

# **Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust**

## **Trustee Annual Report and Accounts 2021**

**Registered Charity number 119326**

## **Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust**

**Charity number 119326**

The Trustees present their report relating to the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Reference and Administrative Information:**

#### **The principal address of the charity**

c/o Trust Secretary, 8 Hotham Close, Swanley, Kent BR8 7UX

#### **The charity trustees**

Martin Smyth	Chair
Rev Douglas Bull	Treasurer
Colette Selwood	
Peter Gower	

All were trustees throughout 2020/2021 and on the date the report was approved.

#### **The Charity bank**

Cooperative Bank plc  
P.O. Box 101  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

#### **The Independent Examiner**

John Rayer  
96b Bexley High Street,  
Bexley,  
Kent  
DA5 1JY

### **Structure Governance and Management**

The Charity was formed in 2020 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The charity is governed by a trustee committee of four trustees. Where the number of trustees is reduced to three or less, an appointment shall be made as soon as it is practicable to do so.

The charity does not have any employees but retains the services of a voluntary Trust Secretary and other volunteers or contracted agents to oversee the management of the day to day activity and ensure that the charity operates in accordance with recommended practice.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The Charitable purposes of charity are to advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the tradition of Christian Spirituality.

**Our Vision:** Is that all may sense the loving presence of God in their lives

**Our Mission:** Is to facilitate space, for all who desire, to deepen their relationship with God; to explore Gods desire for them and to experience Gods consolation in their lives.

### **This is achieved by:**

- Providing "Sanctuary", space for individuals or groups to come and experience quiet time with God
- Supporting the ministry of those involved in spiritual direction, including through supervision, training and professional development
- Offering spiritual direction and accompaniment to support people in their spiritual growth
- Provision of formal times of prayer, reflection, meditation and retreats
- Providing pastoral support and a 'listening ear' to those in need
- Being open to all people, those whose faith journey is outside the Christian church as well as those within

### **Report on Activities:**

The vision for the charity emerged during the pandemic in 2020. It became clear that there was a need for people to have space to 'ask the bigger questions of life' particularly within the context of a relationship with God.

With places of worship closed and an increased need for people to communicate members associated with the charity began to build informal networks engaging and connecting with people and creating an opportunity to reflect on their situation, their relationship with others and with God at this unprecedented time of uncertainty.

A number of informal activities were delivered whilst at the same time processing an application to the Charity Commission to formalise and establish the charity for the longer term.

To further the charities purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

- Facilitation of a weekly online group through participation in the Southwark Diocesan Retreat
- one to one spiritual direction of a participant on an individually guided retreat
- ongoing facilitation of weekly 'lectio divina' group enabling people to engage and grow their spiritual life through reflection on scripture



- delivery of an online quiet day in November 2020 and an in person 'quiet day' in June 2021 with planning for a series later 2021 (August/October)
- plans to develop an outdoor prayer space and application for involvement in the Quiet Garden movement in order to present ways to develop more 'outside' retreat/quiet day work in any continuing covid restrictions
- facilitation of a refectio day for the Diocesan Spirituality Commission
- online spiritual direction
- writing and distribution of 'Ramblings' a weekly reflection throughout the period of lockdown 2020
- provision of a weekly reflection on the readings to subscribers of Holy Apostles, Swanley newsletter

### **Performance and Achievements:**

This was the first year of operation and the charity and a key focus of the work was to establish the structure and register the charity. Given the delays presented by the impact of Coronavirus and the subsequent lockdowns and restrictions in 2020 and 2021 it took several months for this to be achieved, however by January 2021 the Charity had been recognised by the charity commission and by June 2021 a bank account had been opened.

Despite the impact of coronavirus the charity delivered a number of activities as outlined above and was able to support a significant number of people directly and indirectly.

Based on active participation:

Circa 20 people were engaged in on line retreat activities

2 people engaged in spiritual direction

Up to 20 people participated in the weekly scripture 'lectio divina' group over the course of the year

16 people attended in person 'quiet day' activities and day of reflection activities

The mailing lists for Ramblings and the weekly reflections engaged circa 150

A number of the people who benefitted from the activities had experienced loss, bereavement, additional isolation due to personal ill health or disability. One person was in the final stages of a terminal illness and he fed back that he was so grateful for the space to reflect and feel at peace with God.

Many people expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be engaged in such activity with such feedback as:

*"Thank you for the prayer and reflection. It was especially beautiful in the tranquil garden and surroundings".*

*"Thank you so much – this really made a big difference to us at this time of sorrow"*

*"Thank you for organising such a peaceful and prayerful start to Advent. Really good to reflect, especially in this strange year, and remember/ re encounter again all our fears and despondency in March/April. But God sees us through and proves again how we can cope in the face of adversity with His Grace"*

*"The content was an excellent way of enabling us to pray in a different way, complimented by images and music: such a brilliant way of hearing the word of God. Thank you, thank you".*

*"Your reflection was very reassuring; there was no pressure to speak so that in itself gave a sense of peace.... I think the mute button enhanced that!"*

*It created an opportunity to LISTEN .....to my inner self and being alone, it was nice to know there were others listening on zoom and the phone".*

