



FORTHILL GOSPEL HALL

ANNUAL TRUSTEE AND SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

For year ending
30th September 2021

This report has been prepared by the Trustees of Forthill Gospel Hall to review the activities of the charity for the financial period of 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021 in line with the requirements of the Charities Commission and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

BACKGROUND

Forthill Gospel Hall (hereafter referred to as the charity) was first registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI) in January 2015 under registration number NI100676 at 116 Low Road, Lisburn. In 2018 our registration was changed to reflect that we are now registered as Forthill Gospel Hall Trust and we were allocated the new number NI107283. At the time of first registration and now as Forthill Gospel Hall Trust the appointed trustees were declared as follows:

Alex Connor (Secretary)
Eric Hull
Samuel Smyth
John Cromie (Treasurer)
Gary Maxwell.

Gary Maxwell has taken the decision that effective of 1st October 2020 he no longer wished to serve as a Trustee and has been duly removed from the list of Trustees. He remains an active member of the charity, but no longer serves as a trustee.

From 1st October 2020 the following named trustees are in position and as of the date of this report and have not been added to or taken from.

Alex Connor (Secretary)
Eric Hull
Samuel Smyth
John Cromie (Treasurer)

The charity is limited by guarantee and is governed by a constitution agreed by the trustees in December 2014 and approved by the Charities Commission in January 2015. In addition, the constitution refers to a Trust Deed and is supported with an Articles of Association document.

The trustees meet regularly throughout the year in accordance with the above documents, where the minutes of the previous meeting are read and agreed, a status report on our finances is discussed, distribution of monies (where applicable) is agreed as a group and various activities are reviewed and planned.

An Annual General Meeting takes place each year shortly after financial year end. A financial report and progress report of all activities, which has been compiled by the treasurer and secretary and approved by the trustees, is presented to the church as a whole and opportunity given for questions and answers. The members of the church are also invited to endorse the list of trustees on this occasion.

PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY

The charity is established for the advancement of religion through the Evangelical Christian Faith (as outlined in the First Schedule of the Trust Deed). The Trust considers that promotion of the Christian Faith has a beneficial and transformative effect on society locally and worldwide.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity has declared that the benefit to the public of its existence is that they might have a place where they can come and worship God and find fulfilment, satisfaction and peace in their lives as a result. We believe we have carried out our activities in compliance to the Charity Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

With the continuing prevalence of the Covid-19 pandemic in late 2020 into 2021 a number of activities associated with this charity have unfortunately had to be postponed throughout the time period that we are reporting on. This decision was taken in line with Government regulations on meeting in buildings and also to protect the health and welfare of our aged members. As Covid was with us for the entire 12 month period of this report (1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021) we would report as follows:

1st October 2020 – late November 2020

Our church was open every Sunday morning for 1 meeting restricted to 45 minutes and a Wednesday mid-week meeting (also lasting for 45 minutes).

This allowed safe access to those who sought to worship God and join with us in so doing within all relevant Covid guidelines and recommendations.

We then had to stop this practice for a period from 29th November 2020 due to a high spike in Covid cases within Northern Ireland and the roll out of the vaccine programme in Northern Ireland which led to greater restrictions on meeting. Due to this new lockdown guidance, we did not physically meet again and open our church until Sunday 25th April 2021 when we resumed our meetings again on the basis of a 45 minute Sunday morning meeting and a 45 minute single midweek meeting on Wednesdays.

From 29th November 2020 until 25th April 2021, we again used the 'virtual' methods of:

- A WhatsApp group so that members of the church could keep in contact with each other during isolation
- A YouTube account was created in order that recorded services could be broadcast each Sunday morning.
- Our Website was expanded to stream videos and audio messages.
- A large printed banner was located adjacent to the gates of the church to make neighbours and the general public aware of our church services on-line and offer our assistance if required to our community.

We had to postpone our planned December 2020 distribution of approximately 1000 wall calendars to every house within the vicinity of our hall along with an invitation to our Christmas carol services. We are planning, God willing to re-introduce this in December 2021 (Covid circumstances permitting).

