THE KINGDOM HALL TRUST (AN UNLIMITED COMPANY)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

A365Z4OB A11 19/04/2014 #22 COMPANIES HOUSE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES	
	
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)	/
BALANCE SHEET	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	_

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

The Board of Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31st August 2013. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements and the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005).

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Company Number:

355443

Registered Charity Number:

275946

Trustees:

S A Hardy - Chairman

P S Gillies D A Gibson J W A Brace S R Morris

Company Secretary:

J Rastall

Registered Office:

IBSA House The Ridgeway London NW7 1RN

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc 1250 High Road Whetstone

London, N20 0WE

Incorporation and Constitution

On July 28, 1939, the London Company of Kingdom Witnesses was formed as an unlimited company incorporated in England and Wales. It was later formally registered as a charity on June 30, 1978. On November 18, 1994, it was granted status as a Trust Corporation. On June 1, 1993, new Articles of Association were adopted by Special Resolution. On June 6, 1994, amendments to the Memorandum of Association were adopted by Resolution, including the change in name of the charitable company to The Kingdom Hall Trust. The changes were given legal effect on June 20, 1994. The Kingdom Hall Trust continues as a registered charitable unlimited company without share capital, incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONT'D)FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Objects and Activities

The objects of the Trust are to advance the Christian religion as practised by Jehovah's Witnesses, as detailed in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, the governing document of the charity.

The major activity for the year in question has been acting as custodian trustee holding title to freehold and leasehold properties acquired as places of worship and other related properties for congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in England and Wales that are open to the public. The objects of these congregations are defined in their governing Constitution as 'the practice and advancement of Christianity founded on the Holy Bible, including the preaching of the good news of God's Kingdom by Jesus Christ within the Congregation Area and the holding of meetings for public Christian worship.' In harmony with these objects, the properties are used solely to teach and share Bible truth, which includes practical advice on citizenship, family life and tolerance in a multi-cultural society. All interested persons are welcome.

Governance

The trustees of the Trust meet at least two times a year and are in regular contact from day to day. Trustees are elected annually by a simple majority of the members present at the AGM.

The recruitment and induction of new trustees is arranged as follows: On an annual basis, trustees will review potential candidates. Their abilities are evaluated by means of the trustees' personal knowledge of candidates.

Internal Controls

These controls ensure that the monthly financial reports accurately represent all transactions; provide reasonable assurance that finances are being used for their intended purpose; and verify that proper controls and procedures are in place and adhered to, so that the figures are recorded accurately and accounts are in balance. The internal audit programme has been achieved. The internal auditor and his assistant have a set agenda to pursue through the year, and reported in writing to the chairman of the trustees in October 2013.

Reserves Policy

The principal activity of the Trust is to hold title to property on behalf of congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain. Each congregation signs an undertaking to cover any costs incurred on their behalf by the Trust. On this basis, the Trust can operate confidently on relatively small reserves. The reserve is assessed as the equivalent of two month's expenditure.

Investment Policy

The trustees invest available funds in any lawful manner having regard to the suitability of the investments and the need for diversification. Any such investments are selected with consideration for Christian principles. The objective of all investments is to preserve capital but to achieve, if possible, a real return greater than the rate of inflation. In the past year, funds of the charity were minimal and all surplus funds were held on deposit.

Risk Assessment

The major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed, with particular focus on events that would seriously impede the operations of the charity. Strategies and safeguards are in place to reduce, as far as possible, the impact of those risks. The trustees are satisfied that the risk strategy is sound.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONT'D) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Principal Achievements for the Year

The principal achievement of the Trust continues to be the continuing acquisition of freehold titles on behalf of Jehovah's Witnesses. This has occurred in the following two ways:

- Transfer of existing title of places of worship in the name of local trustees to the Trust. During the year, 133
 properties were transferred to the Trust using a simplified procedure agreed with the Land Registry. These included
 properties as far apart as Falmouth and Sunderland.
- 2) The Trust continued taking title to newly purchased properties which will either be constructed or converted into places of worship. The 3 properties to which the Trust has taken title during the year are located in Cwmbran, Denbigh and Durlsey. Funding for the purchase and subsequent construction or renovation of the properties has been obtained either from the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses or in collaboration with Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Britain.

