events or prayer gatherings. This again shows our on-going stand against anti-Semitism.

The new areas of work during 2016 have been:

- Preparation for teaching and celebration events in the UK and a themed tour of Israel linked to the centenary of the Balfour Declaration
- Street evangelism in Covent Garden with a Christmas / Hanukkah outreach which led to one person praying for salvation
- First Youth Passover
- In Leicester we organised a 10 week Kesher Course attended by about 30 people each week which has generated 3 volunteers for the Spring Fair and 1 for Christ Church Jerusalem.

Staff also marked the Holocaust memorial event and Yom Kippur by taking part in or hosting a number of remembrance events or prayer gatherings. This again shows our on-going stand against anti-Semitism.

The new areas of work during 2016 have been:

- Preparation for teaching and celebration events in the UK and a themed tour of Israel linked to the centenary of the Balfour Declaration
- Street evangelism in Covent Garden with a Christmas / Hanukkah outreach which led to one person praying for salvation
- First Youth Passover
- In Leicester we organised a 10 week Kesher Course attended by about 30 people each week which has generated 3 volunteers for the Spring Fair and 1 for Christ Church Jerusalem.

We have continued to raise the profile of CMJ online using our Social Media pages to connect with supporters throughout the year and enhancing the website to provide an interesting and up-to-date profile to those who engage with us in this way.

In all this work CMJ UK staff and trustees are helped by a team of volunteers. The numbers who engage with us this way has dropped to 6 regulars who average 26 hours per week. In addition we have local reps who promote the work of the Society in their locality and who were supported with a training event during 2016. This 3 day training event was held in London and included teaching by Richard Harvey and Simon Lissak.

The Trustees would like to note, with gratitude, the tremendous efforts of our small but dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission; without them little of our work would be done and we acknowledge

their service not only to CMJ, but more importantly to the Kingdom to which we all belong, and to our Lord.

No report on 2016 would be complete without acknowledging the wonderful service over many years of our colleague Jacki Turnbull. As indicated earlier, Jacki has had to end her employment with CMJ as our Office Manager owing to ill health. The Society will sadly miss her cheerful and caring presence and the Trustees would like to put on record their gratitude to her for the enormous contribution she has made to our work.

Israel

CMJ UK does not operate directly in Israel, but it does provide a significant amount of financial support for the work of our sister society, CMJ Israel: £191,410 in 2016 (See page 17, note 7). In addition, CMJ UK promoted of Shoresh tours and helped in the recruitment of CMJ volunteers working both in Israel and in the UK.

The work of CMJ Israel includes the Heritage Centres which are visited by many thousands of Israelis each year. These centres show their visitors something of the history of love and commitment shown by Christians (especially, of course, those working for CMJ) to the Jewish people in the Land since the 19th Century. There are two Heritage Centres in Jerusalem, one in Tel Aviv and one in Migdal. These are located in guesthouses run by CMJ Israel and in the Anglican International School, Jerusalem (AISJ). These are of great historical interest to Israelis and are used to educate the Church about its Jewish roots.

CMJ Israel also runs the AISJ and supports other Christian Schools in Israel, both in Arab and Jewish communities. AISJ is a Christian School with very high academic standards. AISJ welcomes any student living in the area, including local and expatriate Christians and also those from the Jewish and Muslim communities. It shows how people from all backgrounds and communities can prosper together within the context of Christian love.

Public benefit statement

The charitable aims of the Vincent Society were previously carried out for public benefit mainly by the work of CMJ, until its transfer of activities which took effect from 1 January 2015.

The Trustees confirm that they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit requirement in the decisions taken.

The Vincent Society has advanced the Christian religion by the fulfilment of these objects as the main public benefit of this Society. Key to this is the evangelistic work in the UK achieved by the employment of staff whose work is to evangelise and promote evangelism in ways that are appropriate for Jewish people. This promotion

takes place within the wider church and also includes other support staff and volunteers. The work is done in a way that does not restrict evangelism to Jewish people in an exclusive way but encourages people of all backgrounds to consider the claims of Yeshua Ha Meshiach - Jesus the Messiah.

