



Marriage
Foundation

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2017

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number 1150453

FRIDAY



A09 *A760MFWX* #355
25/05/2018
COMPANIES HOUSE

ENSORS ACCOUNTANTS LLP

Chartered Accountants
2nd. Floor, The Platinum Building
St. John's Innovation Park
Cowley Road
Cambridge CB4 0DS

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THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Business Address	Future Business Centre Kings Hedges Road Cambridge CB4 2HY Tel: 0203 291 0912 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge Sir Mark Hedley Edward Coleridge William Coleridge Pamela Collis
Executive Director	Michael Trend
Independent examiner	James Francis FCA 2 nd Floor, The Platinum Building St. John's Innovation Park Cowley Road Cambridge CB4 0DS
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 56 St. Andrews Street Cambridge CB2 3DA
Solicitors	Bates Wells Braithwaite LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Patrons	Baroness Butler-Sloss Baroness Deech Baroness Shackleton Lady Toulson

Summary of Vision, Aims and Activities

Our Vision

We want to see fewer relationships breaking down and more people forming healthy stable relationships. This would mean:

- More children growing up with both their birth parents, and fewer children whose wellbeing and life chances are diminished through experiencing broken relationships.
- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
- And less cost to society – not the current £51 billion each year.

We believe that marriage can help build more stable relationships, and that marriages can be strengthened and supported to survive difficult times. That's why our mission is to be the national champion for marriage.

Our Aims

Our charitable objects and activities are set out in full in the Trustees' annual report. We recognise that governments cannot legislate stronger relationships into existence. Ultimately, more, stronger and longer-lasting marriages will be a product of our individual choices, behaviour and wider cultural norms. Marriage Foundation therefore seeks to influence the way individuals, couples and society as a whole think about forming, maintaining and ending relationships. In doing this we seek:

- Better public understanding of the nature and benefits of marriage and the ways in which it is distinct from cohabitation.
- More intentional commitment in the formation of relationships: 'deciding' rather than 'sliding'.
- Greater willingness to work at relationships and develop the skills that support their success.
- A reduction in the 'marriage gap' whereby people from lower income backgrounds are less likely to benefit from stable relationships.

Our Approach

We use the national profile we have established to create a platform for the passion and skills of the many individuals and organisations who believe that strengthening marriage and couple relationships will benefit society. We invite all people to join with us as part of a broad coalition that champions the hopes and dreams of the majority, tackles the pain and hurt of the most vulnerable, and celebrates success in that most difficult and vital endeavour – healthy relationships – wherever it is found.

Our research and regular, visible and respected presence in public debate – press, radio, tv, social media and national conferences – challenge the myths and false assumptions about marriage and couple relationships. We see this as a vital step in changing the context within which people make choices about their relationships, and enabling other organisations to be more effective in their support for relationships.

But ultimately we will make a difference by giving people the skills, knowledge and support to form stronger more stable relationships, and by helping others in that task.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2016/17

I am delighted to introduce the report and accounts for 2016/17.

It's hard to believe that Marriage Foundation's sixth birthday is almost upon us. When we launched in 2012 I was still sitting as a High Court Judge in the Family Division. I was told it was a hopeless task which would go nowhere and soon fall flat on its face.

Having celebrated our fifth anniversary I believe we have confounded the doom-mongers. In fact we have achieved much more, much faster than I originally dared to hope. In short we are now established as the main and authoritative voice making the case for marriage and stable, intentional relationships. Our relentless bombardment of the media with our original research (which is readily absorbed by them) has embedded a new understanding of the benefits of marriage as the gold standard for life-long relationships especially for children. We have produced more than forty new research findings which we have publicised extensively; an average of three media 'hits' each week (press, radio and TV).

While raising press and public awareness has been our primary focus we are also becoming more and more involved in prominent campaigns alongside other think tanks and universities. We continue to develop a close working relationship with Lincoln University in the UK and Brigham Young University in the USA and we are playing a key part in the work of Family Stability Network (FASTN), now a registered charity.

At the beginning of the current year we persuaded the Times newspaper to spearhead a family law reform campaign which has been on our agenda since day one. They have been enthusiastic partners. Family Law is in urgent need of comprehensive review and reform if we are to keep marriage as the first choice for all of society rather than, as it has become, only for the better off.

