

Charity Number: NIC102557

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Daly Park & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
4 Carnegie Street
Lurgan
Armagh
BT66 6AS
Northern Ireland

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

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The Bible Society in Northern Ireland
TRUSTEES' AND OTHER INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr Howard Davey
Mr John Stewart
Rev Capt Colin Taylor
Rev Karen Salmon
Rev Brian Anderson
Mr Neville McCormack

Charity Number in Northern Ireland

NIC102557

Principal Address

Bible House, 27 Howard Street
Belfast
Antrim
BT1 6NB
Northern Ireland

Auditors

Daly Park & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
4 Carnegie Street
Lurgan
Armagh
BT66 6AS
Northern Ireland

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
P.O. Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT1 6JS
Northern Ireland

Solicitors

Cleavor Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
Antrim
BT2 7FW

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the charity are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of The Bible Society in Northern Ireland present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2024.

The charity is a registered charity and although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

2024 was a year marked by significant developments and continued dedication to our mission. We were able to engage more directly with our community and global partners, fostering deeper connections and expanding our reach. Notably, we were excited to announce the appointment of a new CEO, who joined in September 2024, bringing fresh leadership and vision to our organisation.

Objectives

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland's mission remains steadfast: 'to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and medium they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God's purpose for their life.' As part of the Global Fellowship of United Bible Societies (UBS), we support Bible Translation, Publishing, Distribution projects, Literacy work, Bible Engagement, and Advocacy both globally and locally.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in line the charity's governing document. Trustees retire and are elected annually in accordance with the charity's governing document.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

Governance and Management

The Trustees of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland continue to focus on five strategic aims:

1. Growth in awareness of the work of the Society to reach everyone with God's Word.
2. Increase and development of the support base for the work of the Society by increasing the number of donors and developing new ways to generate funds.
3. Increase of financial support for global Bible mission through United Bible Societies (UBS) and locally through collaboration and partnership.
4. Promotion of Bible Engagement in Northern Ireland.
5. Striving for best practice governance, finance, and administration policies and procedures to ensure effective and efficient management of the society.

The 'Whole Family Bible Engagement' projects (Bibles for Babies, Daring to Hope, and 52) continued to thrive. Bibles for Babies remains a highlight, with weekly involvement of volunteers in Bible House, sending out Bibles and Birthday cards. Daring to Hope and 52 continue to be valuable resources for congregations and individuals across Northern Ireland.

Our Board of Trustees met five times throughout the year, with a mix of in-person and online meetings. The Finance Committee met Three times online. We anticipate continuing this hybrid approach to meetings in the future.

We also saw changes in our Board of Trustees with Rev Colin Taylor stepping down from his role of interim Chair. Mr Howard Davey and Mr Alfred John Stewart took on roles of Chair and vice Chair respectively.

Bible House remained fully occupied with no changes to the tenants.

Developing our Fundraising Potential

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for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

2024 presented challenges for fundraising, with income slightly down from 2023. However, we continued to receive generous support from our Bible-a-Month Partnership, Direct Mail Appeals, Word at Work Supporters Magazine, and the Greatest Gift initiative. We are grateful for the support from churches, church groups, and individuals.

Three Direct Mail Appeals were sent out in 2024, focusing on Kenya, Peru and Albania. While income was reduced compared to 2023, we remain committed to these vital projects.

Our supporters' magazine, 'Word at Work,' was produced three times during the year, sharing news of our work and in-depth projects in Cambodia, China and Slovenia. This was further supplemented by our Bible a Month and Greatest Gift campaigns. We also received support from Grant Making Trusts, corporate donors along with support World Mission Partnership within the Methodist Church and Global Mission Department of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Legacy income was received in 2024 from individuals who often had supported the work of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland through their lifetime. (2024: £99,030.51 2023: £38,596 2022: £96,220). We are grateful to everyone who remembers the work of Bible Society NI in their will.

We continued to participate in the IllumiNations fundraising movement, raising our profile and receiving donations for Bible Translation projects.

Achieving the Public Benefit of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland

In 2024, we supported a wide range of projects globally, providing financial support to Bible Societies in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America. Our projects included Bible translation, publication, distribution, literacy work, and Bible engagement and advocacy.