In addition to the day-to-day evangelistic work (in the form of friendship evangelism etc.) the Society has been present at a number of outreach events. These include street outreaches and specialist outreaches at New Age events, all of which are open to all members of the public. The evangelistic work of the Society has been done in a culturally sensitive way without any coercion whatsoever and fully in line with the aims of the Society. (Articles of Association 5.21 states that no financial gift shall be made to any Jewish person out of the funds of the charity unless that person has been for at least a year a baptised believer in Messiah and that any such gift can be seen to be in furtherance of the Objects of the Charity and not as an inducement to become a believer).

The evangelistic work of the Vincent Society is done in a way that is appropriate to and available to Jewish people but it has never been exclusive in its approach. All of the work is done in a Jewish context, with both new and mature believers alike being shown the importance of the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

The Vincent Society has also been of public benefit by engaging with and supporting Jewish believers in Yeshua in their faith. Jewish people who make a commitment to Yeshua often describe themselves as "Messianic Believers" and these believers may form "Messianic Congregations" or "Messianic Fellowships" for worship, mutual support and encouragement in their faith.

The Society has also organised public religious services and special events to educate the wider Christian community about the Jewish roots of Christianity and to encourage them to support Messianic believers and to support outreach to Jewish people. Individuals are also given the opportunity to pay for a visit to Israel, to promote a greater understanding of both Christianity and its Jewish origins. CMJ UK also seeks to ensure that the costs of such a trip are kept to a level that allows a large section of the public to be able to enjoy them.

Conclusion

The work of the Society has been progressed in 2016 such that the gospel has been advanced among Jewish people. The activities and the manner in which they are executed are consistent with the objects of the Vincent Society. We continue to pursue innovative means of continuing this work and in partnership with like-minded charities both here in the UK and in Israel. We seek to continue to serve the Lord in the mission that He has given us. We publicly and gratefully acknowledge His faithfulness to us in 2016.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The Charity's principal funding sources are:

- Donations from Individuals
- Donations from Churches
- Legacies

In 2016, total income resources amounted to £508,911. This was less than the total incoming resources in 2015. The shortfall in income was mainly due to a reduction in legacies received which totalled £71,875 (2015 : £308,315). Income from individuals was higher than in 2015 which offset the decrease in income from Churches. Individual income increased by £28,204 whereas income from Churches decreased by £25,559.

Investment policy

Objectives

The investment objectives are to generate a sustainable income stream which, at the very least, maintains both its real value in future years and also the real capital value of the portfolio over the long term.

Investment Outcomes

This policy, written in 2010, has yearly income targets and expectations of capital growth in the long-term.

Risk Tolerance

The Trustees place a high priority on maintaining the real value of the portfolio and of income returns over the long term, and accept that at times this may mean accepting short or medium term declines in capital value.

Withdrawal of Capital

The Trustees do not anticipate regular withdrawals of capital but do understand that should withdrawals take place there would be consequences to future income projections.

Ethical and Socially Responsible Investment

The Trustees have reviewed their investment policy with regards to the Church Commissioner's guidance on ethical and responsible investment. No funds will be invested in a company whose business activities have more than 25% of turnover involved in tobacco, gambling, alcoholic drinks and human embryonic cloning and research. The policy would permit investment of up to 100% of the funds in the Israeli stock market.

Review of funds and reserves policy

The Trustees report a decrease in fund balances for the year of £40,533 (2015: increase of £163,754).

At the year end the free reserves (ignoring the unfunded pension liability) were £1,327,879 (2015: £1,391,964) which is more than the budgeted unrestricted expenditure for 2017. The minimum reserves limit has been taken from the Group's reserve policy in 2014 and has superseded the individual Charity's previous limit of six months because the comparable expenditure was that of the Group and not the individual Charity.

Permanent endowment funds were £566,367 (2015: £566,367), and the balance of restricted funds was £6,085 (2015: £6,082).

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Vincent Society holds cash and investments in order to generate investment income. The Charity also has other financial assets and liabilities such as other receivables and other payables arising directly from its activities.

