

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments for Hope Community Church Craigavon for the year ended 31 December 2020

Objectives and Activities

Hope Community Church (CMC) is an Anglican Congregation in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

Our aim is to be a growing, living Church of Christian people in the Craigavon area who live and worship in such a way that those in our community, who are not yet committed to Christ or are unconvinced by the Christian faith, will come and join us, reaching out to each consecutive generation and drawing them into the Kingdom of God. We want to express the Love and Power of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we experience forgiveness and healing and are equipped and trained for the work of the Kingdom. In this, we desire to work and pray towards renewal in the Church and revival in Craigavon. We believe that this is facilitated through Sunday Services and mid-week home groups, youth and children's activities as well as through other events which can encourage the Church actively to give away what God has given us, thus benefitting the community around us.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Below you will find a summary of the main activities undertaken by the Parish to carry out its charitable purposes for the public benefit and the main achievements during the year. This will include its purposes, achievements, beneficiaries, etc.

Hope CC is located in central Craigavon, which is an urban mixed-use area consisting of residential developments, retail and governmental, civic and judicial buildings. The Church can provide a focal point for local residents and community groups as community space is limited in the area. We hope to open up our buildings to establish relations with local community groups.

The local area has both an established community and a transient one. Nearby to Hope CC, we have Craigavon Area Hospital, Rushmere Shopping Centre, Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre and Craigavon Court House. We have a large number of people passing by each day and young families make up a significant proportion of the population. Most of the congregation live within the Craigavon Area, including the neighbouring towns of Lurgan, Portadown and the surrounding countryside.

Public Worship –

We currently have two services every Sunday. The current service pattern is as follows :

09:30 Morning Worship 1st Service (preceded by prayer at 09:15)

11:30 Morning Worship 2nd Service (Preceded by Prayer at 11:15)

The first Sunday of every month includes Holy Communion.

These services were restricted during times of lock down from March to December 2020. An online service was available each Sunday.

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We have benefited from a high standard of teaching and preaching from Clergy, Lay Readers and Members of the congregation alike. The overall style is challenging, thoughtful and evangelical; we are committed to encouraging Church Members towards whole life discipleship.

Our Church family reflects a wide age-range, from the very young to the more elderly with the age of those present ranging from 3 weeks to 80+. We would love to see an increase in the number of teenagers and those in the 18-30 age-range, and are praying for more local families to join us in Hope.

At Hope we encourage every Member of the congregation to use the gifts God has given them to serve in whatever capacity they feel led, remembering it's not only serving people, it's loving them 'Serve one another humbly in love' Galatians 5:13. We have been blessed to see many people step forward and use these gifts in administration, finance teams, children and youth leaders, safeguarding trust co-ordinators, welcome and hospitality teams, catering teams, cleaning team, gardening teams, audio and video technicians, website and social media co-ordinators and worship teams.

There is also Prayer Ministry at the end of each service and Urgent Prayer Teams for prayer needs that arise throughout the week. Prayer ministry was suspended due to Covid 19 but the Urgent Prayer teams were maintained and were busy during the latter part of 2020.

Strengths at present include the involvement of many people across the many areas of ministry in the Church, increasing attendance at services, new membership and the growth in the number of children. This has resulted in increased financial commitment that will be essential as we move out into the community. The feeling of welcome expressed by newcomers is also encouraging. Hope home groups are providing discipleship and seeing growth in giftings and confidence in the members.

The target audience is cross-generational with new younger people expressing their pleasure at the range of age groups in the congregation and seeing the value of the all-age character of the Church. The new Rector has addressed this very well through careful Bible teaching on areas such as prophecy, healing and the gifts of the Spirit. have allowed people to listen to God in a safe environment and be taught and trained to grow in discipleship. A Church website and facebook page reach out to the community to inform and encourage people to come to Sunday worship and other Church activities.

