

# **The Vincent Society Trustees' Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

CMJ UK CMJ UK is a working title of The Vincent Society, a charitable incorporated organisation, England & Wales  
Registered Charity Number 1153457

## **Annual General Meeting**

**To be held at:  
The Hayes Conference Centre,  
Hayes Lane, Swanwick,  
Alfreton DE55 1AU  
on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2021  
at 9.00pm  
in the Main Conference Hall**

The charity's trustees present their report with the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. 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 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Introduction**

The Vincent Society originally operated as a trust company registered in England (00256264) since its incorporation in May 1931. Following the adoption of new objects, agreed with the Charity Commission, The Vincent Society was registered as a charity on 19 August 2013 (1153457) and took on the operational work of CMJ (The Church's Ministry among Jewish people, registered charity number 228519). In November 2019 The Vincent Society became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is with this background that this report details the work of The Vincent Society in 2020.

### **Membership**

At 31 December 2020, The Vincent Society had a membership of 652 members.

### **Trustees**

The members directly elect the trustees of The Vincent Society. The trustees met three times in 2020. One of these included an additional 'Envisioning Day' with external facilitation.

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. Likewise, it has taken over Olive Press Publishing (OPP) in providing Christian publications for public benefit.

### **Objects**

The Object of the Charity is restricted to 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 believers in Jesus;
- undertaking educational work about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith;
- supporting the advancement of Messianic Judaism.

### **The Work of The Vincent Society in 2020**

This year has been a very different year for the Society and its members as we all adjust to life during a pandemic. We are so grateful to have experienced the continued generosity of our individual and church supporters' ongoing giving. Many contributed to the Spring and Autumn appeals, and there has also been legacy income. Much of the work of the ministry has been moved online. International work has been put on hold until travel without quarantining is permissible.

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

We are pleased to report that in 2020 there was a net gain of 6 new churches and lots of new individuals to the mailing database.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Trustees' Activities**

There were several areas of trustee activity in 2020. The most notable aspects of our work were:

- the Envisioning Day just before the first lockdown;
- continued development of a Medium Term Strategy to 2021;
- enhanced working with CMJ Israel.

These tasks were in addition to the regular oversight activities of the Society by the trustees.

Staff and trustees had planned to conduct tours to Israel and, in cooperation with CMJ Israel, we have sought to reduce the cost of these while maximising the benefit to our charitable work. These were all rescheduled for 2021.

A responsibility for the trustees in any year is the setting of the budget. The trustees were pleased to set a budget for 2021 that maintained the increased evangelism expenditure that began in 2014 and continued our youth conference work, linked to excellent feedback from the online 2020 one day event. We remain excited about the potential impact of these two elements of the budget. As this report indicates, we have continued to benefit from our supporters' generosity in their regular giving and the blessing of legacies. These kind gifts help move us closer to a more secure financial footing and to having a more solid basis for future planning. 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**

### **Evangelism / Outreach**

#### Community Based Evangelists (CBE)

During 2020 one of our Community Based Evangelists (CBEs) continued to serve faithfully and effectively in this role. Our other Community Based Evangelist (CBE) has been furloughed for much of the year. This work's importance is emphasised in that both evangelists are line managed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

#### Major Outreaches

In addition to this day-to-day work, the Society invested in planning major outreach projects in 2020. Whilst much of this was cancelled, we remain connected with others to deliver similar events in 2021. 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. These outreach projects are listed below:

1. Our London-based CBE took on the leadership of the New Age outreaches in the summer of 2019 and led the October 2019 event. However, all the 2020 events were cancelled. We look forward to the 2021 events when it is expected that:
  - hundreds of people, including many Jewish people, will engage in conversation
  - hundreds of gospels and tracts will be given away
  - professions of faith will be celebrated
  - new contacts for our CBE will be gained.

2. Plans were in place and a team of volunteers ready to go to the Annual Spring Fair at Christ Church in Jerusalem. These 2020 arrangements were cancelled, but it is hoped that the 2021 event will go ahead and that we will again be able to connect with the local community and raise finances for the Mercy Fund and other charities. This will be organised in conjunction with CMJ Israel by two CMJ UK staff members leading a team of volunteers. The Fair has become a popular event in the Old City's social calendar and attracts many hundreds of people from the local Jewish, Arab and Bedouin communities. This fun day's entertainment includes games, food, music and dancing, plus the selling of second-hand clothes and household goods. Many of the staff at Christ Church and other CMJ centres assist on the day. Lots of meaningful conversations take place addressing questions of faith and helping to build mutual trust and respect. As this fundraising opportunity did not take place this year, we launched an appeal for the Mercy Fund and raised over £23,000.
3. The street outreach in the centre of Stamford Hill only operated for a few days in 2020. In 2021, we hope to provide personnel for about 40% of these events; cover most of the literature costs; share in prayer support and seek to build and maintain links with local church groups. Our CEO has preached in local churches in this area previously. We believe this outreach provides an excellent partnership model with several mission agencies and local churches.

