

Church of God at Shankill
Unaudited Financial Statements
30 September 2023

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Church of God at Shankill

Financial Statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

	Page
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	8
Statement of financial activities	9
Statement of financial position	10
Notes to the financial statements	11

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Church of God at Shankill

Charity registration number 108326

Principal office Church Of God Shankill
225 Conway Street
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT13 2DE

The trustees

Pastor S Reynolds

Pastor T Bell

Mr D B Sales

Pastor A Stephens

Pastor J Ogle

(Resigned 27 August 2023)

Company secretary Elizabeth McComish

Independent examiner Finegan Gibson
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

Structure, governance and management

As a charity we:

A. Organise weekly services and other gathering for members and non-members, to present the teachings of the Bible and to provide opportunities for Christian response, including but not limited to prayer and worship. The meetings are free of charge and open to all, and the public benefit of such meetings through the promotion of family stability and wellbeing and increased ability to contribute positively to society for those attending. Provide support and guidance to those activities of its members that seek to promote in Northern Ireland an understanding of the Christian beliefs as set out in the Church's basis of faith through practical expression of Christian beliefs and ideals in the community. The benefit of such support and guidance is to enable those members to be better able to serve in the community. The Churches of God provides teaching and training opportunities for members, using the resources of the staff employed by the Church and also external courses and events.

B. Assists the work of individual Christians and Christian organisations, insofar as the work, whether in Northern Ireland or abroad accords with the Church's aims. The public benefit of providing donations to such charitable organisations is expected to be in accordance with their aims and purposes. We make donations as agreed by the members of the Church. The purpose of these donations includes the promotion of religious activity, relief of poverty, training and equipping, work with youth and the elderly, homeless and other local and national charities.

Risk Management

The Trustees' have conducted an assessment of the risks that the congregation is exposed to and have reviewed systems and procedures to mitigate against such risks. Risk assessments covering fire, health & safety, safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults are an ongoing concern and are reviewed at least annually or before any new major undertaking.

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

Objectives and activities

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objectives contained in constitution are to:

- To proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by every scriptural and legitimate means, including preaching, publishing and the distribution of literature;
- To teach Believers the whole counsel of God as contained in the Holy Scriptures;
- To help and support those in need both spiritually and practically;
- To adhere to the Guiding Principles of The Churches of God in Ireland.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes that the charity was set up to further.

We also advance religion by other charitable activities to further the purposes of the Churches of God:

A. Assist the work of individual Christians and Christian Organisations, insofar as that work, whether in Northern Ireland or abroad, accords with the Church's aims. The public benefit of providing support and resources to such charitable organisations is expected to be in accordance with their aims and purposes, which include religious activity, relief of poverty, training and equipping, work with youth and the elderly, homeless and others in need, primarily but not exclusively in Northern Ireland.

B. Carry out acts of social concern to benefit persons in Northern Ireland facing hardship on the basis of their need. The public benefit of these acts is expected to be in the area of poverty relief, caring, youth and the elderly people's activities aimed at promoting their health, wellbeing, spiritual life and education and is addressed by church activities, volunteer activities of individual members and also by donations to appropriate charitable organisations and activities as agreed each year by the members of the Church.

C. Develop relationships with other Churches in Northern Ireland as well as nationally and overseas, which are mutually beneficial in advancing our aims. The public benefit of such association is expected to be in community events and undertaken in conjunction with other Churches in Northern Ireland to enable us to coordinate our work with other Churches in Northern Ireland. The benefit is demonstrated through the ongoing numbers attending our Children's and Youth organisations, along with our general programme of activities and services provided for both young and old. It is also demonstrated through the amount of practical provisions made available for those in need and through ongoing relationships with other agencies identifying those needs. We do not see any harm being caused by our charity, we are not invasive and do not push ourselves or our faith on anyone. We only help those who will allow us to help them. Followers or adherents of the church doctrine, potential followers and the wider public.

The benefits of the charity are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose of the charity does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to those who are employed by the charity or volunteers who claim volunteer expense for their service. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

Achievements and performance

Worship, Prayer, and Bible Study

The congregation meets for:

- Our main services on Sunday at 11am and 6:45pm. Tea and coffee are available after our evening service where we had the opportunity to have fellowship with one another.
- Our weekly Bible Study on Monday at 8pm, during September - June.
- Our weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday at 8pm.
- Our monthly Women's meeting on the first Monday of each month at 8pm, during September - June.

Throughout the year we held some services of Thanksgiving for the life of members of the church and local community who died during the year. During the month of November, we welcomed our Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies and their families to their Annual Services of Enrolment.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care visitation is mainly carried out by our minister, Pastor Stephen Reynolds. Some members of the congregation help to some extent with this important ministry. We make every effort to support our elderly members who are no longer able to attend worship and those members who are unwell, in hospital or recently bereaved. When required by members of the congregation, formal counselling sessions can be provided by those who are qualified to offer these services.

