

Trustees report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report under the Charities SORP in accordance with FRS 100 – 105 and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 also prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practise.

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 trustees of the charity have responsibility for the overall governance of the charity. This includes ensuring the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law and managing the charity's resources responsibly. The charity is recognised as a charity under the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as at the date of registration being 25 November 2015.

Aims and Objectives

Our organisation has been in existence since 1797. Today it exists to: -

- Promote and spread the Reformed Christian faith through engagement with our members and the general public, expressing the precepts of the Reformed Christian Faith and the advantages that may be derived for society from the adoption of a Biblical moral framework which encourages people to be good citizens.
- Encourage and collaborate to develop social and responsible citizenship in order to maintain, and enhance greater and higher standards of Justice, Truth, Honesty, and Integrity in both private and public life.
- Promote culture and heritage associated with the Protestant Reformation and the Glorious Revolution of 1688 which enshrined civil and religious liberty for all.

Public Benefit

Members are encouraged to be volunteers not only in a range of roles within the charity such as treasurer, secretary, leaders within the organisation, but to use their skills and talents to serve the wider community. This not only helps society but develops members by encouraging them and stretching them out of their comfort zone thereby widening their skills base. Our exhibitions, processions, banners, and services all help share our culture and heritage with society and in doing so we help to break down some of the barriers that may have grown up out of misconceptions. This helps to create a society which is much more at ease with itself and its past.

Achievements and Performance

The year 2023 was a year of continued development for the organisation. Visitor numbers to our exhibition have been growing steadily and our facilities continued to be used by our members to hold special meetings as well as other organisation making use of our extensive facilities.

Achievements for the year 2023 also include: -

- Process of updating our Constitution has continued
- Improved process of financial reporting introduced
- Membership database now operational

Financial Review and Reserves

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity remains in a good financial position. The principal sources of income continue to be from gifts, donations, and subscriptions. The financial statements show a net income for the year of £578. A provision of £99,055 has been made against the loss of monies from the trip to USA.

Plans for the Future

The charity also plans during 2024 to undertake the following: -

- Complete drafting of Constitution and have passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
- Ongoing training on the use of the database in order to maximise its use
- Ongoing training in areas of record keeping and reporting
- Commencement of delivery of Operation Hope Project for the delivery of Religious Guidance to members and stakeholders.

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 charity's 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: -

- the auditor will conduct an audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issues by the Auditing Practises Board
- 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 organisation's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint the Auditors, Noel Conn & Company, will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.
By Order of the board

Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth

Conclusion

This report will form part of the reporting to the Charities Commission when the accounts have been agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

Rev William Anderson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

By order of the Trustees

Richard Reid
Trustee

21/10/24
Date

Harold McClay
Trustee

21/10/24
Date