



Bridge of Hope

Trustees' Annual Report 1st April 23- 31st March 24

This report applies to the activities of Bridge of Hope charity (NIC 102485). The charity is registered at 60 Killyless Road, Cullybackey. The current trustees are Norman Worthington, George Johnston, Helena Rea and Jacquie Worthington. There has been no change to the trustees in the last year. The charity's governing document is a constitution, this was adopted on 30th April 2008 and was amended on 20/07/15 to include charitable purposes. The charity is established as a faith-based organisation for the advancement of religion, the relief of poverty and advancement of health in any part of the world in particular- a) by the provision or assistance in the provision of facilities at the church campus in Koudougou, Burkina Faso, in the interest of social welfare so that their conditions of life can be improved, b) to promote Christianity in all parts of the world by supporting ministries which promote awareness of Christianity by means of practical Christian love and values.

Activities

The charity's only source of income is from the sale of donated unwanted second-hand goods (eg furniture, bric-a-brac and clothes) in our shops in Portglenone and Clady, our Ahoghill shop closed in Nov 20 due to the premises being sold for redevelopment. The volunteers are required to out-sort clothes which are unsuitable for sale and these are recycled through Cookstown Recyclers. The charity owns a van which enables the collection and delivery of furniture.

Achievements and public benefit

We have been able to send £12,913 to Burkina Faso this year. This has primarily been used to aid completion of the health clinic which will provide medical facilities for the local community- who currently have to travel many kilometres to see a doctor/ nurse thereby improving their health and wellbeing. In addition, due to the ongoing civil unrest (2 coups in 2022) Christians are still being displaced from the north of the country. Pastor Yameogo has used some of our donations to provide food, essentials and even homes for these families. These benefits are directly linked to our charitable purpose of advancement of religion and also relief of poverty in the local area of Koudougou in Burkina Faso. Our monthly contribution of £100 to Outreach Amazon in Brazil, assists them in providing daily meals to the local children who attend their school. This fulfils our purpose of relief of poverty for these children. Our contributions to visiting ministries also contributes to the advancement of religion by spreading the Gospel message through evangelism and teaching. We sent £1000 to Dorcas Ministries and £500 to Lifeline Ministries NI. Both these charities work in the African countries of Kenya and Uganda.

Our charity also provides a benefit to our local community through the provision of furniture and clothes to the less well-off in society who are unable to afford new goods. This benefit advances our purpose of relief of poverty.

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Receipts

This year our Portglenone shop sales have increased from last year. Portglenone shops' sales have increased from March 23 £46732- March 24 £49, 636. The Clady shop's sales have increased slightly from £6,252(Mar 23) to £6,761 (March 24). This was still enough to cover the rent for the premises. We also received donations totalling £270. This money was transferred directly to Pastor Etienne in Burkina Faso.

In addition, recycling is now being directly paid into the bank account rather than by cheque-so it now shows separately on the account- the amount from recycling was £1358 – this had increased slightly from last year (£1222).

We received compensation of £450 from Ulster Bank as they had suspended the bank account in error.

Payments

Rent was reduced this financial year from last (£27, 842 opposed to £29, 406). The electric bill was £3038, this was greatly decreased (previous year £4004) due in part to the fact that previous year's was very high due to a dispute with SSE which lead to a high bill. In addition, the price per unit of electric had been reduced.

Our van running costs are reduced this year £3189 compared to £4916 last year.

£12,913 was transferred to Burkina Faso during 23/24 for the purpose of continuing evangelism and purchasing grain and food and progressing with construction and fit out of the clinic. Pastor Etienne sends pictures as proof. Continue to support Outreach Amazon in Brazil with monthly payments of £100.

We continue to support visiting missionaries to NI; this year we gave £1500.

Our shop liability insurance remained competitive at £719.

There was a small maintenance charge of £18 this year.

No volunteer receives remuneration for their work, so as a token of appreciation for their dedication, the trustees agreed many years ago to provide a Christmas meal in a local hotel, and for those volunteers who are unable to attend we provide vouchers to the same value. As hospitality prices have increased in recent years, the total for this year came to £913.

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