

BALLEE BAPTIST CHURCH

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

BALLEE BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

PURPOSE

The principal purpose of Ballee Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Biblical principles.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on provision of public benefit and are confident that the Church fully satisfied this requirement throughout 2024 through its activities.

Sunday services and the mid-week Bible Study are livestreamed and also uploaded onto Sermon Audio website where they may be freely accessed on an ongoing basis. This year in the month of April we held a two-week Gospel Mission from 7th to 21st April with Pastor Wilson of Rathfriland Baptist Church speaking. Drive-in Gospel services were again conducted in the church carpark as an outreach on Sunday evenings from mid-July to the end of September. In addition to the usual Outreaches of Little Sunbeams, Sunday School, SALT, Youth Club and Good News Club we also conducted 4 Day Clubs in May and July with over 170 children attending. In the first week of July approximately 350 children attended the Holiday Bible Club. In December a Fellowship Choir performed a Cantata and over 1,000 people attended an outreach entitled "Bethlehem at Ballee" where many from the Fellowship acted out the Christmas story.

A number of Missionary Societies and Christian organisations attended the Fellowship to provide members the opportunity to receive information on their work. A Special Appeal raised £3,712 to provide clothing and financial support for the work of London City Mission's Webber Street work with the homeless in London. Financial support to Missions and Christian organisations in 2024 amounted to £77,753, approximately 29% of income.

Visitation of the sick, consolation and support of members suffering bereavement continued in 2024 as the Pastor and Church Visitor, together with others from within the Fellowship, sought to provide comfort and support for those affected.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Charity name: Ballee Baptist

Church Address: 166 Toome Road, Ballymena. BT42 2HX.

Email: info@balleebaptist.org

Website: www.balleebaptist.org

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees are the members of the Church Oversight Committee which consists of Pastor, Elders and Deacons.

All male members of the Church are eligible to stand for election as a deacon unless disqualified by Statute from holding office as a trustee. Elections to the Office of Deacon are conducted annually at the Annual Members Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Church Meeting is open to all church members.

The Church's Constitution requires a two thirds majority of those voting for the appointment of Pastors or Elders, or transactions involving property. Elders are elected for life, unless they choose to retire or leave the Fellowship. Pastors serve for the period of their pastorate.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Following appointment each newly appointed Trustee receives an Induction Pack containing copies of Charity Commission for Northern Ireland publications: Running Your Charity. Trustees are also encouraged to access further information available on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland website.

The Trustees in office at 31 December 2024 and the date of signing this report were:

D Anderson	Pastor
A Calderwood	
K Clinton	
W Coulter	Church Secretary
T Gillan	Lead Child Safeguarding Officer
R Herbison	
S Irons	Church Treasurer
G Kernohan	Assistant Church Treasurer
A McAlonan	
J McKillen	
D Mitchell	
K Morrison	Child Safeguarding Officer & Assistant Secretary
B Nelson	
T Nutt	Assistant Premises, Health & Safety Officer
T Robinson	Premises, Health & Safety Officer
C Semple	Youth Coordinator & Child Safeguarding Officer

During the year, J McKillen was appointed as a trustee and A Kinghorn retired as a trustee on 15th March 2024.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No Trustee received payment for undertaking trustee duties. Payments to the Pastor relate to expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of pastor. Where Trustees purchase items on behalf of the Charity these costs may be reimbursed.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

Premises owned by the Church are held under trust by "Custodian Trustees" whose sole function is to hold the property assets of the Church. Custodian Trustees do not serve on Oversight unless also elected to an Office of Elder or Deacon.

At the Annual Members Meeting on 15th March 2024 the Members voted to replace three Custodian Trustees who were deceased. Kennedy Clinton, Trevor Gillan and Graham Kernohan were appointed to serve as Custodian Trustees alongside the three remaining Trustees, Auldwyn Calderwood, David Mitchell and James Robinson.

ADVISORS

Bankers:	Danske Bank, Broadway, Ballymena. BT43 6EA.
Independent Examiners:	Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants, 22-30 Broadway Ave, Ballymena. BT43 7AA.
Insurance Adviser:	Kerr Group Insurance 16 Church Street, Kilrea. BT51 5QU.
Solicitors:	McKervill Neilly Solicitors 1 Broadway Avenue, Ballymena. BT43 7AA.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Ballee Baptist Church was constituted by a Trust Deed dated 3rd February 1981 as an unincorporated association and is an independent Fellowship with no affiliations to any other Church or Association. It is governed by a Constitution which was formally adopted on 18th March 2011 as amended on 2nd December 2014.

Ballee Baptist Church is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, number NIC101764.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

MANAGEMENT

The Trustees continued to meet regularly, physically or via Zoom, to discuss the work of the church, and to make decisions concerning the regular activities within the church, and also outreach activities. Matters are reported to Church Members via the Annual Church Members Meeting when the Report and Accounts are also presented. Matters requiring approval of a Church Members Meeting, other than appointment of Elders or Pastors, are decided by majority vote. In event of a tie the Chairman of the Church Members Meeting has a casting vote. Approval at a Church Members Meeting is required for significant projects, such as a building programme, prior to commencing any major new undertaking.

Volunteers continue to play key roles in various Departments of the Church. It is not possible to quantify this support as much is done behind the scenes. However, Ballee Baptist Church could not function as it does without their faithful support.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have conducted an assessment of the risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed systems and procedures to mitigate such risks. Risk assessment covering fire, health & safety and the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an ongoing process and is reviewed annually or before any new major undertaking. Two Trustees act as Health & Safety Officer and Child Safeguarding Officer and their Reports are standing Agenda items at monthly Trustee Meetings.

DATA PROTECTION

Ballee Baptist Church is registered with the Information Commissioners Office. Church membership records are encrypted and held by the Church Secretary with encrypted backups stored separately. Personal information held, in addition to membership records, relate to the activities conducted by each department and is disposed of securely when no longer required. The Trustees are satisfied that the levels of information held by each department are appropriate to fulfil the need to operate in accordance with both GDPR and the Church's Child Protection Policies.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church is funded by voluntary gifts and donations and use is made of Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. The church does not seek funds from other sources.

Income for the year amounted to £268,277 (2023: £283,942). Expenditure in the year amounted to £249,140 (2023: £378,961). This drop in expenditure is due to major plumbing repairs undertaken at the Church in the prior year. Other than the fee for the Independent Examiner's review, the Church had no other liabilities or commitments outstanding at 31st December.

The Church uses Restricted and Unrestricted Funds in its accounting policies. Restricted Funds are used for money donated to the Church for specific purposes e.g. Missions, Youth Ministries etc. Unrestricted Funds from general offerings are used for all other purposes. Any shortfalls in the Restricted Funds are made up by transfers from the Unrestricted Fund.

RESERVES POLICY

A policy on reserves has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The income of the church is stable, and in the event of an unexpected financial need the Trustees are confident that members would respond accordingly. The Trustees are satisfied that a figure equating to approximately two months' expenditure is an appropriate level of reserve balances at the present time. Cash balance at year end exceeded the level of Reserves required.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

Ballee Baptist Church does not hold any funds as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEES BY:



S Irons

Church Treasurer

Date: 14th February 2025



G W Coulter

Church Secretary

Date: 14th February 2025