

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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)" (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The principal activity of the company continued to be the provision of church facilities to members of the local community.

Causeway Coast Vineyard is a vibrant missional community in Northern Ireland. Our vision is to change the community one life at a time and to do so within our lifetime while ensuring that the work continues for generations beyond. We do not simply want to have a great church; we want to have a great city. We are a community who carry hope and are passionately pursuing God's heart for His city through our ordinary everyday lives.

We are a church where lives are changing. A place where people are saying "Yes" to God and experiencing life in a fresh way. We are people who seek to bring life to every area of our community. A place where we see transformation happen as we pursue the dreams that God has placed in our hearts. We believe we were made to connect with our community. Regardless of our interests or life stage, we have something for everyone, and it is our desire that Causeway Coast Vineyard helps people on their journey towards greater connection within the community.

Our desire is to see our community continue to flourish and we are seeking to be involved in that through many ways. We want to

- see our community come into a relationship with Jesus and build a family of faith
- reduce isolation in our society and build a family of connection
- help people in our community deal with the challenges of life by building a family of resilience
- see a community who have a direction and focus by building a family of purpose
- see a community that is sustainable and charitable – and build a family of provision.

In 2010 we bought a seven-acre site (part of an old timber yard) in the centre of Coleraine and in October 2012 moved into a purpose built 33,000 square foot church venue. We worship together on a Sunday through morning and evening services with around 800 people of all ages gathering on average each month as of November/December 2023. We also have online services available which has given the opportunity for those who are ill, far away, or interested in exploring church services the option to be a part of it.

Of course, what happens through Sunday and other weekly services is only a small part of how we seek to impact our community.

We have weekly small groups allowing people to connect regularly, as well as providing other gathering points for different groups of people throughout the week. These include many different types of activities ranging from walking, running and other interest groups all the way through to mental health, Bible study and family support groups.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

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We have a network of HUBS to help aid connection and care for those who are a part of CCV and for their surrounding community. These are groups of 40-50 people who are tasked with the responsibility to look out and keep in contact with one another. They are made up in geographical locations and contain people of all ages and stages. Through HUBS we encourage people to be neighbours in the community by looking out for those who are struggling and offering them help and connection.

We have continued to be involved in local schools and have one full time staff member dedicated to this work supported by a team of loyal volunteers and other staff. Our goal is to partner with local schools to aid them in the work they do with the young people in our community. We supply programmes focusing on self-worth, identity and relationships, and in 2023 we have also been running a full programme of school assemblies, lunch clubs, homework clubs, Alpha events and school transition courses.

We regularly pray for and see healing. We run conferences and training events such as Encounter More for those wanting to encounter God and experience Him more.

We pray on our streets every Saturday morning, which we have been doing since 2005. We also have a weekly Healing on the Zoom ministry which allows us to connect with those who are unable to turn up in person.

Our volunteers have really stepped in to serve our local community who have experienced real need in this season especially with the rising cost of living. We are delighted to see people give of their time to serve people with love and dignity.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. New trustees will receive appropriate induction and relevant training.

We have a risk management assurance framework in operation. This covers areas such as safeguarding processes for children and vulnerable adults, staff training and development, health and safety for staff and public around the site as well as HR, IT and financial risks (covered by our reserves policy). Two of our board members sit on a risk management sub-committee alongside the Operations Director. Any risks are raised, discussed and measures put in place to mitigate the risk. Risk is a standing agenda item on our board meetings and the risk management assurance framework is reviewed formally at the board meeting every six months.

#### **Achievements and performance**

Our March-July 23 adult attendances averaged a 14% increase on the same period in 2022, however in the last 3 months (Oct -Dec 2023) adult attendances fell by an average of 8% against the same period in 2022.

We've also been continuing to broadcast our services so those who are unable to make it along can still be a part of the church. Many newcomers to our in-person services will have tuned in online first and our services are viewed on average 600 times per week.

