

# Christ Church (Congregational)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103423

## Details

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**Known as** Abbots Cross Congregational

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2016-05-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Church Secretary -- Christ Church C  
96 Doagh Road  
Nwtownabbey  
County Antrim  
Bt37 9qw  
BT37 9QW

**Phone** 02893462765

**Email** [churchsecretary@abbotscross.org](mailto:churchsecretary@abbotscross.org)

**Website** [www.abbotscross.org](http://www.abbotscross.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** Our purposes are in the 2nd paragraph of the Covenant section contained in our Constitution governing document as follows:- "We engage therefore, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to maintain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the Church; the relief of the needy; the spread of the Gospel to all nations."

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Overseas aid/famine relief, Playgroup/after schools, Religious activities, Welfare/benevolent, Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Men, Older people, Overseas/developing countries, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£157,737	£136,551	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Bell		
David Walker		
Jeffrey Adair		
John Ross		
Rodney Orr		
Samuel Carson		
Stevie Barr		
Stewart Wilson		
William Annette		

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Accounts

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Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross

**Accounts**

**Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

## **Contents**

**Foreword by Charity Trustees**

**Receipts and payments Account**

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

**Missionary Disbursements**

**Notes to the accounts**

## **Foreword by the Trustees**

**The accounts for Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts are published to comply with our registration as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

**Abbots Cross is not a fund raising body, income is solely from voluntary/freewill sources contributed by members and other attendees/adherents and we are grateful to all those who have contributed.**

**Our Trustees Annual Report gives a brief but broader picture of Abbots Cross.**

**Thanks also to Ian Murray Co. for carrying out the independent examination of our accounts.**

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£		£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Voluntary giving	100,608	27,008	0	127,616	127,243
Gift Aid	28,417	0	0	28,417	8,737
Donations and Bequests	1,470	0	0	1,470	1,751
Other Income	0	0	0	0	2,592
Investment Income	234	0	0	234	216
	<b>130,729</b>	<b>27,008</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157,737</b>	<b>140,539</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0		0
Charitable Activities	109,500	27,051	0	136,551	125,667
Governance Costs	0	0	0		0
	<b>109,500</b>	<b>27,051</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136,551</b>	<b>125,667</b>
Before transfers between funds	21,229	(43)	0	21,186	14,872
Transfers between Funds	0	0	0		0
<b><u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u></b>	<b>21,229</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,186</b>	<b>14,872</b>

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

**Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£		£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	61,961	2,409	0	64,370	49,498
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	21,229	(43)	0	21,186	14,872
	<u>83,190</u>	<u>2,366</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,556</u>	<u>64,370</u>
Closing Funds at end of year	<u>83,190</u>	<u>2,366</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,556</u>	<u>64,370</u>

**Held as followings:**

Bank Current Account No. 1	83,190	800	0	83,990	61,961
Bank Current Account (Maintenance)		1,566		1,566	2,408
Bank Current Account (Missionary)	0	0		0	1
Cash in hand				0	0
	<u>83,190</u>	<u>2,366</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,556</u>	<u>64,370</u>

**Non-monetary Assets (not included above)**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
Church, Halls & Contents	4,931,000			4,931,000	4,931,000
Manse	355,000			355,000	355,000
	<u>5,286,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,286,000</u>	<u>5,286,000</u>

The trustees are of the opinion that given that the age of the Church buildings & Other property that the most appropriate basis of valuation is the Insurance cover which is shown above.

**Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the Trustees on 20th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-**

Trustee - *W.D. Ath*

Trustee - *David Athelton*

## Disbursement to Missionaries

Each week, we donate at least 10% of our weekly income to students and full-time Christian workers and on each tenth Sunday give the entire offering to designated missionary work.

The missionary giving to our full time Christian workers who are also church members approved by the church was **£18,940**.

Those supported in this way are as below:-

Beverley McMaster (Child Evangelism Fellowship Ireland)

Child Evangelism Fellowship Ireland (support for Beverley McMaster)

Heather Wilson (Faith Mission Ireland)

Matthew & Elizabeth Cuthbert (New Tribes Mission)

Stephen & Heather Cuthbert (New Tribes Mission)

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

The Congregation has a policy of every 10th Sunday setting aside the entire offering for Missionary work and on the other Sundays, setting aside 1/10 of the offering for Missionary work.

**Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

The following designated funds are held within the general unrestricted funds, these discretionary funds are set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose:

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

**Trustee benefits (in total)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Remuneration	<u>19,786</u>	<u>9,454</u>
Reimbursed expenses	<u>522</u>	<u>266</u>

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing from our purpose in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Accounts

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**Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross**

**Accounts**

**Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

## **Contents**

**Foreword by Charity Trustees**

**Receipts and payments Account**

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

**Missionary Disbursements**

**Notes to the accounts**

## **Foreword by the Trustees**

**The accounts for Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts are published to comply with our registration as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

**In line with our understanding of CCNI guidance we have not filed 'public' accounts for 2021 or 2022 (while accounts for these years were reported to our members as required).**

**Abbots Cross is not a fund raising body, income is solely from voluntary/freewill sources contributed by members and other attendees/adherents and we are grateful to all those who have contributed.**

**Our Trustees Annual Report gives a brief but broader picture of Abbots Cross.**

**Thanks also to Ian Murray Co. for carrying out the independent examination of our accounts.**

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£		£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Voluntary giving	106,027	21,216	0	127,243	196,951
Gift Aid	8,737	0	0	8,737	30,058
Donations and Bequests	1,751	0	0	1,751	3,065
Other Income	2,592	0	0	2,592	10
Investment Income	136	80	0	216	131
	<b>119,243</b>	<b>21,296</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140,539</b>	<b>230,215</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0		0
Charitable Activities	94,406	31,261	0	125,667	209,766
Governance Costs	0	0	0		0
	<b>94,406</b>	<b>31,261</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,667</b>	<b>209,766</b>
Before transfers between funds	24,837	(9,965)	0	14,872	20,449
Transfers between Funds	0	0	0		0
<b><u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u></b>	<b>24,837</b>	<b>(9,965)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,872</b>	<b>20,449</b>

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023**

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

**Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£		£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	37,124	12,374	0	49,498	54,237
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	24,837	(9,965)	0	14,872	20,449
	61,961	2,409	0	64,370	74,686
Closing Funds at end of year	61,961	2,409	0	64,370	74,686

**Held as followings:**

Bank Current Account No. 1	61,961	0	0	61,961	62,309
Bank Current Account (Maintenance)		2,408		2,408	12,374
Bank Current Account (Missionary)	0	1		1	3
Cash in hand				0	0
	61,961	2,409	0	64,370	74,686

**Non-monetary Assets (not included above)**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
Church, Halls & Contents	4,931,000			4,931,000	4,931,000
Manse	355,000			355,000	355,000
	5,286,000	0	0	5,286,000	5,286,000

The trustees are of the opinion that given that the age of the Church buildings & Other property that the most appropriate basis of valuation is the Insurance cover which is shown above.

**Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the trustees on 21st October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-**

*Trustee - W D Annette*

*Trustee - David Walker*

## **Disbursement to Missionaries**

Each week, we donate at least 10% of our weekly income to students and full-time Christian workers and on each tenth Sunday give the entire offering to designated missionary work.

The missionary giving to our full time Christian workers who are also church members approved by the church was **£17,818**.

Those supported in this way are as below:-

Beverley McMaster (Child Evangelism Fellowship Ireland)

Child Evangelism Fellowship Ireland (support for Beverley McMaster)

Heather Wilson (Faith Mission Ireland)

Matthew & Elizabeth Cuthbert (New Tribes Mission)

Stephen & Heather Cuthbert (New Tribes Mission)

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023**

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

**Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

The following designated funds are held within the general unrestricted funds, these discretionary funds are set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose:

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

**Trustee benefits (in total)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Remuneration	9,454	69,660
Reimbursed expenses	266	1,769

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing from our purpose in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Annual report

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**Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross**

**Trustees Annual Report**

**Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

## Trustees Annual Report

**Charity** – Christ Church (Congregational) – also known as Abbots Cross Congregational

**NI charity reference** – NIC103423

**Principal address** – Christ Church (Congregational), Doagh Road, Newtownabbey, County Antrim, BT37 9QW.

### Introduction

This report covers the period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**. Our registration as a charity was on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### Structure

The congregation at Abbots Cross is an unincorporated institution made up of all those who take up membership (non-members are known as adherents but do not have 'voting rights') and governed by a constitution. At 31<sup>st</sup> December we had 126 members.

