

## **RATHFRILAND BAPTIST**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023.

#### **PURPOSE**

The principal purpose of Rathfriland Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Biblical principles.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on provision of public benefit and are confident that the Church fully satisfied this requirement throughout 2023 through its activities.

Sunday services and the mid-week Bible Study are livestreamed via the Churches U Tube Channel. These services are freely available on an ongoing basis on this Channel. Services are also uploaded onto SermonAudio website where they may be also freely accessed on an ongoing basis. Drive-in Gospel services were again conducted in the carpark of Rathfriland Farmers Coop, kindly granted, as a gospel outreach on Sunday afternoon from June to the middle of September.

Youth fellowship (CAST) meetings are held on alternate Sunday evenings, after the evening service, during October to April. CAST also organised a number of social events throughout the year. Our Ladies Fellowship meeting also continued on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month during the period September to May.

In addition to the usual monthly activities during 2023, a soccer club was held over the course of 4 evenings in early June as a special outreach, with over 120 boys and girls attending. A holiday bible club was also held in late July with over 170 children attending.

A number of Missionary Societies and Christian organisations attended the Fellowship to provide members the opportunity to receive information on their work.

Visitation of the sick, consolation and support of members suffering bereavement continued in 2023 as the Pastor and the Assistant Pastor, together with others from within the Fellowship, sought to provide comfort and support for those affected.

In March 2022 worked commenced on our new church complex, with the old building, which the congregation had grown out of, being demolished. The Elders and Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Rathfriland Presbyterian congregations kindly granted the use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church building where services were held from March 2022 until completion of the new Church and Hall in September 2023. The first service was held in the new building on the 30 August of 2023, with Sunday services commencing mid September and the official opening following in October 2023. The Trustees wish to record they're thanks to Walter Graham for his efforts and faithfulness in undertaking the construction of the new church complex.

**RATHFRILAND BAPTIST**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS**

Charity name: Rathfriland Baptist

Church Address: Loughbrickland Road, Rathfriland. BT34 5PZ.

Email: [ian@rathfrilandbaptist.com](mailto:ian@rathfrilandbaptist.com)

Website: [www.rathfrilandbaptist.com](http://www.rathfrilandbaptist.com)

## RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

### TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees are the members of the Church Oversight Committee which consists of Pastor, Elders and Deacons.

All male members of the Church are eligible to stand for election as a deacon unless disqualified by Statute from holding office as a trustee. Elections to the Office of Deacon are conducted at the Annual Members Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Church Meeting is open to all church members.

The Church's Constitution requires a two thirds majority of those voting for the appointment of Pastors or Elders. Elders are elected for life unless they choose to retire or leave the Fellowship. Pastors serve for the period of their pastorate.

### INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Following appointment each newly appointed Trustee receives an Induction Pack containing copies of Charity Commission for Northern Ireland publications: Running Your Charity. Trustees are also encouraged to access further information available on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland website.

The Trustees in office at 30 July 2024 and the date of signing this report were:

I Wilson	Pastor
G Anderson	
J Henry	
R Stewart	Church Secretary
G McCrum	
J Boyd	
I McConnell	Church Treasurer
E McAuley	
K McKinstry	
L McKinstry	
M Scott	

### PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No Trustee received payment for undertaking trustee duties. Payments to the Pastor relate to expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of pastor. Where Trustees purchase items on behalf of the Charity these costs may be reimbursed.

**RATHFRILAND BAPTIST  
ADVISORS**

Bankers: Danske Bank, High Street, Portadown, BT62 1LB.  
Accountants: WHR Accountants Ltd, 56 Upper English St, Armagh, BT61 7LG.  
Insurance Adviser: Kingdom Bank, Media House, Padge Rd, Beeston, HG9  
Solicitors: Bell Gordon & Son, 9 Newry St, Rathfriland, BT34 5PY

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Rathfriland Baptist Church is a registered charity. The charity is registered in Northern Ireland with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland with the charity number 107417. It has been registered as a charity since June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **RATHFRILAND BAPTIST**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd**

#### **MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees continued to meet regularly to discuss the work of the church, and to make decisions concerning the regular activities within the church, and also outreach activities. Matters are reported to Church Members via the Annual Church Members Meeting when the Report and Accounts are also presented. Matters requiring approval of a Church Members Meeting, other than appointment of Elders or Pastors, are decided by majority vote. In event of a tie the Chairman of the Church Members Meeting has a casting vote. Approval at a Church Members Meeting is required for significant projects, such as a building programme, prior to commencing any major new undertaking.

Volunteers continue to play key roles in various Departments of the Church. It is not possible to quantify this support as much is done behind the scenes. However, Rathfriland Baptist Church could not function as it does without their faithful support.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have conducted an assessment of the risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed systems and procedures to mitigate such risks. Risk assessment covering fire, health & safety and the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an ongoing process and is reviewed annually or before any new major undertaking.

## RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church is funded by voluntary gifts and donations and use is made of the Gift Aid Scheme. The church does not seek funds from other sources.

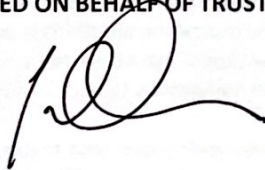
Income for the year amounted to £292,027. An amount of £47,419, recognised as income related to Gift Aid Rebates and was included as cash in bank but not received at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Expenditure amounted to £1,135,463 of which £1,061,905 related to expenditure on the new church building programme. This resulted in a cash deficit £387,555. Loan facilities were agreed with Danske bank to ensure adequate funds were available to pay for and complete capital works relating to the new church and hall complex.

The Church uses Restricted and Unrestricted Funds in its accounting policies. Restricted Funds are used for money donated to the Church for specific purposes e.g. Building Fund. Unrestricted Funds from general offerings are used for all other purposes. Any shortfalls in the Restricted Funds are made up by transfers from the Unrestricted Fund.

#### RESERVES POLICY

A policy on reserves has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The income of the church is stable, and sufficient to both meet normal expenses and pay off the cost of planned capital works. In the event of an unexpected financial need the Trustees are confident that members would respond accordingly. The Trustees are satisfied that a figure equating to approximately three months' expenditure is an appropriate level of reserve balances at the present time. Cash balance at year end exceeded the level of Reserves required.

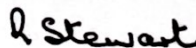
#### SIGNED ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEES BY:



**I McConnell**

Church Treasurer

Date: 15 August 2024



**R Stewart**

Church Secretary

Date: 15 August 2024