

# **GREEN PASTURES, THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (INCORPORATING TRUSTEES' REPORT)**

The Directors (who are also the trustees) are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, which are prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP – FRS102), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

### **Achievements and performance**

The Church's desire is to be a reflection of God's heart through a vibrant, 21st century church. We are committed to building a spirit-filled people who are inspired by Christ enjoying us, enjoying Him. A people who are driven by compassion to reach lost and hurting people, and to be a transforming presence in the communities we serve.

In the year 2023 we identified areas for improvement and as a result were able to produce additional efficiencies. Volunteer work has increased with many hours being given in service, for the benefit of the church and the community towards the charitable aims.

We celebrated with 31 people who came to a new faith in Jesus Christ (last year 13), In this time period 46 were baptised (last year 22). 14 New members made a decision to become planted members. The church also provided Pastoral Care not only to its adult members but also to the wider community.

The "Gateway" Project exists for the benefit of the local area, particularly Ballymena, and seeks to be a blessing to our city by providing social value and helping to stimulate spiritual, social and economic regeneration.

### **Financial review and funds policy**

The income of Green Pastures, The People's Church is testament to the lovely giving heart of its people and to God's promise that if we act in faith with careful planning, He will release His provision.

Freewill offerings and associated gift aid continue to be the principal funding sources of the Group, along with trading income of the Group subsidiaries. This income is used to support the various ministries of the Group and to meet the day-to-day operational costs. The breakdown of this is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 11.

During the year the Group had total income of £672,678 and total expenditure of £561,253 resulting in a net surplus of £111,425. The net surplus for the period as shown in the statement of financial activities on page 11 has been transferred to the company's funds and has resulted in an increase in total Church funds from £22,644,664 to £22,756,089. Details of the financial position of the Church at the period-end can be seen on page 12.

At the end of the year the Group had £180,711 cash at bank, and it is the aim of the Trustees, if possible, to maintain an unrestricted cash reserve equivalent to that of two months expenditure

The company plans to continue its activities in the forthcoming years.

### **Trading activities**

The trading activities of the Group's subsidiaries provide finance to further the aims and objectives of the Church and its associated charities, Connect Ministries and Compassion Ministries.

The continuing trading operations of the Group were profitable during the period and are expected do so for the incoming year.

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## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (*continued*)

### Objectives and Activities (and how they deliver public benefit)

#### Purpose 1

Purpose:	To advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in the area of benefit in accordance with the statements of belief.
Beneficiaries:	Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.
How they benefit:	The adoption of a moral framework which encourages people to be good citizens.
How the benefits can be demonstrated:	Improved behaviour as a result of being involved in a public act of worship.

#### Purpose 2

Purpose:	To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Galgorm particularly, and Northern Ireland generally (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinion by establishing a place of worship for the Christian religion.
Beneficiaries:	Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.
How they benefit:	The adoption of a moral framework which encourages people to be good citizens. The provision of facilities for public use.
How the benefits can be demonstrated:	Improved behaviour as a result of being involved in a public act of worship.

#### Purpose 3

Purpose:	The advancement of the Christian religion mainly, but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting Christian messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.
Beneficiaries:	Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.
How they benefit:	Access to educational opportunities, to public worship and to religious publications including sacred texts and literature.
How the benefits can be demonstrated:	Improved behaviour as a result of increased awareness of a moral framework.

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## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (*continued*)

### Objectives and Activities (and how they deliver public benefit) (*continued*)

#### Purpose 4

Purpose: Providing services of worship; religious teaching; facilities or services to allow believers to practice their faith or follow its doctrines; producing or making available literature explaining the doctrines involved and how to find out more about them. Distribution of sacred texts in the area of benefit.

Beneficiaries: Open to all of the public in Northern Ireland.

How they benefit: Access to public worship, to educational opportunities and to religious publications including sacred texts and literature.

How the benefits can be demonstrated: Improved behaviour as a result of increased awareness of a moral framework and involvement in public worship.