Under the constitution there is provision for a leadership body appointed by the members and made up of the serving Minister (if one has been appointed) and Deacons. The serving Minister is generally regarded as the Chairperson, a Secretary and Treasurer are appointed from within the Diaconate and ratified by the members of the Congregation. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there was not a serving minister and there were 6 men serving in the role of deacon.

The Annual Business Meeting at which amongst other reports, accounts are brought to the members is held in February each year, with subsequent Church Meetings in June, September and December. The congregation is also subject to the trusts placed upon it by a Trust Deed in which the property is also settled, under the requirements of the Trust Deed a number of persons have been appointed by and on behalf of the congregation as 'holding trustees' to hold legal title to the buildings in which the congregation meet and to the house used as the Minister's manse.

### Objects

Our Charitable Purposes are set out in the Covenant section of our constitution as follows:

**We engage therefore, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to maintain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the Church; the relief of the needy; the spread of the Gospel to all nations.**

These purposes are advanced by means of our weekly public services, outreach into the local community, organisations meeting in our premises, missionary interest and practical support.

## **Trustees**

For the purpose of charity law, the serving Minister and Deacons have the day-to-day role for the administration and management of the church on behalf of the members and are identified as the charity trustees. In January 2023 the serving Minister resigned after serving for 12 years. Deacons are elected for a period of 3 years and on retirement are eligible for re-election. Instead of all retiring at the same time, one third of the Deacons retire by rotation each year. During the period of this report the following persons served as charity trustees:

William Annette, Jeffrey Adair, Brian Bell, Samuel Carson, Andrew Cuthbert (until February 2023), Rev. Trevor Gillanders (until January 2023), Andrew Kirkpatrick (until March 2023), Thomas McLernon (until March 2023), Mark Thompson, David Walker.

The serving minister and deacons also have oversight of the **spiritual well-being** of the congregation. Spiritual well-being is provided by meeting together each week for corporate fellowship, worship and prayer. Our pastoral care includes visitation of those in hospital and or the housebound and we have strengthened our pastoral care capacity with the involvement of a retired Congregational minister which has been vital. While at the time of writing we do not have a serving minister, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 a Special Meeting of Church members voted to 'call' a new minister and Lord willing we look forward with great anticipation to seeing this process reach completion in 2024.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees confirm they have regard to the Commission's public benefit requirement. While the former Minister and 1 other former trustee received a salary and relevant expenses from the congregation, this was an incidental private benefit necessary to further our charitable purposes as set out in our purpose statement available to view on our registration page on the *Charity Commission for Northern Ireland* website.

As an evangelical congregation/denomination we seek to share and witness our Christian faith to the local community by inviting attendance at our weekly public services. We acknowledge the contribution of all those folk who take on the additional responsibility of organisation and or leadership in the following ministries:- Stepping Stones children's ministry, crèche, youth fellowship, Girls Brigade, Little Lambs (mums & tots), Boys Club, youth club, English class (for foreign nationals living in our local area), door to door visitation.

It has been very encouraging to have different nationalities joining with us, people who have come from other nations including India & Africa. All our church activities were in place during this year and our congregation remained very faithful in their attendance and participation.

## **Safeguarding**

The Trustees remain aware of the 'duty of care' to children. All persons working with children must be subject to an enhanced disclosure under current legislation and this applies to persons working in organisations associated with the church. Our safeguarding policy remains in place and at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there had not been any 'abuse' claims made, nor are we presently aware of any circumstances which might reasonably be expected to give rise to a claim for abuse.



