

Belfast City Mission

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 29 February 2024

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 29 February 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Belfast City Mission
Charity registration number	102621
Company registration number	R0000079
Principal office and registered office	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 29 February 2024

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 Brigade (BB), and Girls Brigade (GB), 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 29 February 2024

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 have seen a number of changes to the staff of Belfast City Mission. Three long standing missionaries retired and two new missionaries were appointed to the staff. At present there are several halls still vacant which we hope to have staffed in the near future.

One hall closed (Canton Street) due to falling numbers and the need for major capital expenditure on the premises. The people who attended the hall have been able to go to meetings in nearby halls in Bloomfield drive and in Island street.

Kilburn street hall which was closed last year and Canton street hall will hopefully be marketed for sale in the near future.

With the retirement of the missionary in Jersey street, the board decided to close the hall for a short time before reopening again but with a different style of ministry. It is hoped that the change will encourage more opportunities to engage with the local community.

The work with refugees and asylum seekers once again increased. Two of our missionaries are involved with many different strands of ministry as they seek to help some of the most vulnerable in society. English classes are provided twice weekly, with attendances at these meetings often exceeding per class. Help is also given with filling out forms for housing and benefits.

Many of the halls will seek to provide meals and food parcels for the poorest families in their districts. This has proved a valuable way of connecting with the elderly and the loneliest people who otherwise would be struggling.

Our children's work has once again flourished with many missionaries reporting an increase at Sunday school, youth clubs and the uniformed organisations such as GB and BB. Mums and tots groups are also popular in some of our districts. This is a valuable and rewarding work because it often leads to stronger family connections with the parents and guardians.

District visitation (door to door) is one of the most effective ways to get to know people and to invite them to the meetings in our halls.

All missionaries are involved in taking funerals. Some of these have been difficult because of the tragic circumstances particularly with suicides which seems to be increasing.

Belfast City Mission

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 29 February 2024

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 Evelyn Partners Stockbrokers and were valued at £1,691,271 as at 28 February 2024.

During the past financial period, we have received dividend income from these investments totalling £36,360.

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 2023/2024 we had received year on year. In 2023/2024 we received £1,245,069(2022/23: £817,415).

At 28 February 2024 the charity held funds of £4,423,985. Of this £3,495,287 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets or investments.

In 2023/2024 we are grateful for the bequests we have received towards our work which increased significantly on the previous year.

Plans for future periods

As always, we are thankful for the churches, individuals and businesses which support our work throughout the year. Without their faithful giving and praying the work of the Mission would be severely hindered. Most of all we are grateful for God's gracious hand upon our work and the blessings we have received.

It is anticipated that our new work will not be focused primarily on hall based with meeting. A greater emphasis is being placed on more community outreach. Co-operation with the local PCI churches is also key to our future development. Working on joint projects is more efficient and cost effective for all involved.

Tax status

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

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 29 February 2024

Belfast City Mission investments are managed by Kleinwort Hambros and Evelyn Partners Stockbrokers and were valued at £1,691,271 as at 28 February 2024.

During the past financial period, we have received dividend income from these investments totalling £36,360.

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 2023/2024 we had received year on year. In 2023/2024 we received £1,245,069 (2022/23: £817,415).

At 28 February 2024 the charity held funds of £4,423,985. Of this £3,495,287 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets or investments.

In 2023/2024 we are grateful for the bequests we have received towards our work which increased significantly on the previous year.

Plans for future periods

As always, we are thankful for the churches, individuals and businesses which support our work throughout the year. Without their faithful giving and praying the work of the Mission would be severely hindered. Most of all we are grateful for God's gracious hand upon our work and the blessings we have received.

It is anticipated that our new work will not be focused primarily on hall based with meeting. A greater emphasis is being placed on more community outreach. Co-operation with the local PCI churches is also key to our future development. Working on joint projects is more efficient and cost effective for all involved.

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

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 29 February 2024

Company law 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 charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 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.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution to reappoint Hill Vellacott as auditors will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 29 October 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr H Thompson
Trustee

Mr W Logan
Trustee