#### Bible Comes To Life (BCTL) Exhibition

BCTL would have been a key ministry tool for CMJ in 2020 had the events not been cancelled. These were planned in Scotland, Wales and England.

We hope to get bookings for 2021 and as usual see over half of those attending coming from the local schools. The exhibition meets national curriculum requirements relating to both Christianity and Judaism and has in recent years given rise to many positive comments from both school staff and pupils. Many teachers say that the interactive, multi-sensory experience goes far beyond what they could provide in a classroom setting. CMJ contacts in the local schools (members of school staff, governors, church children's workers etc.) are vital to the exhibition's success in these educational establishments.

Not only does the educational element of BCTL continue to develop, but so does its evangelistic emphasis.

We are continuing to explore links with both the British Museum and the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC to obtain valuations of the clothing and scrolls and advise on renovating other parts of the collection.

BCTL is a vital and growing tool in our ministry. We look forward to bookings for 2021. However, we still do not have a permanent site to house the exhibition, so the search continues.

#### Jewish Evangelism Training (JET)

Ongoing interest in the JET course has continued during 2020 with the resources selling in the online shop.

#### Other Educational and encouragement activities

Activities have continued during 2020, with online preaching engagements, deputations, teaching events etc. Unfortunately, no Passovers were possible in 2020.

Plans are in place to connect again with the Lausanne Conference on Jewish Evangelism in 2021. The monthly lectures (open to the public) have continued online with increased audiences, as has the publication of quality advocacy material, the Olive Press Research Papers.

The two monthly prayer meetings usually held in Leicester have gone online and seen numbers attending at least triple. CMJ UK's prayer needs are presented and then breakout rooms are used for prayer. Our quarterly Prayer Focus has continued to be sent to Members. We also provide a regular monthly prayer update via email to many prayer groups, some of which have been in existence for over 20 years.

We have continued to engage with the Love Never Fails (LNF) group online. This is an alliance of ministries with a similar focus to that of CMJ.

External speakers in 2020 were limited but Rev David Pileggi shared in a series of Hannukah events right at the end of the year. We have however been able to share many online resources from CMJ Israel during the year and promote their Sunday service.

We had an exhibition stand at the Church of England Synod at the beginning of the year. Since then, there has been no opportunity for staff to represent the Society at any Christian conferences.

Staff (and local reps) had no opportunity this year to lead Passover celebrations and thus to help 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 the Hayes Conference Centre (Swanwick) was cancelled. We replaced this with a one-day online event to which over 770 devices logged on during the day. The keynote speaker was Amir Tsarfati and a range of sessions provided a variety of related ministry teaching. Bob Goody led the Youth Conference as an afternoon session.

There have been no opportunities for interviews on Christian radio stations.

### **Advocacy**

In terms of theological education, we have continued to publish and distribute the Olive Press Research Papers (OPRPs). They are a valuable advocacy tool and are freely available to download from the CMJ UK website. In 2020 Alex Jacob's new book '60 Days with Romans' was released.

### **Antisemitism**

Our stand against antisemitism is supported by a range of articles, correspondence and participation in meetings. CMJ also shared in the online Yom Kippur Day of Prayer for Jewish missions.

The CEO continues to be involved in addressing the rise of antisemitism, with opportunity for input in churches and political institutions.

Unfortunately, staff, trustees and reps were unable to attend Holocaust memorial events in 2020. In 2021, we have already hosted an online Holocaust Memorial Service with over 470 devices logging on.

The BCTL would have also resulted in conversations challenging antisemitic views had it been possible to undertake such events.

### **Other work**

Our new areas of work during 2020 have all been online and have included the development of our YouTube channel.

We are grateful for a network of local reps around the country who, when opportunities present themselves, promote the Society's work in their localities. This year we supported them with an online training event.

We have continued to raise CMJ UK's profile online using our social media pages to connect with supporters throughout the year. In 2020 the number following our page rose from 1,580 to 2,104, a net increase of 33%. We set up a new website in early 2020 and continued to develop this during the year. The addition of a shop has generated much interest and sales.

This year the team of volunteers who help staff and trustees in CMJ UK's work have only had limited opportunity to be on-site and contribute in this way.

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.

### **Israel**

CMJ UK does not operate directly in Israel, but it does provide a significant amount of financial support for our sister society's work, CMJ Israel: £145,997 in 2020 (See page 20, note 9).

The CEO has contributed to the sermon notes for Christ Church in the past year. These weekly sermon notes are distributed to our supporters for their use and to promote an understanding of the Jewishness of God's word to church leaders.

For those wanting to find out more about CMJ Israel's work, their comprehensive website is [www.cmj-israel.org](http://www.cmj-israel.org).