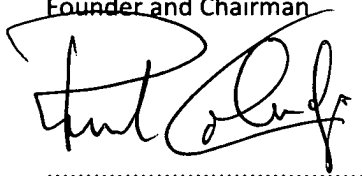
This year's Marriage Week in February, a campaign which we first took responsibility for last year, was again a success. Breathing new life into this initiative will, we hope, provide a platform from which the many organisations who support marriage, both national and local, can make their voice heard.

I am confident that we are winning the argument that family breakdown and its fallout is near the top of the list of national social problems, that it must be tackled, and that the re-establishing of the primacy of marriage is a vital and urgent key remedy. But there is much, much more to be done. Never forget the most shocking of our early findings: any child born today has only a 50/50 chance of being with both their birth parents by the age of 15.

We are hugely encouraged by our first five years and resolved to press forward. But nothing could have been achieved without our brilliant supporters and partners. I am ceaselessly grateful for their financial, practical and moral support.

Sir Paul Coleridge

Founder and Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coleridge', written over a dotted line.

2nd May 2018

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2016.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Sir Paul Coleridge
Sir Mark Hedley
Edward Coleridge
William Coleridge
Pamela Collis (appointed 23rd May 2017)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

Marriage Foundation was incorporated under and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 March 2012 and amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 11 January 2013. The company limited by guarantee was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 11 January 2013.

Governance, Structure and Management

The charity is governed, on a day-to-day basis, by the Executive Director, who meets frequently with the chair of Trustees to discuss the issues affecting the charity. In establishing governance policies and procedures for a new charity the Trustees have been guided by the Charity Commission's published advice and guidance. An Advisory Board meets twice a year. The Board brings together people with significant professional experience of marriage and relationships, family law and the media to advice on the strategy and development of programmes.

Sarah Abell is a life and relationships coach and author.

Edmund P Adamus is Professional Adviser to the Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Rehna Azim is a family law barrister specializing in child care law.

Catherine Barker is Project Director for FASTN, The Family Stability Network.

Mark Daniel, along with his wife Christine, is a co-Director of FamilyLifeUK

Rachel Gardner is the founder of Romance Academy.

Katharine Hill is UK Director for the charity Care for the Family.

Deborah Jeff is head of the Family Department and a partner at the law firm Seddons.

Nola Leach is CEO of CARE.

Nicky and Sila Lee are the founders of Relationships Central

Mark Molden is Chief Executive of Marriage Care.

Dave Percival founded and runs 2-in-2-1

Philippa Taylor is Head of Public Policy at the Christian Medical Fellowship.

Frank Young is Head of the Family Policy Unit at the Centre for Social Justice.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017****Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold an amount in free reserves equivalent to 3 month's salary costs. The free reserves as at 31 August 2017 did not meet this target. Although we are moving towards a more project-based model the underlying policy of retaining 3 month's salary costs remains in place.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Invitations will be extended from time to time to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become Trustees by the existing body of Trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with a comprehensive pack of induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed. They will have an induction with fellow Trustees and the Executive Director.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The Relationships Foundation's role in supporting the launch of Marriage Foundation was governed by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Relationships Foundation's chair of Trustees and Sir Paul Coleridge. This Memorandum was updated following charity registration and covers the terms under which Relationships Foundation continues to provide administrative, communications and project management support.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**Objectives**

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships), for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017**

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.
- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

Ultimately the impact of our work will be seen in changed attitudes to marriage and relationships formation amongst young people, and in society more widely. This should result in more marriages and fewer broken relationships, with a reduction in the number of children experiencing the separation of their parents. The life chances of children, the wellbeing of both adults and children will be improved, and the costs of broken relationships to the nation reduced.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable cohabitation.

Specific cultural impact should include fewer people believing in the myth of 'common law marriage', breaking the association of marriage with expensive weddings, increased willingness to access relationships education, greater awareness of the value of public intentional commitment at the outset of a relationship and greater recognition of the dangers of 'sliding' into cohabitation – we make the case for 'deciding rather than sliding' – which can, on occasion, lead young people into potentially dangerous situations. Common myths and misunderstanding will be less widely perpetuated and commonly believed.

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact. This should be seen in terms of additional activity and improved outcomes over and above that which they would have achieved alone. Specifically this should include an increase in the numbers of people reached and ability of the organisations to support people in their relationships.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these are on our website.