Our Easter services this year allowed us to see 1,400 people connect in our 4 weekend services. We also hosted a family easter egg hunt in a local forest, and we had around 350 people come along, many of who hadn't connect with us before, or it had been a long time since we had seen them.

Our Under 18 ministries have gone from strength to strength as well. We have Sunday environments, mid-week groups, mums and toddlers care, and other community-based projects. We are currently reaching anywhere between 300 - 500 under 18s monthly within our gathered environments in the building and others that we can't quantify outside of this within the community.

As mentioned, our school's ministry has been growing this year. Between September and December alone we interacted with over 7,000 pupils in 16 different schools in our education system. We have had lots of feedback from teachers and pupils in how this ministry has been so helpful within their environment.

Each year we run a 9-month School of Ministry which every year has gathered people to CCV from different locations who move and serve at CCV for the duration of their time in the school. This year, we have had a group from a Vineyard Church in the States doing school and outreach together.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

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At Causeway Coast Vineyard we run small groups which are groups of up to 20 people who meet weekly to connect with God and one another. These groups are open to the whole community. They are places to connect, make new friends, deepen relationships, encounter God's love and have the occasional party. We have discovered that big moments in life often happen in the small corners of life. There are a range of small groups:

- core groups - including weekly connection over coffee and studying a bible passage or book)
- courses - including prayer groups and bible study
- family central groups - including marriage, pre-marriage and singles groups
- interest groups - including keep fit, sewing, table tennis, etc.
- life stage groups – including groups for 20 somethings, women's groups, etc.)

During 2023 we ran 87 different groups over 3 terms which had over 500 unique people connecting and growing in their faith within them.

Our new Hubs model has resulted in us having over 10 different HUBS where people have been grouped together and are working hard to connect with one another and the community.

In Christmas 2023 we hosted a family event with over 150 attendees. We also had 743 people attend our Christmas carol service on Christmas eve, which was our largest gathering since Covid-19.

#### Financial review

The results for the year are set out on page 11.

The company returned net incoming resources for the year of £6,200 (2022 outgoing resources of £5,812). At 31 December 2023, the total funds of the charity amounted to £2,075,861 (2022 £2,069,661) comprising restricted funds of £9,377 (2022 £16,417) and unrestricted funds of £2,066,484 (2022 £2,053,244).

The charity set aside £19,000 to a designated fund for significant expenditure on the facilities. At 31 December 2023, the balance on this fund was £89,721 (2022 £88,126).

Of the total funds reported above, £nil (2022 £nil) is earmarked for future bank loan commitments. At 31 December 2023, the charity's bank debt amounted to £807,964 (2022 £896,501). The trustees are confident that the bank debt will be repaid out of ongoing surplus incoming resources and as such will be able to meet its ongoing working capital requirements.

The principal risk faced by the charity continues to be the potential of receiving insufficient funds to continue its activities. The charity seeks to mitigate this risk in the following ways:

- Unrestricted reserves are held which are sufficient to cover
- The continuance of operations given a 25% reduction in unrestricted income, for a period of 3-6 months, together with
- any specific liabilities which are outside of the normal scope of activities
- Appropriate designated reserves are held for significant long-term expenditure

Based on the 2024 budget, the range of reserves considered by the trustees to be adequate (as calculated above) is between £80K - £159K.

Total general unrestricted reserves (comprising of cash and debtors, less short-term liabilities) were £14,411 (2022 £64,948).

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### Plans for the future

Causeway Coast Vineyard (CCV) is a church affiliated to the Association of Vineyard Churches in the UK & Ireland (VCUKI). Alan and Kathryn Scott founded CCV and were the Senior Pastors (overall leaders) of CCV until June 2017 when they left to move to the USA. Neil and Janet Young took over as senior pastors at this time. Alan and Kathryn then became the leaders of Vineyard Anaheim and in early 2022 announced they were taking that church out of the Vineyard movement.