- Forthill Gospel Hall has continued its long association with Forthill Primary School which is situated close by. At the end of this school year (June 2020) we were granted the opportunity by the school to present a bible to each year 7 pupil as they leave the school for the next stage of their education. Although the schools had been greatly impacted by government restrictions, we were still thankful and grateful to supply the Bibles in June this year.

All of these outreaches have involved church members who have given of their time freely and willingly and where applicable, are Access NI cleared to meet the requirements of our Child Protection Policy and Guidelines.

FUTURE PLANS

In accordance with government guidelines for places of worship, Forthill Gospel Hall has amended its facilities, seating and processes and procured all the necessary protection resources to enable our Sunday morning and single midweek services to take place, thereby enabling people to meet together again in person and fulfil its purposes.

The situation will be constantly reviewed for adequacy and adjusted where required to facilitate further activities to resume or reverse what has been already been implemented should government guidelines and public health concerns demand it.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The charity depends on the freewill giving of the members of the church for the upkeep of our facilities and the distribution of finance to those in need and for this the trustees acknowledge their generosity throughout the last financial year.

Additionally, many church members, and in some instances those who come to speak at our meetings, also give of their time freely. Numerous tasks are required to maintain the building and prepare as necessary for every planned event and for such no-one has wanted or received any financial recompense for their efforts.

At no time during this financial year did we have any debtors or have any financial deficit. It has always been our intention to ensure our funds can support any major unforeseen expenditure (e.g. major roof repairs) however, we are confident that our church members would support an emergency need if such arose.

Our accounts were compiled by our treasurer, reviewed and agreed by the trustees and independently audited for this financial year and approved as satisfactory. The accounts cover the full financial year and are not limited by Covid-19 restrictions. The financial report was presented to the members of the church at the AGM on 10th November 2021.

In comparison to last year, our Income and Expenditure has increased due to the thoughtfulness and generosity of our members who continued to gather and save their

weekly offering gifts cumulatively during the extended period of lockdown from 29th November 2020 until 25th April 2021. They also brought accumulated offerings / gifts to the church on the re-opening day of 4th October 2020 (which coincided as the start of our new financial year) and which was the date we met again after the 1st lockdown; as a result the combined sources of income were up by £12,552.80 which was an increase this year of 117% on last year's income.

The combined expenditure has decreased by £2,494.88 (13% of the 2019/20 figure), once again due to the Covid-19 closure. Despite the closure, expenditure to the community has increased with a local foodbank donation and 3 personal needs from within our community having been met.

The charity started the year with a balance of £8868.94 and closed with a balance of £16,134.47. This is due to the stronger giving (in comparison to the previous year) and the lower expenditure due to the longer lockdown in 2020/2021.

The trustees consider this to be a healthy financial position moving into the next financial year as all major building works and repairs to areas such as the roof and the boilers mean that the building is in a better state of repairs following 2 - 3 years of investment.

Tables 1 and 2 below show the Income and Expenditure grouped into appropriate categories.