Research

We have continued our successful programme of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research that make a positive and engaging case for marriage capable of generating significant media interest. Our analysis has been supported by staff at both Lincoln and Brigham Young Universities. Reports produced during the year included:

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017

'Marriage-rich' cabinet need to back marriage

Marriage Foundation's data revealed that cabinet members show near universal support for marriage, with 89% of 27 ministers married and only one minister who has never married. Cabinet members are thus exposed to well above average levels of family stability. Their private backing for marriage should, we believe, be reflected into public policy.

Keeping up with the neighbours: the influence of local wealth and faith on marriage

Our analysis of Census 2011 data showed that the 'marriage gap' exists in every one of 174 county councils in England & Wales but the type of neighbourhood you live in also has a direct impact on whether you chose to marry.

Annual family breakdown in the UK

Our analysis of ONS data showed that family breakdown has risen by 8% in the last decade due to the increase in cohabitation. Cohabiting parents now account for the majority of family breakdown in the UK. Married parents comprise 79.0% of all couples with dependent children in the UK and cohabiting parents make up 20.7%. Our research, using data from Understanding Society, found that 1.3% of married parents and 5.3% of cohabiting parents split up during a period of one year. Applying these proportions to the ONS population data suggests that some 62,500 married parents and 66,900 cohabiting parents will have split up during 2016.

Couples on the brink

Our analysis of data from 10,000 parents with new born children in the Millennium Cohort Study showed that the majority of couples who are unhappy when their first child is born are happy ten years later if they stay together. Parents of young children who are unhappy with their relationship represent a tiny minority of all parents, between 2% and 8%, depending on how broad the measure of unhappiness. Of the unhappiest parents – those scoring 1 or 2 on a 7-point scale – only 7% said they were still unhappy ten years later, regardless of whether they stayed together or split up. Two thirds said they were happy or very happy, scoring 6 or 7. The parents most likely to split up during the subsequent ten years were those who reported they were neither happy nor unhappy when their child was born. The same was true for couples who suspected they were 'on the brink'. The parents most likely to split up were those who were unsure if their relationship was on the brink or not. This analysis provided robust evidence that unhappiness is relatively rare and rarely permanent.

Children in unhappy households this Christmas

Over 1 million children will spend Christmas in a household that is unhappy. How stressful this is for the children depends on whether it is accompanied by high levels of parental conflict, which is the case for some 194,000 children.

Divorce rates plummet to 1975 levels

Divorce rates – which track couples by year of marriage – have now fallen to levels not seen since 1975, a year when there were actually 38% more marriages. All of the change in divorce rates continues to occur during the first decade of married life. During the first three years of marriage, the actual divorce rates of couples who married in 2011 are down 49% compared to the peak for couples who married in 1993. Over five years of marriage, divorce rates are down 39% from their peak. Over ten years they are down 17%. Couples marrying today face a 38% lifetime risk of divorce, a rate not seen since 1975.

Does religion help couples stay together?

We investigated the link between religion, ethnicity and family stability over the first eleven years of

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017**

parenthood using data from the Millennium Cohort Study. This highlighted the homogamous nature of parents, the rarity of cohabitation within Asian and Muslim families, and the low level of education among Pakistani and Bangladeshi mothers and fathers, who also tend to be younger. Although mothers and fathers who regard themselves as Christian are more likely to stay together compared to parents with no religion, these differences are no longer significant once higher levels of education and the greater likelihood of being married are taken into account. Muslim mothers – but not fathers – are the only religious group whose relationships remain more stable during this period. This finding takes initial relationship happiness into account.

'Date nights' strengthen marriages

Marriage educators often recommend that couples go out on regular 'Date Nights' as a way to keep their relationship alive and healthy. We analysed data on 9,969 couples in the Millennium Cohort Study to compare how often they went out together as a couple when their child was nine months old with whether they were still together as a couple when their child was aged eleven. Our surprise finding was that married couples – but NOT cohabiting couples – who went out monthly were significantly less likely to split up, even after taking into account mother's age and education, marital status and reported relationship quality. Couples – married or not – who went out weekly fared as badly as those who hardly ever went out at all.

