



**THE TEMPLAR PILGRIMAGE TRUST (OTJ)  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2018 – 31 DECEMBER 2018**

**Reference and administration details**

**Patron** Mr Alistair McCabe

**Trustees** Dr Sorin Ionut Balaban\*  
Stephen Britt-Hazard\*  
John Culley (Chairman)  
Anthony Cuthbert\*  
Cicelyn Hinds (Hon. Secretary)  
Mavis Jacobs\*  
Jeremy Lee (Hon. Treasurer)  
Rev. Canon Philip Norwood\*

**Charity number** 326561

**Contact address** 28 Clifford Road, South Norwood, London SE25 5JS

**The Trust**

The object of the Trust is the advancement of the Christian religion by helping people make journeys of pilgrimage to recognised Christian shrines and helping young people make educational visits to recognised places of Christian worship or learning. The shrines and places of worship may be in this country or overseas.

The Trust's governing document is a declaration of Trust dated 8 March 1984, as amended by deeds dated 25 September 2006 and 16 October 2017. It requires a majority of the Trustees to be Members of The Grand Priory of Knights Templar in the United Kingdom OSMTH ('the Grand Priory') and at least three Trustees to be independent of the Grand Priory. During the year, the Trustees agreed that potential new Trustees should be invited, without obligation, to attend three Trustee meetings as observers before a decision is made on appointing them as Trustees.

The Trust was originally founded by Knights Templar and most current donors are Members of the Grand Priory. The Trustees, therefore, consider it appropriate to maintain close links with the Grand Priory. A Memorandum of Understanding sets out the basis on which the two organisations aim to work together.

## **The Trustees**

The Trust is managed by a board of eight trustees. Five Trustees are Members of the Grand Priory. Three are independent of the Grand Priory. The Trustees come from different Christian denominations: the board includes members of the Church of England, the Romanian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

The Trustees' names are set out on page 1. The Trustees whose names are marked with an asterisk are Members of the Grand Priory and Anthony Cuthbert is the serving Grand Prior. The other Trustees are independent of the Grand Priory. The Trustees meet three times a year and maintain contact by e-mail between meetings.

## **The Trust's Activities**

The Trust's main activity is making grants to groups and individuals planning to make pilgrimages. Without the Trust's financial support, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for them to do so.

During the year, the Trust made 14 grants, which together amounted to £7,600. The groups supported included school groups helping disabled children on pilgrimage and people considering ordination. The sites visited included Assisi, the Holy Land, Lourdes, Medjugorje, Rome and Walsingham, as well as less well-known places such as Glendalough.

Grant recipients are encouraged to send written reports after completing their pilgrimage. This year, one group leader reported on positive changes and emotions in the children on pilgrimage. Student volunteers were said to have benefitted greatly from a spiritual and affirming experience. Other reports noted greater understanding about holy places and new ways of looking at the Bible as a result of making the pilgrimage.

Noting that most donors are Members of the Grand Priory, the Trustees have considered actions to raise funds from other sources in order to provide a larger and broader income base. The Trust is fortunate to have been supported by McCabe Pilgrimages for many years and during the year approaches were made to other tour and travel companies that organise pilgrimages. The Trustees also agreed to continue developing the Trust's website [www.templarpilgrimagetrust.org.uk](http://www.templarpilgrimagetrust.org.uk) and to publicise the Trust's work through articles in religious papers in order to raise its profile and to attract new donors.

During the year, a grant application form was introduced, which the Trustees will keep under review. They believe that the form will make the grant making process more streamlined and transparent. It will also ensure that personal information applicants provide will be held and used in accordance with GDPR requirements.

The Trustees confirm they have referred to the guidance from the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's activities, aims and objections.

## **Finances**

At the beginning of the year, the General Fund stood at £27,630. At the end of the year, it stood at £24,500. Disbursements of grants amounted to £7,600. Having agreed the appropriateness of making further use of capital to increase the amounts paid in grants, the Trustees made payments in excess of income of £3,130.

The Trustees remain convinced that funds are better used by making grants to beneficiaries than by retaining funds, which would yield little interest at current rates. To this end, during the year the Trustees agreed a budget for grants slightly in excess of the Trust's projected income. They calculate that budgets at this level will be sustainable in the medium term, until income starts to increase once new donations begin arriving.

The Trustees wish to record their thanks for continuing donations from Members of the Order, from friends of the Order and from McCabe Pilgrimages. The Trustees wish to thank donors who have covered costs relating to the operation of the Trust, such as costs of developing and hosting the website and costs associated with Trustees' meetings. They also take this opportunity to confirm that Trustees do not receive any remuneration from the Trust, nor do they claim travel or other expenses incurred in attending meetings.

**The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above**

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

**Signature:**

**Full Name: JOHN ANDREW CULLEY**

**Position: CHAIRMAN**

**Date: 26 February 2019**