



**THE TEMPLAR PILGRIMAGE TRUST (OTJ)  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Reference and administration details**

<b>Patron</b>	Alistair McCabe
<b>Trustees</b>	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* Rosemary Nutt
<b>Charity number</b>	326561
<b>Contact address</b>	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.

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 nine trustees. Five Trustees are Members of the Grand Priory. Four 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. Rosemary Nutt joined the board during 2019. A Director of McCabe Pilgrimages, she has extensive experience and knowledge of arranging and operating pilgrimages. During the year, the Trustees invited two potential new Trustees, to attend three Trustee meetings as observers with a view to appointing them as Trustees in 2020.

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 20 grants (2018: 14), which together amounted to £6,650 (2018: £7,600). The Trust supported school groups helping disabled children on pilgrimage, as well as nurses, priests and church workers. The sites visited included Assisi, the Holy Land, Lourdes, Rome, Turkey and Walsingham.

Grant recipients agree to send written reports after completing their pilgrimage. One commented that the Trust's donation 'really did make a difference and allowed me to make the impossible possible' for sick pilgrims. Another wrote that the pilgrimage 'helped to teach me how to care for someone else'.

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. Development of the Trust's website [www.templarpilgrimagestrust.org.uk](http://www.templarpilgrimagestrust.org.uk) continued during the year. The Trust also produced a newsletter in March and in October, giving details of the Trust's work and illustrations of the benefits to pilgrims. The Trustees continue working to raise the Trust's profile in order to attract new donors.

During the year, the Trustees reviewed safeguarding issues as they affect and apply to the Trust. In practical terms, the Trust provides Pilgrims with financial support but does not select the pilgrimage and / or the travel company. It is not involved in the planning, management or operation of the pilgrimage. Trustees do not accompany Pilgrims on pilgrimage. The Trust's contact with Pilgrims is, therefore, extremely limited and in most cases, it is by written correspondence only.

The Trustees realise that factors placing some pilgrims at risk will be easily identifiable (e.g. due to age or disability) but for other pilgrims those factors may not be immediately obvious (e.g. due to mental health issues, or previous experiences). While some pilgrims may be more at risk than others, all may, to some extent, be exposed to safeguarding risks on pilgrimage. The Trustees, therefore, agreed to adopt a Safeguarding Policy that will be applied to all pilgrims.

During the year, the Trustees also considered the risk of trustees having personally to pay legal claims made against them (by their charity or by a third party), for a breach of trust, or a breach of duty or negligence committed by them in their capacity as trustees. Although they concluded the risk appeared minimal, the Trustees agreed it would be sensible to buy Trustee Indemnity Insurance and such insurance was put in place.

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 £24,500 (2018: £27,630). At the end of the year, it stood at £24,143 (2018: £24,500). Disbursements of grants amounted to £6,650 (2018: £7,600). Having agreed the appropriateness of making further use of capital to increase the amounts paid in grants, the Trustees had agreed grant payments in excess of donations they expected to receive. An increase in the value of the Accumulation Fund, together with return of one grant and donations towards the end of the year, however, reduced the anticipated excess of expenditure over income for the year to £357 (2018: £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, the Trustees continued to budget for grants at a level 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 once again 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 confirm they approved this Report at their meeting on 3 March 2020**

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

**Signature:** 

**Full Name: JOHN ANDREW CULLEY**

**Position: CHAIRMAN**

**Date: 3 March 2020**