

WHITEWELL METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the church's trust deed, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019)

Objectives and activities

The unchanging objective of the church is to continue to proclaim, promote and further spread the Christian faith as defined in the pages of the Bible. Our beliefs, precepts and practises are defined and decided, not by the words or decrees of men but, by the Word of God which we hold to be the highest authority, being the unvarnished and inspired Word of the God.

The main activities of the church, in order to achieve the above are the holding of regular religious services each week, the providing of youth activities and the broadcasting of our services along with the provision of services of a charitable benefit to the community and abroad.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the church should undertake.

The Unsung Heroes

As always we are so very grateful to God for the fantastic giving of our congregation that allows us to employ a number of people to help with our ministry and it is only right we pay tribute to the great army of volunteers who faithfully labour behind the scenes.

These faithful souls do all kinds of things from driving buses, leading youth activities, car park duty, cleaning, playing instruments, leading worship, fund raising, door to door witnessing, operating cameras to provide our on-line services, welcoming people at the doors, visiting the housebound and providing crèche facilities. The whole church functions and work because so many people play an important, sometimes unseen part. 1Corinthians 15:58 *"Always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know, that our labour is not in vain in the Lord."* Thank you, thank you, thank you everyone.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Achievements and performance

As this particular working year from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022 has progressed the previous restrictions deemed necessary to combat the Covid epidemic have eased.

Although Covid remains an issue, life seems to be returning to what was deemed 'normal'. Activities that have needed to be suspended such as Girls Brigade and Scouts for example have now been resurrected. People are back at church with a measure of social distancing still in place with regard to seating.

Some people with underlying health concerns still feel it best to watch the church services online.

It should be noted that our church online ministry has mushroomed over the past year. People now watch our services by the hundreds sometimes thousands all over the British Isles and all around the world in such places as Canada, United States, Australia, different parts of Africa, Europe and even Central and South America. What the apostle Paul says regarding the church in 1Thessalonians 1:8 could be said of Whitewell, "*For from you the Word of the Lord has sounded forth...*". It is an awesome privilege to be able to minister to the people of God in all these places.

Over the months the church services have been good and people have heard the Word of God with a fair number coming to faith in Christ. There have been a number of baptismal services with approximately 37 undergoing the ordinance of '*believer's baptism*'. Also, approximately 72 people have been publicly received into membership/fellowship.

Notable events throughout the year

- In December three new elders were publicly ordained.
- In February the church celebrated its 65th anniversary.
- In March, due to the increasing volume of work the church set up a D.S.T. (designated safeguarding team) to look after matters of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This involves a team of 5, one of whom is a serving trustee.
- In June our new Shepherd's Academy completed its first year with an academy meal at the Titanic Hotel with over 120 in attendance.
- In July we hosted a memorial service for our late founder and Senior Pastor James McConnell. This was well attended with missionaries and many other ministers attending. A new book about his ministry was also released on the night written by John McCreddie.
- Also in July, Whitewell hosted a 4 day Elim Wonderous Bible Week. So impressed were Elim with our facilities and staff that they have already requested the same for July 2023. We are delighted to work with other believers.
- In August we officially ordained to the ministry Pastor Lance Gower as minister of our daughter church in Newry.
- In September we again were able to host our main outreach event called '*Alive Belfast 2022*' with evangelist and pastor David Ham, from New York. It was a thoroughly successful and blessed event.
- We also saw our Shepherd's Academy begin its second year with a new influx of students complementing our existing students. We are already being asked by churches without a minister about the possibility of students from our academy helping them and in the future students even becoming their new ministers. This is an exciting development.

