

RUGBY AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC100952)

Contents

	Page
Trustees' Report	3
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Financial Statements - Receipts and Payments Account	8
Financial Statements - Statement of Assets and Liabilities	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Report and the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

The Trustees of Rugby Avenue Congregational Church have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Annual Reporting and Public Benefit Requirement Statutory Guidance in the preparation of this report and in the course of their business in the reporting period.

Status

Rugby Avenue Congregational Church is governed by its constitution which was revised during 2015 and 2016 and came into effect at the Annual General Meeting on 17 February 2016.

Key objectives, purposes and activities

Our purpose is to promote the Christian Faith and glorify God through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God in Public Worship, reaching out to people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and encouraging them in their daily lives. To reach out to the lonely and depressed and provide opportunities for them to relate to other people in similar circumstances, to build meaningful relationships and overcome social isolation.

Activities undertaken for public benefit

Public Benefit. Our aim is to share the Christian Gospel and Faith through the advancement of Religion. The direct benefits of this aim include the provision of a Church building for public worship to provide spiritual and moral teaching and support for its members, and the general public who are welcome to attend. Opportunity is provided for Biblical teaching, prayer and worship. Our Church beneficiaries include our members, their families, the general public and the community in which our charity serves. All our activities are open to the general public and are advertised to them. There is no likelihood of our purpose being of harm to anyone. One of our aims is to do all the good we can to all those we can.

A **Private Benefit** flowing from our purpose is related to the employment of a part time minister and this is necessary in the furtherance of our charity's purpose and is reasonable and not excessive.

What we do:

Services of Public Worship

During 2024 our activities continued without any restrictions concerning public health. There is one service each Sunday. Special services are in celebration of festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. There is an opportunity to share in refreshments, receive gifts and literature about the real meaning of these festivals.

The weekly activities have continued and new activities have commenced.

Talking Chairs

Talking Chairs was originally conceived as a result of a survey carried out by one of our local councillors who commented "that while the area of Carryduff did not have many "down and outs" but did have a lot of "up and ins". Meaning that there were many older single people who whilst not in dire financial difficulty live alone, lonely socially isolated and in mental deficit.

As a direct result of that comment, we conceived the idea of Talking Chairs. A place where potentially lonely people could meet in a warm pleasant atmosphere, have a cup of tea and a biscuit, a chat and a laugh. Something to look forward to and get them out of the house, a motivator to get up and dressed and an expectancy of a bit of "Craic", news and gossip. Good relationships have commenced over a cup of tea/coffee with positive outcomes.

We cleared part of our main Church building and introduced round tables and comfortable chairs and a facility for Tea and Coffee making. The area is warm, light and open and folk can come in and stay for the morning or for shorter periods – just as they please.

This provision is free, thriving and open to everyone. Moving towards the 6th year it is serviced by 6 volunteers and attracts up to 40 individuals each Tuesday, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

News of the facility is spread by word of mouth and new attendees appear regularly and are quickly and warmly welcomed into the Group.

Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship

Meeting weekly, up to ten people join in a course of study in Mark's Gospel (notes are provided each week). There are lots of sharing, questions and fellowship. Great concern is shown to each other in this learning environment.

The Ladies Guild

This meeting for women meets monthly from September to May with a full and varied programme. This has included: a talk about her life in nursing by a retired Missionary Nurse, doing craft work, hearing about the work of various charities, and a flower arranging presentation. The purpose of the Guild is for Fellowship, Friendship and Encouragement.

Open for Prayer

This meeting takes place on the first Friday of each month right around the year. Posters are out to invite anyone who wishes to attend. The building is open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. People can come and go as they please. This time is set aside for personal reflection, prayer and praise. Many use it as an opportunity to be quiet, to get away from all of life's cares, problems and chores. Many have stated that they have left refreshed looking forward to the next opportunity to avail themselves of this quiet time.

How we are funded:

The charity has sufficient funds in its accounts to sustain its expenses and liabilities. The main source of annual income is the "Freewill Offerings" of those attending worship at our weekly Sunday Services, received either through money contained in sealed envelopes or by loose cash deposited in the collection plate. These are recorded and banked weekly. The Ladies meeting (called "The Ladies Guild") also have an offering plate and they are responsible for deciding how it is used in their organisation.

Reports on the Church's activities, and financial affairs, are prepared for the Congregational Meeting in November and for the AGM in April. The Reports are formally adopted at the AGM.

Trustees' Report continued

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Rugby Congregational Church
4 Queensfort Road
Carryduff
Belfast
BT8 8NG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC100952)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were Trustees at the date of this Report were:

Mrs Margaret Stokes
Mrs Hilda Johnston

Mr Reginald Humphreys
Mrs Edith Young

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Church Secretary
Treasurer

Rev Kenneth Irvine (PT)
Mr Reginald Humphreys (Acting)
Mrs Margaret Stokes

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Stephen McCausland
13 Cleland Park Central
Bangor
BT20 3EP

BANKERS

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Trustees' Report continued

SOLICITORS

Hewitt & Gilpin
Thomas House
14-16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

Approved by the Trustees on 16 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret A Stokes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'S'.

Margaret Stokes