

Trinity Church Belfast

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 30 June 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act 2006 purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Charity is established for charitable purposes only, specifically the advancement of Religion (specifically the Christian Faith), the advancement of education, the advancement of community development, and the improvement of the holistic life of communities in Northern Ireland.

The Charity changed its name from Urban Mission Initiatives to Trinity Church Belfast ('TCB') on 28 April 2022.

The charity achieves its objectives through initiatives including (but not limited to):

- (i) Resourcing and facilitation of the local church known as Trinity Church Belfast;
- (ii) Raising awareness and understanding of Evangelical Christian beliefs and practices;
- (iii) Carrying out missionary and outreach work within the local community area served by the Trust and wider afield;
- (iv) The formation of new churches and associated initiatives;
- (v) The support of community transformation enterprises within the local community area served by the Trust and wider afield; and
- (vi) Holding of regular public worship services.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The charity seeks to:

1. Provide management and accountability structures for planning, personnel, financial and marketing ventures associated with church planting.
2. Educate and aid existing church communities and organisations in the principles of church planting.
3. Conduct both religious and non-religious events and services to form contacts and connections within urban centre dwellers and users.
4. Produce a lasting church planting commitment within planted churches.
5. Establish and improve education and training programmes to support existing churches in their church planting with expertise, oversight and finance.
6. Initiate, support and sustain church planting networks and movements.

Trinity Church Belfast

Trustees' Report

Public benefit

Advancement of Religion

TCB promotes teaching from the Word of God, the Bible, at worship services at churches planted by TCB ('TCB Churches'), with services open to all members of the public. We also promote the development of existing believers at TCB Churches, helping them to understand the Christian faith more deeply, and how the Gospel is transformative of every aspect of life. We encourage individuals to respond to teaching received through prayer, worship and Christian service. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose are: an improved sense of wellbeing for those attending TCB Churches as they enjoy fellowship with others and receive teaching, and the promotion of Christian values for the benefit of individuals, churches and communities. The indirect benefits which flow from this purpose include the moral improvement in society as a whole which religion is considered to encourage.

Advancement of Education

We promote teaching about Evangelical Christian beliefs in TCB Churches, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose are spiritual, moral and intellectual development, through teaching of the Bible, of members of TCB Churches and the public, and the development of individual skills and capabilities of Church members who are involved in teaching and ministry at public worship services.

Advancement of Community Development

TCB seeks to reach out into the local communities in which its churches are based, and to be viewed as being open to all sectors of the community. We seek to transcend the traditional Protestant and Catholic divide existing in Northern Ireland. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose are: the encouragement of those who live in the locality of TCB Churches as they participate in activities organised by the Churches, and the provision of practical assistance such as food and clothing to those who may be in need.

The organisation's direct beneficiaries are churches, para-church organisations and charities within the Belfast area who wish to benefit from the church-planting resources and experience that TCB offers. Communities and society in general will also benefit indirectly from the work of TCB as new churches are planted and existing churches strengthened. The benefits listed above will be evidenced through informal feedback from those who make use of TCB's resources.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Trinity Church Belfast

Trustees' Report

Achievements and performance and plans for future periods

The period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 was the first full year after the constitution of Trinity Church as a church under law, with the new trustees in place. These trustees were formed by people who weekly attended our gatherings for worship on a Sunday. We are very small by the standards of most churches but we do not measure by those standards. We believe that we have been called to be disciples in our own family networks and to be salt and light particularly in the area around Somerton Hub. We continued to do so in this period.

Blossoms continued to “bed in” to the new base in Somerton Hub. The incredible support from local people from all walks of life has been phenomenal. We continued to help many families over the whole of Belfast but a shift occurred in this period with higher numbers of asylum seekers being referred through our processes. We had a really successful summer craft fair at the beginning of July largely organised by the mums themselves. We also started to pilot Messy Church alongside events at Christmas and Easter. Cheryl Graham continued to do deputations to various places to raise awareness of the work.

We continued to form relationships within the Skegoniel-Glandore area and Lee Eagleson had several opportunities where he was able to provide pastoral care. We also had a very good relationship with Peas Park and were able to support their events and members of their community attended ours. We feel that these relationships must not be forced and it will take time to embed into this area.

The building continued under the overall care of Crosscollyer Street EPC and the relationship is good. We need to strengthen those ties with consideration around the longer term future of the building. The link with Wellington Presbyterian continued to be supportive. Alistair Bates and Lee Eagleson continued in the ‘pulpit exchange.’ Lee also was able to provide pastoral cover for Wellington during Alistair’s times away, and alongside that to teach missiology in Timeless Theological Academy in Ballymena.

Financially, we are so thankful that God continued to provide our needs even in the midst of the financial crisis that arose after the invasion of Ukraine. Our energy costs have spiralled and we had to be more careful around our use of electricity but during the period we covered the bills. We are thankful for our members who contributed to our church and to the many members of the community who support Blossoms.

Financial review

TCB seeks to comply with best practice in managing the finances of the charity.

The balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 reflected cash at bank of £28,927 (2022: £33,332). The total Net Current Assets at 30 June 2023 were £31,797 (2022: £35,114) and unrestricted reserves were £30,041 (2022: £34,129). Income from charitable activities and donations for the year totalled £26,662 (2022: £30,266). Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £28,946 (2022: £27,620). This resulted in a net deficit of £2,284 (2022: net surplus of £2,646).

Policy on reserves

The charity aims to use their income in furtherance of their objectives.

Trinity Church Belfast

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:

- Andrew Davis (resigned 26 July 2022)
- Jonathan King (resigned 26 July 2022)
- Lynda Ranson (resigned 26 July 2022)
- Nancy Eagleson
- Cherryl Elizabeth Graham
- Peter Sutherland Wilkie
- Yuming Liu

Senior Management / Leadership Team: Lee Eagleson, General Secretary

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Trinity Church Belfast is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 June 2011 and registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland on 15 April 2015.

The charity is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and all activities are delivered in accordance with charity and company law.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. New Trustees are recruited who share the aims of the charity and can be appointed accordingly by approval of the Board. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

Induction and training of trustees

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity however if further training is required this is provided by the Charity.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Key Management Personnel consist of the Senior Manager whose remuneration is fixed by the Trustees.

Organisational structure

The organisation is managed and directed by its Trustees. The Trustees are elected annually and meet regularly during the year.

Trinity Church Belfast

Trustees' Report

Relationships with related parties

Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Trinity Church Belfast 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. 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.

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.

Trinity Church Belfast

Trustees' Report

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 20 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....*Nancy Eagleson*.....
Nancy Eagleson
Trustee