

THE DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

England & Wales · Charity number 235572

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1964-06-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 3 Idaho Gardens
Darlington
County Durham
DL1 2RG

Phone 07943251357

Email dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk

Website www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") ARE A)TO RELIEVE THE POVERTY, SICKNESS, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS OF THOSE IN NEED IN THE BOROUGH OF DARLINGTON THROUGH THE PROVISION OF PRACTICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, ADVICE, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT AND BY ANY OTHER CHARITABLE MEANS THAT THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR DISCRETION THINK FIT, IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE SAID BENEFICIARIES QUALITY OF LIFE. B)TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY HOLDING SERVICES OF WORSHIP WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.

Activities: To relieve poverty, sickness, hardship and distress of those in need in the Borough of Darlington through the provision of practical and material assistance, advice, information and support and by any other charitable means, in order to improve the quality of life.To advance the Christian faith particularly but not exclusively by holding services of worship

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT
- Darlington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£25,512	£39,520	-	-
2023-12-31	£23,270	£36,733	-	-
2022-12-31	£92,825	£28,043	-	-
2021-12-31	£22,083	£27,540	-	-
2020-12-31	£29,466	£30,501	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BRIAN SIMPSON		2015-04-09
Dermot Winters		2021-04-27
JULIA BEAN		2012-03-31
John Dobbin		2020-06-30
Mary Drury		2014-03-25
Penny Moon		2025-05-08
Victoria McCourt		2025-10-07

THE DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

England & Wales - Charity number 235572

Accounts

Annual Report

for the Year March 2024 – May 2025



**Darlington
Town
Mission**

Enriching Elderly Lives



Darlington Town Mission

Tel: 0794 3251357

Founded 1838

Registered Office – 3 Idaho Gardens , Darlington, Co Durham DL1 2RG

Reg. Charity Number: 235572

'We aim to provide relief from isolation and loneliness in the elderly by visiting, providing social contact and Christian Fellowship.'

www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024 - 2025

	page
Contents	2
Our Vision, Beliefs, Achievements and Appreciation for the year	3
What do we do?	4
What are loneliness and social isolation?	5 - 6
Chair's Annual Report	7
Missioner's review of the year 2024/25	8
Latest Marketing News	9 - 10
Notes from Jeroen, Sheena and Penny	11
Organisations that support us	12
How could you support us?	13
Trustee's Financial Report for members	14 - 19

Our Vision

It is to reduce isolation and provide companionship.

Our Beliefs

That every person is entitled to a good quality of life through fellowship and social support which combats isolation.

To achieve this, DTM normally:

- Carry out home visits
- Provide companionship to our Friends individually or through a busy programme of group social events supported by a wonderful team of volunteer drivers
- Provide Acts of Worship when we are able
- Provide a limited accompanying service for urgent appointments
- Provide a monthly afternoon get-together club for a small number of Friends. This is called the Friend's Forum meeting.

Achievements and Appreciation for 2024-25

During the year the charity carried out 1,647 Visits, contacted Friends by telephone or texts to Friends 3,164 times to relieve our Friend's isolation.

We have also helped our Friends with transport to 116 medical appointments and made 141 shopping trips for Friends. Provided transport to church for 47 people and attended 24 funerals and 13 care home service attendances. We have also organised monthly get togethers at the Friend's Forum get afternoon meetings at Parkgate Community Centre. We are most grateful to be offered this excellent venue to use and to Brian Cooper who often provides quizzes etc. The Missioners are helped by a small team of DTM volunteers who offer transport and catering help. Thank you to them. We could accommodate a few more Friends to the Forum meetings if we had additional drivers to help.

We currently have two part time Missioners, Sue Wriglesworth and Jeroen Hoogland. Jeroen is covering for the maternity leave of Lauren Hebden who is due to return to work for the charity in September.

At Christmas there was another very successful appeal to buy hampers for all our Friends. We gathered seasonal items from local shops and took over the church hall at Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church to pack the hampers. Thank you to the many volunteers that helped with this. There was lots of volunteer packers and distributors. Each hamper included a DTM Christmas Card for all our Friends. All our Friends in care homes were given alternative gifts.



The monthly care home Songs of Praise at North Park Care Home has recently been re-located to Springfield Care Home in Wylam Avenue. The welcome at our new venue has been wonderful and the attendance of residents at the first afternoon was excellent. We are grateful for our two talented organists that play for these services. Geoff Thompson and Jeroen Hoogland are just two of our volunteers we value so much.

For the remainder of 2025 many other outings are in the pipeline including a visit to Dot's Café at Darlington Mart, Strikes Garden Centre, visit to The Forum Music Centre for refreshments and a professional singer, and another Christmas Crafting afternoon organised by The Creation Station team. There is a fourth return trip to the seaside at Seaton Carew for lunch, but this time at The Menu Hotel. The seaside trips are supported by the legacy of Rita Malcolm who was one of our Friends.

What we do

The Darlington Town Mission was founded in 1838 by three local businessmen - John Backhouse and John Pease who were well known Quakers and John Hopkins, an Anglican.



The original aims of the charity were as follows:

- *"To relieve poverty, sickness, hardship, and distress of those in need in the Borough of Darlington through the provision of practical and material assistance, information, and support and by any other charitable means that the Trustees in their discretion think fit, in order to improve the said beneficiaries' quality of life.*
- *To advance the Christian faith particularly but not exclusively by holding services of worship where appropriate".*

Many of these aims are achieved today in the following ways:

- The Mission employs two Missioners who work with a number of volunteers
- Visit people in their homes and in hospital to offer practical and material assistance, information, and pastoral support
- Arrange trips out and other social events
- Through exemplifying Christian love and service in the work we do, as well as arranging acts of Christian worship

We are now focusing our activities on relieving loneliness and isolation among the elderly in Darlington. All our charitable activities focus on improving quality of life and are done to further our charitable purpose for the public benefit.

What are Loneliness and Isolation?

Loneliness and **social isolation** are related but distinct concepts. These notes may help:

1. Loneliness:

- Loneliness is a **subjective feeling** that arises from the gap between a person's **desired levels of social contact** and their **actual level of social contact**.
- It refers to the **perceived quality** of a person's relationships.
- People can feel lonely even when surrounded by others, and it's a distressing emotion that is never desired.
- Lessening feelings of loneliness may take time and involves addressing the quality of relationships

2. Social Isolation:

- Social isolation, on the other hand, is an **objective measure** of the **number of social contacts** a person has.
- It focuses on the **quantity** rather than the quality of relationships.
- Someone can be socially isolated (having few social connections) without feeling lonely.
- Increasing the number of social contacts can help overcome social isolation relatively quickly.

3. Relationship Between Loneliness and Social Isolation:

- Social isolation can **lead to loneliness**, as lack of social connections may result in feelings of loneliness.
- Conversely, loneliness can also lead to social isolation.
- Both may occur simultaneously, and people experience varying levels of each throughout their lives.



In summary, while social isolation is about the **number of contacts**, loneliness is about the **quality of relationships**. Recognizing this distinction is crucial for addressing loneliness effectively and ensuring that solutions focus not only on increasing opportunities for social interaction but also on building and maintaining meaningful relationships.

Why is it important to distinguish between loneliness and social isolation?

'Loneliness has been an emerging social issue for many years, with organisations including Age UK and the Campaign to End Loneliness raising its profile.

There are many national organisations that support older people. There aren't the same number of local organisations that offer this support. Darlington Town Mission are unique in this field.

But it isn't just bringing people together socially, it is the quality of the relationships that is invaluable. Darlington Town Mission strives to address both social interactions and good quality of relationships between Missioners DTM Volunteers and our Friends. That is, bringing people together to increase the number of social contacts is not an end in itself – we try to combat loneliness, and offer quality of relationships which are far more important than casual social encounters.

DTM also provides a spiritual dimension in providing access to Christian fellowship and ecumenical worship. For those Friends who are Christian we aim to nurture them in their faith, and for those of other faiths or none, to support them equally in our caring.

A Prayer for the Darlington Town Mission Family

*Compassionate Heavenly Father,
From the beginning of time, you said that it was not good for us to be alone
We need company and community.
But there are those in our care who are now more isolated than ever during this time.
We pray for the lonely, the isolated and the vulnerable who feel the strain of this
extraordinary solitude.*

*Please be especially near to Friends and volunteers alike.
We pray for our Missioners that they may feel Your presence. May all Darlington Town
Mission family know that they are not alone. Put them on the hearts of Your people who can
reach out to them in love, give them special grace to flourish in unexpected ways, and may
they feel your love and grace in their lives.*

*We pray for them and all those involved with our charity in so many ways. In the name of
Christ, our risen Saviour, and our ultimate 'Friend'.*

Amen.

Chair's Annual Report 2024-2025

Being part of this amazing charity brings many delightful encounters with Missioners, volunteers, our Friends and other supporters. My wife, Vanessa and I have been volunteers for DTM for some time and enjoy being a small part of the support that the charity gives to all those older people of Darlington that we care for.



As a charity, we rely entirely on voluntary donations, legacies and business sponsorship to keep our finances on track. This can be challenging when the cost of outings seem to be escalating along with increasing salary costs. It would be great if anyone reading this article could consider giving financial support to the charity. Our Friends have, quite rightly, never been asked to contribute to the cost of outings. I hope that this can continue.

Others may wish to explore the possibility of becoming DTM volunteers themselves. We are always in need of new volunteers. Over the past year some volunteers have had to step back from office due to personal circumstances. We wish to thank them for many years of service and wish them well for the future. They include our previous Chair, Rev John Bower, Mary Drury, Bette Dobson and Vanessa Foster.

We have welcomed some new members to the team including our new secretary, Penny Moon. I pray that they will be blessed and feel confirmed in the service they offer. We really need additional Trustees with special interests and experience to help us.

We also reflect that we have sadly said goodbye to those "Friends" who have died, they have been called home by the Lord. We give thanks for their lives.

Love and care is at the heart of Darlington Town Mission in all it aims to achieve. So please give thanks for all that has been achieved and look forward to the future with hope.

It has been my privilege to serve as chair of Darlington Town Mission over the last year.

With every blessing

Brian Simpson

Missioner's Review of the Year 2024-25

We have had some lovely outings so far this year. The first was the Epiphany Party in January (Monday 13th) at St Thomas Aquinas church hall. We decorated crowns and wore them. Brian sang while Jeroen accompanied him on the keyboard. Of course, we had to sing the Carol - "We three kings"

In February we were once again back to the church hall at St Thomas Aquinas church, to celebrate Valentine's day on Thursday 13th February. We made Valentine's cards and Sue Case did a brilliant picture quiz and a music quiz, which was really entertaining - guessing the song and the singer!

