

ECF Trust

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of ECF Trust present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2023.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

As a local church, it is our desire to outwork the mission and life of Jesus to those around us. Our vision statement is "to help rewrite the story of Craigavon, Ireland and the Nations with the good news of the Kingdom of God." At Emmanuel, we seek to be a community which is there to support one another but also be equipped to serve the people in our local area to demonstrate God's love in word and action.

An example of our services and programmes are:

- As a community of faith, we gather for coffee, connection, worship, and teaching on Sundays.
- Kids and youth environments on Sunday mornings,
- Midweek Lifegroups for various age groups, demographics etc. which offer study, training and support in the Christian life and service.
- We run several drop-in coffee mornings and evenings to allow people who are lonely/isolated to gather.
- Provision of a food pantry twice per week and other compassionate support for people in need.
- Courses to help explore the English language and how this helps express a multicultural, welcoming church environment.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

BUILDING PROJECT

We celebrated the completion and occupancy of our new building in Meadow Lane, Portadown. It has been such a joy to begin to 'live into' the inheritance of this particular space. We are paying back our loan at a total of £5k per month, with tithes and offerings more than adequately covering these costs. The building continues to be internally developed in light of the various ministry needs as they evolve.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2023

CHURCH COMMUNITY

In Emmanuel Portadown, we have a regular weekly attendance of over 200 people. We were able to move into our new building in Meadow Lane in September 2023. This allowed us to have one service each Sunday morning and all the kids and youth in the same building. Our foyer is the heart of where we build family as we are able to connect with one another over tea/coffee after our Sunday gatherings.

We also use this space to develop other community and compassion activities during the week as we developed more connections in the town and further afield. We have been able to employ Trevor Kane for one day a week to help facilitate practical developments and health and safety standards within our new building.

We have been able to bless both Alain and Chris with some time for Sabbaticals, releasing them for some much needed rest and restoration as they have pioneered Emmanuel Portadown. Since Alain's return from Sabbatical, he has taken on increased responsibility within the 24/7 community which has released some funds back into the church body for further investment in employment as we seek to see the church become more established.

IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

With the move into our new building, we have seen the need for various ministries to grow to help make Sunday

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mornings function well. There has been a steady increase in attendance, with new faces coming along more regularly. We have also been able to develop an Additional Needs team to help support children who require 1:1 so they can connect well in their appropriate learning environments and see their families released into and nourished by the church community.

The different gatherings each week have been life-giving to our congregation and enabled us to provide additional support to more vulnerable people. We were delighted to be able to have both baptism and dedication services over the year to welcome people into the church family.

COURSES

We have been running English classes weekly to help provide the increasing number of multi-national families the Lord is bringing to our body. We currently have between 12-15 people attending each week. There has been much fruit from this ministry and we have been able to employ Cathy Gordon for one day a week to help facilitate this and to help grow our compassion ministries. Cathy is assisting many foreign nationals in the town with employment, housing and access to various resources provided by the local councils. She is doing a tremendous job.

LIFEGROUPS

Our Lifegroups continue to meet every other week. With about 110 people meeting together across the town in about 17 groups. This year we were able to delve deeper into our teaching series as resources have been made available through the Emmanuel Church app for lifegroup leaders to use. We have also established an 'in house' lifegroup which serves as a taster group to lifegroup for those who are curious about exploring further. We have seen a few new lifegroups form from this which has been encouraging and others have been fed into existing lifegroups.

PRAYER

With prayer in Portadown we are sharing our church space with ECL every other Wednesday night for corporate prayer. A faithful group of 6-12 people meet every Friday night in the church car park to pray around the town. These have proved to be great times of fellowship as well as prayer. Our prayer room has been well established, running weekly on Fridays from 10am- 7pm. We have also recently had a week of prayer walking around our town, and have been able to employ Karen McGuire for one day per week, sharing the cost and Karen as a resource across both Emmanuel Lurgan and Emmanuel Portadown. Prayer ministry is offered after each Sunday morning service with training taking place for everyone on the teams.

