

# Belfast City Mission

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

#### Year ended 28 February 2023

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2023.

#### Reference and administrative details

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Belfast City Mission
<b>Charity registration number</b>	102621
<b>Company registration number</b>	R0000079
<b>Principal office and registered office</b>	Belfast City Mission Assembly Buildings 2-10 Fisherwick place Belfast BT1 6DW Northern Ireland

#### The trustees

Mr R Armour	
Mr H Thompson	
Rev D Bannerman	(Resigned 1 June 2023)
Mr W Logan	
Mr J Douglas	(Resigned 1 June 2023)
Mr T Irwin	
Rev J Maddock	(Resigned 20 July 2023)
Rev G McKeown	
Rev A Smyth	
Mr R Woods	

**Company secretary** William Logan

**Auditor** Hill Vellacott  
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor  
22 Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7BA

# **Belfast City Mission**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 28 February 2023**

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

Belfast City Mission is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is legally known for the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the City of Belfast.

#### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body of Belfast City Mission is responsible for oversight of the business and the Christian ethos of our work.

#### **Governing Document**

The Belfast 'Town' Mission was founded in 1827. The name of the Mission changed in 1918 to Belfast City Mission (Incorporated) as a Limited Company under the Companies Act 1908 - 1912.

Memorandum and Articles of Association were updated on 2 May 1997.

#### **Appointment of Governors**

Eighteen governors are elected every three years at our annual board meeting in April prior to the annual meeting of Belfast City Mission.

#### **Management**

Responsibility for the day to day running of the Belfast City Mission lies with the executive secretary along with the superintendent's board.

#### **Membership or organisation**

A member of the British Association of City Missions.

#### **Trustees and helpers**

All Trustees and helpers in our 16 halls give of their services without payment or expenses.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The work of the Belfast City Mission continues with the purpose of reaching people from all classes and creeds with the good news of the Gospel. Mission halls in various districts across Belfast hold meetings which cater for all age groups throughout the week. Special emphasis is placed on our Midweek and Sunday evening services to proclaim God's Word.

Organisations such as Sunday School, youth clubs, Boys and Girls Brigade provide much of the work done with young people. Mums and Tots, homework clubs and breakfast clubs are also popular in some districts as a way of building relationships with families.

# **Belfast City Mission**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

#### **Year ended 28 February 2023**

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##### **Strategic report**

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

##### **Achievements and performance**

The past twelve months saw the work of Belfast City Mission continue to achieve its objectives by taking the good news of the gospel to the needy people of Belfast.

In a number of our halls attendances have improved, with one hall seeing its attendance more than doubling in number. This was due to a Missionary being appointed fulltime to the district.

We had two retirements during the year and two missionaries also resigned. Thankfully we have been able to appoint two new staff members to offset this. One hall (Kilburn Street) sadly had to close due to it being deemed as a fire risk by the insurance company. This leaves BCM with 15 halls spread across the city.

Our work continues to grow amongst refugees and foreign nationals who have made Belfast their home. Weekly English classes are held regularly in one of our halls.

Following the Pandemic some of our halls continued to serve food and hand out food parcels to the most disadvantaged families in Belfast. The Foodbank in our Sandy Row District was once again very busy providing food to clients from across Belfast.

Our Missionaries continue to source furniture for families and offer other practical help where needed. The Annual Christmas Appeal was supported by over 100 churches allowing us to distribute food hampers, toys, chocolates and gift cards to many families and individuals.

Work amongst the children continued to flourish. Sunday Schools, after schools clubs, youth clubs and football camps attracted large numbers throughout the year.

Much of the work of BCM is personal and involves home visitation within districts as well as visits to those in hospital and in nursing homes.

The main emphasis of our work is taking the gospel message to the people of Belfast. This continues to be done through meetings in the halls, children's work and knocking on doors in the fifteen districts.

In the past year God has once again provided for our financial needs with the accounts showing a surplus due mainly to legacy income.

We look forward with great expectancy to the year that lies ahead to see what God will do in Belfast.

##### **Additional objectives and activities**

We are so thankful for the time given to our activities and objectives by our Missionaries and our helpers throughout the year without payment or expenses.

# **Belfast City Mission**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 28 February 2023**

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#### **Financial review**

Details of the results for the period are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 10 and the related notes.

#### **Investment policy and returns**

Belfast City Mission investments are managed by Kleinwort Hambros and Smith & Williamson Stockbrokers and were valued at £1,410,576 as at 28 February 2022.

During the past financial period, we have received dividend income from these investments totalling £26,238.

The finance of Belfast City Mission is wholly dependent on voluntary contributions received from people across the Province. The generosity of these gifts allows the Mission to carry out its work. As always we are thankful for those who continue to support us both prayerfully and practically.

Our main source of income this year has been our offerings from our Mission Halls and Churches and individual donations from across Northern Ireland.

#### **Reserves**

We need in the region of £600,000 per annum to keep us afloat, which up until 2021/2022 we had received year on year. In 2021/2022 we received £677,172 (2020/21: £596,555).

At 28 February 2023 the charity held funds of £3,678,975. Of this £3,410,011 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets or investments.

In 2021/2022 we are grateful for the bequests we have received towards our work which increased significantly on the previous year.

#### **Plans for future periods**

Our plan for the future is to continue to reach out and work in our capital city among all of our citizens regardless of class, culture or creed with the Gospel of Christ. To continue to promote our work as best as we can across Northern Ireland to bring in further voluntary donations to keep our Charity afloat.

Partnership with PCI is also being looked at in order to work together on mutual projects.

#### **Tax status**

The company has been accepted as constituting a charity under the provisions of the Taxes Acts.

#### **Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, 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).

# Belfast City Mission

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

### Year ended 28 February 2023

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The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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, of the charity for that period.

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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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 financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 30 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr W Logan  
Trustee

