

Belfast City Vineyard Church
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Mission

We believe that God has called us to be an ever growing, regional, biblically based church in Belfast which will in a creative and contemporary style, worship God and communicate the gospel with compassion and mercy. We aim to make, train and equip disciples to be effective in the extending of God's Kingdom, to develop new leaders, to plant new churches, and to contribute to the blessing of the whole Body of Christ. We aim to be a community of people dedicated to pursuing the deep personal transformation that only comes from saving faith in Jesus, and then letting what He has done in us overflow and influence the world around us.

Our objectives and aims

Our aim in Belfast City Vineyard is to advance the Christian Faith. We do this through our three objectives, first to advance the Kingdom of God, second to continuously build the faith of believers and finally, to ever bless and serve our communities and the vulnerable with the compassion, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Advancing His Kingdom

Belfast City Vineyard aims to advance the Kingdom of God throughout the greater Belfast Area, across the whole country and the island of Ireland. Our church has actively worked in our local communities to be a blessing in practical and relational ways.

We welcome those of all or no faiths and from every background and community who wish to visit during our Sunday and Friday services. Many of those have decided to stay and join Belfast City Vineyard. During this period, members continued to witness to the transforming power of Jesus and proclaim His gospel with compassion and generosity.

During this year the staff and leaders regularly welcomed new people in our newcomers' meals, sharing a meal together and week after week our members blessed and served their wider communities with acts of kindness as individuals and small groups, extending prayer and outreach. Given the challenges of the COVID pandemic much of what was done week by week had to migrate to online formats.

Belfast City Vineyard continues to actively engage in church planting and we continue to bless and support those we have released to plant or lead churches in Bangor, Derry, and Lisbon.

We continue to partner with two long term projects in North and South Africa both in prayer and financially. We continued to strategically invest in partnerships with churches within Turkey and the surrounding area.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Building Our Faith

We returned to our in-person services in September 2020, after the COVID pandemic forced us to go online. We met on Wednesday and Sunday evenings in Windsor Presbyterian Church, who kindly let us use their building for our services. We continued to provide online children's programmes, with our 11-18's returning to in-person, running alongside our Sunday evening service. In June 2021, we began to hold a family service. We continued to provide our online Sunday morning service for those not able to make it out in-person, whilst holding online prayer meetings, life groups, online training classes and much more. At a few points in the year, we had to go to online only services, to help assist in circuit breakers, required by the government and to help reduce the spread of COVID.

Attendance at our Wednesday and Sunday in-person services, was reduced, averaging around 80 people per evening. This was due to the governmental requirement to restrict how many people could sign up to our in-person services, to assist with 2 metre social distancing. As far as we could tell, online numbers remained steady throughout the year, with some new families joining us.

The pastoral staff continued to deliver training sessions, pressing into greater intimacy with Jesus. As a result of COVID we had to take our small groups online only and we had an increase in, not only the number of groups, but in people attending them. Everyone is encouraged to join one of the small groups that meet mid-week. Our serving teams reduced in number, however this was again due to COVID and the fact that we couldn't open up all of our in-person ministry areas, with a change in venue and COVID etc. However as the year progressed, we began to open these up again, with the number of people serving slowly increasing.

The Staff have continued to undertake training in education and theology. While the wider community of leaders have attended regular training events held throughout the year including the National Leaders Conference in January and Area Regional Days, as well as a regularly meeting as a Community of Leaders. Regular ministry courses continued to run including Gospel of Wholeness.

A number of lifestyle classes and seminars have been offered this year to the general congregation, including the connection events for new attenders, marriage preparation courses, and special training for those working in our compassion ministries, children's ministries and prayer ministry teams. These were offered in addition to the practical biblical teaching at Sunday services and weekly life group meetings that empowers Church members to live a God centred lifestyle.

Compassion for the Vulnerable

Every year Belfast City Vineyard actively seek ways to bless and practically serve our community, especially the poor, the needy, young and old, including those who are outside our church community.

In partnership with Storehouse (NI), Belfast City Vineyard collects food and funds for distribution to those most at risk. Every week food parcels regularly go out to meet the needs of the poor in our local community, taking the immediate burden off statutory agencies, charities and community groups, allowing them time to put in place a long term solution.

Belfast City Vineyard also partners with Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland giving them financial support. VCUK & I connect churches with common values and practices providing spiritual guidance and oversight to the Vineyard Church leaders as well as facilitating new church planting.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. Total Income of the congregation during the year was £396,158 compared to £434,831 in the previous year. Total expenditure decreased from £401,113 to £356,266.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted net current assets that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least six month's normal expenditure, as the funding of its present activities is dependent of the ongoing financial support of members. At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £152,143, which is less than six months expenditure. The Trustees consider it prudent to build up the net current assets to a level equivalent to six month's expenditure.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

This is by no means the sum of all that we do but merely a snapshot of the life of our church. We aim to pursue Jesus by pressing into intimacy with him, build our faith with our community around us and answer the call on our lives, that Jesus has placed by serving those who need us the most. We plan to take these aims into next year and the decades beyond as our church member's commitment increases. We are actively seeking new premises in which to hold our Sunday services. We are also investigating more opportunities to serve those in our city and beyond.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI060526 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity number

103520

Registered office

2nd Floor Temple Court
39 North Street
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT1 1NA

Trustees

Dr Darrin Alexander Barr CEO
Rev Andrew Textor Smith Minister of Religion
Mr Alan Roye Carson Associate Pastor
Ms Elizabeth Truesdale Project Coordinator
Mr Timothy Mairs Director
Mr Matthew Graham Director

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

John McCleary FCA
Chartered Accountants Ireland
McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Carson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mr Alan Roye Carson - Trustee