

Coleraine Congregational Church
Trustees Annual Report
For the year ended 30th November 2020

The Managing Trustees during the period of this report were: Mr. Morris McAfee, Mr. David Mailey, Mr. Samuel Kelly, Mr. Alex Steele & Mr. Reg Crozier.

The Trustees of Coleraine Congregational Church have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Annual Reporting and Public Benefit Requirement Statutory Guidance in the preparation of this report and in the course of their business in the reporting period.

Coleraine Congregational Church is governed by its Constitution. The Constitution was reviewed in 2015/16 and the revised document was adopted at our A.G.M. on 26th February 2016 and came in effect at the A.G.M. of 22nd February 2017.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of Coleraine Congregational Church is to promote the glory of God by public worship, preaching and teaching of the Word of God, reaching out to people with the Gospel of Christ, and encouraging godly living in all true believers.

Public Benefit:

The charity aims to share the Christian gospel and faith through advancement of religion. The direct benefits of this purpose include the provision of a church building for public worship and all listed activities. This building has disabled access making public worship accessible to all members of the general public. The public worship contributes to the wellbeing of those attending the church. It also provides spiritual and moral teaching and support for its members and the general public. There is the potential for moral and intellectual improvement for church members and members of the general public who attend the public worship and follow its Biblical teaching. The churches purposes promote Christian values and its Biblical teachings provide opportunities for Biblical response including prayer and worship. Pastoral and practical support is provided to those in need. Support is also given to missionaries and missionary organisations through prayer and financial support.

The benefits of our organisation are demonstrated through informal feedback from our members, their families, parents of young people and the general public who attend our meetings. Expressions of benefit are often demonstrated by members in regular church meetings. Benefits can also be seen by the behaviour and service demonstrated by those involved in the churches public worship and meetings.

Our churches beneficiaries include our members, their families, the general public and the community in which our charity ministers. All of our activities are open to the general public and advertised to them.

A private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to the employment of our caretaker and the organist. This benefit is incidental and necessary in the furtherance of our charity's purpose. The private benefit is also reasonable and not excessive. The church organist is the wife of one of our trustees. The trustee exempts himself from any business concerning his wife to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.

No harm will come from the purposes of our charity. Our volunteers working with children have been 'AccessNI' checked, we have a Designated Person for Child Protection in office. We revised and updated our Child Protection Policy document in 2019.

What we do:

Prior to the March 2019 lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic we held 2 services of public worship each Sunday and regular bible study and prayer meetings during the week. We returned in September to holding a single service each Sunday morning with protective measures and appropriate distancing in place. This initially reduced our capacity but with new audio-visual equipment in place we have been able to use our church hall for an overflow area. Since May 2019 we have been having a weekly Bible Study and prayer time using the 'Zoom' platform. This has enabled a good number of our folk to have a sense of fellowship together.

Sunday School and Bible Class took place each Sunday morning until the lockdown. Transport was hired to bring any children requiring transport to these activities. We also provided crèche facilities for parents attending church with their babies and young children and Children's Church was held during our weekly morning worship each Sunday. These services have been suspended since the March 2019 lockdown

Pastoral support continues to be undertaken by our Deacons, and members of the church, to both those in need within the church's own membership and the wider community. This is done through a telephone call. Men and Ladies fellowship meetings were suspended from March 2019 and have not been able to resume to date. The Deacons meet 2 times per month on Zoom to maintain church business and discuss pastoral matters.

We remain at the date of this report without a full time Pastor but are actively praying for and seeking a replacement. We believe that whoever that man will be, will be revealed to us by God in due time. Our Sunday services continue to be led by Christian men known to us who share our beliefs and our 'Statement of Faith'. These men are invited following discussion among the Diaconate and are offered a monetary gift for leading us in worship and bringing a scriptural message to those gathered for worship.

The church provides opportunities for missionaries and missionary organisations to share details of their work to the fellowship and the general public. The church offers these missionaries prayerful and financial support and encouragement to help advance the Christian gospel and faith. Again during lock-down the number of opportunities to meet with missionaries has been reduced.

All other church activities have had to be suspended during the pandemic.

How we are funded:

The charity has sufficient funds in its accounts to sustain its expenses and liabilities. The main source of income for the church is the free will contributions of those attending for worship at our weekly Sunday services.

There are regular opportunities to support **Christian missions** at our services whether on a Sunday or through our midweek activities. Contributions received to support a particular Christian mission are passed on in full to that mission.

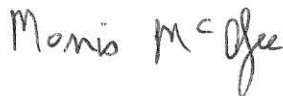
The weekly 'Free Will Offering' is received either through money contained in sealed envelopes carrying the contributors allocated number or in loose cash deposited in the collection plate. Stewards appointed by the membership at our Annual General Meeting record these contributions and deposit the funds in our bank account weekly. The church also receives **Gift Aid** payments from HMRC on submission of a claim.

A small number of people faithfully and regularly contribute to the '**Repair Fund**' using a separate envelope system. These contributions are recorded and deposited in our general account on a weekly basis. These contributions are only used to maintain the fabric structure of the church building for the benefit of the charity.

Children from the **Sunday School** contribute to the Sunday School fund and the ladies attending Ladies Fellowship contribute to the **Ladies Fellowship** fund. Funds held in these accounts are used solely for the activities of these groups.

During the period of this report we continued to rent our manse for 3 months. A short term rental agreement between the holding trustees and the other party was prepared and an appropriate monthly rent agreed. The Trustees are registered with the Northern Ireland Landlord Registration Scheme and the property is properly insured in line with these temporary circumstances.

A report on our activities and finances is prepared annually and is formally adopted at our A.G.M. in February each year.



Morris McAfee
Secretary/Trustee
12th March 2021