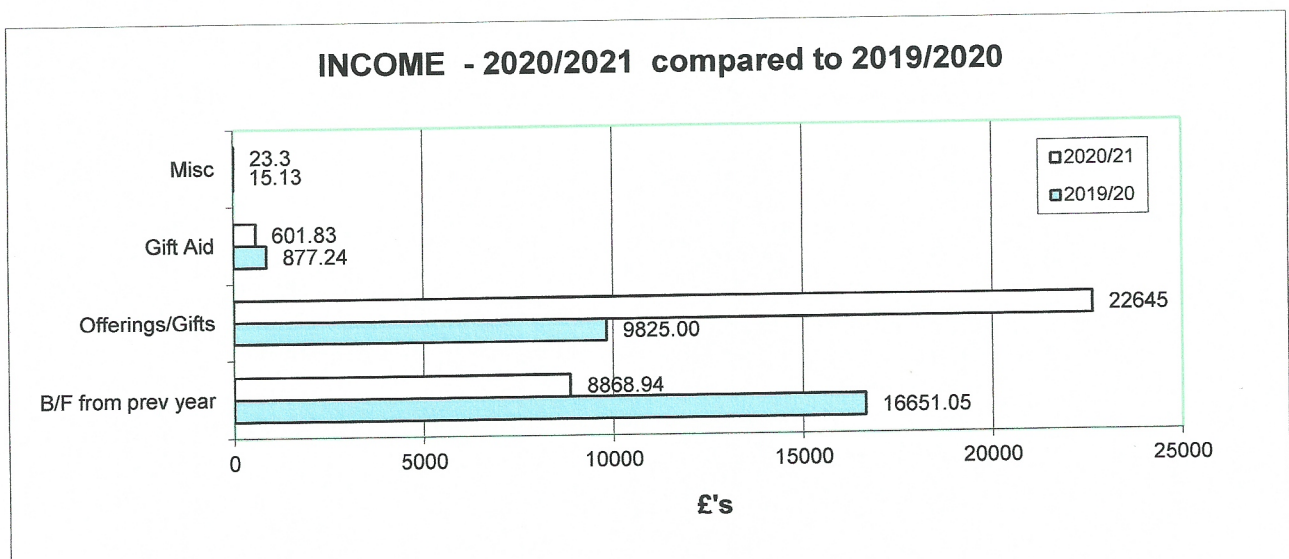


Table 1 – Income chart

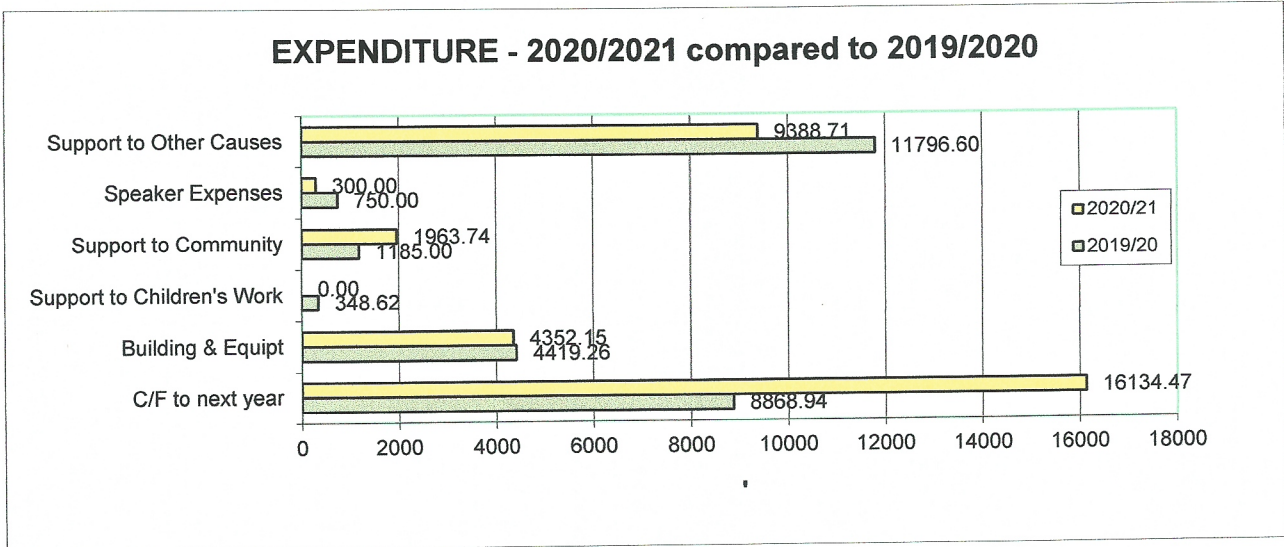


Table 2 – Expenditure chart

No expenses were paid to any of the Trustees during the year except to reimburse them for purchases made on behalf of the charity.

This document has been reviewed by each trustee and approved accordingly by signature below.

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Alex Connor

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Eric Hull

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Samuel Smyth

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John Cromie

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Date of Report Approval