On Wednesday 13th March we were at Elm Ridge church Hall, for our Easter outing. Creation Station brought lovely terracotta pots to decorate and planted little daffodil bulbs into the pots. Friends have been delighted to watch them bloom around Easter time. We had hot cross buns to eat to keep us in the spirit of Eastertime.

On Wednesday 9th April our outing was to Darlington cricket club. A lady called Lynn demonstrated chair exercises, and I don't know about anyone else, but I had a few aching muscles the next day!

DTM have a new volunteer called Vicky McCourt who will drive a friend to her first outing at QE 6th form college on Thursday 8th May as they have invited us to their VE Day celebrations. The college are always very kind and generous to our friends, and we really can't thank them enough for their hospitality.

Sadly, Vanessa Foster has stepped down from volunteering with Town Mission due to her own family commitments. We could always do with new volunteers ,who are willing to drive for outings, and are grateful to those faithful volunteers who have been driving for many years.

On Thursday 12th June, Creation Station are having a fundraising evening for Town Mission in the Vault under the covered market, 7-9pm called Sip and Paint at a cost of £25.

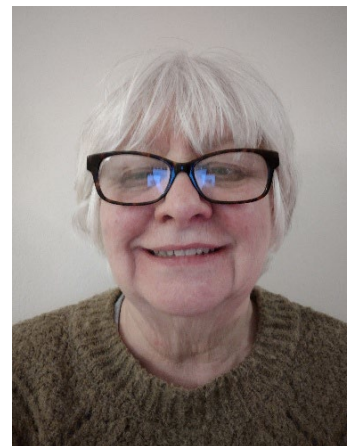
Julia Bean's friends have arranged a barbecue on Saturday 16th August at Paradise Farm in Croft DL2 2TQ in support of Darlington Town Mission. Tickets are £25 each and can be obtained from Julia.

Brian Simpson does a sponsored sing each year at Haughton Methodist church, and this year it is on Saturday 8th November to raise money for our charity.

To all our Friends, thank you for allowing us into your homes. It is a real privilege for us, and please remember that we are always here for you.

God bless.

Sue Wriglesworth and Jeroen Hoogland



Latest Marketing News

In February we took a stand at the Volunteer Fayre run by Darlington Borough Council at the Dolphin centre. It was a great day chatting to lots of people interested in knowing more about DTM and the fantastic work we all do. We recruited a number of new volunteers so we can visit and support even more elderly people.

We continue to advertise in the 'One Darlington' magazine allowing us to raise public awareness of DTM, attract new volunteers, business sponsors and promote our fundraising events.

Fundraising

We are always looking for fresh ideas to raise funds so here is what we are up to across the summer months:

Art Sale

In the March edition of One Darlington, we promoted the launch of our online Art Sale where the public can purchase a painting by Rev. John Bower directly from the DTM website. This is a first and we'll be promoting the sale on our social media platforms using Facebook and Instagram.



Dates for your diary:

Sip & Paint

Thursday May 15th from 7pm -9pm at The Vault in Darlington town centre. Philippa from The Creation Station is running a fun fundraising painting class and is kindly donating 50% of ticket sales to DTM. Everything is provided, paints, brushes & a canvas and her fantastic expertise. If you have always fancied trying your hand at creating your own masterpiece then this is for you!

A glass of fizz, a beer or soft drink included in the ticket price. All this for only £20. If you'd like to come along, then please email marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk and Julia Bean will be in touch. We hope to see you there.

DTM Summer Barbecue

You are all invited on Saturday 16th August from 2pm onwards to a summer barbecue just outside Croft. The event is hosted by our longtime supporters Pete & Nikki who kindly give up their time and home to host this event. It's a great afternoon with live

music, fabulous barbie food for everyone , a great way to spend an afternoon with your friends. Please see notice below for details.



A reminder on how you can raise funds for DTM whenever you, your family and your friends shop online. Spread the word !

Go to 'Give as You Live' (www.giveasyoulive.com) and simply hit the sign up for free button, enter your details and make Darlington Town Mission your chosen charity. Every time you shop using this website you will be raising money for DTM.

There are over 6,000 stores on the website, all of which give a % of the sale to a charity of the shoppers choice. All the big national stores and brands for clothing, electricals, home and garden, beauty and cosmetics, jewellery, travel & insurance - whatever you are shopping for it's all there. Think John Lewis, B&Q, Damart, AO.com. Dunelm etc...

Thank you for your support

John Dobbin & Julia Bean - Marketing Team

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From one of our new Friends – Sheena McGarry



On Good Friday I celebrate my 90th birthday. I am the only one in my family (the Stephenson's) to have reached this age and I thank the Lord that He has kept me through these past years. I have had some turbulent times, but all for His glory, to make me stronger in my walk with Him, to prove His presence and love. I trust Him for my future whatever it may bring. I know that one day I'll be in heaven, and always with Him (John 3:16).

Sheena

A Greeting from our Assistant Missioner – Jeroen Hoogland

In the Autumn of 2023 I became a volunteer for the Darlington Town Mission. The work of the Charity appealed to me, and I wanted to support it. I started to visit some Friends and became a driver to outings. Then, to my pleasant surprise, I was asked to cover the role of Assistant Missioner during the year of Lauren's maternity leave. For me this was a lovely opportunity to get more involved and meet more Friends.



Six months into the role I can say I am really enjoying it. I feel privileged to be with you and listen to such a wealth of experience, insight and knowledge. It is precious. I am grateful for the hospitality that you have shown me during this time and the ways in which you shared with me your joys and sorrows.

Jeroen

From our new Secretary and Trustee – Penny Moon

I was born at the old Greenbank Maternity Hospital (a while ago), my family all being from around Darlington. However, as a youngster we moved often and only visited Darlington at Christmas and on special occasions to see my grandparents.



I married (and divorced) late in life and have one daughter, Kathryn, who is currently enjoying working on a cruise in Antarctica where she organises entertainment for the guests including singing for them. My brother lives in the USA with his family and I get to see him from time to time.

My faith is very important in my life, and I am pleased to be working alongside two charities with a Christian ethos. Life is busy as I also volunteer at St Mary's Food Bank in Cockerton and at The Well Methodist Church on North Road once a week. I have enjoyed helping at two DTM outings so far and look forward to meeting more volunteers and Friends as time goes on.

Penny Moon

ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED US IN 2024-2025

The Missioner has been engaging with other groups, working with older people, exchanging ideas and practices. The Mission would like to thank the following;

Those venues / organisations that have hosted or sponsored some of our outings in 2024-5

Elm Ridge, Harrowgate Hill and Haughton Methodist Churches
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
Darlington Cricket Club
The Marine Hotel, Seaton Carew
Middleton Hall Retirement Village, Middleton-St-George
Summerhouse Village Hall
Poplar Tree Garden Centre
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
Strikes Garden Centre
The Lions and the Rotary Club
Darlington College – marketing project

Those companies that have sponsored our adverts in the One Darlington magazine in the past:

Blackett Hart and Pratt (BHP Law)
Seaton Leng
The Core Company Ltd
Real Property UK Ltd

Park Place Community Centre for accommodating the Friends' Forum.

Churches of various denominations for the support they give to the work of the Mission and individuals who have supported us financially.

Local Giving and the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust for their grant to enable us to set up Craft events.

Darlington Rotary Club, Amazon, SAP User Group Ltd and Morrison's (North Road) that supplied hot cross buns for our Easter craft outing this year.

And all the local businesses who are displaying DTM donations boxes at their service points.

Thank you all for your generous support.

DTM Trustees

HOW COULD YOU SUPPORT US?

a) Volunteering opportunities

We could not provide the service we do without the input of our volunteers. They provide assistance across the board from visiting our Friends, driving, and accompanying them on outings, and participating in our monthly care home acts of worship. We are so grateful to them for the time and effort they put in and we do our best to make sure their involvement is both fulfilling and rewarding.

If you would you like to join as part of our pool of volunteer drivers who take our Friends on monthly outings organised by our Missioner, or if you would like to relieve the loneliness of elderly people by spending a couple of hours a week visiting, please call our Missioner on 07943251357 or Email dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk for further information. With your help we could enrich many more elderly people's lives. We would love to hear from you.

b) Financial support

To continue and expand our services we rely on the generosity of individuals, churches and groups. If you wish to donate you can do so online at:

www.localgiving.com/darlingtontownmission or [send a cheque to our address or Email us at \[dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk\]\(mailto:dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk\)](#) for details of other means of giving.

You can even raise funds for us by shopping online using the amazing website that supports charities like ours. It costs you nothing at all, simply go to www.giveasyoulive.com and:

1. Sign up choosing Darlington Town Mission as your chosen charity
2. Choose from over 4,200 stores to shop with
3. Click through to the store from their site & shop as usual
4. They donate a % of your spending to us - for free!

If you are interested in helping with our fundraising, you can join our Fundraising Team. They are currently seeking extra people with fund-raising knowledge to help out.

Please contact us for more details or if you wish to do a sponsored fundraising event for us you can open a fundraising page on our local giving website as above.

Trustee's report, independently examined financial statements and administrative information

Registered address for correspondence is -
Darlington Town Mission, c/o 3 Idaho Gardens, Darlington, Co Durham DL1 2RG
Registered Charity No. 235572

TRUSTEES as at 31st December 2024:

Mr Brian Simpson (Chair)
Mr Derek Mills (Treasurer)
Ms Julia Bean
Mr John Dobbin
Mrs Mary Drury
Mr Dermot Winters

HON. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Ian Groves

BANKERS:

Barclays Bank PLC

INVESTMENT ADVISORS:

Charles Stanley & Co

ORGANISATION

The Mission is an unincorporated body governed by a constitution. It is run by an Executive Committee whose members act as the Trustees of the Charity. Trustees are elected by the members for a term of three years and then may stand for re-election. Membership of the Mission is open to persons over the age of eighteen who are interested in furthering the aims of the Charity.

The Executive Committee which is responsible for overall management and policy meets at least three times a year. The day to day running of the Mission is delegated to a Management Sub Committee which meets with the Missioners in a monthly planning meeting. The Management Sub Committee consists of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Our Missioners are invited to join the Management sub-committee as a guest and employee.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2024

In the year to 31 December 2024 the Mission had an operating deficit of £14,775 as against a deficit of £11,785 in the previous year.

Unrestricted income for the year was £22,429, as against £22,319 in 2023. Therefore, income remained roughly the same, but the composition of the income stream was different. Income from donations and dividends increased, but income from fundraising events fell.

