

MAGHERAFELT REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Charity References

Name: Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church

Address: The Diamond Centre, Market Street, Magherafelt, County Londonderry BT45 6ED

Email: magherafeltrbc@btinternet.com

Website: www.magherafeltrbc.org

Trustees

The Charity Trustees are presently four Deacons elected by the membership of the Church to oversee all aspects of the functions of the Church.

The annual activities, practical and financial, are summarised in our annual end of year report which is normally presented at a Church Members meeting in February.

The annual Members Meeting is attended by Church Members only.

The Trustees are:

Sam Gordon	Church Secretary
Adrian Rea	Youth Leader
Robert Taylor	Health and Safety
Harry McCrory	Treasurer

Other Church Information

The building used by Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church is not owned by the church but is rented on a long-term rental agreement.

The Church was constituted in January 1998 and continues to be Governed by its Constitution which was adopted in the same year.

The Church is an independent Church and has no affiliations to any other Church or Association.

The Church does have connections with other Reformed Churches on a basis of mutual fellowship and prayerful support.

PURPOSE

The primary function of Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church is to promote the Christian Faith according to The Word of God, The Bible.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have sought to follow and fulfil the Charity Commission's guidance with regard to the provision of public benefit from and through the Church and are satisfied that we have done this through the various Church activities.

Church Services

On a weekly basis the Church provides the opportunity for members and visitors to meet together on Lord's Day mornings and evenings with the primary purpose of worshipping God and to learn more about the Word of God through preaching and teaching. On both morning and evening, we have on average 25 to 30 people attending.

We also seek to provide home visits to offer support and encouragement to any of our members and visitors who are housebound or have medical issues which prevent their regular attendance to the services.

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Prayer Meetings

The Prayer Meeting is well attended on Wednesday evenings and after a time of worship and devotional study there is time given to specific areas of prayer such as family needs, medical conditions of individual members and others as well as needs in the wider community and throughout the Province.

Children and Young people

We also have a focus on providing biblical instruction to young people and children and we do this through our Sunday School and Youth meetings

Our Sunday School runs from September to June. We have teachers who can work with all age groups.

The Youth Club runs from October to May and draws 15 to 20, mainly young teenagers, from the surrounding area. The church provides supervised transport to ensure all who need transport are safely picked up and dropped off at designated stops.

The meetings provide various games and activities and also the provision of light refreshments. At the latter part of the meeting there is a short message which focuses on some simple bible studies.

Study Groups

Study groups for both men and women are arranged throughout the year to encourage fellowship and opportunity to study the Word of God in a home situation.

Reach out to the community

We reach out into the community with planned door to door visits to distribute leaflets and invitations to the regular meetings.

We have begun to use social media more and more and have invested in various equipment to enable development of this ministry.

Missionary Focus

A number of special Public Meetings are held throughout the year where we invite different speakers and Christian Missionaries who speak on a range of biblical topics and the development of churches in foreign fields. These meetings are advertised and invitations are posted and distributed by hand.

Achievements and Performance

Following the end of all restrictions and lockdowns connected to the covid pandemic, we established contact with a fulltime student, Adam Riley, at the Irish Baptist college in Belfast.

Adam was keen to visit the church as he too had a particular interest in the reformed faith. We invited him to come and preach for us at some of our Sunday services and our Mid-week prayer meetings.

Following several visits to the church and good interactions with our members, we agreed to offer Adam a six month financially supported "placement" to give the church an opportunity to hear him on a consecutive basis and also have the opportunity to get to know him on a personal basis. During this period Adam continued his studies at the Baptist College.

As a church, without a fulltime pastor and in line with our church constitution, we received oversight from an established church in Crawley near Gatwick in the UK. We have had a longstanding relationship with the pastor of Maidenbower Baptist Church and receive valuable pastoral help and guidance from their Pastor and Deacons.

As our interest in Adam developed, we arranged for Adam to spend six weeks with the pastor of Maidenbower Baptist Church to give opportunity for further evaluation of Adam as a potential pastoral candidate for Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church.

Following positive feedback from this six week evaluation in Maidenbower Baptist Church, we agreed with Adam a further six month financially support "placement" in our church. During this period, Adam and his wife became members of Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church.

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During this period, Adam was given various responsibilities which the church evaluated and discussed. We also gave further feedback to Maidenbower Baptist Church and the Pastor of Maidenbower Baptist Church also visited with us during our church business meetings as we planned further developments.

With each church business meeting, Adam received the full support of the church and was duly nominated for the office of Pastor of Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church. Adam accepted the nomination and is now fully employed by the church as the Pastor. An official ordination service for Adam will take place in the church on Friday 6 December 2023.

We are sure that this appointment will further help the development of the various ministries of the church as listed below.

- Prayer Meetings
- Children and Young people
- Study Groups
- Reach out to the community
- Missionary Focus

PUBLIC BENEFITS

The primary function of Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church is to promote the Christian Faith according to The Word of God , The Bible.

The benefits which come from this function are the building up of the Christian Faith of those who attend Magherafelt Reformed Baptist Church and to provide support and encouragement to those who are sick and to those who have difficult personal circumstances.

MRBC holds weekly public worship services both morning and evening on the Lord's Day as well as morning Sunday School Classes for both Adults and Children.

There are weekly Prayer Meetings which include Devotional Bible studies and Times of Prayer.

In the winter months there are Youth Meetings on Friday evenings attended by local children. Supervised transport is provided to ensure safe journeys.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church is funded only by voluntary gifts and donations and makes use of the Gift Aid Scheme.

The Church has no liabilities or commitments

The Church does not hold any Funds as *Custodian Trustee* on behalf of others.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the church's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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Approved on behalf of the trustees on 31 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by


Sam Gordon

Trustee


Robert Taylor

Trustee