

The Emmanuel Church Lurgan Trust
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of The Emmanuel Church Lurgan Trust present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

Summary of Activities

CHURCH COMMUNITY

The primary gathering point for our church community is a Sunday morning with around 600 adults gathering across 2 services. A key element of creating space for our church family is between these services over tea, coffee and snacks. We continue to gather on the first Sunday evening of each month for our 'Seek First' worship space and meet bi-weekly for prayer on a Wednesday night. On these night we join our Portadown Church. We have continued in our primary calling of discipleship, while continuing to dedicate babies, baptise believers, marry and bury people. Endeavouring to do all of these in a context of love, dignity and family. We continually endeavour to engage with our wider community demonstrating the love of God in words and actions. At both Easter and November half term break we bless the local community with gifts around doors and have organised community events such as firework displays and community fun days.

LIFE GROUPS

With the larger numbers of people gathering on Sundays, Life groups are a key way for us to be able to connect in smaller numbers and allow people to build intentional relationships. An African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"

Around a third of our church members are engaged with life group, with a hope of seeing this increase in the future.

PASTORAL CARE

As a church, we desire to have a robust pastoral care system, which ensures that people are cared for thoroughly. We have a staff member to coordinate and oversee these processes specifically, while our pastors and pastoral care team outwork everything on the ground.

Life groups (mentioned in the section above) provide a primary form of pastoral care, with group leaders able to feedback information to church leadership, of issues of difficulties which arisen in the lives of those connected to their groups.

KIDS

Kingdom Tots / Juniors / Kids

All Sunday Kids environments have been bursting with energy this year as we seek to love and inspire the next generation. Environments are provided for kids aged from 15 months to P7, that include stories from the Bible, worship, memory verses, games, crafts, prayer stations, as well as free & sensory play for our youngest Kingdomers. Kingdom Kids (P1-7) have had a focus on Heroes of the Bible from Hebrews 11 and Women of the Bible. There is an average of 90 kids coming through the programme each Sunday morning. Meanwhile Kingdom Tots & Juniors have worked their way through a number of series 'Kids like me', 'I'm thankful for' and 'Women of the Bible'. Numbers have been capped at 12 in each room for each service because of room & leader capacity.

JUNIOR DROP IN

Junior Drop In is an environment provided for children in P4-P7. It has the purpose of having food, fun, for the kids to make friends from other schools, to get support with their homework with the help of our volunteers. This environment is also utilised as an access point for kids to be welcomed into church as for many of these children, it was their first contact point with Emmanuel. From this environment, many of our kids start attending our Friday night and Sunday environments. We have between 15-20 who attend weekly from a range of different schools.

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TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots is an environment that provides a place for parents and carers to bring their children, from the age of 0 - pre-school. It continues to grow with new families attending each week. There is an average attendance of 45 adults & 60 kids, with the majority of parents/carers attending Tiny Tots only having a connection to Emmanuel Church through this ministry. This is only possible because of the strong dedicated volunteer team which has really grown this season.



QUEST & IMPACT

Quest and Impact is an environment that is provided for children in P1 - P7 which runs every Friday night. Quest is for children in P1-P3, and Impact is for P4-P7. The purpose of our Friday nights is to provide a structured programme with a more striped back, casual approach after the kids finish off a full week of school. Here, the kids learn more about the Bible in a fun and interactive way; and enjoy playing with their friends in a safe environment. This year we have gone through 'the parables' and 'fruit of the spirit'. With 76 children attending each week it is easy to say, Friday nights are the highlights of the week for many children & leaders alike. We are so thankful for the dedicated team of 15 leaders who weekly give up their Friday nights to pour into our kids.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

It has been wonderful to work closely with some of our local schools throughout the year taking assemblies in Kings Park, Carrick, Lurgan Model, Tandragee and Moira Primary schools. We have had an excellent opportunity to partner with Aspire & Reach, which has given us extra time in our schedules to give hours towards Carrick on a weekly basis. We had an excellent time hosting the Transition Week for P7's with our local primary schools in June.

