

CHRISTCHURCH CARRICKFERGUS

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Principal objectives and activities

Objects

Christchurch Carrickfergus provides various services to the community; including care for the terminally ill and elderly in nursing homes. Christening of babies, Weddings, Burials etc, care for ex service community and a resource for youth in addition to recognized Christian education. In addition to food and on occasion emergency funding for needy families. Helping maintain good community relations during times of civil unrest. Christchurch is also involved in overseas activity in the erection of various buildings in villages both in India and Nigeria which benefit the whole community.

Activities

The direct benefits which flow from our purpose include an improved quality of life and wellbeing, including spiritual wellbeing; the encouragement of family stability, tackling poverty, increased knowledge, reducing social isolation, increased social interaction and provision of activities for the young and old. Direct benefits also include seeking and raising funds for essential resources and amenities to reach out to those living in Carrickfergus, its environs and further afield to provide activities for everyone to enjoy and take part in and through increased volunteer activity growing their skills and abilities. The provision of the Church for religious and social activities leads to increased opportunities for all in the area through a shared space to support and develop the well-being of inhabitants, not only providing an understanding of the Christian beliefs but also through support and guidance which is used to enable members to be better able to serve in the local community. The church provides teaching and training opportunities, and provides resources and people of the church to support activities for all to avail of and gain from. Through the development of relationships with other churches locally, nationally and overseas, a greater reach is possible, increased learning results and collaboration is accessible. The benefit is demonstrated by feedback from beneficiaries. Increased church attendance, better integration into the community/less isolation, which leads to better mental health and Spiritual wellbeing. Family building through marriage and provision of childrens activities. Training of new workers and demonstration of new skills. This purpose does not lead to harm. The meetings and activities are free of charge and open to all. The benefit is for all within the Carrickfergus area, its environs and further afield as decided by the trustees. It is for the public at large and those for reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or their social and economic circumstances, are welcome to come to and partake in the services and activities of Christchurch Carrickfergus. There is private benefit to Pastors who are employed by Christchurch Carrickfergus to carry out the work of the church and sometimes travel expenses. As our work of the church requires pastors to be employed to look after the congregation this is a necessary expenditure by the church. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

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Achievements and performance

Another successful year at Christchurch.

We have seen a continued steady number attending our church services and activities and some new members, we have continued our push for growth.

We continue to support our local community with regular food donations to the local foodbank as well as support and assistance to our Missionary projects in India and Africa and Philippines. We have also assisted with "Christmas Shoe Boxes" for the Philippines and also donations to local ex-service groups and those in urgent need.

The church continues to have an impact in the local community by providing baby dedications, weddings and funerals for the community.

Our building is now almost 24 Years old and as such some equipment upgrades and replacements are now becoming necessary as well as external repairs. We continue to maintain the upkeep of the building with an ongoing maintenance programme; painting, cleaning, groundwork's etc, assisted by many volunteers.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers which operate in every aspect of our churches life and operations.

Financial review

The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 March 2023 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The trustees are satisfied with the results of the charity during the year together with the financial position at 31 March 2023. They consider that the charity is also in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. At the 31 March 2023 there was £94,258 of a surplus in unrestricted funds, with £97,789 of a surplus in restricted funds. The charity also has a Capital Fund reserve of £400,000 which relates to the valuation of the church building.

Principal funding sources

All funding comes from offerings and donations made by parishioners and members of the public.

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Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Constitution which is logged with the Charity's Commission.

Recruitment and appointment of board of trustees

New trustees are nominated by an existing trustee. This is then put to vote of a trustees meeting.

E Thompson

Ms Ester Thompson
Secretary

05 February 2024