

THE MCF CHARITABLE TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 JANUARY 2024

Company Registration Number : NI 037132
Charity Number : NIC 100118

THE MCF CHARITABLE TRUST LTD

**COMPANY INFORMATION
AT 31 JANUARY 2024**

**Company
Registration number** NI 037132

Charity number: NIC100118

Address: The Sandel Centre
6 Knocklynn Road
Coleraine
BT52 1WT

Directors:
D Graves
P M Howe
D W Johnston
C P Martin
W J Robinson
A P Williamson

Secretary: C P Martin

Bankers: Danske Bank
22 The Diamond
Coleraine
BT52 1DE

Accountants: W R Crymble
Chartered Management Accountants
3 Governors Gate Lane
Hillsborough
BT26 6AX

THE MCF CHARITABLE TRUST LTD

TRUSTEES\DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 January 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for *accounting* periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of MCF Charitable Trust are:

- to advance the Christian faith in Ireland and in such parts of Great Britain or the world as the directors of the Charity may from time to time think fit.
- to relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the distress caused thereby in Ireland and in such parts of Great Britain or the world as the directors of the Charity may, from time to time, think fit.
- to advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the trustees may consider appropriate including by means of establishing and operating any education establishment or establishments in Ireland and in such parts of Great Britain or the world as the directors of the Charity may, from time to time, think fit.
- to promote or fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in Ireland and in such parts of Great Britain or the world as the directors of the Charity may from time to time think fit.

The current strategy of The MCF Charitable Trust is to deliver these purposes through the following:

1. The provision and maintenance of the 'Sandel Centre' Coleraine, a purpose built and fully equipped building which serves the community as a neutral venue/safe space. These assets are managed according to the principles of good governance using appropriate procedures and personnel management arrangements to promote effective and efficient programmes of activities.
2. The Trust employs three staff as follows. A full time Bible teacher, staff worker and volunteer organiser. This person is engaged in weekly Bible teaching, mentoring and pastoral care. We also employ a Mission Co-ordinator whose role involves helping MCF to be more effective in impacting the local neighbourhood and wider world with the love and message of Jesus. A Youth Worker who coordinates volunteer teams and organises a wide variety of youth activities.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES** Numbers attending on Sunday mornings have remained steady with about 200 adults now attending either regularly or semi-regularly. There are also a number of people who regularly watch the services online because they are unable to attend in person due to ill health. Sunday morning services are provided by MCF who create a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect together, and includes musical worship, communion, prayer, an open sharing time, and teaching about the Bible and its relevance to everyday life.

Three separate programmes (pre-school, primary, secondary) are provided for approximately 60 children and young people, looked after by teams of volunteers.

- **YOUTH ACTIVITIES** Jenny Bruce continued in the role of Youth Worker, coordinating volunteer teams and organising a wide variety of youth activities. The following activities currently happen regularly:

ANIMATE: This is a creative Sunday evening youth group which has now developed a strong identity, and attracts about 30 young people from both church and neighbourhood. The group helps young people develop personally, socially and spiritually, and also find ways to serve the local community in practical ways.

EXPLORE: A discussion group on Tuesday afternoons for young people (aged 12-14) who want to explore Christian faith and ask questions in a safe environment.

YOUTH HOME GROUP: This is a small group for older teenagers (aged 15-18) which meets weekly. They explore different aspects of Christian faith and also seek to support and encourage each other

- **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** The Sandel Centre hosts a wide variety of activities provide vital connection and community for different groups within our local community. These include a table tennis club, an Art Club, “Young at Heart” and “Wednesday Get-Together” (for older people), Jolly Tots (for babies and toddlers and their parents/carers), and Friday Fun Club (for Primary age children). There are also seasonal community events at Christmas and Easter, as well as a special community festival week (Sandelfest) in August.
- **MISSION CO-ORDINATOR** Ricky Linton has continued in the role of Mission Coordinator. This role involves helping the church to be more effective in impacting the local neighbourhood and wider world with the love and message of Jesus. Ricky works closely with the Sandel Centre manager on ways of connecting the church to the local community and those who use the building every day. He also organised and led a series of meetings of ‘Sceptics Café’ in the autumn for sceptics, seekers and believers interested in exploring difficult questions around the Christian faith, as well as a week of events focused on mental health in January.

PUBLIC BENEFIT: In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. In this way they seek to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

REVIEWS OF RISK: The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our financial support was drawn exclusively from Mountsandel Christian Fellowship, charity no 100058. In return Mountsandel Christian Fellowship benefitted from use of the building and the services of staff. Causeway Voluntary Trust managed the letting of building facilities to community and other user groups and in return took responsibility for the maintenance and other running costs of the building.

Overall expenditure increased by £18,412 this year due to higher staff costs and expenses. Income rose by £8,193 compared to the previous year and subsequently cash reserves fell to £5,398.

• STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- The MCF Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland on 14th October 1999 and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 8th April 2014. Its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- The Directors of the Company are also the Charity's Trustees and consist of the persons who are from time-to-time members of the Company. A Director must have confirmed their acceptance of the objects and ethos of the Company and their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and belief in the Doctrines set out in the schedule of the Memorandum of Association.
- The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year were:

William Robinson

Arthur Williamson

Christopher Paul Martin*

Dodie Graves

Peter Howe*

Dolway Johnston

None of the trustee has any beneficial interest in the company. Two trustees* were also trustees of Mountsandel Christian Fellowship.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 13th October 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



CP Martin

Trustee

Dated: 13th October 2024