Expenditure for the year was £36,994 as against £34,104 last year, an increase of 8%. Our Assistant Missioner went on Maternity leave in August last year at which point we appointed one of our volunteers to cover her work on a fixed term contract basis. We were able to offset Statutory Maternity Pay against the amount due to HMRC for Paye and Ni due to them. However, since September we were unable to do it this way and the amount at that date recoverable at 31st December of £1,566 which we can only claim direct from HMRC at the end of the current tax year i.e. in April 2025.

The Happy Hampers Appeal was very successful and raised £2,293 of this £1,466 was spent on providing Christmas Hampers to our Friends. As this money was donated specifically for that purpose the surplus of £827 has been put to restricted reserves.

Dividend income, increased to £8,047 from £6,446 last year.

The current estimated yield of the portfolio is now 3.29% as against 3.11%, in 2023

The fees charged at £3,010 as against £2,883 last year.

Derek Mills

Treasurer

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts are properly prepared. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and to ensure that the Charity complies with its Constitution, Charity Commission guidelines, and any other relevant legislation or regulations, and to ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Charity.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

I have independently examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024 and the Balance Sheet as at that date from the books, records and information supplied to me and confirm them to be in accordance therewith.

I Groves.

A. C. A. Independent Examiner

RESERVES POLICY

In drawing up this policy the Executive Committee had regard to securing and sustaining the Mission's viability and future, given the uncertainty of future legacies, donations, and investment income. We are aware that the service we provide is an integral and essential part of the life of our Friends and to cut back or withdraw our services would provide real hardship.

The Mission's non restricted income in 2024 came from individuals, organisations, and church donations - (53%), Legacies (4%) Fundraising (8%), and investment income (35%).

The Mission requires reserves in order:

- 1) to cover fluctuations in income principally legacies but also in other sources of income. For several previous years, the Mission's expenditure has only been fully covered in years where legacies and grants have been received. The level of other sources of income is also becoming uncertain. Most church's ability to give has been restricted by hard financial times and church closures. Investment returns continue to be volatile.
- 2) to provide for staff contractual commitments and working capital. Staff contractual commitments are likely to increase in future due to statutory increases in the living wage and automatic enrolment into a pension scheme.

The Trustees believe that they should set the level of reserves held to forty-eight months of full operating expenditure as a reserve against fluctuations in income due to unforeseen circumstances such as we have seen as a result of the Ukrainian War and for contractual commitments and working capital.

Currently this level of Reserves has been exceeded. However, estimates of future costs show that these will rise faster than projected income.

A review of the level of reserves needed and of this policy will be carried out annually by the Executive Committee.

Darlington Town Mission
Income & Expenditure Account
and Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2024

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
<i>Income and Endowments from:</i>				
Donations	11,760	-	9,427	-
Legacies	938		787	
Grants & Sponsorship	-	1,000	-	950
Fundraising See note 3 re Happy Hampers appeal	1474	2,293	5,659	-
Investments	8047	-	6,446	-
Total Income	22,219	3,293	22,319	950
<i>Expenditure on:</i>				
Salaries	27,267	-	22,598	-
Travel	2,230	-	2,686	-
Outings	1,707	-	1,117	1,527
Insurance	469	-	540	-
Publicity	-	1,060	-	1,102
Equipment Depreciation	-	-	101	-
Happy Hampers	-	1,466	2,464	-
Postage, stationery & Telephone	1,383		808	-
Sundries	928	-	907	-
Investment managers fee	3,010	-	2,883	-
Total Expenditure	36,994	2,526	34,104	2,629
Surplus/(Deficit)	(14,775)	767	(11,785)	(1,679)
Profit/(Loss) on sale of investments	3,561	-	44	-
Funds as at 1 st January 2024	218,325	-	230,066	1,679
Funds as at 31st December 2024	207,111	0	218,325	0

Darlington Town Mission

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investments Note 2	194,927	193,442
	194,927	193,442
Current Assets		
Debtors	241	185
Cash at bank & in hand	13,193	25,905
	13,434	26,090
Liabilities		
Accruals	(483)	(1,206)
Deferred Income	-	-
	(483)	(1,206)
Net current assets	12,951	24,884
Net assets	207,878	218,326
Funds:		
Unrestricted	207,111	218,326
Restricted Note 3	767	-
Total Funds	207,878	218,326

Approved by the Trustees on 4th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Brian Simpson

Derek Mills

Brian Simpson

Derek Mills

Trustee & Chair

Trustee & Treasurer

DTM notes forming part of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 1

	2024	2023
Investments	£	£
At beginning of year	192,198	183,478
Purchases	66,136	90,864
	<hr/> 258,334	<hr/> 274,342
Sales	65,159	82,144
	<hr/> 193,175	<hr/> 192,198
Cash awaiting investment	1,752	1,244
	<hr/> 194,927	<hr/> 193,442
At end of year	194,927	193,442
Market value	230,084	228,237
	<hr/> 230,084	<hr/> 228,237

Note 2

Breakdown of Restricted Reserves

	2024	2023
	£	£
Restricted funds as at 1 st January 24	-	1,679
Restricted income	3,293	950
Expenditure	(2,526)	(2,629)
	<hr/> 767	<hr/> -
Restricted funds as at 31 December 24	767	-
	<hr/> 767	<hr/> -

Note 3 Fundraising

Restricted funds of £2,293 relate to donations made to specifically to the Happy Hampers appeal. Income from appeal £2,293, expenditure on provision of Hampers £1,466. Restricted funds in hand £827

THE DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

England & Wales - Charity number 235572

Accounts

Annual Report



for the Year April 2022 – March 2023



Darlington Town Mission

Tel: 0794 3251357

Founded 1838

Registered Office - 2 Davison Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL1 3DR

Reg. Charity Number: 235572

'We aim to provide relief from isolation and loneliness in the elderly by visiting, providing social contact and Christian Fellowship.'

www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022 - 2023

	page
Contents	2
Our Vision, Beliefs, Achievements and Appreciation for 2022-3	3
What we do	4
What are loneliness and social isolation?	4/5
Chair's Annual Report	6
Vice-Chair's letter	7
Missioner's review of the year 2022/223	8
A Letter from Lauren	9
Marketing DTM Today	10/11
Friends' reflections	12
Easter Gifts	12
How could you support us?	13
Other organisations that support us	14

Our Vision

Is to reduce isolation and provide companionship.

Our Beliefs

That every person is entitled to a good quality of life through fellowship and social support which combats isolation.

To achieve this, DTM normally:

- Carry out home visits
- Provide companionship to our Friends individually or through a busy programme of group social events supported by a wonderful team of volunteer drivers
- Provide Acts of Worship when we are able
- Provide a limited accompanying service for urgent appointments
- Provide a monthly afternoon get-together club for a small group of Friends. This is called the Friend's Forum meeting.

Achievements and Appreciation for 2022-3

During the year the charity carried out 1,009 Visits and Doorstep Visits, 2,001 phone calls, 516 Text messages and sent 132 E-mails to relieve our Friend's isolation.

We have also helped our Friends with transport to 69 medical appointments and made 323 shopping trips for Friends.

In October and December, we were able to arrange a couple of group outings which 46 Friends went on and we also took a few Friends on Mini Outings to meet with other Friends and our Missioners.

In September we were able to re-start our Friends Forum now meeting once a month in the afternoons but, due to Covid restrictions, we have been unable to run our monthly services in care homes.

At Easter 2022 Friends were given Easter gifts of Easter Eggs, Hot Cross buns and pots of daffodils together with an Easter Newsletter and an Easter Bookmark. These were greatly appreciated by our Friends.

At Christmas we organised gifts of boxes of Biscuits and Toiletry sets with a DTM Christmas Card for all our Friends.

For the remainder of 2023 many other outings are in the pipeline including a visit to the railway museum at Shildon, a Coronation party at the 6th Form College and a return trip to the seaside at Seaton Carew for lunch. The seaside trip is supported by the legacy of Rita Malcolm who was one of our Friends.

What we do

The Darlington Town Mission was founded in 1838 by three local businessmen - John Backhouse and John Pease who were well known Quakers and John Hopkins, an Anglican.



Its aims are as follows:

- To relieve poverty, sickness, hardship, and distress of those in need in the Borough of Darlington through the provision of practical and material assistance, information, and support and by any other charitable means that the Trustees in their discretion think fit, in order to improve the said beneficiaries' quality of life.
- To advance the Christian faith particularly but not exclusively by holding services of worship where appropriate.

These aims are achieved in the following ways:

- The Mission employs two Missioners who work with a number of volunteers
- Visit people in their homes and in hospital to offer practical and material assistance, information, and pastoral support
- Arrange trips out and other social events
- Through exemplifying Christian love and service in the work we do, as well as arranging acts of Christian worship

We are now focusing our activities on relieving loneliness and isolation in the elderly in Darlington. All our charitable activities focus on improving quality of life and are done to further our charitable purpose for the public benefit.

What are Loneliness and Isolation?

'High-quality social connections are essential to our mental and physical health and our well-being. Social isolation and loneliness are important, yet neglected, social determinants of the health of older people.'

Social isolation and loneliness are widespread, with some countries reporting that up to one in three older people feel lonely. A large body of research shows that social isolation and loneliness have a serious impact on older people's physical and mental health, quality of life, and their longevity. The effect of social isolation and loneliness on mortality is comparable to that of other well-established risk factors such as smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.'

A wide variety of face-to-face or digital interventions have been developed to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older people. These include social skills training, community and support groups, befriending, and cognitive behavioural therapy. Creating more age-friendly communities, by improving access to transportation, information and communication technologies and the built environment, can also help reduce social isolation and loneliness. Laws and policies that address marginalisation and discrimination can also foster greater social connection.

Social isolation and loneliness are increasingly being recognised as a priority public health problem and policy issue for older people. During the course of the [UN Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021-2030\)](#), the Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing Unit will be addressing social isolation and loneliness as one of the themes that cuts across the four main action areas of the Decade'. An article written by the [World Health Organisation](#).

Why is it important to distinguish between loneliness and social isolation?

'Loneliness has been an emerging social issue for many years, with organisations including Age UK and the Campaign to End Loneliness raising its profile.

Most recently, the Jo Cox Commission started a national conversation on loneliness and successfully encouraged the Government to accept many of its recommendations with the appointment of a Minister for Loneliness to take forward the work.