KIDS LIFE GROUPS

Our P6 & P7 Life group is an environment which involves; connecting with peers, playing games, praying for each other, and reading the Bible together. We have generated an average attendance of 45 kids biweekly which creates a positive atmosphere of healthy learning and development within our kids who are seeking it.

We had a sleepover in church with this environment for the purpose of providing the kids with preparation before going on our yearly residential as many of them have never stayed overnight away from home before. After this, our P6 & P7 Life group took off to Kilbroney in May for the residential to where they had a fantastic time building friendships, challenging fears, and seeking Jesus.



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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Other Events

EASTER KIDS WEEK

In April we hosted our annual Easter Kids Week. This year's theme was 'Kingdom Rock - Where Kids Stand Strong For God'. We had so much fun as we opened the doors to 110 kids and 42 volunteers.

NUA

A large team of kids' volunteers were involved in organising and running the kids environments at NUA in June, it a fun packed weekend with an island theme called 'OHANA'.

JUNIOR KIDS WEEK

In July we have a 3-day kids weeks for those going into nursery/P1. We had lots of fun through free play, bible stories, games and sensory play.

KIDS WEEK

We had our annual Kids Activity Week in August where 100 children took part in either a sports or arts program, as well as engaging in Bible lessons. On the Thursday night of this week, we hosted a family night for the children that were involved in the Activity week.

SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS

Over summer we hosted 4 activity days to allow kids together, build relationships and have fun.



HOME FOR GOOD SUMMIT

We had the privilege of providing the kids programme for P1-7 at the annual Home for Good Summit. Our heart is very much for family. In 2023, 19 babies were born into our church family and New Baby Hampers were delivered to these families. 17 babies were dedicated into the church family. This year it has been too great to create more spaces to support families in the wider sense and with that in mind we started a new ministry called 'Mini Mornings' that happens once a term and allows those with young families to gather on a Saturday morning for fellowship. We were also pleased to see our fostering & adoption support group make a return to meeting every 6 weeks.

Local Mission / Compassion

CONNECT CAFÉ

Connect cafe plays a vital role in our weekly activities where our local community can drop in for a cuppa and a chat and access the help they require. Up to 70 people access this weekly with various levels of need. We continued with our lunch club once a month in response to the current cost of living crisis, providing a hot meal on a Wednesday after Connect Cafe 12 – 1. Once again these proved very popular with approx. 40- 50 people each week, providing a warm space and a meal. The end of the year was celebrated with our Christmas dinner when 150 people gathered for a traditional Christmas dinner followed by games and entertainment. It was such a highlight of the year.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Buggy Push runs alongside Connect Cafe where new mums can gather to go for a walk together and come back to the cafe for a cuppa and a chat. This has proven to be a lifeline for many of these new mums to get out of the house and chat about the challenges they are facing at this stage of life.



MEN'S DROP-IN

Men's drop-in has continued to thrive providing a space for men to form relationships and connect with others. These have been great times with up to 40 men coming weekly for breakfast baps, pool competitions, games, and chat. There has been a real community built during these times with many telling us this is the highlight of their week.

RENEW

Renew continues to thrive and clothed over 350 people within our local community this year. We ran clothing initiatives alongside this e.g. winter coat drive where everyone who needed one was able to avail of a winter coat, Christmas pyjama appeal where all of our children connected with our Pantry received their Christmas pyjamas and our annual School Uniform Exchange where 6 local schools participated and over 2000 items of clothing was redistributed.

FOODBANK

In 2022 we issued 70 foodbank vouchers feeding 157 people.

