

EVANGELICAL BOOKSHOP

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, charity law for Northern Ireland and "Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)", the "Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (March 2018)", Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Evangelical Bookshop
Charity number	NIC 100560
Registered Office	15 College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DD
Independent examiner	B J Friar FCA GMcG Belfast, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
Bankers	Danske Bank , 9 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GJ

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY

The trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Rev A J Lucas	
D Watson	
Rev Dr R Beckett	
E C Brown	(resigned 9 th October 2024)

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Bookshop confirm that they had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide public benefits through the holding of assets by the charity for the benefit of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the furthering of Christian objectives to spread an evangelical message in particular through the access to theological resources and dissemination of Christian literature to Church's ministers, teachers leaders, congregations and the public in general and the provision of facilities for meetings and we refer to the guidance when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose and charitable objective of the charity is the holding of assets by the organisation for the benefit of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in particular through the dissemination of Christian literature.

The direct public benefits which flow to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church from the charity's purposes are:

- the continued holding of an asset (namely a real estate asset of a refurbished, 4-storey, well-maintained city centre premises, its equipment and stock) for its benefit;
- the goodwill developed as a result of the work carried out therein;
- the furthering of Christian objectives to spread an evangelical message and witness and the benefit of the Church's ministers, teachers, leaders and indeed congregations through access to theological resources which enhances their means for spiritual and educational development.
- the provision of a Church Denomination address, forum, facilities for meetings, distribution of the Church Magazine and advertising.

The evidence or proof of these benefits can variously be found in the Church's close identity with our good work, its continued connection with our organisation, its long-term and ongoing use of the facilities and in our annual accounts.

Indirect benefits do accrue to the public at large, namely the improvements enjoyed in their religious knowledge and education, but this is an incidental outworking of the Bookshop's dissemination of Christian literature. All members of the public are target beneficiaries of the Church and so this is of broad assistance to it.

The beneficiary of our organisation is the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The premises at Number 15 College Square East Belfast are held by us for the benefit of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and all the receipts profits and income from the said premises after payment of all necessary outgoings, repairs, maintenance, insurance and all expenses in respect of the premises, will from time to time be paid by us to the Central Fund of the said Evangelical Presbyterian Church or to such other Fund or Funds in connection with the said Church as shall be decided from time to time by us or a majority of us.

No harms arise from our purposes.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The bookshop is a charitable trust constituted under a trust deed dated 26 October 1982, which is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs (reference number XN 46617). The charity was registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 29th August 2014, under reference NIC 100560.

Recruitment, appointment, induction and training

The present trustees have been involved in the charity for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the charity and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be appointed by resolution of a meeting of all the trustees passed by a majority of those present. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT *(continued)*

Financial risk management objectives and training

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide assurance that:

- the charity is operating effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations; and
- the charity's systems of financial control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Total income for the year was £334,889 (2023 - £300,171). Income derived from charitable activities amounted to £312,068 (2023 - £275,909); other income totalled £2,000 (2023 - £1,667); donations totalled £20,650 (2023 - £22,584) and investment income totalled £171 (2023 - £11).

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £330,009 (2023 - £289,017). The cost of charitable activities amounted to £326,009 (2023 - £286,967) and governance costs amounted to £4,000 (2023 - £2,050).

The net income for the year amounted to £4,880 (2023 - £11,154 net income).

The Trustees considers that the charity is in a satisfactory position to carry on its charitable activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain free reserves which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. This provides sufficient funds to cover running costs which include management, administration and support costs. Free reserves are those unrestricted reserves not designated nor invested in fixed assets which are available for general use.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The bookshop will continue to seek every opportunity to increase income.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

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STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES *(continued)*

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to independent examiner

So far as each of the trustees in office at the date of approval of these financial statements is aware:

- there is no relevant information for the independent examination of which the charity's independent examiner are unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner are aware of that information.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

GMcG Belfast will continue in office as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

REGISTERED OFFICE

15 College Square East
Belfast
BT1 6DD

D Watson
Trustee



BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Approved by the trustees on 22/11/2024