The Charity manages risks in relation to these as follows:

- Liquidity risk: The Charity maintains its cash and investment balances in accounts such that it always has available sufficient liquid resources to meet its operating needs whilst obtaining a competitive return on its investments.
- Interest rate risks: The Charity is exposed to changes in interest rates in respect of its bank deposit accounts.
- Foreign currency risk: The Charity has minimal exposure to movements in foreign currency.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Charity is controlled by its governing document which is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting.

The Appointments Committee is responsible for appointing senior staff and approving their terms of employment.

Organisational structure

The Vincent Society is a charitable company governed by articles which were last amended in August 2013. It registered with the Charity Commission on the basis of its charitable objects as stated on page 1.

Decisions are made after prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and where necessary seeking expert guidance. All important decisions are made only when there is complete agreement among the Trustees.

The day to day management of the Charity is delegated by Trustees to:

- Rev. Alex Jacob, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Advocacy;
- Michael John Brooks, Chief Financial Officer (changed to Chief Operations and Financial Officer from 18th April 2017)

The Trustees also operate under sub-committees of the Charity, these being the Finance Committee, the Appointments Committee and the Governance Committee.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are supported by receiving written information about the Society and its constitution and rules, being linked with an experienced trustee, being part of a smaller sub-committee and attending any agreed training.

Related parties

With effect from 31 December 2014 the unincorporated charity The Churches Ministry Among Jewish People (regd charity number 228519) was wound up as an operational charity and all assets and activities were transferred to the Vincent Society.

However, the unincorporated CMJ charity (228519) has not been wound up, but remains in existence as a shell in the event of future legacies. In July 2015 the shell charity adopted a new set of rules under which it no longer has a wide membership and its trustees are the same as those of the Vincent Society.

It follows that the Vincent Society is parent of a group which includes the unincorporated CMJ shell charity and Abraham's Vineyard Ltd. During the year The Olive Press Publications Limited (OPP) has been dissolved and its registration removed from the Charity Commission. The group is excluded from preparing consolidated financial statements due to the other group members being immaterial and that the income of the group does not exceed £1 million.

Risk management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis. In particular we have carefully considered the risks associated with continued usage of declining reserves and plan to move to a balanced budget before total reserves fall to the minimum stated in the reserves policy.

As well as considering internal controls, the Trustees have also examined the other operational and business risks we face and confirm that systems and initiatives are being reviewed in order to mitigate those risks.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00256264 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1153457

Registered office

Eagle Lodge
Hexgreave Hall Business Park
Farnsfield
Nottinghamshire
NG22 8LS

Trustees

W Scott	Vice Chairperson	
Rev C Collington		
Rev R Goldenberg		
Rev M G Kuhrt		
Rev R W Lockhart		- resigned 24.7.16
S M Mottershead	Treasurer	
T R Musson		
B G Salter	Chairperson	
R A Saunders	Vice Chairperson - resigned 22.10.16	
E H J Woods		
R Aldridge		- appointed 24.7.16

Company Secretary

M J Brooks

Independent examiner

bostockwhite Limited
Chartered Accountants
Cabourn House
Station Street
Bingham
Nottinghamshire
NG13 8AQ

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland
62-63 Threadneedle Street
London
EC2R 8LA

Investment Managers

Whitefoord LLP
6 George Street
Nottingham
NG1 3BE

FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees have reviewed the organisation's staffing structure and changes will be implemented in April 2017. It is anticipated that this will bring about increases in fundraising, membership, accountability and improvements in governance. The additions to the normal programme of events in 2017 will be linked to the 100th celebration of the Balfour Declaration with a themed tour of Israel and a large gathering in London. There will be the loss of some significant experience and expertise from the Trustees at the Annual General Meeting and for this reason the Directors are looking to arrange training to consolidate and bolster the skills of new and existing Trustees. Longer term, the organisation aspires to set budgets that are not dependent on legacy funding and are without deficits.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20th May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



B G Salter
Trustee & Chairman