Other Activities

- Apart from our Sunday School all our youth activities are again up and running. This includes those already mentioned as well as our Saturday night '*Well Event*' for the teens and young adults. It would seem our Sunday morning '*Children's Church*' has replaced the Sunday Schools, for now anyway.
- So, the Word of the Lord continues to be preached and taught and a few of our Academy students are now running our new Christians course. Pastor David continues to expound the Scriptures each week taking on a 16 week series this year on 1Corinthians 13, a series on the parables of Jesus and now a series on the miracles of Jesus too. An interesting Bible Study series was also based on the classic '*Pilgrims Progress*' book by John Bunyan. This proved immensely helpful to many souls.
- Two other ministries that continue to make a difference are:
 - The street project to the homeless, '*Manna for Many*' run by Stanley Donaghey
 - Our food hamper ministry run by a lady called Jewel which brings food to needy families.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Ethiopia & Kenya

The Church has founded and continues to support a number of foreign missionary projects in Ethiopia and Kenya. These missions help relieve severe poverty in the local areas by assisting in the provision of food and clothing. The missions also help provide religious and secular education to the children and adults of the area and also assists in providing medical care.

The Church currently funds three project in Ethiopia; Kuriftu Compound, Babagaya School & Church, and Ambo Church. The Church also funds the Metropolitan Sanctuary and Nyeri Church in Kenya.

Hundreds of lives are being touched in both locations as well as the project employing over 50 individuals. We continue to say 'to God be the glory'

Ethiopia

Our Church, Schools and Clinics at Kuriftu, Bobagaya, and Ambo continue to support the needy children, their families and the local community in the surrounding villages of Bishoftu, Ethiopia. Our main assistance is to bring Christianity to all children from different ethnic religions through Evangelism and the provision of biblically-based teaching, and to advance the education of all children and young adults in the relief of poverty and hunger, bringing an holistic approach to help the people in these areas in their spiritual, educational and physical needs. The Metropolitan Tabernacle Church in Ethiopia serves the local community in reaching souls and where we have seen God's plans come to fruition over the many years.

The missionary project in Ethiopia has weathered the Covid storm and is emerging strong and vibrant. It continues to be supported at home by Mrs Eleanor McClelland and her daughter Karen along with Pastor Michael Bunting.

Kenya

The Metropolitan Sanctuary for Children with Disability continued to offer services during the year under the leadership of Pastor Mary Whaom and her dedicated team.

During the year the sanctuary offered rehabilitation services and organised training for Community Health Volunteers and for care givers in the community. Sitting aids, standing aids, stabilisers and wheelchairs were given to children in need. The sanctuary also provided social support through the provision of food packages, there were 15 families supported with food packages on a monthly basis. Medical assistance, support for families bereaved and home visits were also provided by the sanctuary staff.

The Church, through the sanctuary, continues to reach out to the local community. The Kenya missionary project has weathered the Covid storm and is emerging strong and vibrant. it continues to be supported at home by Pastor Frankie Weir.

Financial review

The Board of Trustees consider that the unrestricted funds of the charity have sufficient resources and assets available which are adequate to fulfil their obligations.

At 30 September 2022 the balance of unrestricted reserves was £7,801,926 (2021 - £7,838,318).

It is the policy of the church that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between six and nine month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the church's current activities while thought is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the church is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Structure, governance and management

The church is constituted as trustees incorporated as a body and was established by a charitable trust deed.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Pastor David Purse

Mr Charles Purse

Pastor Robert Higgins

The Oversight of the church have, by resolution at a meeting of same, the power to appoint new trustees. Accordingly, on New Year's Eve 3 new elders were publicly ordained. Two of whom in due course will take up the existing two vacancies on the trustees board.

In June Mrs Linda Hobson retired after 40 years working on the church office overseeing administration. We thank her for the many years of service and wish her a very happy retirement.

Mrs Lillian McTernaghan also retired from her voluntary post of leading our Mum's and Toddlers group which has been such a blessing to many families. Again, we thank Lillian for all her years of faithful service and wish her an equally happy retirement.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and 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 church and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the church for that year.

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 2015 (FRS 102);
- 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; and
- 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 sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act Northern Ireland (2008), the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Pastor David Purse
Trustee

Dated: 8/3/23