

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Purposes

1. To advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public.
2. Associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to show God's love and to bring about reconciliation and unity.

At Healing the Land we:

- Encourage people to develop their relationship with Jesus Christ believing that His desire is to give us life in its fullest (John 10:10).
- Organise events that are open and welcoming to all people in the community. It is our desire to see people from throughout Ireland living peacefully together.
- Interact with people one-on-one in the community to give encouragement and show God's love in practical ways.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Community Outreach

We have continued to reach out to show God's love in practical ways to those who are lonely and most vulnerable in Maghera, Draperstown and surrounding rural communities. Most of our work continues to be with the elderly, those living alone, single parent families etc. Our Community Outreach Coordinator has continued her work by befriending, resuming in person visits and where still preferred connecting via phone calls. She has had countless opportunities to pray with people, to run errands as needed and provided support at doctor's appointments ect. Especially for those who are immobile and have no or limited family support.

During this financial period we have:

- Delivered 148 free meals, kindly supported by a local fellowship. Towards the end of 2022 we were able to scale back on meals delivered as most people were getting back to normal and had the support and help they needed from family and other agencies.
- Delivered over 800 free bread items (donated weekly by Ditty's Home Bakery).
- Delivered 100 free turkey dinners on 17th December 2022 in partnership with Ditty's Bakery, Castledawson. We continued to collaborate with the Maghera Cross Community Link, local Day Centre and other folks in the community to ensure that those who needed a meal were provided with one.
- Delivered over 30 food hampers the week before Christmas to those in need of encouragement and support in a season that is difficult and lonely for so many.
- We have been able to serve in various practical ways, i.e. cutting grass, yard clean up, providing furniture, small household jobs etc.
- Our Community Outreach Coordinator continues to serve as Secretary for the Maghera Residents Collective and is part of the steering group for the International Fund for Ireland Personal Youth Development Programme coordinated by the Maghera Cross Community Link.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Maghaberry Prison

After a few years of no in-person access to the prison due to the Government restrictions, we were able to resume our work in Maghaberry Prison in September 2022. We resumed the prison choir which participated in the Carol Service and Easter service. Choir continues to complement the other Chaplaincy programmes already in place and offers a space for men to be encouraged and to encounter God, perhaps for the very first time. We continue to connect with these men on a regular basis and often upon their release, helping them to adapt to life on the outside.

In June 2023, we were able to host a worship team from Tennessee who took part in services in both Maghaberry and Magilligan Prisons. The choir also had the opportunity to participate in the worship event at Maghaberry. In addition we had a guest from Moldova come and speak at a special chaplaincy event in April 2023 and the choir also participated at this event.

Due to a generous donation for the 8th year, we were provided with just over 1,200 selection boxes for all of the prisoners and staff in Maghaberry Prison. These were hand delivered to all the men in each of the wings just prior to Christmas. A local fellowship also donated bags of mini-eggs for all of the men for Easter, which we were able to distribute throughout the prison on Good Friday.

We have also been invited to speak at various Prison Fellowship chapel services in Magilligan Prison on Friday evenings where several men have decided to follow Jesus.

As part of our work within the Prison Service and preparing men for life on the outside we had the opportunity to arrange a meeting with local business leaders and Magilligan management to discuss the possibilities of employment for current and ex-prisoners. In early 2023 we were able to find job placement for an ex prisoner at a local business. This continues to be on our heart to reduce the reoffending rate upon release.

We also delivered food hampers to prisoner families just prior to Christmas and connected with these families throughout the year, recognising that quite often families are also struggling on the outside. During one of our visits the father of a prisoner decided to follow Jesus.

Alight

In January 2023 we started a monthly gathering for young adults (late teens – 30s) in the local community. This has been an opportunity for young adults to gather together to worship and hear biblical teaching to encourage them in their walk with Jesus. We have seen many young people come together from throughout this land for our monthly gatherings (last Saturday of each month). From January – June 2023 each of these gatherings were held in the Bridewell in Magherafelt. In July we hosted a BBQ before we took a short break for the summer. All Alight gatherings are advertised on social media and all young adults are welcome to attend.

Bible study

Our men's bible study continues each Saturday morning and has been an opportunity to bring men together from various denominations and traditions around the Word and prayer. We continue to see these men grow in their faith and we see God moving in each of their lives.

Prayer for the Community

We continue to gather together on Friday mornings to pray for our local community and land. This included our annual Good Friday prayer gathering on Slieve Gallion mountain to pray over our community.

Other events

We were invited to come and share a message of hope in The Rock, Co. Tyrone on 7th November 2022. This event was free and open to all in the community.

Collaborating with others

In addition, we have been supportive of, and have taken part in prayer events coordinated by other organisations encouraging prayer specifically for Ireland and the U.K.

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Financial review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 6 July 2017.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

William McKee

Andrew Campbell

Thomas Barfoot

Judith Badger

(Resigned 12 February 2024)

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such amounts as may be required (not exceeding £10) in the event of a winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Andrew Campbell

Trustee

Dated: 19 March 2024