**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Annual return

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**We report on the financial statements of Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner:**

The Charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 62(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to state whether particulars matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the Independent examiner's statement**

Our examination was carried in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a “true and fair” and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

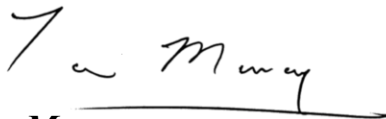
In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention;

1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to kept accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act .
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008.

have not been met or

2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached



***Ian Murray***

For and on behalf of  
Ian Murray & Co. Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants  
27 Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN

**Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Accounts

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Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross

**Accounts**

**Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

## **Contents**

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**Statement of assets and liabilities**

**Analysis of Missionary disbursements**

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**The accounts for Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts are published to comply with our registration as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

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**Our Trustees Annual Report gives a brief but broader picture of Abbots Cross.**

**Thanks also to Ian Murray and Co. Carrickfergus, for carrying out the examination of our accounts.**

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£		£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Voluntary giving	154,372	4,159	0	158,531	165,569
Gift Aid	20,241	0	0	20,241	22,467
Donations and Bequests	1,780	2,955	0	4,735	8,018
Other Income	5,652	0	0	5,652	0
Investment Income	162	0	0	162	213
	<b>182,207</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189,321</b>	<b>196,267</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0		0
Charitable Activities	215,058	7,248	0	221,786	177,366
Governance Costs	520	0	0		0
	<b>215,578</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>221,786</b>	<b>177,366</b>
Before transfers between funds	(33,371)	(134)	0	(32,465)	18,901
Transfers between Funds	0	0	0		0
<b><u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u></b>	<b>(33,371)</b>	<b>(134)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(32,465)</b>	<b>18,901</b>

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020**

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

**Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>
	£	£	£		£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	92,285	134		92,419	73,518
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	(32,331)	(134)	0	(32,465)	18,901
	59,954	0	0	59,954	92,419
Non- Momentary adjustment					
Closing Funds at end of year	59,954	0	0	59,954	92,419

**Held as followings:**

Bank Current Account No. 1	59,954	0	0	59,954	92,419
Bank Current Account No.2	0			0	0
Cash in hand	0				0
Other					
	59,954	0	0	59,954	92,419

**Non-monetary Assets (not included above)**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
Church, Halls & Contents	4,931,000				4,931,000
Manse	355,000				355,000
	5,286,000	0	0		5,286,000

The trustees are of the opinion that given that the age of the Church buildings & Other property that the most appropriate basis of valuation is the Insurance cover which is shown above.

**Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

Approved by the trustees on 25th February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:-

*T McLernon*  
**Trustee**

*B Bell*  
**Trustee**

**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020**

Analysis of Disbursements

Matthew & Liz Cuthbert (NTM)	4,746
Stephen & (NTM)	4,746
Tim & Lynsey Johnston (Brazil)	4,746
Heather Wilson (FM)	2,723
CEF (for Beverley McMaster support)	2,373
Beverley McMaster (CEF)	2,427
Kids4School	1,742
Christian Institute	1,742
CEF Seaview	3,269
	<hr/>
	28,514
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**CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL) Abbots Cross**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020**

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

**Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

The following designated funds are held within the general unrestricted funds, these discretionary funds are set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose:

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

**Trustee benefits (in total)**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Remuneration	<u>59,446</u>	<u>60,214</u>
Reimbursed expenses	<u>1,683</u>	<u>5,480</u>

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing from our purpose in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Annual report

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**Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross**

**Trustees Annual Report**

**Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

## Trustees Annual Report

**Charity** – Christ Church (Congregational) – also known as Abbots Cross Congregational

**NI charity reference** – NIC103423

**Principal address** – Christ Church (Congregational), Doagh Road, Newtownabbey, County Antrim, BT37 9QW.

### Introduction

This report covers the period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020** and is the fourth report required following registration as a charity on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### Structure

The congregation at Abbots Cross is an unincorporated institution made up of all those who take up membership and governed by a constitution. Under the constitution there is provision for a leadership body made up of the Minister and Deacons (Diaconate). The serving Minister is generally regarded as the Chairperson, a Secretary and Treasurer are appointed from within the Diaconate and ratified by the members of the Congregation. The Annual Business Meeting at which accounts are brought to the members is held in February each year, with subsequent Church Meetings in June, September and December. The congregation is also subject to the trusts placed upon it by a Trust Deed in which the property is also settled, under the requirements of the Trust Deed a number of persons have been appointed by and on behalf of the congregation as 'holding trustees' to hold legal title to the buildings in which the congregation meet and to the manse.