With this new impetus, it's important for policy makers, practitioners, and researchers to understand the distinction between loneliness and social isolation in order to ensure that solutions are not focussed simply on increasing opportunities for people to meet or speak, but on helping build, maintain and re-establish meaningful relationships.

That is, bringing people together to increase the number of social contacts is not an end in itself – to combat loneliness, the quality of relationships needs to be addressed'. This article was written by Care Connect (a research and innovation hub at the University of Sheffield) and Age UK



Most of us will feel lonely at many points in our lives, whatever our age. But many are brilliant at hiding it or even admitting it. Our charity provides a vital lifeline of companionship, Christian fellowship, and practical help to many elderly people in Darlington. We help to relieve loneliness by visiting people in their own homes and in care homes. We help by giving older people the chance to join with others in outings, social and other events.

DTM also provides a spiritual dimension in providing access to Christian fellowship and ecumenical worship. For those Friends who are Christian we aim to nurture them in their faith, and for those of other faiths or none, to support them equally in our caring.

Chair's Annual Report 2022-23

Greetings to you all in the Darlington Town Mission family.

It has been a joy to share with so many of you in the events of the Mission over the past year.



It is always good to look back and give thanks for the times shared together and the difference Darlington Town Mission has made to our own wellbeing.

I want to thank all who have given their time, devotion and individual talent's to make for the smooth running of the Mission. It really is a team effort which promotes the ethos of the Mission.

There have been changes. We have said farewell to those who have stepped back from office, and we have welcomed new members onto the team. Some have stepped into new roles; we know change is all part of life.

The encouraging fact is that the care of Darlington Town Mission goes on and there are exciting events planned for the future.

We have welcome new "Friends" and pray that they will feel at home with us. We have sadly had to say farewell to Friends who are no longer with us.

May I encourage you all to encourage each other and be optimistic about all that the future holds for Darlington Town Mission.
In the words of John Wesley:

"The best of all, God is with us."

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

Revd. John H. Bower

Chair of DTM

Vice-Chair's letter

It continues to be a great joy to support Darlington Town Mission following a long period when Covid affected all our efforts. Thankfully, we have been able to organise several outings and special events since our AGM in 2022.



At the end of January, our Missioner, Sue Allison retired from her role. Thankfully she is continuing as one of our volunteer drivers and supporter of DTM when she is able. Sue A has been an invaluable part of our work and witness over the last five years and she has worked above and beyond her contracted hours. Her commitment and enthusiasm for our charity has been inspirational. There was a small presentation for Sue at the January outing at Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church. She received flowers, gifts and the results of a collection from trustees and volunteers. It was a tribute that was richly deserved by such a caring Missioner. Her work as our Missioner will be missed.

Thankfully, our Assistant Missioner, Sue Wrigglesworth agreed to take over the lead Missioner role from February 2023. The management committee organised the recruitment of a replacement Assistant Missioner to replace Sue W's work as the Assistant. There were several candidates to consider, and we were delighted to offer Lauren Hebden to the post. Lauren is introducing herself in a separate part of this Annual Report.

I would commend reading the article from our Marketing Team, Julia and John. They both do an excellence job of promoting our charity and organising many of our fundraising efforts. They include details of our other vacancies and ways in which you can support us financially.

On this note, anyone reading this Annual Report might wish to consider leaving Darlington Town Mission a donation in your will. There are leaflets available from the Missioners and Trustees that can give you more information about this. Leaving legacies in your will can be a sensitive issue for some, but others organise generous donations to DTM and other charities without being in the least bit squeamish! Do give this question your prayerful thought. Many of our Friends and volunteers have been wonderfully generous in the past. Thank you.

With every blessing,

Brian Simpson

Vice Chair



Missioner's Review of the Year 2022-23

I took over the role of Missioner on 1st February 2023, from Sue Allison, after having served as assistant Missioner since 1st August 2021.

We were just coming out of lockdown and outings had not resumed when I started as assistant Missioner, but it gave me time to settle well into the role and get to know DTM Friends through home visits and some mini outings.

I feel that I have been instructed well by Sue Allison, and I am immensely grateful that she is remaining as a very active volunteer, along with Hilary and Sue Case, who were also previous Missioners.

I am enjoying my time with DTM immensely and I have met some wonderful friends, who are so welcoming in receiving us into their homes.

I am very fortunate to have the lovely Lauren Hebden as an Assistant Missioner, and she took up this position on the 1st March 2023. She has been visiting some of you and has received some lovely feedback after her visits.

We are also very fortunate to have generous and committed volunteers, who give up their time to transport our friends on outings, near and far, and also those volunteers who do home visits and phone calls. We really couldn't do without the volunteers, and we are so grateful to them all.

Lauren and I would also like to thank the management team, and the trustees for their support and for giving generously of their time, not forgetting the fund-raising team, Mary Drury and Nick Auty, who do fantastic work.

We would like to thank Brian and Vanessa Simpson most of all for opening up their home for management meetings every month, and for coordinating the buying and distribution of Christmas gifts. Also, thanks to Hilary for wrapping all of the gifts!

DTM have not been able to resume care home church services as there are sporadic Covid outbreaks in all the care homes from time to time.

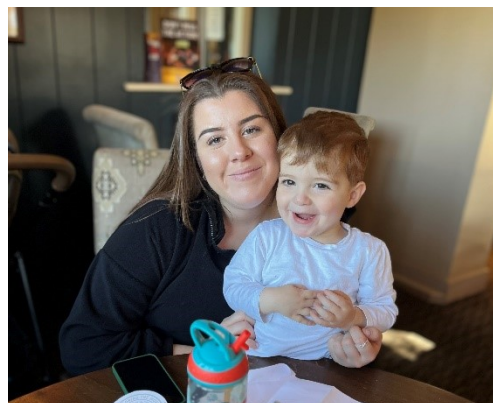
I think that I have the best job in the world and it is thanks to the love and support of everyone connected to Darlington Town Mission. I love to hear our Friend's stories and value each one of them.

We pray that all have a blessed year, with good health and happiness.
With every blessing,

Sue Wriglesworth and Lauren Hebden

A Reflection on my first few weeks with Darlington Town Mission

I have absolutely loved my first few weeks with Darlington Town Mission working as the Assistant Missioner! I feel so incredibly lucky to be working with such a wonderful team of people and meeting all the lovely Friends!



Starting my position with the Town Mission couldn't have been more perfectly timed, as my first day fell right on the Friends Forum outing in March which was a lovely meal out to the Brinkburn. It was a great insight into the Friends Forum, and meeting some of the Friends and Volunteers. Sue Wriglesworth very kindly took me round for first couple of weeks, talking me through everything and introducing me to lots of our Friends. Sue Allison also went out of her way to show me around and take me on some visits to meet Friends as well which I very much appreciated!

The outing to Elm Ridge for the craft session was my first official outing working for Darlington Town Mission - again meeting more volunteers and friends. I loved seeing what a positive effect these outings and activities have on the Friends, which only further showed me how important the work this charity does is for the Friends we support, and of course taking home the left-over cheese scones and cake is quickly becoming a favourite part for my little boy Noah!

I am very appreciative of how supportive and encouraging Sue Wriglesworth has been since I've started! And I am so grateful with how kind everyone has been since starting in this position. I am also especially grateful for how welcoming the Friends have been in letting me into their homes

I'm really excited to continue being a part of such an inspiring and amazing charity!

With every blessing,

Lauren Hebden

DTM Assistant Missioner
April 2023

Marketing DTM Today

It's been another challenging year for everyone, but we still retained our strong team spirit and enthusiasm for the marketing objectives we had set.

Our website continues to help raise awareness for DTM by communicating our core values and showcasing our events and the fantastic work that is carried out by the Missioners and volunteers. The marketing team welcome any ideas and news stories that you may have. Please drop us an email to marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk

Social Media

We are getting close to our target of 1,000 Followers on Facebook. Please help to spread the word by going to Facebook.com/darlingtontownmission and sharing a post/story with your friends and family and asking them to FOLLOW us. If we reach 1,000 followers, we qualify for a DONATE button which will give a great boost to our fundraising efforts.

Our Instagram has attracted a younger audience and we now have over 100 followers.

New Fundraising Events to be repeated in 2023

We are always looking for new fundraising ideas.



The first was in May 2022, an art sale with paintings by Rev. John Bower who is an accomplished artist. It was a great success selling over 35 paintings. All the funds raised, nearly £2,000 went to Darlington Town Mission.

The second event was The "Glam Party" which took place in November at St Augustine's with a local live band, disco and Spanish tapas supper & raffle.

It was a great success raising £2,000.

Grants Won

We were successful in our applications for two grants from the Coop and Magic Little Grants totalling £950.00. These grants have funded our crafting afternoons in 2023.

Christmas Cards

A new Christmas card design was launched to go alongside the two existing designs. The charity cards were sold by the Trustees, Missioners and Volunteers raising funds. Thanks to all for your support.

In 2023 we intend to launch a calendar using the winning photos from local amateur photographers that entered our competition in 2021.

Business Sponsorship

The half page articles, covering topics such as Volunteering, Events and Fundraising appear in the One Darlington council publication (delivered to your home) are sponsored by local businesses wishing to give us their support including BHP Law, Seaton Leng and Real Property UK Ltd...

Recruiting Volunteers

We still need to recruit more volunteers. We have a specific leaflet with all the information on our volunteering opportunities – volunteer drivers, visitors and fundraisers, plus we require more support on our website from a digital /social media assistant.

If you know of anyone interested in any of these roles, then please ask them to contact marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk

Easy way to raise funds for DTM whenever you shop online.

Go to Shop ‘Give as You Live’ (www.giveasyoulive.com) and sign up today.

There are over 6,000 stores on the website, all of which give a % of the sale to a charity of the shoppers choice. All the big national stores and brands for clothing, electricals, home and garden, beauty and cosmetics, jewellery, travel & insurance - whatever you are shopping for it's all there.

Think- John Lewis, B&Q, Damart, AO.com. Dunelm etc.

Remembering Rita Malcolm

Following a generous legacy to Darlington Town Mission by our dear late “Friend” Rita Malcolm, an event in the form of a day trip has been sponsored from this legacy for all our Friends to enjoy. A day trip to Seaton Carew with lunch at the Marine Hotel, and then a drive along the front with a nice ice cream.

Thank you for your support,

John Dobbin & Julia Bean, Marketing Team

A Reflection from Jean (one of our recent Friends)

"I was introduced to the Town Mission about 18 months ago and have enjoyed several outings with them. The Well Church afternoon is a very friendly group, and we have a lovely tea. I appreciate all the work put into these events.