### **Future Plans**

The trustees are keen for The Vincent Society to progress in its many avenues of work. Before the Covid-19 outbreak, plans for 2020 onwards looked towards building on the work done previously and also include:

- opportunities for week-long engagements with delegates at a holiday retreat centre (3 planned in 2021 already)
- enhanced engagement with Bible Colleges
- development of the new website
- enhancements to our Facebook posts to an increasing audience
- development of the new database which provides additional facilities including Direct Debit giving; text messaging of supporters; emails based on geo-location and postcode finder
- attending as exhibitors at the General Synod
- organising a UK tour for USA and UK delegates to explore the link between the Pilgrim Fathers and Israel. A Keshet course will be an option at the end of this

- organising a tour of Israel linked to cheese and wine, which gained more than 30 expressions of interest in 2020.

## **Conclusion**

The Society's work progressed in 2020, despite all the restrictions, such that the gospel continues to be advanced among Jewish people. The activities and the way they are executed are consistent with the objects of The Vincent Society. We continue to pursue innovative means of continuing this work in partnership with like-minded charities both here in the UK and 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 2020.

## **Public benefit statement**

The Vincent Society's charitable aims were previously carried out for public benefit mainly by the work of CMJ, until its transfer of activities which took effect on 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 fulfilling 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 task is to evangelise and promote evangelism in appropriate ways 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'Mashiach - Jesus the Messiah. Evangelism is carried out in a culturally sensitive way without any coercion whatsoever. This is 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 a baptised believer in Messiah for at least a year and that any such gift must be seen to be in furtherance of the objects of the charity and not as an inducement to become a believer).

Much of the evangelistic work takes the form of friendship evangelism. Staff also participate in several outreach events. These include street outreaches and more specialist outreaches at New Age events, which are open to the public. All 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 encourage them to support both Messianic believers and outreach to Jewish people. Opportunities exist for individuals to visit Israel (at their expense) to promote a greater understanding of Christianity and its Jewish origins. CMJ UK seeks to ensure that the cost of such trips is not prohibitive to maximise the number of people who can benefit from them.

Last but not least, we have an ongoing role in standing against antisemitism. This work is varied and cuts across most aspects of the organisation's work. Our direct work is to publish articles, engage in correspondence and participate in meetings that address this. We also partner with other organisations having a similar role.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Principal funding sources**

The Charity's principal funding sources are:

- Donations from Individuals
- Donations from Churches
- Legacies

In 2020, total income resources amounted to £657,443. This was lower than the total incoming resources in 2019. The main decrease in income was due to legacies which totalled £188,908 (2019: £368,181). Due to the exceptional circumstances in the year, many sources of income have been adversely affected, details of which are included in Note 6.

### **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.

#### Ethically 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 an increase in fund balances for the year of £103,339 (2019: £218,134).



At the year-end the free reserves (ignoring the unfunded pension liability) were £1,436,016 (2019: £1,334,576) which is more than the budgeted unrestricted expenditure for 2021. The minimum reserves limit has been set at £300,000.

Permanent endowment funds were £566,367 (2019: £566,367), and the balance of restricted funds was £2,952 (2019: £2,353).

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Vincent Society holds cash and investments 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 with 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**

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

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

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **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 trustees delegate the day-to-day management of the Charity to:

- Rev. Alex Jacob, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Advocacy;
- John Brooks, Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The trustees also operate under sub-committees of the Charity: the Finance Committee, the Staff Policy 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 31st December 2014 the unincorporated charity the Church's Ministry Among Jewish People (Registered Charity no. 228519) was wound up as an operational charity and all assets and activities were transferred to The Vincent Society. However, it remains in existence as a shell in case of any 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 the parent of a group which includes the unincorporated CMJ shell charity. The group is excluded from preparing consolidated financial statements due to the other group member being immaterial and that the income of the group does not exceed £1 million.

### **Risk management**

The trustees actively review the significant risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis.

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 to mitigate those risks.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

### **Registered Company number**

CE019289 (England and Wales)

### **Registered Charity number**

1153457

### **Registered office**

Eagle Lodge, Hexgreave Hall Business Park, Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire NG22 8LS

### **Trustees**

A Marchant (resigned 24.10.20)  
W Scott - Chairperson  
Rev C Collington  
Rev R Goldenberg (resigned 24.10.20)  
E H J Woods  
J R Barnes - Vice Chairperson  
R Aldridge  
R Blandford  
Rev Canon P Harris - Treasurer  
J Sims  
Dr A Davies (appointed 24.10.20)  
Rev T Butlin (appointed 24.10.20)  
K Patel (appointed 24.10.20)

**Company Secretary**

M J Brooks

**Independent Examiner**

Bostockwhite Limited, 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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and signed on its behalf  
by:



.....  
W Scott  
Trustee & Chairperson