It is truly gratifying to see new places of worship being constructed or renovated. All these properties, when complete, are open to the general public. They provide a base in the local community for activities of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Bible education disseminated from such places of worship helps all members of the community to cope with today's problems, while building confidence in the Almighty God Jehovah. The Bible's counsel continues to help both Jehovah's Witnesses and local persons, spiritually, morally and mentally. During the year the average attendance at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain was over 125,000.

Review of Financial Position

The funds on hand carried forward at the beginning of September 2013 were £1,915. During the year, the net expense of the charity was £12. There is no real need for large balances on the charity's accounts at present, as all expenditure relating to the transfer of title to the Trust is the responsibility of local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. It is noted that the Trust, as custodian trustee, now holds 609 freehold and 18 leasehold properties on behalf of congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain. The total value of the freehold properties held in trust, based on values made by the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses, is £223,385,681. This represents an increase in the total value of freehold properties held of over 11.2%.

Going forward we believe that the net balance carried forward of £1,915 is sufficient to cover the anticipated expenses of the Trust for the coming year.

Future Plans

The Trust will continue to work closely with local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses and, where it is deemed necessary and prudent, the Trust will take title on behalf of local congregations as custodian trustee.

The Trust will continue its ongoing programme to transfer title of Kingdom Hall properties into the name of The Kingdom Hall Trust.

Administration

The Trust would like to acknowledge the support of the trustees who have given time, skills and energies to ensure that its charitable work has continued throughout the year. We are confident that this support will continue for the forthcoming year.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. They believe this is amply demonstrated in this report.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONT'D)FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES:

Stephen A Hardy

Date: April 8, 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
INCOMING RESOURCES	2013 £	2012 £
Incoming resources from generated funds Investment income: Bank interest receivable TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1	<u> </u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Governance costs TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>13</u> 13	14
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(12)	(13)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2012 UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCES CARRIED	1,927	1,940
FORWARD AT 31 AUGUST 2013	1,915	1,927

All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

All funds are unrestricted.

The gain (loss) for the year for Companies Act purposes is equivalent to the figure for Net Movement in Funds.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2013

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2013 £	2012 £
CURRENT ASSETS Cash at bank and in hand	1,915	1,927
NET ASSETS	1,915	1,927
FUNDS: Unrestricted funds	1,915	1,927

For the year ending 31 August 2013 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476, and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The trustees approved the financial statements on pages 6 to 8 on April 8, 2014 and these were signed on their behalf by:

Stephen A Hardy

Stephen R Morris

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005)
- and with Accounting Standards
- and with the Companies Act 2006.

b) Change in basis

There has been no change to the accounting policies.

c) Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) 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.

d) Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

e) Liability Recognition

Generally liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure.

f) Governance costs

These include costs of running the charity and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

g) Freehold properties held in trust

The company holds, as custodian trustee, 609 (2012: 590) freehold and 18 (2012: 18) leasehold properties purchased or acquired by congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain. The company's legal and financial responsibilities relative to the properties are met by the congregations using the halls. Decisions regarding the purchase, disposal, development, maintenance and use of the halls are under the direction of the respective bodies of elders of the congregations using the halls. The congregations are individually responsible for the financing and mortgage commitments, rents, rates, taxes and all other outgoings. The properties, liabilities and running costs are not featured in the accounts.

The total value of the freehold properties held in trust, based on values provided by congregation elders, totalled £223,385,681 (2012: £200,879,528). There were congregation mortgage and loan liabilities outstanding at 31 August 2013 totalling £4,101,484 (2012: £3,383,742).

h) Connected charities

Transactions are on an arms length and accruals basis. The Trust works closely with International Bible Students Association (Charity number: 216647) and Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Britain (Charity number: 1077961).

2. TRUSTEES

The trustees receive no payments or reimbursements in their capacity as trustees.