Sue Wriglesworth is very kind and helpful. She escorted me to several dental appointments last year. I am always pleased when she calls in for a cuppa and a chat, and I know I can call on her any time for help with shopping, or doctors' appointments".

Easter Gifts

Three companies kindly donated some Easter Eggs for our Friends this year. Sadly, there wasn't quite enough to go round all our Friends this time.

Donations were received from staff at Darlington Building Society's central office in Morton Park. The office where Alan Taylor's daughter Sharon works nominated Darlington Town Mission to receive over 30 eggs! Her manager, Nicki has thanked us for a letter of thanks that was sent to their team. She writes:

Thank you for taking the time to email and send this letter. It is lovely for the staff to know that their efforts are appreciated and a huge thank you for the many people that your organisation help. Kind regards, Nicki

More eggs were donated from staff at MasFix, Ltd from Newcastle. They are a key supplier into the manufacturing and automotive industry and help local communities in the Northeast. Some of you may remember that Rebecca Everson helped at a DTM outing to enjoy an afternoon tea and music at Rockcliffe Hall a few years ago. Rebecca was 'Miss Darlington' at the time. She has stepped back from the pageant scene and is now the Account Manager in our area for MasFix. Our photograph shows Vanessa and Brian being presented with some of the eggs by Rebecca.



Friend's Forum had a speaker recently from Whitehouse Funeral Service, Darlington. John Watling is one of the Funeral Directors and the Community Champion. John gave a reminiscence slide show and brought Easter eggs on behalf of his company to all those that attended.

Thank you to all three organisations that gave so generously. It was much appreciated by those Friends that received gifts.

HOW COULD YOU SUPPORT US?

a) Volunteering opportunities

We could not provide the service we do without the input of our volunteers. They provide invaluable assistance across the board from visiting our Friends, driving, and accompanying them on outings, and in participating in our monthly care home acts of worship. We are so grateful to them for the time and effort they put in and we do our best to make sure their involvement is both fulfilling and rewarding.



If you would you like to join as part of our pool of volunteer drivers who take our Friends on monthly outings organised by our Missioner, or if you would like to relieve the loneliness of elderly people by spending a couple of hours a week visiting, please call our Missioner on 07943251357 or 'e' mail dtmission@btconnect.com for further information. With your help we could enrich many more elderly people's lives. We would love to hear from you.

b) Financial support

To continue and expand our services we rely on the generosity of individuals, churches and groups. If you wish to donate you can do so online at:

www.localgiving.com/darlingtontownmission or send a cheque to our address or 'e' mail us at dtmission@btconnect.com for details of other means of giving.

You can even raise funds for us by shopping online using the amazing website that supports charities like ours. It costs you nothing at all, simply go to www.giveasyoulive.com and:

1. Sign up choosing Darlington Town Mission as your chosen charity
2. Choose from over 4,200 stores to shop with
3. Click through to the store from their site & shop as usual
4. They donate a % of your spending to us - for free!

If you are interested in helping with our fundraising, you can join our Fundraising Team. They are currently seeking extra people with fund raising knowledge to help out.

Please contact us for more details or if you wish to do a sponsored fundraising event for us you can open a fundraising page on our local giving website as above.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED US IN 2022-23

The Missioner has been engaging with other groups working with older people, exchanging ideas and practices. The Mission would like to thank the following;

Those venues / organisations that have hosted one of our outings in 2022-

Elm Ridge, Harrowgate Hill and Haughton Methodist Churches
The Marine Hotel, Seaton Carew
Poplar Tree Garden Centre
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
Strikes Garden Centre
The Lions and the Rotary Club

Those companies that have sponsored our adverts in the One Darlington magazine in 2022

Blackett Hart and Pratt (BHP Law)
Seaton Leng
Real Property UK Ltd

Park Place Community Centre for accommodating the Friends' Forum.

Churches of various denominations for the support they give to the work of the Mission and individuals who have supported us financially.

Local Giving and the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust for their grant to enable us to set up Craft events.

Seaton Leng and The Virtual Resource Company for their donation to our work.

Darlington Building Society, MaxfIX of Newburn, Newcastle and Whitehouse Funeral Service, Darlington who supplied Easter Eggs for some of our Friends in April 2023.

And all the local businesses who are displaying DTM donations boxes at their service points.

Thank you all for your generous support.



Darlington Town Mission
Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial
Activities
for the year to 31st December 2022

	2022	2022	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
<i>Income and Endowments from:</i>				
Donations	9,868		10,954	-
Legacies	73,376		2,460	
Grants & Sponsorship		2,000	-	1,500
Fundraising	5,044	627	2,834	1,195
Investments	4,537	-	3,140	-
Total Income	92,825	2,627	19,388	2,695
<i>Expenditure on:</i>				
Salaries	20,748		17,983	-
Travel	2,346		1,751	-
Outings		2,066		546
Insurance	378		387	-
Publicity		1,429	451	1,599
Equipment Depreciation	248		377	-
Christmas / Easter Gifts	542		657	
Postage, stationery & Telephone	660		571	-
Sundries	730		790	-
Investment managers fee	2,391		2,428	-
Total Expenditure	28,043	3,495	25,395	2,145
Surplus/(Deficit)	64,782	(868)	(6,007)	550
Profit/(Loss) on sale of investments	(165)		9,021	-
Prior Year Adjustment			(150)	150

Funds as at 1 st January 2022	165,449	2547	162,585	1847
Funds as at 31 st December 2022	230,066	1,679	165,449	2,547

Darlington Town Mission

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed assets Note 1	101	349
Investments Note 2	195,982	148,484
	196,303	148,833
Current Assets		
Debtors	170	400
Cash at bank & in hand	36,044	19,069
	36,214	19,469
Liabilities		
Accruals	(552)	(306)
Deferred Income	-	-
	(552)	(306)
Net current assets	35,662	19,163
Net assets	231,745	167,996
Funds:		
Unrestricted	230,066	165,449
Restricted Note 3	1,679	2,547
Total Funds	231,745	167,996

Approved by the Trustees on 7th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

John H Bower

Derek Mills

John Bower

Derek Mills

Trustee & Chair

Trustee & Treasurer

Darlington Town Mission
Notes forming part of the Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Note 1

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at original cost.

Depreciation is provided at 25% being the rate calculated to write of the cost less estimated residual value of each asset on a straight-line basis over its useful life

	2022	2021
Cost	£	£
At beginning of year	2,192	1,992
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
At end of year	<u>2,192</u>	<u>2,192</u>

Depreciation

At beginning of year	1,843	1,467
Additions	<u>248</u>	<u>3,76</u>
At end of year	<u>2,091</u>	<u>1,843</u>

Net book value

At end of year	<u>101</u>	<u>349</u>
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Note 2**2022****2021****Investments**

£

£

At beginning of year

141,767

136,980

Purchases

103,351

50,583

245,118

187,563

Sales

61,640

45,796

183,478

141,767

Cash awaiting investment

12,504

6,717

At end of year

195,982

148,484

Market value

211,626

187,400**Note 3****Breakdown of Restricted Reserves****2022****£**Restricted funds as at 1st January 22

2,547

Restricted income

2,627

Expenditure

3,495

(868)

Restricted funds as at 31 December 22

1,679

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

I have independently examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the Balance Sheet as at that date from the books, records and information supplied to me, and confirm them to be in accordance therewith.

I Groves.

A. C. A. Independent Examiner

THE DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

England & Wales - Charity number 235572

Accounts

Annual Report Year 2020 - 21



Darlington Town Mission

Tel: 0794 3251357

Founded 1838

Registered Office - 2 Davison Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL1 3DR

Reg. Charity Number: 235572

'We aim to provide relief from isolation and loneliness in the elderly by visiting, providing social contact and Christian Fellowship.'

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

	page
Contents	2
Achievements and Appreciation for 2020/1	3
Chair's message	4
What Darlington Town Mission Does	5
What are Loneliness and Isolation?	5/6
Easter Gifts	6
Missioner's review of the year 2020/1	7/8
A message from Alan Robson	9
A prayer for the Darlington Town Mission family	9
Two Friends' reflections	10
Happy Hampers for Christmas 2020	11
Marketing News	12
A Volunteer's Perspective – Susan Elliot-Lyall	13
How you could support us	14
Roll of Honour	15
For Member's information	
Trustee Report	16
Financial Review	16/17
Independent Examiner's Report	17
Reserves Policy	18
Income & Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31 st December 2020	19
Balance Sheet as at 31 st December 2020	20
Financial Activities Notes	21

Achievements and Appreciation for 2020

Due to Covid restrictions from April visits to Friends in their Homes had to be curtailed. Instead, the Missioners and Volunteers have made contact by frequent telephone calls, doorstep visits, texts and e-mails.

Last year the Mission:

- Made 706 Visits and Doorstep visits, 1,488 Phone calls, 413 Texts and 84 emails to relieve our Friend's isolation.
- In January and February took 57 Friends on group outings. These then ceased in March due to Covid restrictions.
- Helped our Friends with transport to medical appointments and made 324 shopping trips for Friends.
- Continued during January and February our very successful fortnightly Friend's Forum which provides lunch, activities, and social interaction before these had to cease in March.
- Our monthly services in care homes continued during January and February at which point care homes were no longer able to take visitors from DTM.
- Organised Christmas Happy Hampers for all our Friends – see page 11 of this report.
- Organised Easter Gift Bags for all our Friends – see page 6 of this report.

The trustees are deeply indebted to Sue Allison and Hilary Reaney for their commitment, dedication, and energy they devote to their work. You will see from the Missioner's report how busy they have been. The charity is also grateful for the support of the Marketing team and the Fundraising team. We now have a clear marketing strategy with a fresh approach to publicity materials, a new website design and some amazing ideas as we move into more optimistic times ahead.

The Fundraising team have continued to raise money for the charity through sponsored events and special appeals. They are also keen to introduce a photographic competition later in 2021. With any luck, more fundraising events will start to happen before too long.

At the time of writing this report, DTM has a few places spare for anyone that needs our support that may be over 80, lives in Darlington and may be faced with loneliness and isolation. If you know of anyone that has these circumstances, please talk to them about DTM and get their permission for one of our Missioners to contact them to discuss this further.

BS 6.4.21.

Chair's Message

During the past year, we have all seen reports of the dangers of social isolation away from friends and family because of Covid 19 prevention precautions. The dangers of stress, mental illness, family breakdowns and even suicide have seen much greater publicity. Mental health charities, members of the royal family and many celebrities have shared personal insights into the effects of loneliness and isolation. The public must now have a much clearer picture of the difficulties people face in these circumstances.



