

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104482

Details

Status Received

Company number [49168](#)

Registered 2016-01-04

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

Contact

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Website <https://www.bst.ac.uk>

Activities

Purposes: To advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrines and principles set out at paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association and in particular to equip students intellectually and spiritually for Christian witness and service throughout the world and in their understanding of and adherence to biblical teaching.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Education/training, Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£461,282	£757,428	£-262,282	14
2024-08-31	£489,970	£714,650	£-191,981	14

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Robinson		
Anne Moorehead		
Charlotte Curran		
Lisette Watson		
Paul Fleming		
Roisin Scott		
Sara Graham		

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Accounts

Charity registration number NIC104482 (Northern Ireland)

Company registration number NI049168

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Ms S Graham (Chair) Mrs L Watson Mr A Robinson Dr A Moorehead Prof P Fleming Pastor C Curran Mrs R Scott	(Appointed 21 January 2025) (Appointed 1 June 2025) (Appointed 1 September 2025)
Charity number (Northern Ireland)	NIC104482	
Company number	NI049168	
Registered office	2nd Floor, Main Building Stranmillis University College Stranmillis Road Belfast BT9 5DY	
Auditor	HM Chartered Accountants 6th Floor East Tower Lanyon Plaza 8 Lanyon Place Belfast Co. Antrim BT1 3LP	
Bankers	Ulster Bank Andersonstown Branch Unit G Westwood Centre Belfast Co Antrim BT11 9BQ	
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin 8 High Street Holywood BT18 9AZ	

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

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BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Directors present their Strategic Report for the year ended 31 August 2025.

What the Charity does

The Charity runs a Theological School which provides educational services.

The Charity's classification

The advancement of Education.

Who the Charity helps

The Charity exists to help the general public but is specifically interested in those who wish to train for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

How the charity works

The Charity delivers educational programmes to create a welcoming community in which God works to form His people by integrating spiritual, academic and experiential learning rooted in His Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were net outgoing resources for the year of £295,480 attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £574,829. In addition, there was net outgoing resources for the year of £27 attributable to restricted reserves which now stand at £99,210.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress was made toward fulfilling the Charity's purpose in 2024-2025 in the following areas:

Education

Belfast School of Theology (hereinafter referred to as the Charity or the School) offers Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses validated by the University of Cumbria These courses provide a suite of vocational Theology awards (CertHE, DipHE, BA (Hons) Theology, Graduate Dip, MA) validated by the University of Cumbria. Additionally, the School offers a wide range of part time courses in various Theological subjects.

Advancement

i. Recruiting and Enrolment

The number of full time equivalent students attending the School for the various degree courses in the year under review was 40.

In September 2024 the School enrolled 36 (2023: 36) Undergraduate and nil (2023: nil) Postgraduate full time students as well as 5 (2023: 11) undergraduate part time and 15 (2023: 12) post graduate part time.

Those attending the School were from a wide spectrum of denominations. Students attending the School come mainly from UK and Ireland with a small number coming from other countries from around the world.

ii. Educational Development

During 2024 the School recruited to a revalidated programme for the fourth year in succession. This newly revalidated degree builds on the School's knowledge and experience and seeks to better serve its students with an integrated approach across theological disciplines and practical service.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The School also sought to enhance the support it offers to students, with a joined-up approach across academic, pastoral and residential support. Feedback from students has been very positive as to the quality of the support and it has been encouraging to see students access both academic support through their Personal Tutor scheme, as well as Pastoral care. This positive feedback has been echoed in the external survey based National Student Survey (NSS) which paints an encouraging picture of the School.

The newly validated MA in Practical Theology enrolled its first students in September 2024, drawing its first students from both Northern Ireland and further afield, and continues to attract students from a wide range of professional backgrounds as its blended approach serves their educational and professional needs well. This year the School's further enhancement of the MA has enabled students to present their dissertation research proposals in an online seminar.

Alongside its validated programmes, the School offers short courses, created by the School and accessible to the public at large. This year the School continued its suite of programmes under the banner of Catalyst Courses. The accessibility of these classes with some face-to-face and some online has worked well and resulted in a greater diversity of participants along with a wider net of contributors to the teaching.

iii. Resource Development

The level of charitable donations to general operations and specific projects continues to contribute to support the School needs. The generosity of supporters and donors continues to make a significant contribution to the sustainability of the School. The School has worked closely with key donors and will seek to uncover new funding possibilities in the future.

