

Trustees report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present their report under the Charities SORP in accordance with FRSSE (effective January 2015) and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 also prepared in accordance with the aforementioned Statement of Recommended Practice.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an unincorporated body, and is registered as a charity for tax purposes with HM Revenue and Customs. The charity is under the control of the Trustees as detailed out in the charity constitution. The charity is recognised as a charity under the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as at the date of registration being 25 November 2015.

Organisation

The Trustees who have served during the year, and continued to serve at 31 December 2020 are detailed on page 3. Trustees are appointed at the annual general meeting.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that both our purposes and the activities undertaken in this last financial year comply with our duty to satisfy the public benefit requirement.

Statement of Public Benefit

In pursuit of the Institution's principal charitable objects, a number of major events and services of worship took place. Many fund-raising events for both other religious and civic charities were organised.

Aims and Objectives

These are set out in the Institution's Mission Statement and can be summarised as to study Holy Scripture, to increase knowledge of the reformed faith, to engage in Christian and charitable outreach and to continue and further develop social and responsible citizenship.

Achievements and Performance

The retention of the Somme Nursing Home, Belfast as the 2020 designated charity was confirmed, but fundraising and most of the charity's other activities were seriously restricted due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, considerable ingenuity and resourcefulness were shown by the membership in the use of Zoom, WhatsApp and other resources to continue activities, albeit in a restricted manner.

In particular, fundraising to assist the NHS and various caring charities, such as the Hospice movement, in meeting the demands placed upon them was very successful. This was especially commendable in that, during the lockdowns, fundraising was in reality, simply members and supporters giving money directly from their own, frequently stretched, resources.

Teaching and training continued wherever possible using technology to best advantage. The impact of the pandemic meant that representations regarding the institution's principles and teaching were severely restricted.

Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth

Financial Review and Reserves

The principal sources of income are from gifts, donations and subscriptions. The financial statements show a surplus for the year of £72,114.

Plans for the Future

Efforts in support of the Somme Nursing Home will continue throughout 2021 and this, with the completion of the development of the new Headquarters in Loughgall will be the main project for 2021. In pursuance of the 'Good Citizenship' element of the Mission Statement, the opportunity will be taken to reflect upon and honour the lifetime of public service given by Sir Norman Stronge Bart, who was both Speaker of the Northern Ireland House of Commons and the Sovereign Grand Master of the Institution.

There is also a substantial Capital Commitment required to complete the ongoing building renovation project.


By order of the Trustees

Trustee

Date

Trustee

Date


PETER D. ROWIE

26-6-21
26 6 21

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity 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 the application of 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 charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charities website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

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Auditors


A resolution to re-appoint the Auditors, Noel Conn & Company, will be proposed at the annual general meeting.
By Order of the board

By order of the Trustees



Trustee

20-6-21
Date



Trustee

20/6/2021
Date