FREEDOM FOOD PANTRY

Freedom Foods Pantry celebrated its 2nd Birthday. Where a Foodbank parcel is an emergency response the Pantry offers a more longer term approach supporting families to make a change in their current situation and helping them with a more holistic approach. This year we have had 150 new member households with 1607 pantry visits. An important aspect of the work in the Pantry is the wrap around services and signposting to enable people to help themselves out of the situation they find themselves in e.g. budgeting, benefit assistance, debt planning etc as well as practical support in running cooking courses etc to help educate families on making healthier food choices and giving essential cooking skills.



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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

ENGLISH LESSONS

English lessons continue to thrive and this year we had over 75 students enrolled with 3 levels being taught and a great team of volunteers. There are 13 countries represented within these classes from Ukraine - Afghanistan. This is an amazing ministry helping people who have come to this country to thrive within our local community.

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

At Christmas we delivered 150 hampers to our Pantry members and provided 10 children with their Christmas gifts. This year we built upon the success of the previous year with our children's Christmas saving scheme helping families save for their children's gifts from September - December and 47 children were saved for through this scheme. We have really seen the benefits of this initiative not only for Christmas savings but instilling saving habits in our members and this is something we will continue to do annually. Local businesses and schools partnered with us this year again by receiving donations of food at their premises and through financial gifts. Gift bags containing (dressing gowns, sweets, hats, toiletries etc) were also given to young adults in Bocombra residential home and 150 children linked to local charity Aspire received Christmas gifts. This year our local football club again collected over 200 pairs of children pyjamas, and these were given out alongside the children's gifts.

COURSES

In addition to our weekly activities we have various courses that run throughout the year in response to need. This year we ran two Well being Journey courses, Hope Rising (for people struggling with mild depression and anxiety) and Transform your trolley in house as well in conjunction with a local football team (Lurgan Town) we ran a four week men's mental health programme which opened up great conversations and pathways of support for those that need it.

Youth

VITAL & COLLECTIVE

Vital and Collective are our discipleship environments on Friday nights. Vital and Collective are for young people from 11-18 and is an environment that welcomes young people from all backgrounds to have fun, build relationships and learn more about God. Young people have time to hang out, eat food, play football and many other games together. There is an opportunity to worship, encounter God and hear a talk every week. Our theme this year was "Lifestyle matters" and our talks were mainly delivered by the youth team but we also had some great guest speakers, whose input has been invaluable.

In the last year vital was able to connect with over 339 different young people and engaged an average of 95 young people per week.

During this year we took the young people on multiple trips including a weekend away to Greenhill YMCA. Our weekends were fully booked bringing 85 on Vital and Collective residentials. It was a fantastic time where young people deepened their relationships with peers and leaders, were free in their worship and had life changing encounters with God.

FUSE

We managed to create space in the building to accommodate the detached young people who were being drawn to our building. We mobilised a group of volunteers to launch FUSE and how the leaders have created space to love these kids has been amazing. They took 15 on a trip, have been to their sports matches and have built good relationships over the year. Fuse engaged with 21 different young people, with an average of 9 young people attending per week.

VITAL SUNDAY

Vital Sunday is a space on Sunday mornings for ages 11-14. The young people go The young people participate in a programme that is delivered in correspondence with the teaching series in Church but tailored to their age. Vital Sunday engages roughly 40 young people each week over the two services. We also run a youth believing and belonging course for the year 10s who are transitioning into church. Robbie and Pastor Phil facilitated this over two Sunday evenings and it was very successful in teaching young people what church is, why church is important and what Emmanuel's core values and beliefs are.

BANQUET

Banquet is for those who we identify as young leaders, people who are maturing in their faith and want to give their all to God. This group is less about us teaching them and more of a space for them to start hearing from God for themselves. This means that there is specific focus on how to read the bible as well as listening to Holy Spirit. Banquet is also focused on leadership and aims to disciple young people so that they will disciple their peers in turn. In 2023/24 we had 8 young people who attended Banquet bi-weekly on Monday nights.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

DROP IN

In 2023/24, we had 193 different young people attend our Vital and Collective Drop Ins with an average of 50 per week.