Operations

The School continued its policy of upgrading facilities through minor capital works and the ongoing maintenance programme on its buildings. During the year £3,705 (2024: £4,006) was spent in this way.

Human Resources

The School continues to support staff and volunteers, with ongoing training for our line managers and supporting staff.

Outcomes Assessment

The School continues its commitment to providing theological education at differing academic levels and for varying study periods depending on the needs of prospective applicants. In the BA (Hons) in Theology from the University of Cumbria 44% (2023: 59%) of students graduated with a 2:1 or above.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results of the School's activities are contained in the attached financial statements.

Overall, a deficit of £295,507 (2024: £223,251) is reported for the year ended 31 August 2025. Unrestricted Funds returned a deficit of £295,480 compared to a deficit of £254,324 in 2024 whilst the corresponding figures for Restricted Funds were a deficit of £27 for current year and a surplus of £31,073 for the prior year respectively.

Unrestricted Reserves were £574,829 (2024: £870,309) at year end whilst Restricted Reserves were £99,210 (2024: £99,237).

Liquidity

The School's bank balance and liquid funds decreased during the year. Bank balances at year end were £21,789 compared to £248,873 at the end of the previous year. The School successfully completed the sale of its former site at Glenburn House, Dunmurry, on 19 November 2025. As a result, the School has sufficient cash reserves to meet its ongoing operating requirements for the foreseeable future.

Income

During the year under review, 48 (2024: 47.5) full time equivalent students attended the School completing one or more of the variety of courses provided by the School. In the year to August 2025 fee income for such students amounted to £244,331 (2024: £271,335).

283 (2024: 280) part-time students attended evening class or non-validated part-time courses, generating fee income of £38,164 (2024: £30,117).

Donation income continues to provide a steady source of revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure may be broken down between that which is incurred directly on education and that which is incurred on maintaining the School's former buildings and infrastructure. Over 85% of the educational costs may be analysed as employment costs. Personnel and Property costs are the major areas of expenditure within the indirect or corporate services area.

For a significant part of the period under review, the School was impacted by high energy costs as a result of the general cost of living crisis.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The School also receives donation income from churches and individuals for specific projects. These are all recorded separately according to their specified use and are maintained in separate funds as follows:

Global Sponsorship Fund

This Fund is used to support overseas students who are unable to raise the fees to study at the School.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Assistance is also given for travel, accommodation and out of pocket living expenses for such students. Where a student is supported by a church, the student is obliged to visit the sponsoring church regularly at weekends to experience pastoral work in a Northern Ireland church environment. In the year under review, no students availed of this fund (2024: nil).

Student Bursary Fund

This Fund is used to support students from within the British Isles who would otherwise be unable to meet the costs of study at the School. Such students are assessed by a Board sub-committee which brings its recommendations to the Board as appropriate. During the year ended 31 August 2025, no students availed of this fund (2024: 3 students were assisted with a total of £3,000 of funding).

RESERVES POLICY

By its nature the School meets expenditure from its income and the majority of unrestricted reserves comprise designated funds. It is the Board's policy to work towards a position where General Fund reserves as set out in note 19 are sufficient to meet three months of operating costs which amount to £189,357, without affecting the ongoing activities of the School. The reserves policy is reviewed annually. The Board is continuing to seek to achieve the reserves target while continuing to deliver the School's objectives by seeking to budget for a small surplus each year.

The total reserves of the School for charitable purposes amounted to £674,039 at 31 August 2025 of which 15% are restricted and the balance of 85% of reserves are available for use.

Plan For Future Periods

The Board was delighted in the prior year to bring forward a new Strategic Plan coupled with the unveiling of a new name for the School. The Purpose Statement is:

"To equip followers of Jesus for missional impact through theological education and spiritual development within a vibrant academic and worshipping community."

The Board desires to develop a 'centres' approach for each of the following strategic areas:

- Centre for Theological Education
- Centre for Christian Spiritual Theology
- Centre for Apologetics and Ethics

The strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the School's educational provision and continue to improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience.
2. To enable all of our students to progress in their learning, their personal development and the maturing of their Christian character, and to help them live out their faith as 21st century disciples.
3. To raise the profile, reach and reputation of the School locally and internationally.
4. To seek to be a prophetic response to contemporary issues facing the church and society.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In addition to normal operations, other foci were a priority. They included:

- Moving sites, from an out-of-town campus to Stranmillis University College within Belfast's university students' heartland. The move is highly strategic, from a recruitment and academic perspective. The School commenced its occupation of its new academic hub at Stranmillis University College on 1 July 2025.
- Increasing the School's profile through a series of strategic courses as well as online inputs and Church engagements. In June 2026, BST shall host an international conference on academic Theology.
- Maximising the overall long-term financial sustainability of the School through developing a new business and operational model following the School's relocation to its new site. The School completed the sale of its former site at Glenburn House, Dunmurry, on 19 November 2025. The net proceeds from the sale of its former site will ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the School.
- Commencing the construction of e-learning facilities through a bespoke e-learning Centre.
- Expanding the School's postgraduate learning platform, including additional courses and an online e-learning Master's degree programme in Practical Theology.
- Global student scholarships to launch the online MA in Practical Theology.
- Working towards student affiliation with Christian Unions Ireland (CUI).

Regulatory and key performance indicators

This year the School received endorsement from QAA as the School continues to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by



Ms S Graham (Chair)

Director

Dated: *28 May 26*

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the Company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the Directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast School of Theology Limited is a Company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The Company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The School is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are two Board sub-committees, namely the Academic and Learning Committee and the Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resources Committee. The latter sub-committee met on a regular basis throughout the year and reported to the Board of Directors. Due to a transition in Education Governance arrangements, the Academic and Learning Committee did not meet, with its functions being undertaken by the full Board.

The Senior Leadership Team is made up of three staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets weekly.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (resigned 13 September 2024)
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron (resigned 18 June 2024)
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mrs L Watson
Prof P Fleming (resigned 5 September 2023, reappointed 21 January 2025)
Dr A Moorhead (appointed 9 February 2024)
Mr A Robinson (appointed 19 March 2024)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as Directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the grounds of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the School. Prior to joining the Board, each prospective member meets with the Chair and an agreed Board member. The meeting provides an overview of the School and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the School. A Directors Pack for the School is given to each new member when they join, and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the School's Board of Trustees is also appointed as a Director of the Company, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the School receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying primarily upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters, there are no Directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the Directors has any beneficial interest in the Company. All of the Directors are members of the Company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The School employs a Principal and other full-time and part-time teaching staff, and the day-to-day operation of the School as a place of Christian education is delegated to the Principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the School and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8 February 2003.

The School is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other School or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the School are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

In the prior year, the School undertook an organisational review with external assistance with a view to ensuring the School remains fit for purpose to deliver its charitable objectives and to secure its financial future. The outcome of this review is being worked through with staff, and the transformation process will take several years to fully implement, particularly changes to academic courses in consultation with the School's accrediting university. This is an exciting opportunity for the School to meet its stakeholders' needs in an innovative and relevant way in accordance with God's will.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the School is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the School continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Throughout this year, the School successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Individual modules, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma, 3 year BA in Theology, and Grad Dip (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- ii. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within the School have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the School.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board's Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resources Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The School has developed a School Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the School and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the School's activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The key risks facing the School are set out in the Corporate Risk Register, but the focus of attention surrounds the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all School activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students.

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and are normally overseen by the aforementioned Board Committees. These standing committees are supplemented by working groups as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resources Committee also looks at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the School is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the School seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through school and higher education
- ii. Community education
- iii. Religious education
- iv. Vocational training and life-long learning
- v. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the School. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time School-run courses.

The Directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the Directors, the Directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the Directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

HM Chartered Accountants have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by



.....
Ms S Graham (Chair)

Director

Dated: 28 May 26

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast School of Theology Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of HM Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

6th Floor East Tower

Lanyon Plaza

8 Lanyon Place

Belfast

Co. Antrim

BT1 3LP

28 May 2026

HM Chartered Accountants is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	123,461	-	123,461	63,989	31,100	95,089
Charitable activities	4	336,098	-	336,098	389,621	-	389,621
Investments	5	1,723	-	1,723	5,260	-	5,260
Total income		<u>461,282</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>461,282</u>	<u>458,870</u>	<u>31,100</u>	<u>489,970</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	757,401	27	757,428	714,623	27	714,650
Total expenditure		<u>757,401</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>757,428</u>	<u>714,623</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>714,650</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	639	-	639	1,429	-	1,429
Net expenditure and movement in funds		<u>(295,480)</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>(295,507)</u>	<u>(254,324)</u>	<u>31,073</u>	<u>(223,251)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		870,309	99,237	969,546	1,124,633	68,164	1,192,797
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		<u>574,829</u>	<u>99,210</u>	<u>674,039</u>	<u>870,309</u>	<u>99,237</u>	<u>969,546</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		837,133		868,947
Investments	14		15,372		14,733
			<u>852,505</u>		<u>883,680</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	15	62,027		28,974	
Cash at bank and in hand		21,789		248,873	
		<u>83,816</u>		<u>277,847</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(262,282)		(191,981)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			<u>(178,466)</u>		<u>85,866</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>674,039</u>		<u>969,546</u>
The funds of the Company					
Restricted income funds	19		99,210		99,237
Unrestricted funds	20		574,829		870,309
			<u>674,039</u>		<u>969,546</u>