Media comment

Our strong media presence across the national press, TV and both national and local radio is based on our own research as well as drawing on our experience and understanding of healthy relationship formation in response to topical issues. We see our research and regular, visible and respected presence in public debate as a vital step in changing the context within which people make choices about their relationships, and enabling other organisations to be more effective in their support for relationships. Marriage Foundation research and comment featured in over 50 UK press articles during the year including The Sun, Guardian, Times, Sunday Times, Express, Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph. The impact of this is hard to measure but indicators include the willingness and ability of people to make informed comment about marriage and couple relationships that incorporate our core messages but without our direct involvement. Alongside our press, radio and tv comment out blog and social media activity also promote our work and message widely.

Marriage Week

We took on responsibility for running Marriage Week in the UK. The highlight of Marriage Week 2017 was the global launch of a report by the Social Trends Institute, *The Cohabitation-Go-Round: Cohabitation and Family Instability Across The Globe*. Through our involvement, the report's lead author, Bradford Wilcox, Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia, was interviewed on BBC breakfast TV, helping to bring the findings to a much wider audience. The study found that three in five (62 per cent) British children born to unmarried parents living together experience family breakdown before they hit their teens. In contrast, only 45 per cent of American children, 15 per cent of Belgian children and six per cent of Spanish children born to cohabiting parents undergo the same seismic shift in their family dynamic by the age of 12.

Almost without exception across the world, cohabiting couples are more unstable than married couples, even when they have children. Even among married couples, the UK has some of the highest

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017**

rates of family breakdown in Europe. A third (32 per cent) of British 12 year olds whose parents were married when they were born have experienced family breakdown. In Austria the figure is nine per cent and in France eleven per cent.

The study also blasts the myth that the stability of marriage is due to a higher level of education among those who choose to marry. In the overwhelming majority of countries, the least educated married couples are still far less likely to break up than the most educated cohabiting parents. In the UK, four in ten marriages (39 per cent) among the least educated end in divorce during the twelve years following childbirth, but over half (53 per cent) of the most educated cohabiting couples split up during the same timeframe.

Family Stability Network

Marriage Foundation has been a leading partner in the development of the Family Stability Network (www.fastn.org) which was registered as a charity on 30th June 2017. Sir Paul Coleridge is one of the founding trustees. FASTN is working with organisations across the U.K to develop new ways of promoting the benefits of long-term, stable, relationships, enabling more children to grow up safe, secure, and nurtured by both parents. Status (www.statusonline.org), FASTN's first project, went live in June 2016. Status aims to engage 18-25 year olds embarking on couple relationships in conversation, through social media, about how to experience fulfilling relationships. We provided particular input into 'Love, Lust and Loneliness' a study of men aged 16-19 and their relationships.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a deficit of £3,273 (2016: surplus of £17,140). Free reserves at 31 August 2017 were £24,211 (2016: £27,484).

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We will continue our programme of research with input from both the University of Lincoln and Brigham Young University where both our Chairman and research director will be presenting papers and participating in seminars. Key areas of focus are likely to be the impact of relationship breakdown on teenage mental health, the extent of conflict in relationships and its impact on post-separation outcomes, and the extent of asymmetric commitment among cohabiting couples.

Partnership will be a key element in increasing our capacity, reach and influence. Alongside our academic partnerships we are planning a conference on marriage and family with the Ditchley Foundation, working with a range of think tanks on new approaches to family policy, and continuing to support the Family Stability Network.

We will work with family lawyers, The Times newspaper, and marriage and relationships support organisations to promote reform of family law that is publicly accountable through parliament, strengthens marriage and promotes intentional commitment.

We will seek to strengthen engagement with Marriage Week and its effectiveness as a platform for both national and local initiatives by appointing a project director who can lead on the communications, planning and building relationships with stakeholders.

All of the above will inform our continuing media and communications work through which we seek to improve public understanding of the distinctive nature and benefits of marriage and how these benefits might best be realised through individual choices and public policy.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2017****RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

James Francis FCA has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

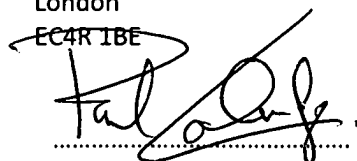
SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Registered office:

10 Queen Street Place
London

EC4R 1BE



Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Paul Coleridge
Trustee

21st May 2018

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2017**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2017.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
James Francis FCA
Independent Examiner
2nd Floor, The Platinum Building
St. John's Innovation Park
Cowley Road
Cambridge
CB4 0DS