SCHOOLS WORK

The youth team have coached football, rugby and hockey in Lurgan Junior high School and Lurgan College. We also ran Youth Alpha in Craigavon Senior High with 3 different classes and approximately 40 pupils, seeing two salvations. The youth team also gave some of their time to volunteer with Reach mentoring. This was beneficial for Reach and for Emmanuel Youth as it gave us the opportunity to be a presence in a wider range of schools, such as Lurgan college and St. Ronan's.

Emmanuel Youth team have also participated and Scripture Union and school assemblies throughout the year in various local schools.

LIFE GROUPS

In 2023/24 we had 53 girls and 29 boys regular attending a youth Life group. That is 82 young people regular attending a small group where they read the Bible, pray, and keep each other accountable in their walk with Jesus.

PRAYER AND PANCAKES

6 to 7 young people come to church every Monday morning before school from 8:00-9:00am to start their week off in prayer.

GLO

In 2023 we ran Easter and Summer Glo. This is an event where the youth groups from the local churches come together to pray, worship, and serve the people of Lurgan together. We do things like gardening, community clean ups and area fun days. It's great to watch young people from different churches work together to serve and glorify God.

SIGNAL FIRES

Signal Fires was birthed out of years of praying for young people and the nation of Ireland. We aim to gather young people together from different backgrounds and denominations in unity to worship Jesus, with the hope that what God does on these nights will spill over into their everyday lives, wherever God has positioned them. In partnership with 24/7 prayer and other churches and organisations, we were delighted to run Signal Fires in Lisburn, Sligo and Dublin this year.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

July and August 2023 we had 154 young people engaging in our summer programme.

NUA

We facilitated the youth programme at the NUA Festival alongside Lagan valley Vineyard. It was a fantastic weekend where God poured out his presence on the young people in a way we have never witnessed before. Many were filled with the Spirit and this moment has propelled them into a passionate pursuit of Jesus.

Financial Review

The Trustees are very satisfied with this set of financial results. The level of increasing income from our congregation in support of our mission continues to surprise and provide us with reassurance as to what we are doing. We continue to focus on our aims and objectives and concentrate our expenditure on those areas that will enhance and meet our objectives both in the short and medium term. Our net surplus of £51k before depreciation underlines the controls and governance in place within our church. None of this would be possible without the countless volunteers that give freely of both their time and their prayers and we are truly grateful and indebted to all of those people for all they continue to do. The trustees are continuing to work on updating the charity's reserve policy, and aim to create free unrestricted reserves equating to three months' running costs, which would be approximately £130k in total.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £1,557,313 (2022 - £1,588,403) and liabilities of £61,337 (2022 - £63,687). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £(28,740) .

Reference and Administrative details

Organisation

The Board of Directors administers the charity. The Board meets at least monthly to manage the day to day affairs and operations of the charity.

Appointment of Director

As described in the Articles of Association, a new director may be eligible for appointment if 21 days before the annual general meeting, written notice is deposited with the registered office of the intended proposal, signed by a member and signed by the person to be proposed, so as to indicate their willingness to be elected.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Director Induction & Training

New Directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Board and decision making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Directors are encouraged to view the Charities Commission website so as to gain a full understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Risk Management

The Directors have a risk management strategy which comprises an annual review of the risks the company faces, the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the company.

Trustees

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Alan John Emerson
Robert McCullough
Alain Emerson
Leech Christopher Robert George
Jonathan Andrew Beggs

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Leonard Adamson

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Emmanuel Church Lurgan Trust subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped achieve the charity purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.


The Auditors

The auditors, Daly Park & Company Ltd, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Alan John Emerson
Trustee



Warwick McCullough
Trustee

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of The Emmanuel Church Lurgan Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A (Small Entities). 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 company and of the surplus or deficit of the 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Alan John Emerson
Trustee



Warwick McCullough
Trustee