*"The quietness allowed me to reflect on my own experiences, some good and some not so good- I am not sure I personally would have managed that as well, if we had been physically together".*

*"The sense of sharing albeit via zoom was a real feeling for me. I would like to add to what the lady said at the end...that she wouldn't have been able to join a live event as she is a carer, so zoom was very helpful in enabling her to connect. This goes for me too as a disabled person & my husband prefers not to leave me too long as he is my carer".*

*"It would be extremely helpful if some online activity can continue when the pandemic is over - for the disabled carers & elderly, I would love for online religious input to continue so we can join in".*

*"Thank you, we really appreciated this reflection - It gave us much to think about and was especially moving as regards the Pandemic. It made us feel connected to the rest of suffering humanity. God bless you & your work".*

*"Your thought provoking questions led me to reflect where I might not have ventured. I think that being in my own personal space encouraged my deeper thoughts. During our lunch break I went out into the garden as the sun was coming out and thought about Hope. I found a tiny pink bud, hope for the spring and maybe an answer to coronavirus".*

The Trustees are grateful that the charity was in a position to support the local community during such a challenging experience. Clearly we were in a position to make a difference to the circumstances of those we were able to support and we trust that in doing so, there have been wider benefits to society as a whole as people have grown in their own faith and been in a position to work for the 'common good' within their families, friendship groups and communities.

#### **Public benefit:**

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance, and have had regard to this when running the charity.

The charities events and activities are open to all people regardless of gender, age, ability, ethnicity, background or belief.

There is no charge for engaging with any of the services provided. Donations are requested on the basis of an individual's ability to pay.

#### **A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year:**

This was the first year of operation. The charity had considerable difficulty applying for a bank account during the pandemic and until after formal registration as a charity had been achieved. After six months, the bank account was finally opened in mid-June 2021.





During the year up to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, most of the charity's activities were delivered online and at no cost to the charity due to volunteers and pro-bono support from spiritual advisors, facilitators and IT provision.

An exceptional one off donation of £33,785 was received from St James's and St Luke's Trust on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with the specific intention of enabling the charity to get up and running and to develop its activities into future years. A further donation of £3,653.55 was received from St. John Fisher Church in July 2021 at the request of Fr. Douglas Bull in order to develop prayer activities and resources.

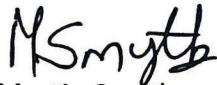
The total income of the charity during the year was £37,438.55

The total expenditure of the charity to end of July 2021 was £0

Funds carried forward to future years are £ 37,438.55. The purpose of these funds is to grow the work of the charity through a five year development plan in order that significantly more activity can be delivered, including the development of an outdoor prayer space and increased in person activity.

The charity does not have a reserves policy at this stage but is in the process of developing one.

Signature:



Martin Smyth  
Chair and Trustee



Douglas Bull  
Treasurer and Trustee

Date:

30th April 2022

## Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust, a registered CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIP's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matter has come to my attention in accordance with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature .....



**John Rayer**

96b Bexley High St.,  
Bexley, Kent,  
DA5 1JY

Date

3 May 2022



	2021 Total £
<b>INCOME :</b>	
<b><i>Donations:</i></b>	
St James's and St Luke's Trust	33,785.00
Other Income	3,653.55
Investment income	0
Total Income	<u>37,438.55</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>	
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	£0
Total Expenditure	<u>£0</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>	
Total funds brought forward	£0
Total funds carried forward at 31 July	<u><u>37,438.55</u></u>

£                      2021                      £

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash at bank and in hand	37,438.55	
Other Assets	0	
	<hr/>	

<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts due within one year	0	
	<hr/>	

**NET CURRENT ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES**

0

**NET ASSETS**

37,438.55

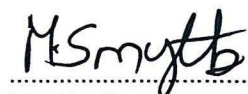
**FUNDS :**

Unrestricted funds	33,785.00	
Designated Funds	3,653.55	
	<hr/>	

**TOTAL FUNDS**

37,438.55

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on and were signed below on its behalf by:



.....  
Martin Smyth  
Chair and Trustee



.....  
Fr Douglas Bull  
Treasurer and Trustee

2022

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

### **a) Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

### **a) Going concern**

The Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties regarding the Trust's ability to do so.

### **b) Tangible fixed Assets**

No fixed assets are held.

### **c) Taxation**

Akwaaba Sanctuary Trust is a registered charity and accordingly is not liable to United Kingdom taxation.

### **d) Income**

Income comprises of gifts, donations, and investment income. The income is recognised when it is probable to be received and can be measured reliably and charity is entitled to it.

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED**

### **a) Expenditure**

Charitable expenditure consists of all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity. All costs are directly attributable to the activities under which they have been analysed.

Governance costs include expenditure on the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expense to which it relates.

### **b) Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use by the charity in accordance with its objects. Designated funds are held and applied for the purposes agreed.

### **c) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash held in a bank current account and/or deposit account.

### **d) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### **e) Estimates and Judgements**

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the trustee's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The trustees do not consider there to be any estimates and judgements.

### **f) Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.