

House Church Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 May 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	House Church Limited
Charity registration number	102893
Company registration number	NI069291
Principal office and registered office	18C Crawfordsburn Road Newtownards BT23 4EA

The trustees

Mr D Taylor	(Resigned 3 April 2023)
Ms N Porter	
Mr C Murphy	
Dr O Griffith Kerr	
Ms J Brownlee	
Mr A Steensma	
Ms G Lamont	
Mr K Simpsons	

Auditor	Johnston Graham Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 216/218 Holywood Road Belfast BT4 1PD
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Structure, governance and management

House Church Limited, registered as a charity with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland on 2 June 2015, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland on 20 May 2008, registration number NI069291.

In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each.

The first trustees were appointed by the members. Additional and replacement trustees are appointed by a simple majority resolution of the board or members. Trustees do not have a term of office and are not subject to retirement by rotation or re-election.

Organisational and Decision Making Structure

Decisions on policy and governance are made by the Board of Directors, who are also the trustees of House Church Limited, consisting of 7 members. The members meet monthly and are responsible for the policy, governance, and financial management of the organisation. The Executive Pastor sits on the Board as a member who reports to the Board of trustees on operational running of the church.

The day to day running of House Church Limited is delegated to a Senior Lead Team, wider Leadership team and staff members who are accountable to both the Board of Trustees and Elders.

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Objectives and activities

Renamed in 2022, House Church exists to extend the kingdom of God as we worship God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

We want to build a community where people can learn more about God in a bible-based community and have the space to explore and understand who God is. We have Sunday services, for adults and Kids, Youth ministry on Friday evenings, House Tots fortnightly, Discipleship Community, Retirement Morning and our Compassion Centre which is there to support with Foodbank, Life skills and money management.

The Objectives of House Church are as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are: To promote the following purposes for the benefit of the public: Turn spiritually lost people into passionate committed followers of Jesus Christ and to establish a biblically functioning community that is impacting all ages and backgrounds of people in Newtownards area and beyond.

We have partnerships with other charitable organisations that help and aid us in our objectives as a charity e.g.: "Care for the Family", Abaana, Compassion UK, Home for Good, Christians Against Poverty and Trussell trust which are national charities which aim to promote strong family life and to help those hurting because of family circumstances, bereavement, poverty, and debt.

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

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Achievements and performance

1 Peter 2v5 "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ".

This was the verse that led all activity and ministry for the year. As we set about the refurbishment of our building and under the new name of House Church. We were wanting to create spaces where church family and community could grow in abundance. For our kids ministry rooms to be fun, open and welcoming space. Environments for gatherings for discipleship, friendship, prayer and fun to gather, and for the foyer and Coffee House to be an open and warm space for anyone in our community to walk into and feel welcomed.

As ministry year began our Kids ministry began slowly encouraging new volunteers to join the ministry. A new programme was introduced in January, and this has seen more engagement from our kids and this in turn has impacted parents as we are seeing growing numbers attending which will mean more volunteers, but it is a great problem to have.

Our Youth Team has been steadily growing in attendance for Friday nights and they also introduced a new Sunday ministry for Youth. We have seen young people more engaged and loving being part of the church community and their families in turn love seeing their young people grow and find community.

Young adult's ministry has grown significantly in number through engaging programme's and services which has fostered a fantastic community where they get to serve one another and the wider church body.

Our House Tots was launched again after a 3-year, and this soon became a very popular ministry that serves all the community. This is for parents or carers to come along to with kids under primary 1 age group. The team have seen numbers increase so much that we have had to move rooms to accommodate them.

Our Compassion Centre was one of the busiest since opening. We saw an increase on usage of Foodbank by 67%. We have been seeing an increase with working families unable to meet the demands of the cost of living crisis and people whose benefit payments fail to match their legitimate outgoings. We also ran very successful courses earlier in the year with a Life Skills course being a particular highlight and our first CAP money course for 3 years. And once again this year foodbank were nominated as one of of the mayor's charities for the year which gave many opportunities to highlight the work of Compassion ministries within our community and the help that we offer to support those in need.

Health, safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries

Provision of a safe environment to facilitate the health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

All policies and procedures were reviewed and assessed with relevant training for staff and volunteers undertaken.

Policy on Reserves

A cash reserve is held in an interest bearing account to allow for financial reserves. There is no fixed calculation of this cash reserve and the balance will fluctuate in relation to available funds. There are no designated funds.

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Major Risks

The directors review the possibility of major risks on an ongoing basis. No major risks have been identified.

Volunteer Initiatives

We encourage and promote volunteer initiatives through our community action programmes, children's work, social action teams tackling debt and food poverty and through many other opportunities in the Church.

Fundraising

Fundraising activities are kept under review and are instigated in response to global initiatives.

Recruitment and Induction

Recruitment is undertaken on the basis of attracting suitably qualified individuals with appropriate skill sets to assist in the overall governance and values of the Church. Induction is ongoing and on a needs basis.

Grant-Making Policy

The Elders and Directors of the Company consider the payment of grants and donations on an on-going basis.

Financial review

Performance 2023

Total income amounted to £768,328 which showed an increase of £3,712. This total included Church Givings of £342,591, Rental Income of £129,690, Foodbank and Cap income of £48,440 and Other Income of £23,770. Restricted income related to Foodbank and CAP activities, Compassion Centre and BFL donations.

Donations were made during the year amounting to £5,030; Heat and Light increased by £21,851 to £48,592; Cleaning increased by £9,248 to £18,995; and Repairs and Maintenance increased by £6,185 to £24,451. Loan interest amounted to £32,748 and depreciation reduced by £928. Salaries in total, were similar to last year.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

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In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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. 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.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

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

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 1 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Ms N Porter
Trustee