Most of us will feel lonely at some point in our lives. Some are classed as chronically lonely, and others seen as 'lock-down lonely'. But many are brilliant at hiding it, or even admitting it. Our charity provides a vital lifeline of companionship, fellowship support, and practical help to many elderly people in Darlington. We normally help to relieve loneliness by visiting people in their own homes and in care homes.

Before the pandemic we also helped by giving older people the chance to join with others in outings, social and other events and at our Friend's Forum which provides fortnightly lunch and activities for a smaller number of Friends.

The charity also normally provides a spiritual dimension in providing access to Christian fellowship and ecumenical worship. For those Friends who are Christian we aim to nurture them in their faith, and for those of other faiths or none, to support them equally in our caring.

Yet, many of our Friends have been challenged even more with loneliness and isolation that has been part of their lives long before Covid restrictions were brought in. Many of our Friends are also housebound with reducing eyesight, hearing, or mobility difficulties.

Therefore, we need the support of the community of Darlington to help us care for the Friends we look after.

During this time, our Missioners and volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep in touch with our Friends.

We continue to look to the people of Darlington to help with donations and look for volunteers to join us. We need more people willing to carry out visits, even if they are only on doorsteps; we need more people to help with phone calls to Friends to relieve loneliness and be a listening ear to those living in isolation. We need your prayers for our long-term future.

Don't forget, as you get beyond 80 years of age, you might experience loneliness and isolation yourself, and Darlington Town Mission needs to be there to help you in the future. Thank you.

Brian Simpson

Chair of DTM

What Darlington Town Mission Does

The Darlington Town Mission was founded in 1838 by three local businessmen - John Backhouse and John Pease who were well known Quakers and John Hopkins, an Anglican.

Its aims are as follows:

- To relieve poverty, sickness, hardship, and distress of those in need in the Borough of Darlington through the provision of practical and material assistance, information, and support and by any other charitable means that the Trustees, in their discretion think fit, in order to improve the said beneficiaries' quality of life
- To advance the Christian faith particularly, but not exclusively, by holding services of worship where appropriate

These aims are achieved in the following ways:

- The Mission employs Missioners who work with volunteers
- Visit people in their homes and in hospital to offer practical and material assistance, information, and pastoral support
- Arrange trips out and other social events
- Through exemplifying Christian love and service in the work we do, as well as arranging acts of Christian worship.

We are now focusing our activities on relieving loneliness and isolation in the elderly in Darlington. All our charitable activities focus on improving quality of life and to further our charitable purpose for the public benefit.

What are Loneliness and Social Isolation?

Loneliness is a subjective, negative feeling experienced where there is a discrepancy between the amount and quality of social contacts one has, and the amount and quality one would like to have. It is related to but distinct from social isolation which is an objective state, the absence of social contacts and social connectedness.

What are the intrinsic factors?

Lack of transport; not living near families; bereavement; becoming a carer; experiencing poor health or poor mobility; loss of sight or hearing; being childless and living on a low income are all factors which can cause a person to become lonely.

Loneliness is seen by many as one of the largest health concerns we face. Why? Here are the facts.

1. Health Risks of Loneliness

- Loneliness, living alone and poor social connections are as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. (Holt-Lunstad, 2010)
- Loneliness is worse for you than obesity. (Holt-Lunstad, 2010)
- Lonely people are more likely to suffer from dementia, heart disease and depression. (Valtorta et al, 2016) (James et al, 2011) (Cacioppo et al, 2006)
- Loneliness is likely to increase your risk of death by 29% (Holt-Lunstad, 2015)
- Loneliness has a significant impact on our wellbeing and mental health.

2. Loneliness and older people

- The number of over-50s experiencing loneliness is set to reach two million by 2025/6. This compares to around 1.4 million in 2016/7 – a 49% increase in 10 years (*Age UK 2018, All the lonely people*)
- There are 1.2 million chronically lonely older people in the UK (Age UK 2016, *No-one should have no-one*)
- Half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all (Age UK 2016, *'No-one should have no-one'*)
- Over half (51%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone (Office for National Statistics 2010. General Lifestyle Survey 2008)
- Two fifths all older people (about 3.9 million) say the television is their main company (Age, U.K., 2014. Evidence Review: Loneliness in Later Life. London: Age UK)
- There are over 2.2 million people aged 75 and over living alone in Great Britain, an increase of almost a quarter (24%) over the past 20 years (ONS)
- 5.8% of 106.8 thousand residents in Darlington are 80 or more.

Easter Gifts

During Easter Week, we managed to arrange Easter gift bags for all our Friends. They contained an Easter egg, hot-cross buns, a pot of daffodil bulbs, a DTM Easter bookmark and copy of the Easter Newsletter. Generous donations and discounts were kindly given by Morrison's, Morton Park, Marks & Spencer, and the Co-op West Park. The gift bags were delivered by some wonderful volunteers and our Missioners. Peter Gibson MP even came along to support the packing and he even helped with the deliveries! Thank you to all those involved in this project. It was really appreciated by all the Friends that received this unexpected Easter surprise.



*"Thank you all for your care in these difficult times, and for the Easter gift.
God bless". Joyce Thompson.*

Missioner's Review for 2020 - 21

As we both reflect on the past year, we continue to feel blessed and privileged, but what a challenging, very different year it has been! We could never have foreseen the effect that Covid 19 would have on all of us and indeed across the world.

We began 2020 planning a full year of outings and events and managed only January and February before the emergence of the pandemic and lockdown.

Covid 19 had a profound effect on how we could serve our Friends. We needed to follow Government guidelines and Darlington Town Mission Covid policies and procedures.

We had to stop all planned outings both group and individual, Friend's Forum, visiting and carrying out services in care homes, taking Friends to lunch club fortnightly and our visits.

For our Friends lockdown meant having to stay at home - this meant that the lifeline we provided of regular social contact and social outlets abruptly ended! This was so hard for our Friends and meant separation from families, an increased need for practical help and increased loneliness and social isolation. This meant our role as Missioners had to change!

We could offer phone calls and to be a listening ear and valuable contact to our Friends, and to those we couldn't ring, we text or wrote note cards sending our continued thoughts and love or maintained contact through family. For some of our Friends who needed practical help we have done essential shopping, helped with prescriptions, taken to appointments if no family able to do this, and other tasks as needed.

Through these phone calls we have got to know our friends so much better, sharing stories and memories but most of all we've been able to provide reassurance, strength and support in what have been very anxious and uncertain times. Friends have often been feeling fearful, despondent, and confused with all the rule changes, increased cases and deaths and ongoing separation from their own family and friends.

Friends tell us the phone calls and doorstep chats when allowed have made a huge difference and really appreciate our calls. In return it's so wonderful to hear the lift in their voices and spirits when we call. We have learned so much about our friends but also about life which is so lovely and interesting i.e., gardening and cooking tips, VE Day and other memories. How the world has changed.

We are very thankful to our volunteers who have regularly phoned and helped Friends. This is so appreciated, and it was great to come together with some of our volunteers again for making and delivering our Christmas hampers. These hampers gave so much joy and our Friends have said how much thought had gone into them and they were so touched and appreciative.



It has been lovely to see the family that is Town Mission support one another through this year. Friends telephoning other Friends and asking after Friends and volunteers.

We had some lovely sunny days last year so managed a few garden visits and when able as restrictions and weather allow, we have very much enjoyed doorstep chats.

We have maintained contact with Croft Primary School and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. Teacher Nancy Wall and the QE Interact Club have been wonderful, sending handmade cards and cheerful letters which we have delivered to Friends who would normally attend QE events.

This last year we have lost a lot of our dear Town Mission Friends and our wonderful past Missioner and volunteer, Anne Tyreman who worked tirelessly for our Friends for many years. Our continued thoughts and prayers are with her husband and volunteer Brian.

We have also welcomed many new Friends, and more volunteers. We very much look forward to meeting everyone in person!

Moving forward with hope that with covid vaccinations and lockdown easing that we can gradually increase contact again and start to make plans for the future! We seek as always to help relieve loneliness and provide fellowship and companionship.

We understand some of our Friends have lost confidence, mobility, and strength. It's been a hard year for them, both mentally and physically and many haven't seen family for a year now. Be assured that we fully understand venturing back out again and having visits may be daunting and we will take things forward as Friends are ready.

We are acutely aware of the different ways loneliness affects people especially after this past year. We want to continue to provide valuable contact and support and hopefully we will be able to organise some form of social contact /activity as soon as it is safe to do so.

This has not been an easy year for us as Missioners, but we are so blessed to have each other, and we both know that God is with us in all we do as we seek to do His work.

We have wonderful support from our Friends, volunteers, management, and trustees but we are especially thankful for the constant support, listening ears, encouragement and humour when needed to make us smile from Sue Case and Brian Simpson.

To all our Friends, thank you for all you are and all you give to us. Remember we are always here for you.

Every blessing,
Sue Allison and Hilary Reaney Missioners

A Message from Alan Robson

A couple of years ago Darlington Town Mission contacted my mam, Dorrie Robson. Dad had just passed away and she was on her own. Not easy at any age, but at 96 and after 72 years of marriage it must have been incredibly hard. Unfortunately, we all live a considerable distance away (I'm the closest at 170 miles) and even with the best will in the world we could not visit as often as we would like.

Mam explained to us that someone had called and was going to see her. It was the start of something great! Sue and her staff have been so helpful, taking mam out, visiting her, calling her and doing her shopping. She would call me regularly after her days out and I could hear in her voice the joy the trips brought her. Then there's the Christmas parties, cakes and parcels!



Then COVID hit. I really did worry about how things were going to pan out, especially as lockdown extended. We couldn't visit at all due to the restrictions. But again, the Mission have come to the rescue. Sue regularly does mams shopping still, stopping at the bakery for a special cake or two. And all this is complemented by phone calls from Lilian.

"Thank you" is so easy to write, but The Darlington Town Mission have made the last couple of years special for mam. She looks forward to the conversation and always tells me how good they are to her. When you leave Darlington, you realise how special the people of the town are, but Town Mission staff and volunteers are simply the best! So.....THANK YOU!!!! *Alan Robson*

A prayer for the Darlington Town Mission Family

Compassionate Heavenly Father,

From the beginning of time, you said that it was not good for us to be alone. We need company and community. But there are those in our care who are now more isolated than ever during this time. We pray for the lonely, the isolated and the vulnerable who feel the strain of this extraordinary solitude. Please be especially near to Friends and volunteers alike.

