

## **Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2025**

Crossroads Church Craigantlet (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Charity No: NI 101800

Company No: NI602244

### Trustees currently serving:

Robert Rea

Rhonda Rea

Paul Shields

As a church, we continue meeting every Sunday morning at 11.15 am and Sunday evening at 7pm, in our church premises. All of these meetings, and bi-weekly prayer times, are open to everyone to attend, both members of the congregation and those from the surrounding community.

The Sunday services are a time of welcome and refreshments are provided at both, giving opportunities for people to greet each other and to build relationships with newcomers. This is followed by a period of worship and reflection before the main Bible teaching session which is led by various speakers from local churches. Sunday evenings take the form of informal Bible lessons and discussions, whereby people can explore the meaning of their faith.

During the Sunday morning service, there is a crèche room available for very young babies and toddlers. The room has a small audio-visual link to the main service and parents and carers can follow on with the worship and teaching as required.

There are dedicated prayer times during the week, on Tuesday mornings and on Thursday evenings. These are a vital part of the fellowship as people are able to share their difficulties with each other and find solace and pastoral care.

The Work Party continues to meet bi-weekly, on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. Under the supervision of our builder, twelve men and women have developed a good understanding of gardening, maintenance, joinery, plumbing and painting. This has built up people's confidence in applying these skills which has also been good for improved mental health. This group, in an informal way, assists each other with counselling one other through grief and mental health issues. Inter-dependent relationships have flourished and there is a true sense of belonging amongst them. We hope to develop other opportunities in the coming year to develop some gardening projects with the Work Party.

In partnership with 4theWin Gaming, we continue to be involved with regular tabletop games days. There has been good attendance at these events with between sixty and one hundred people coming to play a variety of games.

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These sessions appeal to both families with young children and teenagers, with some people travelling quite a distance to attend them. There is excellent supervision for everyone and an atmosphere of safety and inclusion is created. Snacks are available throughout the day and a main meal and desserts are served at teatime.

An annual coffee morning event is held to assist a local animal charity in fundraising. We facilitate this by providing food and hot drinks and there has been great interest in the day with over two hundred people attending. These types of events have raised awareness of our organisation in the community, both far and wide.

Crossroads' outreach into the immediate community continues and visits are made to the surrounding area at Christmas and Easter to deliver messages and gifts to the homes close by. We offer signposting to outside organisations for anyone who needs help for addictions and are in need of counselling for mental health problems etc.

The organisation continues to support the work of Dundonald Foodbank in the supply of donations made by the congregation. Some members have also had an opportunity to be involved with them during their annual Winter Food Collection at a local supermarket.

Financial support is provided to two missions on a regular giving basis. One is based in Cardiff, Wales and the other reaches out to the continents of Europe and Asia.

Pastoral care has been overseen by two of our founding members who dedicate their time to come alongside anyone who is in need. They make themselves available for counselling and support, either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. The organisation also has a social media page whereby the congregation can support each other with messages of encouragement.

The church's card ministry is also active. Approximately forty cards have been sent out over the year as a means to encourage people at their point of need. These are sent to those who are sick, lonely or need a lift in their spirit.

Our aim for the incoming year is to see the church building completed which will give the congregation the opportunity to grow in number. Should this go to plan, we hope to have an outreach mission at some point later in the year. It is our purpose to serve this community both practically and spiritually, to see people restored to good mental health and know that they are valued.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:

R. Rea

10th April 2025