

**Charity Name: Newcastle Gospel Hall (No. 2004960)**

Charity Address: Ballyloughlin House, 47 Ballyloughlin Road, Dundrum, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 OQG

**Trustees Annual Report for period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

**List of trustees during this period:**

William Austen Alexander

John Melvyn Carser

Maurice Thomas Boyd

John Mervyn Stanley Wishart

Note: The number of trustees can be added to or taken from only by the agreement of the majority of the present trustees.

This Trustees Annual Report is submitted on behalf of all the trustees and signed on their behalf by John Mervyn Stanley Wishart

.....Date.....2018

**The Charity's Purposes**

The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian religion by making known the gospel of Jesus Christ, and expounding the teaching of the Bible in both Old and New Testaments. We provide a church building where services for worship and public preaching are conducted on Sundays and throughout the week.

**The Charity's beneficiaries**

1. Those who attend weekly and find friendship and fellowship with other Christians who meet there.
2. Missionaries working in Ireland and throughout the world, who are supported in prayer and with financial help.
3. Many people who attend the various meetings; for example, the Parent and Toddlers Group. Many have testified to the help and support they have found attending these Wednesday morning sessions; getting out of the house to meet other parents and watching their children playing together.
4. Similarly those women who attend the coffee mornings often have expressed the social benefit of meeting other women from the town.
5. There is also a lasting benefit for those who, after hearing the scriptures preached, apply the message to their lives and find purpose in living and the peace of knowing God.

**The Charity's activities to carry out its purpose for the public benefit**

Sunday	10 a.m. Bible Study class; 11.15 Morning worship and breaking of bread. 7 p.m. Gospel Meeting
Monday	7 p.m. One Way Bible Club (children 5-11) minibus used to transport children.
Monday	8 p.m. Ladies Missionary Meeting (monthly)
Tuesday	10.30 a.m. Ladies Coffee Morning. Craft or cooking demonstration followed by an interesting Bible based talk (monthly)
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.-12 Parent and Toddlers group (refreshments provided)
Wednesday	8 p.m. Prayer and Bible study
Saturday	8 p.m. Connect Group (young people 12-20). Sports, outings, barbeques, followed by Bible teaching.

All our services are open to everyone and are provided free of charge.

**How do these activities provide a benefit?**

The teaching that the children and young people receive enables them to get on with others that they meet at Bible Clubs. The Bible based lessons which they hear helps them to confront the all-important issues of who we are; why we are here; and what the future holds. In addition, there is a social aspect to the clubs, as they have outings, sports, and something to eat is always provided.

For many Christians attending Newcastle Gospel Hall it is a place of worship, but also a place of friendship and fellowship which becomes central to their lives.

The ladies' coffee mornings and the parent-toddlers' groups provide social interaction. It is an opportunity for parents to talk together over a cup of coffee as they watch their children play.

**The main achievements of the Charity with reference to a public benefit**

The gradual increase in the numbers attending and benefiting from the parent and toddlers group (often the 'full up' sign has to be used).

The women's coffee mornings have also become increasingly well attended.

The number of members at Newcastle Gospel Hall has gradually increased; thus the provision of a place of worship is bringing benefit to more people.

The increase in numbers, and therefore an increase in the public benefit, has been achieved by:

1. Delivering leaflets door to door twice a year, in July and December. With the December visit a free calendar for the following year is given to each household.
2. Advertising in the Mourne Observer each week, inviting everyone to the various meetings.
3. Word of mouth, by those who have themselves attended and enjoyed the services and groups encouraging others to come.

**The Charity's statement confirming that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit**

The trustees of Newcastle Gospel Hall hereby confirm that we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and they have a continuing awareness of the public benefit requirements. This has affected our planning for the future as we continually take into account our obligations in this regard.