### Objects

Our Charitable Purposes are set out in the Covenant section of our constitution as follows:

**We engage therefore, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to maintain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the Church; the relief of the needy; the spread of the Gospel to all nations.**

These purposes are advanced by means of our weekly public services, outreach into the local community, organisations meeting in our premises, missionary interest and practical support.

### Trustees

For the purpose of charity law, the Minister and Deacons have the day-to-day role for the administration and management of the church and are identified as the charity trustees and appointed by the members of the Congregation. The present Minister has been serving for 10 years. Deacons are elected for a period of 3 years and on retirement are eligible for re-election. Instead of all retiring at the same time, one third of the Deacons retire by rotation each year. During the period of this report the following persons served as charity trustees:

William Annette (Secretary), Jeffrey Adair, Brian Bell, Samuel Carson, Andrew Cuthbert, Rev. Trevor Gillanders (Chair), Andrew Kirkpatrick (elected February 2020), Richard Logan (retired February 2020), Paul McConnell, Thomas McLernon (Treasurer), Mark Thompson, David Walker.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees confirm they have regard to the Commission's public benefit requirement. While the Minister and 1 other trustee receive a salary and relevant expenses from the congregation, this is an incidental private benefit necessary to further our charitable purposes as set out in our purpose statement available to view on our registration page on the *Charity Commission for Northern Ireland* website.

Despite the restrictions brought in due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we continued to support our congregation in spiritual and practical matters. Our services were conducted and streamed on-line and we distributed discs of our services to those without on-line access.

We've had team of people involved in a 'telephone ministry' keeping in contact with our congregation. 'Drive-in' services which, even though subject to restrictions, proved popular and gave our congregation an opportunity to stay in contact.

In the periods when we were able to assemble as a congregation we followed the Executive's guidelines, for example, limiting the number attending, wearing face coverings. Despite these restrictions our congregation were glad to be able to meet.

Our live-streamed services are received in many different countries and it is also encouraging when some of our viewers/listeners contact us to say how they appreciate the ministry.

### **Safeguarding**

The Trustees remain aware of the 'duty of care' to children. All persons working with children must be subject to an enhanced disclosure under current legislation and this applies to persons working in organisations associated with the church such as Boys' and Girls' Brigade. Although our organisations were unable to conduct their programmes this year, our safeguarding policy remains in place and at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 there had not been any 'abuse' claims made, nor are we presently aware of any circumstances which might reasonably be expected to give rise to a claim for abuse.

### **Financial Review**

Given the very difficult financial situation in this year, we must record sincere appreciation to our congregation for continuing to support our freewill giving/offerings. When we were unable to meet, arrangements were made to enable the congregation to contribute and this made it possible for us to meet our ongoing financial commitments. A number of persons give under the Government's 'Gift Aid' scheme. Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payment (income and expenditure) basis and we have complied with the requirement to disclose and submit the information required in the Annual Monitoring Return and to publish our accounts.

Our **gross income** for the year as reported here at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 in our No.1 account was **£189,321** with **expenditure** of **£221,786**. We maintain a close interest in 'missionary' endeavour at home and abroad and each week we donate at least 10% of weekly income to students and full time Christian workers approved by the Church (full Church members) and on each tenth Sunday give the entire offerings to designated missionary work as disclosed in our accounts.

No.1 Account (balance 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020): **£59,954**.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:- *NO dmetta* Trustee *wg Odair* Trustee

Dated:- .....

**Christ Church (Congregational)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103423

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# Annual return

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**We report on the financial statements of Christ Church (Congregational) Abbots Cross for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner:**

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 62(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to state whether particulars matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the Independent examiner's statement**

Our examination was carried in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

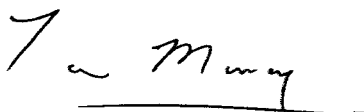
In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention;

1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to kept accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act .
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008.

have not been met or

2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached



***Ian Murray***

For and on behalf of  
Ian Murray & Co. Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants  
27 Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN

**Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**