We pray for our Missioners that they may they feel Your presence. May all Darlington Town Mission family know that they are not alone. Put them on the hearts of Your people who can reach out to them in love, give them special grace to flourish in unexpected ways, and may they feel your love and grace in their lives. Walk alongside us as we face the next year in our long history with hope and commitment.

We pray for them and all those involved with our charity in so many ways. In the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer, our inspiration, and our ultimate 'Friend'. **Amen.**

Two Friend's Reflections



Three years ago, when DTM Friend Audrey told me about Darlington Town Mission, I was immediately keen to join! It meant I had places to go at a difficult time in my life when my late wife was very poorly in a care home and I visited every day.

When the outing list came out, I looked forward to every outing with eager anticipation and it meant I had company and something different which made me happy.

This year I've so missed getting out with DTM, but I've really appreciated regular contact with Sue and with practical help. I chat with Sue about my faith and purpose, day to day concerns and this really helps especially as my sons don't live locally.

DTM gives people hope and friendship, and I hope that at some point I'll get out with my DTM Friends again soon

Laurie Johnson

.....

I first heard of The Darlington Town Mission from the Revd. Andrew Wigram who happened to be sitting opposite me at one of our street parties. He gave me DTM card which ended up on my lounge mantelpiece for a couple of years!

It wasn't until I met Laurie Johnson in Bondgate Methodist Church's café, and he described his outings with the Town Mission, that I came to join.



Having lost so many of my friends, and at 90 years of age, I was in a rather lonely place, so I retrieved Andrew's card. I got in touch with the lovely Sue who came to see me to discuss joining up - which I did!

I enjoyed a year of great outings which helped to dispel some of the loneliness. Then came Covid which put paid to all the outings. However, I have since enjoyed weekly contact with Sue, with helpful shopping and doorstep chats which I always look forward to.

I very much hope that it won't be too long before life can get back to normal and I can meet up with others from The Mission.

Ian Gardner

Happy Hampers for Christmas

When we were faced with Covid restrictions, 2020 seemed a bit of a nightmare to so many of our Friends and volunteers. Most of our usual activities were curtailed. We could no longer offer face-to-face contacts to one another, and social interaction is vital to our mental health and wellbeing. Christmas 2020 seemed to be looking bleak. Because of all this, the idea of providing a Christmas hamper to our Friends was raised. After a great deal of planning, an appeal was made on Facebook and on our website to provide a small Christmas gift to every one of our Friends. This raised over £2600. We used some of the Co-op funding grant to help.



The appeal was so successful that we had enough money to organise a special hamper packed full of Christmas goodies. The purchases came from many local businesses where we bought Christmas cakes, cheese, jams and chutney, Christmas puddings, a bottled drink and shortbread. We then included Christmas decorations, mints, coffee and tea bags, sweets, and a small selection box. We are grateful for the discounts and donations from the West Park branch of the Co-op, Aldersons Butchers in Cockerton, Ulnaby Farm Shop and the local branches of Boyes, Boots and Wilko's. A small tree decoration was made for the hampers by Margaret Jackson from the Homemaker's Ladies group at Haughton Methodist Church. There was also a very kind donation of lovely biscuits to go into all the hampers thanks to Cheryl Pattison.



These hampers were packed by a great team of DTM volunteers and distributed during the week before Christmas. Those Friends who couldn't have hampers that are in care homes were given a large toiletry set. All the Friends and our volunteers were given a DTM Christmas card and a Christmas Newsletter.

At the same time as the Happy Hamper Appeal, the management team arranged for a Darlington Town Mission card to be professionally designed and printed for sale. Again, the sale of Christmas cards went well, and we hope to repeat this project for Christmas 2021.

The Management team and our Marketing team would like to thank all those that worked to hard to make these two projects such a success – all those involved in organising hamper contents and the volunteers who helped packing and distribution. We need to thank all those that bought our Christmas cards that were so much appreciated by those that received them.

Brian Simpson
Chair and Acting Secretary

Marketing News

This message was sent to Peter Gibson, our Darlington M.P. after the Easter Gifts event:



"Dear Peter,

Thank you so much for joining us this morning during our packing of our Easter Gifts for around 80 Friends whom we support here in Darlington.

The gift includes an Easter egg, a bowl of daffodils, a pack of hot cross buns, an Easter card, and a bookmark.

Since at the present time we are unable to carry out our regular home visits to help ease the isolation and loneliness which many elderly people are suffering in these times, this is a small token to reassure them that they are still thought about.

We also follow up with regular phone calls to them all, help with medication collections, and general shopping for those who are venerable and unable to go out themselves.

Please check our website for full information as to who we are and what our objectives are.

As I mentioned, we have recently begun to have a regular article in the One Darlington Magazine to raise awareness of our charity to all our citizens.

I also attach a copy of the photo of our display with yourself and our Chair, Brian Simpson.

Any press release or publicity which you can arrange would be much appreciated since Julia Bean and myself who lead the marketing for the Mission have one of our key tasks as being to raise awareness of the Darlington Town Mission wherever possible.

Many thanks again for your attendance and support.

John Dobbin
Marketing Team"



A Volunteer's Perspective

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

I became a volunteer driver for the Darlington Town Mission in March 2017 and had a great time taking friends old and new to various outings, lunches etc. – until 2020.



The year began quite normally for me, with an outing to Mainsgill Farm in February, when I was accompanied by Rita Malcolm, Gladys Metcalfe, and Priscilla Taylor. We had a wonderful time, browsing all the delicious produce and eventually sampling some of it in the café.

So far so good. Then the first casualty of 2020 was the proposed trip to the Poplar Tree Garden Centre near Durham, and every trip thereafter. This, however, does not stop DTM doing what it does best, so people continued to be contacted, chatted to, and generally befriended, if not always face to face (masks permitting).

The lovely Rita (Malcolm) was able to celebrate her 90th birthday in the garden of her home, with hourly slots booked by friends to enable them to visit whilst abiding by the 'rule of 6'. It was a wonderful day, on which the weather was kind, so outdoors was very enjoyable. The two Sues (Allison and Case) along with Hilary, provided an amazing 'spread' of tempting fayre, so a good time was had by all and Rita, as usual, was on top form!

At Christmas it was my pleasure to assist in delivering hampers to my 'regulars' and a new name was added to my list, so I had the extra treat of meeting Winifred Manson for the first time in 2020. It was lovely to have doorstep chats with everyone to whom I delivered a hamper, and each person was absolutely thrilled with the contents of their hamper and a chance to chat so someone.

Fast forward to 2021 and suddenly Easter was upon us, so again I had the joy of delivering gifts to my 'regulars'. When I went to collect my gifts for delivery, Peter Gibson, our MP, had turned up to familiarize himself with the work of DTM and had expressed an interest in accompanying a volunteer to deliver an Easter gift. I was ready to set off at that time, so he arranged to meet me at my first port of call which was to be Winifred Manson's. Winifred was quite surprised to find two of us on her doorstep, but she had a wonderful chat with Peter, and she was thrilled with her Easter gift.

Volunteering for DTM is such a pleasure for me. I often think I get more out of it than our 'Friends', so if you have a spare couple of hours it is always time well spent with DTM.

The show must go on!!

Susan Elliot-Lyall

HOW YOU COULD SUPPORT US

a) Volunteering opportunities

We could not provide the service we do without the input of our volunteers. They provide invaluable assistance across the board from visiting our Friends, driving, and accompanying them on outings, and in participating in our monthly care home acts of worship. We are so grateful to them for the time and effort they put in and we do our best to make sure their involvement is both fulfilling and rewarding.

If you would you like to join as part of our pool of volunteer drivers who take our Friends on monthly outings organised by our Missioner, or if you would like to relieve the loneliness of elderly people by spending a couple of hours a week visiting, please call our Missioner on 07943251357 or email missioner@darlingtontownmission.org.uk for further information. With your help we could enrich many more elderly people's lives. We would love to hear from you.

b) Financial support

To continue and expand our services we rely on the generosity of individuals, churches and groups. If you wish to donate you can do so online at:

www.localgiving.com/darlingtontownmission or send a cheque to our address or 'e' mail us at treasurer@darlingtontownmission.org.uk for details of other means of giving.

You can even raise funds for us by shopping online using the amazing website that supports charities like ours. It costs you nothing at all, simply go to www.giveasyoulive.com and:

1. Sign up choosing Darlington Town Mission as your chosen charity
2. Choose from over 4,200 stores to shop with
3. Click through to the store from their site & shop as usual
4. They donate a % of your spending to us - for free!



If you interested in helping with our fundraising, you can join our Fundraising Team. They are currently seeking extra people with fund raising knowledge to help. The photograph shown here is of Mary Drury who is part of the fundraising group. She recently raised money for DTM by walking round her home an amazing number of times in recognition of Sir Tom Moore. Two fundraising heroes we have saluted this past year!

Please contact us for more details or if you wish to do a sponsored fundraising event for us as Mary did. You can open a fundraising page on our local giving website as above.

Darlington Town Mission- Roll of Honour *
Originally known as The Darlington Christian Visiting Society.
subsequently known as Darlington Town Mission and Christian Visiting Society.

Founders - The Three Johns:

- *John Backhouse (1784 - 1847)*

This John was a banker who in 1811 built the Larchfield mansion in Coniscliffe Road - today St Augustine's Parish Centre occupies its spot. He later moved to Beechwood, an even bigger mansion - Victoria Road. Sainsbury's now stands on this site.

- *John Beaumont Pease (1803 - 1873)*

His uncle was Edward "the father of modern railways", but his delicate constitution forced his to retire from the family businesses in his early 30s. He then devoted himself to charitable works. J.B. lived in North Lodge, Northgate, Darlington. In the 1840's he also bought a farmhouse in Mowden and began turning it into a mansion. This building was eventually used by the Department of Education before they transferred to purpose-build premises in Feethams.

- *John Castell Hopkins (1873 - 1871)*

This John was a Scotsman and, unlike the other Quaker Johns, was an Anglican. He came from a wealthy Scottish family and was related to the Duke of Roxburgh; his wife came from one of the oldest Borders families. He set up in Darlington to manage his collieries at North Bitchburn, Cockfield and Evenwood, and he was a director of the Weardale Railway. In Darlington, he built the Woodside mansion, which is now beneath the streets around Hartford Road.