PASTORAL CARE

Debbie Leech continues to provide pastoral support for the members of our church body who require such in the various circumstances they find themselves in. We continue to support a wide range of individuals and families from those who have just had babies to those recently bereaved and a complex range of needs.

KIDS & TOTS

On average we have around 9 pre-school children and 35 / 40 Primary School kids on a Sunday, having just established our additional needs team for two children in particular. We have 9 volunteers for Kingdom Tots, approximately 25 volunteers for kingdom kids, including 4 team leaders and 8 new volunteers for our Additional Needs team. Their topic for most of this year has been women of the bible. Sunday mornings have different areas set up and kids can rotate through with a group of kids their own age – our new building has facilitated this program really well as previously the children had been using the old Iceland building which involved maintaining two sites in the interim. The programme includes Bible teaching, games, memory verses, worship and prayer.

YOUTH

We saw a big increase in the number of youth with about 12 to 18 each week. This also meant an increase in the number of volunteers to 7. They followed the Youth Alpha course and went deeper into the book of John. The youth also had several social evenings and barbeques to build friendships and a sense of fun and community, joining with Emmanuel Lurgan and Cara to build a sense of community across the churches within our borough.

LOCAL MISSION/COMPASSION

CONNECT CAFÉ

This environment provides a safe and free cafe-style environment where people can experience a warm welcome and a listening ear, they can get tea and snacks but also support, care and prayer. This environment averaged around 30- 40 visitors over the year with many people coming along regularly.

FOOD PANTRY, FOODBANK & COMPASSION SERVICES

We have been able to establish our Food Pantry in a purpose made room within the upstairs of our new facility. There is such demand for this service that Sharon has now established a second pantry session on a Friday morning too. This area of support has been key to help lift the financial burden from those in the local community as well as provide practical financial management support. There is a wonderful team of volunteers who help facilitate the running of this ministry.

We continued to provide a food bank referrals service for those in need, ensuring that vital support was given in a timely manner. Additionally, signposting was provided to other support mechanisms to provide a wrap-around

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service.

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Targeted support was given over Christmas to those in need in our local community, including food hampers, fuel, electricity, and toys. The needs of our local community continue to grow and the church seeks to find new ways to bring solutions and support. We were also able to bless the local community around the church with a token gift from everyone at Emmanuel Portadown.

LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS

As our posture is to connect, support and work together across our communities we partner both practically, prayerfully, and financially with the following local organisations: -

- 24/7 Prayer Ireland
- Aspire NI
- REACH
- LINKS Counselling
- Shalom Life
- Youth for Christ
- CAP Emmanuel Portadown
- Craigavon Foodbank
- CARA

GLOBAL MISSION

We may not be able to go all over the world regularly, but we believe it is our mandate to connect, support and we partner both practically, prayerfully, and financially with the following global organisations: -

- 24/7 Prayer International
- Paul & Julie Swaffield (WEC International)
- We continue to financially and prayerfully support Wayne & Sue Robinson and their family who are living as missionaries in Madrid, Spain. They are part of the WEC team there and are still in the language learning phase, while also developing connections to the local community and supporting local churches and ministries. Keith and Sharon also spent some

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 12 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £1,494,146 (2022 - £791,553) and liabilities of £392,969 (2022 - £58,965). The net assets of the company have increased by £368,589.

Trustees

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

David Wylie
Warwick McCullough
Jonathan Andrew Beggs
Alan Emerson
Philip Emerson

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Leonard Adamson

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. ECF Trust subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

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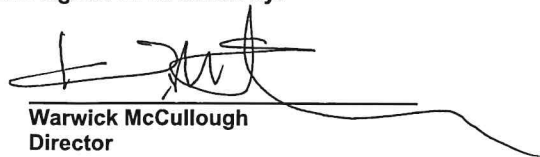
The Auditors

The auditors, Daly Park & Company Limited, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Philip Emerson
Director



Warwick McCullough
Director

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of ECF Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A (Small Entities). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

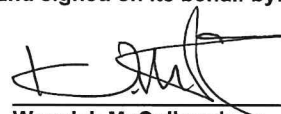
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Philip Emerson
Director


Warwick McCullough
Director