Albania - Bible Match
Algeria - Scriptures for Seekers
Arab Israeli - Magdalena Project
Argentina - West Toba translation
Armenia - Moving Gospel: Good news for Border villages
Austria - Scriptures for refugees including those in detention centres or in prison
Azerbaijan - Bible distribution for the Azerbaijani nation
Cambodia - Literacy Programme: Learning through Listening
China - Affordable Bibles for the Millions in China
China - Capacity Building
Costa Rica - Scripture Portions in Spanish Braille
Cuba - A Bible for every Cuban with engagement strategies
Egypt - Kingo Festivals : instilling Biblical principals in children
El Salvador - New Testament Tour in Schools
Guatemala - Free to Live: Rescuing girls from trafficking
Gulf States - Sharing the Good News with migrant workers in Bahrain through Story Telling
Honduras - The Most Violent Country in the World (Police and Prisoners)
India - Translation projects: 6 languages in 2024
Jordan - Providing Jordanians with the Word of God
Kenya - Bible distribution among marginalised children and youth
Lebanon - Serving the persecuted church in the Middle East
Lithuania - New Translation of the Lithuanian Bible
Macedonia - Youth who can't afford a Bible
Malawi - Family Scripture Engagement Packs
Morocco - A Spring in the Desert - Core Presence
Pakistan - Beacon in the darkness of illiteracy
Pakistan - Growing with the Bible
Palestine - Child of Bethlehem
Palestine - World Day of Prayer for Palestine 2024
Paraguay - El Amanecer boat
Peru - Bread of Life
Philippines - Bible Learning Groups - FCBH
Portugal - Almeida Translation
Serbia - New Translation of the NT for a New Generation
Slovenia - Everyday Bible Mission
Sri Lanka - Braille Bibles for Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka - Tamil Old Version Bible Revision for Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka - Spreading Joy
Swaziland - Swati Study Bible
Togo - Faith Comes by Hearing
UBS - Global Stewardship Fund
Uganda - A Bible in every hand - Home, Heart, Hotel and Hospital

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for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Uganda - Lhukonzo First Bible Translation with Publishing

Ukraine - Hope Amidst Fear: Bible for Distressed Ukraine NEW

Uruguay - Breakfast with Jesus

The above list of projects represents around £395,000 worth of financial support to Bible Societies around the world through the International Support Programme of United Bible Societies. Support was also sent to help cover the costs of the 2023 UBS fellowship event in Toronto Canada.

We also generated significant prayer support from across Northern Ireland through our printed materials, Direct Mails, Bible-a-Month calendar, and monthly online prayer meetings.

Our 'Whole Family Bible Engagement' project received further support from Bible Society Australia. The Bibles for Babies program registered 1600 babies born in 2022, 1500 born in 2023 and 1278 born in 2024 with over 4200 Toddler Bibles sent out by the end of 2024.

Enhancing the Society's Profile

2024 saw opportunities to attend events in person, strengthening our connections within the local Christian community and the United Bible Societies Fellowship with a highlight being the Fellowship event in Toronto Canada which provided a great opportunity to meet and hear updates from projects we support. We maintained strong links with the main Protestant denominations and participated in various networks, Bible Society NI are members of MAP (Mission Action Partnership) and AMS (Association of Mission Societies – Church of Ireland)..

In November, we held 'The Gathering' event again in T3 at The House of Vic Ryn, providing an opportunity for supporters to come together. We were pleased with the turnout and the engagement from our guests and volunteers. Elaine Duncan the Chair of UBS fellowship council was our guest speaker and we also had the opportunity to introduce and commission our new CEO Wilson Beare.

Complying with Best Practice

The Board of Trustees continued to comply with best practice in the day-to-day management of the Society. Financial statements were reviewed regularly, and steps were taken to ensure compliance with safeguarding issues. We also monitored our risk register and reviewed new policies.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

The accounts as presented show a deficit of £71,959 (2022: Surplus of £47,123) on the Income & Expenditure Account.

During the year, the Society's incoming resources from donations and legacies decreased by 10% to £555,905 (2022: £616,232) with the total incoming resources £624,567 (2022: £741,087), a decrease of 12%.

Total expenditure decreased by 8% to £696,526 (2022: £759,130) resulting in a deficit of £71,959 (2022: deficit of £18,043). The amount pledged to International Support Projects was reduced by the Board of Trustees to £439,845 (2022: £518,202) for 2023.

Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £989,644 (2023 - £985,725) and liabilities of £4,075 (2023 - £9,086). The net assets of the charity have increased by £8,930.

Reserves Position and Policy

At 31 December 2024, the Society's unrestricted funds totalled £748,938 (2023: £740,008). When added to the property revaluation reserve of £236,631 (unchanged from 2023), this brought the Balance Sheet total to £985,569 (2023: £976,639).

The Society's practice is to release funds quickly to support the provision of God's Word globally and locally, maintaining reserves to support operating costs over a twelve-month period as documented in our Reserves Policy.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Voluntary income remains our main source of funding. Significant work continued in 2024 to increase our profile and awareness, especially among younger online audiences. The Board of Trustees continues to manage risk and plan for uncertainty where possible.

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

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for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Bible Society in Northern Ireland subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

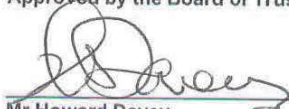
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Conclusion

Reflecting on 2024, the Trustees are grateful for the generosity of our donors and supporters and the new opportunities that have arisen. We are excited about the future, especially with the appointment of our new CEO in September 2024, who will bring new leadership and vision to our mission.

We thank God for our dedicated staff team and Board of Trustees, who continue to show creativity and drive to reach our full potential. We remain committed to our mission of 'Reaching everyone with God's Word.'

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Mr Howard Davey
Trustee


Mr John Stewart
Trustee

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

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 assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the charity and otherwise comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

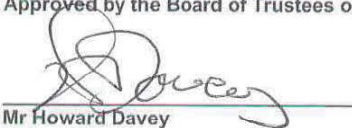
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; 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 confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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. 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.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Howard Davey
Trustee



Mr John Stewart
Trustee