Original members of the Society

H. W Ormsby	Robert Teasdale	John Hardcastle-Bowman	John Church-Backhouse
William Robson	J. F Clapham	William Fothergill	John Fothergill
Alfred Kitching	John Pease		

Town Missioners / Agents and Assistant Missioners

Mr Christopher Johnson	Mr John Rennison	Mr Stephen Gladwin
Mr George W Bartlett	Mr William Richardson	Mr W Blythman
Mr Fred Scott	Mr F Hamilton	Mr Harry Hutchinson
Mr James S Green	Mr Revill	Mr M McManners
Mr Alan Meek	Mr R Speed	Mr William Taylor
Miss D G M Scarr	Mr E W Anderson	Mr & Mrs Taylor
Mrs Campbell	Mr R Hume	Mrs P.E. (Pauline) Antcliffe
Mr W W Catchpole	Mrs V Ellerton	Mrs S G Radford
Mrs D Dunleavy	Miss Joyce Thompson	Mr C. Derrick Hewitson
Mrs Margaret Woodhouse	Mr Stephen Murphy	Mr Brian Jefferson
Ms Christine Flanders	Mr Doug Dickson	Mrs Anne Tyreman
Mrs Sandra Richardson	Mrs Sue Case	Ms Suzanne Nevison
Mrs Kirsten Bertram	Mrs Sue Allison	Mrs Hilary Reaney

Secretaries

Miss Mary Hodgkin	Miss Pinkney	Mrs G W Beckwith (Vera)	Mrs C Bennett
Mrs Beth Ardron	Ms. Margaret Senior	Mr Richard Bond	Mrs Sue Murton
Mrs Sue Case	Mrs Jude Taylor-Dixon	Mr Brian Simpson	

Treasurers

Mr G P Shaw	Mr John Beaumont Pease	Mr M C W Burnip	Mrs F Richardson
Mr Arthur Hare	Mr G Gore	Mr Crowe	Mr J Stuart Hirst
Mr J L Williams	Mr D S Usher	Mr E W Wills	Mr G W Beckwith
Mr Douglas Baird	Mr Ken Friston	Ms Elizabeth Dodsworth	Mr Derek Mills

Chair/Presidents

Mr John Pease	Rev J E Lee	Councillor J Waters	Canon P J H Kinner
Sir Richard Pease (President)	Canon Peter N Wansey	Canon Alan Lazenby	Rev Keith V Garner
Rev Fred Barron	Rev Richard Rice-Oxley	Mrs Marion Law	Rev Alan Coates
Ven. Rev Granville Gibson	Rev Brian Holmes	Rev Andrew Wigram	Mr Brian Simpson

We give thanks to all those who have served Darlington Town Mission so faithfully over our long history. We are indebted to them for their dedication and commitment.

** Note that this record is not fully comprehensive as Covid restrictions have delayed further research in Durham archives etc. Any help to confirm service dates would be most appreciated. Brian Simpson (Acting Secretary)*

Trustee's report, independently examined financial statements and administrative information

Registered address for correspondence is -
Darlington Town Mission, c/o 2 Davison Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL1 3DR
Registered Charity No. 235572

TRUSTEES as at 31st December 2020:

Mr Brian Simpson (Chair)
Mr Derek Mills (Treasurer)
Ms Julia Bean
Mr John Dobbin
Mrs Mary Drury
Mrs Eleanor Winkworth

HON. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Ian Groves

BANKERS:

Barclays Bank PLC

INVESTMENT ADVISORS:

Charles Stanley & Co

ORGANISATION

The Mission is an unincorporated body governed by a constitution. It is run by an Executive Committee whose members act as the Trustees of the Charity. Trustees are elected by the members for a term of three years and then may stand for re-election. Membership of the Mission is open to persons over the age of eighteen who are interested in furthering the aims of the Charity.

The Executive Committee which is responsible for overall management and policy meets at least three times a year. The day to day running of the Mission is delegated to a Management Sub Committee which meets with the Missioner in a monthly planning meeting. The Management Sub Committee consists of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

From March the country went into lock down as a reaction to the Covid 19 pandemic. So, since March 2020 all planned fundraising events were cancelled. The last planned fundraising event that went ahead was the Fouram Concert in February. This is the background to the attached financial results.

In the year to 31 December the Mission had a deficit of £1,035 (last year a surplus of £1,243). Several factors saved this deficit from being much higher. These were Mary Drury's sponsored walk which raised £1,500 (Congratulations Mary), several Funeral Donations from Friends and grateful relatives were made of £2,465 in thanks for the work we do, and the Co-op grant of £6,242 previously earmarked for our planned exercise classes which couldn't go ahead because of Covid19 restrictions.

The Co-op agreed that this grant could be used to meet operating expenses. Income for the year was £29,446 as against £26,379 in 2019. The income figure includes £2,502 raised from the donations made to the Hamper project and £527 raised from the sales of Christmas cards (see note 3 to the Accounts) Expenditure was £30,501 as against £25,136 last year. Several factors influenced this:

- The appointment of an Assistant Missioner in September 2019 together with an increase in the minimum wage in April 2020.
- The last instalment of the payment for the website was made.
- The costs of the Hampers were incurred (see note 3 to the Accounts)

I turn now to investments. The markets became very volatile as the pandemic took hold. Regulators insisted that clients were to be notified when the fall in the value of their portfolios exceeded 10%. We had two such notices in March as the value of our portfolio fell by 17% in the period from January to 16th March. During the period March to June the portfolio has been restructured. This restructuring led to the sale of 25 stocks and the reinvestment into 30 new stocks or additions to existing stock to better position our portfolio for the times ahead.

However, the restructuring led to a deficit on the sales of these investments of £927 as against a surplus in 2019 of £6,193. Since the large fall of the value of our investments in March the value has greatly recovered standing at £K178 at the end of December (As against £k186 at the end of December 2019).

Dividend income has been declining. In 2019 the dividend income was £6,003, and in 2020 this fell to £3,884. Thus, more of our return in the future needs to come from capital appreciation.

The latest estimated gross annual income of the portfolio is £3,355 giving a yield of 1.9%.

The Corona Virus pandemic will have an impact on our ability to raise funds in 2021. With our now higher salary costs and lower income we forecast a deficit of £15,000 for that year.

Derek Mills
Treasurer

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts are properly prepared. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity.

Also, to ensure that the Charity complies with its Constitution, Charity Commission guidelines, and any other relevant legislation or regulations, and to ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Charity.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DARLINGTON TOWN MISSION

I have independently examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the Balance Sheet as at that date given on pages 18 to 20 from the books, records and information supplied to me, and confirm them to be in accordance therewith.

I Groves

A. C. A. Independent Examiner

RESERVES POLICY

In drawing up this policy the Executive Committee had regard to securing and sustaining the Mission's viability and future, given the uncertainty of future legacies, donations and investment income. We are aware that the service we provide is an integral and essential part of the life of our Friends and to cut back or withdraw our services would provide real hardship.

The Mission's income in 2020 came from individuals, organisations, and church donations - (32%), Legacies (8%), Grants (25%) Fundraising and sponsorship (22%), and investment income (13%).

The Mission requires reserves in order to:

- 1) cover fluctuations in income principally legacies but also in other sources of income. For a number of previous years, the Mission's expenditure has only been fully covered in years where legacies and grants have been received. The level of other sources of income is also becoming uncertain. The return on our investments is likely to fall, and most church's ability to give has been restricted by hard financial times and church closures. The current Coronavirus has reduced the value of our investments and has all but wiped out any investment gains. It is likely that dividend income will also be reduced
- 2) provide for staff contractual commitments and working capital. Staff contractual commitments are likely to increase in future due to statutory increases in the living wage and automatic enrolment into a pension scheme

The Trustees believe that they should set the level of reserves held to forty-eight months of full operating expenditure as a reserve against fluctuations in income and reductions in valuation of investments due to unforeseen circumstances such as the Coronavirus and for contractual commitments and working capital.

A review of the level of reserves needed and of this policy will be carried out annually by the Executive Committee.

**DTM Income & Expenditure Account
and Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2020**

	2020	2020	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
<i>Income and Endowments from:</i>				
Donations & Legacies	11,998	-	15,410	-
Grants	7,242	-	-	-
Fundraising	2,928	3,414	4,963	-
Investments	3,884	-	6,006	-
Total Income	26,052	3,414	26,379	-
<i>Expenditure on:</i>				
Salaries	18,916	-	13,973	-
Travel	1,504	-	1,420	-
Outings		399	-	2,896
Insurance	224	-	318	-
Training	-	-	14	-
Publicity	3,150	-	2,212	-
Equipment Depreciation	248	-	268	-
Christmas Happy Hampers	-	2,025	-	-
Postage, stationery & Telephone	850	-	351	-
Sundries	978	-	1,369	-
Investment managers fee	2,207	-	2,315	-
Total Expenditure	28,077	2,424	22,240	2,896
Net income	-2025	990	4,139	-2,896
Profit on sale of investments	-927	-	6,193	
Total funds at beginning of year	165,459	935	155,127	3,831
Total funds at end of year	162,507	1,925	165,459	935

DTM Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fixed assets Note 1	525	772
Investments Note 2	141,388	144,878
	141,943	145,650
Current Assets		
Debtors	874	567
Cash at bank & in hand	22,023	21,244
	22,897	21,811
Liabilities		
Accruals	(178)	(867)
Deferred Income	(200)	(200)
	(378)	(1,067)
Net current assets	22,519	20,744
Net assets	164,432	166,394
Funds:		
Unrestricted	162,507	165,459
Restricted	1,925	935
Total Funds	164,432	166,394

Approved by the Trustees on 4th February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Brian Simpson

Derek Mills

Brian Simpson
Trustee & Chair

Derek Mills
Trustee & Treasurer

**DTM notes forming part of the Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

Note 1

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at original cost. Depreciation is provided at 25% being the rate calculated to write of the cost less estimated residual value of each asset on a straight-line basis over its useful life

	2020	2019
Cost	£	£
At beginning of year	1,991	1,201
Additions	-	790
At end of year	1,991	1,991
 Depreciation		
At beginning of year	1,219	951
Additions	248	268
At end of year	1,467	1,219
 Net book value		
At end of year	524	772

Note 2	2020	2019
Investments	£	£
At beginning of year	125,319	125,902
Purchases	117,679	68,160
	242,998	194,062
Sales	106,018	68,743
	136,980	125,319
Cash awaiting investment	4,408	19,559
At end of year	141,388	144,878
Market value	177,790	186,334

Note 3 Restricted Funds		
Balance of Restricted Funds at 31/12/2019		935
Restricted to outings		
Outing costs		-399
Money Raised for Hamper Project	2,502	
Cost of Hampers	2,025	
Surplus		477
Money raised for outing		412
Sponsor Money for advert in One Darlington Magazine		500
Balance of Restricted Funds at 31/12/2020		1,925