Community Outreach

- **Hope Kids – Update by Hannah**

Our outreach and ministry to primary school aged children and their families is key to us. The team of approximately 15 people, organised on a rota basis, follows the Diocesan 'Jigsaw' programme, an excellent resource that helps us explore the Bible creatively. Up to 25 children join us each Sunday after worship and through games, storytelling, song and craft are taught about their Heavenly Father and are encouraged to enter into a personal relationship with Him.

Our children in Hope Kids are valued and are a vital part of the Church and its ministry to others. We have been involved in services during the year including our Nativity and Easter services and, take note, one where they got to soak the Minister with water pistols. In June we held our 'Ice-cream Sunday' to celebrate the beginning of the summer break when over 120 members of the Church spent the afternoon enjoying a hog roast, bouncy castle, garden games, face painting and a visit from the ice-cream van.

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- **Hope Youth – Update by Hannah**

We have a smaller number of actively engaged young people aged 11-18. We aim to grow this area of ministry to ensure that our strength in number and provision for children can be sustained throughout their journey into teenage years and beyond. The young people meet every other Sunday after worship where they enjoy fellowship with each other, space to seek and connect with God, and time to consider the impact of faith on their daily lives.

Hope Youth have attended DYCC 'Saturday Night Live' events and have been greatly encouraged by them and the opportunity to meet up with other young people in the Dioceses.

We offer opportunities for our young people to join up with Hope Men and Hope Ladies for social events and away-days. Our young people are encouraged to partake in and lead special services.

Both Hope Kids and Hope Youth remain with the congregation for Holy Communion.

- **Hope Home Groups – only met until March of 2020**

These small groups meet once every two weeks and have around twelve members in each group. At the start of 2020 there were four groups with a view to starting at least one more in the near future. There are two leaders in each group. In home meetings of these groups were suspended after March 2020 due to lock down.

Hope Home Groups provide an opportunity to study the Bible, discuss Christian discipleship and pray for one another, as well as developing friendships in a safe and confidential setting where questions can be asked and problems discussed. The aim is to help people grow in their faith and in their confidence in God's desire to use them to minister to others.

- **Men and Women's Ministry**

Both Ladies' and Men's groups have been meeting at a social level: be it ten-pin bowling, football, meals, grass cutting, movie nights or walks.

A ladies breakfast with worship and speaker was held in January 2020 and was well attended.

Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of Hope Community Church is the advancement of religion.

This is achieved through Christian witness and outreach, and delivered through the provision of public worship and our ongoing outreach programme as described above.

Financial Review

The Parish Income for the year was £225,753 with outgoings of £159,651, resulting in a surplus of £66,102. The main sources of Income are from our freewill offering donations.

The Bank Balance at 31st December 2020 was £141,261.

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Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities, and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisations.

A selection of Members from the Management Team and the Worship Team are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Team (Trustees)

All Members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere, but have been accustomed Members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as Members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Management Team. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year.

Trustees

- Ex-officio: Minister-in-charge, Representative from Diocesan Council, plus 4 elected (2 from the Ministry Leadership Team and 2 from the Management Team).

Management Team

- 10 in total including Minister-in-charge (Ex-officio Chair).
- 9 people elected for 3 years at AGM (Management Team elected on a rolling cycle. Members serve for 3 years and can then be re-elected once more. In the first 3 years of Hope CC's existence, 3 people will voluntarily step down after the first and second year).

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Organisational Structure

The Management Team is responsible for the day to day management of the Church.

The Management Team consists of the Member of the Church serving in the Parish, and generally not more than twelve other Members of the Management Team.

The Management Team is chaired by the incumbent or other Member of the Clergy officiating in the Parish.

The Management Team Members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish, including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied.

The Management Team meets at times fixed by the Members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Church's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a Statement of Receipts and Payments for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees :

Trustee 1:



Mr Glyn Owen

Trustee 2:



Mr Andrew Gilpin

Date: 28/11/2021