

Cornerstone Church
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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 March 2023. 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).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI630224 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity number

NI00422 (Northern Ireland)

Registered office

Units 7-8 Rathfriland Enterprise Centre
Downpatrick Street
Rathfriland
Co. Down
BT34 5DQ

Trustees

A J Ervine
A J Murray
A D Murray
M C E Somerville

Independent Examiner

S.M. Vint & Company
Chartered Certified Accountants
8 Newry Road
Banbridge
Co. Down
BT32 3HN

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Purposes

The promotion and furtherance of the Christian religion through holding meetings for the promulgation of the Gospel and promotion of physical, mental and spiritual welfare of persons within Northern Ireland.

The relief of poverty, financial and social hardship as need may arise worldwide by providing goods, services, medical care and other grants of money for providing or paying for infrastructure, items, services, facilities and otherwise meeting need and deprivation.

Developing the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

The relief of sick and disabled persons and promotion of their physical and spiritual welfare. The relief of mental and physical sickness of persons suffering as a result of bereavement, loss, family breakdown, redundancy or financial hardship by the provision of counselling and support for such persons.

Providing a centre open to all (without distinction of sex, sexual orientation or of race, political, religious or other opinions) in an effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational leisure time occupation with the objective of improving conditions of life for residents in the vicinity of the centre.

Helping young people through:

- The provision of recreational and leisure time activities, including residential weeks or weekends, provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life.
- Providing education, support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

Providing financial support to evangelists, missionaries and organisations promoting the Christian religion.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are members, their families, those connected with the Church, the local community and the general public.

Public Benefit

The facilitation of regular public worship, training and bible/prayer gatherings, promoting the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of society.

Relief of the needs of people suffering from social exclusion or other hardships both locally and abroad. This includes financial support to partner agencies, locally and abroad, who work to alleviate poverty and hardship.

Greater social inclusion for members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities and social integration via provision of opportunities to socialise in public worship gatherings, community meetings and opportunities to attend classes to develop skills necessary to function and participate more fully in society.

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The provision of support on practical, physical and spiritual levels for those in our community who are sick, disabled or infirm and improved physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Alleviation and relief of those within our membership and community, in response to such issues as bereavement, loss, family breakdown, redundancy or financial hardship who receive practical, physical, emotional and spiritual support from Cornerstone Church including by pastoral care and counselling.

Provision of a centre which is open, available and accessible to all from society regardless of sex, sexual orientation, race, political or religious opinion or any other social background which can be used to enhance education, leisure, recreational, social and community integration opportunities for local residents.

Provide support to local young people related to educational, social and recreational development through provision of activities, training and advice both in group settings and individual contact.

Promotion and advancement of the Christian faith through evangelists, missionaries and organisations supported financially and otherwise by Cornerstone Church.

Private Benefit

A private benefit is to the financially supported members of staff. However, this is both incidental and necessary to ensure the objects of the charity are carried out to the required standards.

Activities – Summary of Activities

Weekly Sunday services
Weekly Connect Group gatherings
Children's meetings
Monthly prayer evenings
Christians Against Poverty debt centre
The Well foodbank
Cornerstone youth meetings
Supporting ministries abroad

Main Achievements for the Year

Worship services held each week throughout the year
Prayer ministry available
CAP debt centre operating – CAP money course
Food trolley in local supermarket
Monthly prayer meetings
Connect group meeting each week
Christmas family service
Fuel poverty appeal
Food parcels
Community BBQ and picnics throughout the year
Easter programs – Eggsplorers and Hope Explored
Youth revision club
Ukraine appeal – charity football match
Year 8 'It's Your Move' workshop

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Men's Bible study
Ladies' Bible study
5 week course on 'eat well, spend less'
Reflect – baby loss awareness
Youth outings - Belfast

Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income is member's contributions through weekly donations. There were 42 contributors during the year (40 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £84,866 (£80,770 in previous year, 2022).

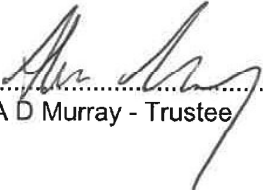
The total income of the congregation during the year was £113,323, compared to £81,236 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £100,856 in 2022 to £97,802 in 2023.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold, taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the trustees to hold between three and six month's normal expenditure. At the year end, unrestricted reserves were £30,635, which represents a higher level of reserves. The trustees however, consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent on the on-going financial support of members and to allow the purchase of a building for the charity in the future.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 3rd November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


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A D Murray - Trustee