21st May 2018

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	96,680	-	96,680	120,331
TOTAL INCOME		96,680	-	96,680	120,331
EXPENDEDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	96,259	-	96,259	99,261
Fundraising costs	3	876	-	876	1,638
Other Costs	4	2,818	-	2,818	2,292
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		99,953	-	99,953	103,191
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(3,273)	-	(3,273)	17,140
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		27,484	-	27,484	10,344
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	7	24,211	-	24,211	27,484

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2017

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2017

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Debtors	5	-	7,000
Cash at Bank		37,625	33,747
		37,625	40,747
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	6	13,414	13,263
NET CURRENT ASSETS		24,211	27,484
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		24,211	27,484
NET TOTAL ASSETS		24,211	27,484
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	7	24,211	27,484
TOTAL FUNDS		24,211	27,484

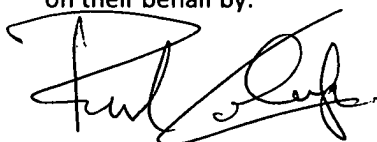
For the financial year ended 31 August 2017 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

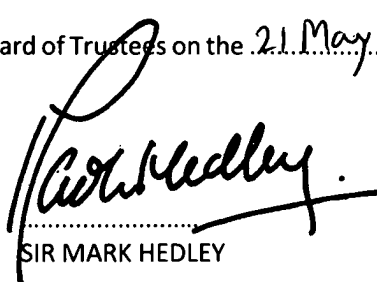
The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 21 May 2018 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



SIR MARK HEDLEY

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2017**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2017 are the first financial statements of The Marriage Foundation prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 September 2015. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS 102.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accruals basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2017

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Donations	90,960	-	90,960	86,755
Grants	-	-	-	20,000
Funds returned from RF	-	-	-	7,750
Tax Reclaimed	4,453	-	4,453	5,826
Other	1,267	-	1,267	-
	96,680	-	96,680	120,331

During the period income of £468 (2016 - £360) was donated from third parties to the Marriage Foundation via The Relationships Foundation.

**2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Contribution towards staff costs	42,000	-	42,000	36,000
Office costs	195	-	195	284
Consultancy costs	49,294	-	49,294	59,991
Advertising and publicity	4,770	-	4,770	1,889
Event costs	-	-	-	1,097
	96,259	-	96,259	99,261

The launch of the Marriage Foundation was supported by the Relationships Foundation who continues to provide the secretariat and office base, with three staff spending up to half their time on Marriage Foundation work. As part of the Relationships Foundation's continuing support for the Marriage Foundation, these costs are not fully charged to the Marriage Foundation. During the year £42,000 was recharged to The Relationships Foundation.

All expenses directly incurred by the Marriage Foundation are paid by the Marriage Foundation.

Consultancy costs cover the Marriage Foundation's research and media work.

3. FUNDRAISING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Travel and subsistence	876	-	876	1,638
	876	-	876	1,638

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2017

4. OTHER COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,010	-	2,010	2,155
Bank charges	106	-	106	137
Legal costs	702	-	702	-
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-
	2,818	-	2,818	2,292

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

5. DEBTORS

	2017 £	2016 £
Other debtors	-	6,000
Gift Aid	-	1,000
	-	7,000

6. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade creditors	11,614	11,055
Other creditors	-	18
Accruals	1,800	2,190
	13,414	13,263

7. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-16	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31-08-17
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	27,484	96,680	99,953	24,211
Total unrestricted income funds	27,484	96,680	99,953	24,211

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2017**

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Marriage Foundation is regarded as a related party of the Relationships Foundation (Charity No 1106460), as a result of having a common Executive Director.

During the period income of £468 (2016 - £360) was donated from third parties to the Marriage Foundation via The Relationships Foundation.

During the period expenses of £48,585 (2016 - £73,298) were incurred by The Relationships Foundation as a shared cost with the Marriage Foundation. A recharge of £42,000 (2016 - £36,000) was made by The Relationships Foundation to the Marriage Foundation. The shared costs of the 2 organisations have been apportioned in a manner that reflects the time and costs applicable to each organisation.

At the balance sheet date, The Relationships Foundation owed the Marriage Foundation £nil (2016 - £6,000). This loan is interest free and has no fixed date of repayment.

During the year a donation of £7,000 was received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity.

10. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.