Mission and Outreach

The congregation is committed to, and active in, outreach to the Greater Shankill Community. Sharing the message of the Christian Gospel is a vital part of the programme of all our work. Additionally, we have other activities which have an intentional outreach emphasis. As a congregation we support many local charities throughout the year. The congregation supports local and international mission work through various mission projects. We sponsor two children through The SonShine Club Kenya Project.

Programmes

276th Girls' Brigade Company Northern Ireland

Our Girls' Brigade meet on a Monday and Wednesday evenings. They provide a varied programme of activities that share the good news of the Christian Gospel. The activities also help to challenge the girls, teach them new skills, helps them to make new friends, encourages them, and helps them to grow in self-confidence and self-esteem.

2nd Belfast Boys' Brigade Company Northern Ireland

Our Boys' Brigade meet on a Tuesday and Friday evenings. They provide a varied programme of activities that share the good news of the Christian Gospel. The activities also help to challenge the boys, teach them new skills, helps them to make new friends, encourages them, and helps them to grow in self-confidence and self-esteem.

Kidz Club

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

Kidz Club provides a weekly drop in youth club for primary school aged children. During the evening, they have the opportunity to take part in informal activities such as games, pool, table tennis, air hockey, computer games, board games, arts and craft, baking, and going on outings. Not only does Kidz Club offer a wide range of activities for children, but it also provides a safe space and helps to divert children from anti-social behaviour and interface violence.

Saturday Night Youth Club

Saturday night Youth Club provides a weekly drop in youth club for secondary school aged children. During the evening, they have the opportunity to take part in informal activities such as games, pool, table tennis, air hockey, computer games, board games, arts and craft, baking, and going on outings. Not only does Saturday Night Youth Club offer a wide range of activities for children, but it also provides a safe space and helps to divert children from anti-social behaviour and interface violence.

Small Group Study Support Group

Every Thursday afternoon we provide support to 12 children who are hoping to take the Transfer Test as they prepare to move to secondary education. This support is provided by a qualified teacher who has a vast amount of experience in working with children through the Transfer Test process. We also support the parents with practical advice on how best they can support and encourage their child.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We currently have a group who are working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They are supported by our volunteers for the skills, volunteering and physical sections and by Belfast Activity Centre for their expedition section.

Parents and Toddlers Group

Our Parents and Toddlers Group meet on a Friday morning during term time. This provides an opportunity for babies and toddlers to play and learn with their peers. It also provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and carers to meet with others, develop friendships, and offer peer advice.

Holiday Programmes

Throughout the year we provide activities for children and young people during the school holidays. These activities took place in the October half Term, February half Term, and Easter Holidays. Those who attend engage in a wide variety of activities including centre-based activities and outings. Our main holiday programme runs over the summer months and included an arts and craft week focusing on emotional well-being, a multi sports week focusing on physical health, and three activity weeks providing a wide variety of activities including centre-based activities and outings.

Ladies knitting and craft Group

Every Thursday evening from 6:30pm - 9pm ladies from the congregation and members of the local community meet to take part in knitting and craft activities. These activities are peer led and peer taught. The evening not only provides an opportunity for ladies to learn and develop new skills, but also the opportunity to meet with others to improve their mental health and reduce isolation.

Narcotics Anonymous Group

The NA Group is not an activity provided by the congregation; we are happy accommodate them in our youth centre on Saturday afternoons. The congregation acknowledges the vital support this group is to those struggling with addiction.

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

Social Concern Projects

Throughout the year we have supported several families and individuals with emergency food parcels, gas, and electricity. Where we have been unable to meet the need, usually due to logistical reasons, we have referred families and individuals on to other support services within the community. Working with a wider network of community organisations, we were able to provide 15 families with a meal on Christmas day.

During July and August, we once again held our annual Outgrown School Uniform Recycling Project. With the support of local schools and families we collected in good quality used school uniforms and received donations of new school uniforms or cash to purchase uniform items. These uniforms were then distributed to families who need support with kitting out their children with a school uniform for the new academic year. Those uniforms that were donated and of a poor quality were recycled through our clothing recycling bin in partnership with Cookstown Textile Recyclers.

Volunteer Development Project

The Trustees' are extremely grateful to the individuals who partner with us and gift their valuable time to serve the community. They acknowledge the vital role they each play in making our work possible.

Throughout the years volunteers have taken part in various training courses. These have included Induction Training, Safeguarding Training, Designated Person Training, First Aid Training, Fire Safety Training, Health and Safety Training, Mental Health First Aid Training, and Education and Training Adults Training.

We also have a young volunteer development project for those young people aged from 14 to 21. These young volunteers gift their time in various weekly projects and activities.

Financial review

The statement of financial activities reported below covers the 12 month period from 1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023. These show income of £70,152 for the period against which expenditure of £70,266 was incurred, resulting in a net deficit of £114.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees acknowledge that a reserves policy is not in place. Realising the need for such a policy, especially after the vulnerability faced by the congregation during the CO-VID-19 pandemic, it is the Trustees' intention to develop a reserves policy and explore how such a policy can be implemented, in the next financial year.

Plans for future periods

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Church of God at Shankill

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 30 September 2023

The trustees' annual report was approved on 29 July 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S'.

Pastor S Reynolds
Trustee