

Joint Christian Science Reading Room UK

Charity Number 1143776

Treasurer's Report 2024

Wisdom, economy and brotherly love are the foundation on which the team have approached the activity of living and sharing the UK Online Reading Room, reflected in communications, design work, technical expertise, and the right direction of how to share the gift of Christian Science through interactions in person and online via our various website and social media platforms.

As Mary Baker Eddy says in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures "...Mind alone enlarges and empowers man through its mandate, — by reason of its demand for and supply of power." (SH 199:9–12)

The following report is for the financial year 2024 (January - December) and is the action and demonstration of this divine mandate.

JCSRRUK income

JCSRRUK receives income via the following channels:

- 1) Donations from branch churches (active and closing) and individuals, either via standing order direct debits or via CAF Donate
- 2) Online Reading Room shop sales
- 3) Payments from invoices issued for services to branch churches, including:
 - o Live streaming of branch church lectures
 - o Initial design and set-up of branch church websites
 - o Annual cost for maintaining branch church websites – some pay by monthly direct debit, some pay annually on receipt of invoice
 - o Reading Room screen installation and set-up
 - o Reading Room screen annual content charge
 - o 'Live stream your service' equipment set-up and training
- 4) Grants received from the Christian Science Trust in Great Britain and The Westminster Fund

Grants

Our sincere thanks go to the Westminster Fund, for their decision to grant a generous monthly contribution of £3000 towards the charity's running costs since

August 2023. These payments continued to be received from January to June 2024. The Westminster Fund graciously increased the contribution amount to £3500 in July 2024 which continued each month up to the end of the financial year (December 31 2024). Other generous grant payments were received from The Westminster Fund and The Christian Science Trust in Great Britain in 2024 for JCSRRUK work and services and these will be noted throughout this report in relation to their relevant projects.

Donations

The team is extremely grateful to all JCSRRUK supporters for supporting and valuing the charity. As well as one-off donations from active and closing churches and Christian Science Associations, we are so grateful for the raft of monthly donations from branch churches and individuals. This generosity enables us to actively and sustainably support individuals seeking to deepen their study of Christian Science, and to support Christian Science branch churches in their outreach and support of their local communities.

In 2024, JCSRRUK received monthly standing order donations from the following eleven UK branch churches:

- CSS Kingston
- CSS Sevenoaks
- CSS Exeter
- CSS Oxted
- CSS Scarborough
- FCCS Claygate & Esher
- FCCS Reading
- FCCS Bedford
- FCCS Watford
- Second Church Birmingham
- Third Church, Leeds

JCSRRUK is also grateful for very generous donations received from Dagny Raymond Trust and from a legacy left to JCSRRUK from a former trustee of the charity.

Online Reading Room Activity (ORR)

Income: Sales

In 2024, according to the ORR website shop analytics, the online shop processed 111 orders across all categories of stock sourced from the Christian Science Publishing Society. These sales were down 11% from 125 orders in 2023. Net sales in 2024 came to £6,358.87, down 16% from £7,576.09 in 2023. Annual accounting reports a sales total of £7,473, accounting for sundry other sales. This is down from £9,135 in 2023.

Individual customers and some branch churches purchasing with a credit or debit card make payment through the website via Stripe, which takes a 1.5% + £0.20 (standard UK cards) for each transaction at the point of payment. Other branch churches opt to make payment via bank transfer or sometimes via cheques by post.

Branch church reading rooms with JCSRRUK accounts can log into their accounts through the website before making purchases and receive a 10% discount on their order.

For the simple seeker looking to purchase a small order of items, perhaps just a Science and Health, it was noticed that the postage and packaging costs set in 2023 were disproportionate to the cost of the item. Therefore, a decision was made to place a £5.00 reduction on all postage and packaging costs for orders made by non-RR customers. These costs were absorbed by JCSRRUK for all non-RR orders throughout 2024.

Expenditure: Stock

Stock is purchased as needed in bulk, direct with the Christian Science Publishing Society (CSPS) at the cost shown on their online shop. In 2024, £5,331 was spent on stock, down from £6,962 in 2023 (reduction 23%).

Expenditure: Running costs

All stock for the online shop is currently stored and managed by myWarehouse, an order fulfillment company in Milton Keynes. They receive the stock, store it, receive orders directly through the ORR website and fulfill the orders on our behalf. JCSRRUK receives a monthly invoice for this service, and costs were roughly the same between 2023 and 2024.

Briton International is the customs agent that JCSRRUK began working with in March 2024. They act on behalf of JCSRRUK by communicating with the warehouse supplying the CSPS stock in Boston to gather all necessary documentation and information needed for the stock to clear customs when it arrives in the UK. They

then ensure it arrives and is accepted by myWarehouse on our behalf too. We pay in the region of £250-£300 for their services for each CSPS order placed.

Income: Livestreaming

Income categorized as 'Donations from Churches for Streaming Costs' includes payments received for JCSRRUK live streamed lectures actioned in the latter part of 2023. JCSRRUK also supported CSS Scarborough to install a full set-up of equipment to regularly livestream their church services online, under the 'Livestream Your Service' resource for churches, the initial payment totaling £9,310.