#### Purpose 5

Purpose: Associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities voluntary and other organisations in the area of benefit in a common effort to relieve poverty and advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of welfare for the recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Beneficiaries: Section of the public in the locality where the activity is provided.

How they benefit: Financial aid, money management training, provision of leisure and recreational facilities and programmes.

How the benefits can be demonstrated: Improvement in social, emotional and physical wellbeing of participants.

## **GREEN PASTURES, THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (continued)**

#### **Objectives and Activities (and how they deliver public benefit) (continued)**

##### **Main Activities**

The main activities of the Charity include the provision of services of worship; the advancement of the Christian religion; providing opportunities for volunteers; providing volunteers for the community benefit; supporting and working alongside other like-minded charitable and volunteer organisations.

The Church, in the furtherance of its aims and objectives, co-operates closely with two other charities; Connect Ministries Limited and Compassion Ministries. This co-operation involves shared strategic direction, financial support and volunteer resource support. The outcomes of this support are monitored to ensure that the Church's charitable objectives are being furthered by these partnerships.

Green Pastures, The People's Church is the 100% parent company of The Gateway Social Investments Limited.

The trading activities of the Group's subsidiaries provide finance to further the aims and objectives of the Church and its associated charities, Connect Ministries and Compassion Ministries.

Profits are primarily applied for the charitable purposes of associated charitable companies. At the date of this report, current trading activities are limited to Pure Gym which is the trading arm of The Gateway Social Investment Limited.

##### **Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

##### **Reference and administrative details**

Registered charity name:	Green Pastures, The People's Church
Charity Commission registration number:	NIC101855
HMRC charity reference:	XR94150
Company registration number:	NI062702
Principle office and registered office:	1, Faith Avenue The Gateway Ballymena County Antrim BT42 3FF.
Bankers:	Bank of Ireland Broadway Avenue, Ballymena. BT43 7AA.
Solicitors:	King and Gowdy 298, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast. BT4 3EJ.
Auditor:	Peter Stevenson Stevenson and Wilson 22-30, Broadway Avenue, Ballymena. BT43 7AA.

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### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS *(continued)***

#### **Directors and Trustees of the Company**

The directors who held office during the year, and in the period since 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to the date of these accounts were approved, were as follows:

Mr Robert Kingston

Mr Mark Rankin

Ms Mary Regan

Mrs Suzanne Blair (resigned 30th November 2023)

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The Company is a charity limited by guarantee without share capital. The Board of Directors are also known as Trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 17th January 2007. In the event of the Company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. The Trustees are responsible for setting the overall strategic direction of the Charity and the remuneration rates of all employees, while the day to day running of the operations of Church is delegated by the Trustees to the Executive team. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement and on appointment to the Board are made aware of all of their responsibilities in terms of both Charity Law and Company Law.

Directors/Trustees are appointed in line with the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the company, which requires a majority of the members or board to approve the appointment. Potential new trustees are identified by either volunteering or by approach. Prior to appointment, care is always exercised to ensure that their values and goals are fully aligned with the Charity's objectives.

#### **Risk management**

The principle financial risks to the charity lie within the development of the new church facility and the trading operations of its subsidiaries. The trustees have identified these risks, and are satisfied that they are mitigated by adhering to reasonable and standard financial practices; for example, engaging in a fixed price contract for building works; employing a quantity surveyor to ensure value for money; having collateral warranties in place for all contractors; ensuring subsidiary companies are trading within their means.

#### **Statement of directors' responsibilities**

The directors (who are the trustees of Green Pastures, The People's Church) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Company law the directors 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 Group and Charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP-FRS102;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS** *(continued)*

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In the case of each director in office at the date the Directors' Report is approved:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

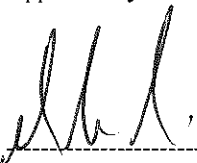
**Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The charity does not hold any funds on behalf of others.

**Auditors**

A resolution to appoint auditors will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



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Mark Rankin