

Raise the Roof (NI)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objectives, strategies and activities

Since Covid the choir continued with the teenage section only, ranging in age from 12 to 20 years old. Even though this was a smaller group of voices, they demonstrated impressive musical ability, singing more advanced arrangements. They performed at various events both locally and further afield, always to much acclaim.

Since its formation, the demographic of the membership of Raise the Roof has naturally evolved from younger children to teenagers. In this next session we anticipate a possible extension into adult membership. Having observed the positive impact of shared community through music in our younger members, we recognise that these benefits should be available to adults who may be looking for ways to combat isolation and improve mental health. Our work and membership naturally promote a sense of purpose, well being and value in our members since the fruit of our efforts is life giving transformation for vulnerable children and their families in Africa.

It is our hope that we as a choir community can continue to be a positive influence in the lives of vulnerable children from every sector of society, both here and abroad. We hope to continue to recruit new members for the future through our presentations at events and by invitation from existing members.

Public benefit

Raise the Roof (NI) continues to seek to promote, improve and maintain the appreciation of Christian choral music within Ballymena and its environs, by providing children from diverse backgrounds with musical training and the opportunity to take part in performances and other events. It promotes international liaisons with visiting choirs, and hopes to advance education and foster a Christian ethos by funding the building and equipping of schools for vulnerable children in Africa.

During this past year Raise the Roof were able to donate £ 3,000 to E3 Initiative which resulted in the completion of our second school in Malawi. This is a considerable achievement which has paid great dividends towards building the confidence and self-esteem of these young people, both here and in Africa, many of whom have suffered mentally during the isolation of the pandemic.

Following the completion of the school in Malawi, Raise the Roof choir rehearsals were paused. This has been a time for reflection and much needed rest, in order to take stock and prepare for the future.

We have been greatly encouraged to observe the continued development of both schools in Uganda and Malawi and to share this inspiration with our Raise the Roof community of young people and their parents. The sense of achievement for all that we have accomplished together still fosters our sense of community and positive shared experience.

As trustees we are grateful to God for His leading and wisdom and to all who have continued to support Raise the Roof during this financial year.

The choir continue to seek to provide hope and a future for vulnerable children in Africa through the provision of education. Simultaneously the choir promotes the wonderful benefits of being part of a positive Christian based community who celebrate a love of music and singing, regardless of background or experience.

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The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 (6) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charitable company.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

	Mrs Roberta Stewart
	Mrs Alyson Sarah Reid
	Mr Hugh Henry Reid

Structure, governance and management

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Raise the Roof (NI) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company 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 affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They 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.

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 17 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Hugh Henry Reid
Trustee