

Charity name and address: Hillside Community Church

Doury Road, Ballymena, BT43 6SA

Charity Commission Registration Number: NIC 101903

Annual Report for 2023-2024

Structure and management

Hillside Community Church was registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 28th April 2015 as required by the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The charity's Trust Deed was executed on 21st December 2014. The four current trustees are S Bonar, M Jones, S Reid and P Veal. They meet at least twice per year, as required by the governing document.

The day to day running of the church involves both the spiritual care of its members and the practical issues of organisation. These are devolved to a leadership group consisting of A Alexander S Bonar, M Jones, S Reid, P Stevenson, P Veal, which meets monthly throughout the year. This group normally avails itself of regular leadership training through a biannual LEAD forum, organised for the benefit of leaders of similar churches.

Due to the charity's income level, the accounts are prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and are subject to independent examination, as required under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. As part of the annual reporting, the trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the Charity Commission's statutory guidance on Public Benefit Requirements. The legal framework for these two aspects of the report is found in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

None of the trustees claimed or received any remuneration or expenses for their services as trustees during the year.

Risk to the charity

The trustees are grateful to the members of the church for their generous giving to the work of the Lord. It is this income which enables the church to achieve its charitable purposes. In financial terms, the main risk to the charity would be a reduction in the voluntary donations from its members. Should such a decrease occur, the trustees would seek opportunities to reduce costs in order to maintain the financial viability of the church.

Purposes

The charitable purposes of the church are fourfold:

1. To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ amongst the general public, in accordance with Biblical principles and practice, in Northern Ireland, the UK and abroad in a manner consistent with our Statement of Faith

2. To prevent or relieve poverty among those in hardship in Northern Ireland, the UK and abroad
3. To relieve those in need by reason of adverse circumstances in Northern Ireland, the UK and abroad
4. To advance education by supporting existing schools and by providing out of school educational opportunities in Northern Ireland, the UK and abroad.

Activities

During the year the church has organised a range of activities intended to advance the gospel. These are open to the public and include weekly worship services for praise, communion and Bible teaching, a creche and Bibletime for young children and Bible class for teenagers. We enjoy excellent music as part of our weekly worship and appreciate the talent and commitment of both our musicians and technical teams.

These service formats achieved our first charitable purpose, by enabling those who attended to live out their faith through worship and prayer, learning about the gospel and how to put into practice and developing their Bible knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ.

The teenagers also meet monthly – called Basement- in reference to its location in the building. Basement provides a safe environment for teenagers to relax together and explore the implications of the Christian faith for their lives. Teenagers who are not members of the church also attended. Some of our teenagers had the opportunity to participate in summer Bible residencies, music residencies and GLO teams abroad.

The public benefits of these activities are spiritual and qualitative; nevertheless, we are encouraged by continual good attendance, generous giving and positive feedback from those engaging. Many members of the church are involved in voluntary personal service to one another and to our community; this included volunteering in a local Foodbank. Some church members are trained as Neighbourhood Chaplains and visited lonely or disabled folk in their homes and ran a monthly lunch in Dunclug Community Centre. This has been greatly appreciated by those attended.

We have continued our links with nearby Dunclug Primary School by offering volunteers to take school assemblies and assist with an SU prayer space for pupils at Ballyloughan Church and running a holiday Bible club in the school.

We have also continued to share financially in a range of missionary projects and outreaches in Northern Ireland and abroad. These gifts amounted to over 60% of our total expenditure. For all these missionary causes we have received reports, both oral and by email, about the effect of our giving in sufficient detail to satisfy us that there has been considerable public benefit under each of our four charitable purposes. Two examples of these projects are:

1. Steven and Hannah Wallace at Chitokoloki mission hospital in Zambia- offering excellent health care in a remote region and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ

2. Revival Movement Association publishes and prints evangelistic literature in over 95 languages and supplies it free of charge to many missions and Christian workers in over 170 countries.

The trustees believe that no harm has come from any of these activities.

The only private benefit to the trustees arises from religious events, in that the trustees benefit personally, but only in the same way as any member of the public could do so. This benefit is therefore incidental and necessary to achieve our purposes of advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ among the general public.

Statement of Trustees' responsibility in respect of the Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report must contain certain administrative information about the charity, as set out in the accounting and reporting regulations. It also contains information about the charity's work and how our money has been spent during the past year.


The trustees are responsible for preparing 'receipts and payments' accounts, consisting of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash by the charity during the financial year, along with a statement of balances.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements.

By order of the Trustees

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S A Bonar (chair)

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Date signed