This gave rise to media coverage and a legal challenge in the US though these have no direct impact on CCV. However, concerns were raised at this time to Vineyard USA about Alan's conduct and Vineyard USA commissioned a third party to hear these concerns.

In December 2022 the trustees of both CCV and VCUKI were made aware of concerns raised by people in the UK with Vineyard USA relating to Alan's time at CCV.

On being made aware of the concerns CCV and VCUKI commissioned an independent review process (in February 2023) run by an experienced third party – Trusted HR Ltd – to hear these concerns and identify appropriate recommendations.

The initial stage of the review primarily involved the people who raised concerns via Vineyard USA. This led to a public statement from CCV and VCUKI on 1st June 2023 (<https://causewaycoastvineyard.com/statement-by-ccv-vcuki/>) highlighting that a review was ongoing and providing avenues for people to voice concerns.

Both CCV and VCUKI then publicly acknowledged that wrong and hurtful conduct has occurred at CCV and apologised to all those who were hurt, harmed, mistreated or in any way negatively impacted by their time at CCV. This took place on Sunday 2nd July 2023 in our worship services and the statement is on our website here: <https://causewaycoastvineyard.com/update-statement-2nd-july-2023/>.

At this point CCV and VCUKI also invited anyone else with concerns relating to CCV to speak to Trusted HR. We also communicated that we would make funding for counselling available to people impacted by these issues who engaged with Trusted HR. The funding for this counselling is facilitated by Trusted HR.

The trustees of CCV have allocated £15K to cover the cost of the review process and the offer to counselling to those impacted. VCUKI have set aside a similar amount. CCV published the final report including recommendations on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 <https://causewaycoastvineyard.com/ccv-review-oct2023/>

Trusted HR identified themes and repeated patterns of behaviour including examples of manipulation, inappropriate comments, narcissistic behaviour, and certain occurrences of public shaming and spiritual abuse relating to Alan Scott. Alan is no longer at CCV (and has not been since June 2017) so there is no action the trustees of CCV can take or need to take relating to Alan. However, we have shared the report with the leadership of his church in the USA, Dwelling Place.

The report contained recommendations for both CCV and VCUKI to consider and implement, and we have already updated our complaints handling processes. We are committed to implement all recommendations in full and have published our progress on our website <https://causewaycoastvineyard.com/implementing-the-recommendations-of-the-independent-review/>.

Over the next season we will continue to work to fulfil our mission to say 'yes' to God, experience life and carry hope to the city. We will also establish a team made up of trustees, staff and people from the wider CCV church to begin the search for new Senior Pastor(s).

## CAUSEWAY COAST VINEYARD CHURCH

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

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##### **Structure, governance and management**

Causeway Coast Vineyard is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 1 April 2008. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objectives and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of its members is limited in that every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr RJ Kelly (Resigned 20 October 2023)

Mr AR Lynas

Mr PR Lynas

Mr DP Wright

Mr NAW Young (Resigned 29 October 2023)

Prof. KC Hutchinson

New directors are appointed when appropriate. Suitable candidates are considered on the basis of their skills, experience and sympathy with the aims of church. New directors will be agreed at a board meeting before being invited to join.

Trustees are responsible for setting the organisation's payscales following the NICVA matrix and benchmark and ensuring that these are adhered to. Vineyard Compassion was birthed from Causeway Coast Vineyard church and has the same trustees.

##### **Reference and administrative details**

The day-to-day management of the charity is overseen by Neil Young (Senior Pastor until 29 October 2023), now Tre Sheppard (Associate Pastor) along with David McCracken (Operations Director) and Victoria Moore (Finance Manager).

##### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of Causeway Coast Vineyard Church for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

## CAUSEWAY COAST VINEYARD CHURCH

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that IDS Chartered Accountants LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

#### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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

Peter Lynas  
Peter Lynas (Sep 10, 2024 14:33 GMT+1)

#### **Mr PR Lynas**

Trustee

Dated: 3 September 2024