In December 2023, JCSRRUK submitted a grant application to The Christian Science Trust in Great Britain to cover the costs of live streaming branch church lectures. This was put forward in the application as a proposition that the Trust Brit and The Westminster Fund presented an offer to branch churches of funding to cover live streaming costs for approximately 10-12 lectures for the UK field in 2024. JCSRRUK is sincerely grateful to Trust Brit and The Westminster Fund for approving this grant application. Branch churches in Claygate & Esher, Woking, and London responded to the offer, and JCSRRUK also coordinated an online only Christmas lecture, jointly sponsored by three churches in Yorkshire. The funding received from the funding bodies for these live streamed lectures is categorized separately under 'Grants from Trust Brit' and 'Grants from The Westminster Fund'.

The JCSRRUK team later recognized that publicizing the offer to branch churches in January 2024 didn't give sufficient time for branch churches to take up the offer and begin lecture planning before the end of the lecture year. JCSRRUK is very grateful to Trust Brit and The Westminster Fund for their agreement to extend the timing of the offer to include lectures held up to the end of June 2025. This meant the offer then spanned two separate lecture years; Jan – June 2023/2024 and the full 2024/25 lecture year. Grant payments for the additional lectures funded by this grant will be accounted for in the 2025 accounting year.

Additionally, payments were received for four hybrid lectures live streamed and funded by FCCS London and SCCS London and these are accounted for within the 2024 live streaming income as well.

Expenditure: Equipment

Equipment acquisitions in 2024 include specialist equipment purchases for CSS Scarborough's 'Live stream Your Service' set-up installed by JCSRRUK in 2024. Payment for equipment and set-up for this from CSS Scarborough have been received and reconciled.

In July 2023, JCSRRUK submitted a grant application to The Christian Science Trust in Great Britain for JCSRRUK tech equipment already purchased, which included a £10,000 budget for replacement of equipment in 2023. JCSRRUK is sincerely grateful to Trust Brit for approving this application and the funds were used to replace JCSRRUK-owned specialist live streaming cameras in March 2024.

Expenditure: Subscriptions

JCSRRUK sustains several online subscriptions to deliver an efficient, professional live streaming service. This includes graphic design, phone contracts for reliable internet connection at events, online cloud storage accounts, media platforms such as Vimeo, and promotion platforms including GoogleAds (Youtube) and Mailchimp. These have been categorized together in subscriptions under expenditure for 'Online Reading Room Activity' for 2024. This will be reviewed and amended for more accurate account reporting in 2026 financial year.

Expenditure: JCSRRUK-hosted music concerts and AGM

JCSRRUK incurred expenditure for three inspirational music concerts held in 2024 at Easter, Summer and Christmas. Costs for these are itemized as musician fees and travel, technician travel, recording, editing and live streaming.

The 2024 JCSRRUK AGM recorded in July at FCCS Stratford-upon-Avon and later streamed online, also incurred cost for technician in recording, editing and live streaming.

Website Design and Management

Income: Design, set-up and maintenance payments

In 2024, JCSRRUK maintained 14 websites for branch churches in the UK and one for the Aid Fund for Christian Science nursing. Some branch churches make monthly direct debit payments of £15 for maintenance and others pay annually on receipt of invoice. This covers general website updates and the cost on ongoing website hosting.

Design, set-up and launch services were also completed for three new websites for branch churches in Altrincham, Stockton-on-Tees and Nottingham. Payments were received for all new websites, and some maintenance fees were still outstanding from branch churches at the end of the year. These were followed up and received early in 2025.

Expenditure: staffing and subscriptions

In the first half of 2024, new website design and set-up service costs were quoted at approximately £600. In July 2024, it was decided that this would be increased to £1,200 to more accurately reflect the amount of time and level of expertise required to deliver this service.

Expenditure for an initial web design and set-up includes staffing costs for graphic design, website layout, text and any additional requested website features. There is also the initial domain registration charge with Rochen – the domain registration and management platform. For maintained websites, JCSRRUK receives monthly invoices from Rochen for each separate domain managed, which are paid by direct debit. JCSRRUK also pays an annual subscription charge to Elementor – the platform used for building and hosting WordPress websites.

Reading Room Remotely Managed Display Screens

Income: installation fees and annual content charge payments

In 2024, JCSRRUK maintained 14 screens for branch churches and reading rooms in the UK and coordinated one screen replacement. Branch churches pay annually £300 on receipt of invoice for ongoing content updates throughout the year. Some payments were still outstanding from branch churches at the end of the year. These were followed up and received early in 2025.

Expenditure: graphic design, administration and screen cost

JCSRRUK staff access the online cloud management system, produce vibrant, relevant, dynamic visual content to the correct screen graphic specifications and ensure it is successfully uploaded to the screens. Through the content, staff work to bring spiritual insights to current trends in thought, world and community issues and seasonal changes across the year. Screen settings and internet connectivity are also monitored and managed centrally through the online management system.

In addition to this, staff spend considerable time conducting administration and communication with the branch church, the screen supplier and each other to ensure the screen installation and set-up runs smoothly. The expense of this work to the charity is currently categorized in 'Online Reading Room Activity' under 'Employee Salaries & Employer Costs'.

Initial set-up costs vary depending on the screen size and specifications. Initially, JCSRRUK meets the payment for the cost of a new or replacement screen. Following successful installation, branch churches are invoiced for the screen cost, installation, lifetime subscription to the cloud management system and design and support for the first year's slide content and there were no outstanding payments for this at the end of the year.

Treasurer: Helen de Leon

Date: Monday 15th September 2025

Chair of trustees: John M Houston

Date: 15 September 2025