The Company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2025, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 28 May 26



Ms S Graham (Chair)
Director

Company registration number NI049168 (Northern Ireland)

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	25		(285,102)		(200,848)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,705)		(4,006)	
Investment income received		1,723		5,260	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(1,982)		1,254
Financing activities					
Draw down of bank loans		60,000		-	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net cash generated from financing activities			60,000		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(227,084)		(199,594)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			248,873		448,467
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			21,789		248,873
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Belfast School of Theology Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 2nd Floor, Main Building, Stranmillis University College, Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5DY.

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The principal accounting policies adopted, which have been applied consistently, are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

The Charity reported a deficit of £295,507 and a cash outflow of £227,084 including a net operations cash deficit of £285,102 for the year. During the year, the Directors made the decision to put the School's former site up for sale and a licence to occupy a wing of Stranmillis University College agreed. The Directors consider this to be a more sustainable business model for the Charity moving forward. In addition to this, the Directors secured £100,000 of additional short term funding. The Directors have prepared projections and, having considered the circumstances outlined above, are of the view that they have secured sufficient funding to ensure that the Company can continue to trade for the next 12 months. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming fully entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Grants, including capital grants, from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but included as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example, government block grants. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land	0%
Ground rents	0%
Buildings	1%, 2%, 4% or 10% straight line
Plant, fixtures and computers	10%, 20%, 25% or 50% straight line

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company's balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

(Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The Directors do not consider there are any material estimates or judgements in these financial statements other than as set out below.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and the estimated value in use.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Impairment of such debtors involves some estimation uncertainty.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	123,461	-	123,461	63,989	31,100	95,089

4 Income from charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Course fees	282,493	301,451
Other student income	-	31,879
External use of facilities	52,600	55,380
Other income	1,005	911
	<u>336,098</u>	<u>389,621</u>

5 Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,723</u>	<u>5,260</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6	Net movement in funds	2025 £	2024 £
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
	Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	4,000	3,800
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	35,519	40,528
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
7	Expenditure on charitable activities	2025 £	2024 £
	Staff costs	377,439	363,681
	Depreciation and impairment	35,519	40,528
	Other activities undertaken directly	201,063	236,780
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		614,021	640,989
	Share of support costs (see note 9)	63,884	68,224
	Share of governance costs (see note 9)	79,523	5,437
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		757,428	714,650
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis by fund			
	Unrestricted funds	757,401	714,623
	Restricted funds	27	27
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		757,428	714,650
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The charitable activity of the School is to equip students intellectually and spiritually for Christian witness and service throughout the world. The charity does this by providing training at its premises.

8 Directors

None of the Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year (2024: none).

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Office overheads	7,896	-	7,896	4,874
Advertising	29,786	-	29,786	36,157
Finance	894	-	894	6,618
Information technology	25,308	-	25,308	20,575
Management	-	79,523	79,523	5,437
	<u>63,884</u>	<u>79,523</u>	<u>143,407</u>	<u>73,661</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>63,884</u>	<u>79,523</u>	<u>143,407</u>	<u>73,661</u>

10 Gains and losses on investments

Gains arising on:	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	<u>639</u>	<u>1,429</u>

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Staff employed	15	14

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	335,446	318,954
Social security costs	22,795	27,452
Other pension costs	19,198	17,275
	<u>377,439</u>	<u>363,681</u>

The senior management team of the School comprised of 3 members of staff at the start of the year and 3 members of staff at the end of the year. The aggregate remuneration of this group was £109,650 (2024: £92,123).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Ground rents £	Buildings £	Plant, fixtures and computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	27,568	6,450	1,362,438	318,667	1,715,123
Additions	-	-	-	3,705	3,705
At 31 August 2025	<u>27,568</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>1,362,438</u>	<u>322,372</u>	<u>1,718,828</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2024	20,080	-	532,908	293,188	846,176
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	25,845	9,674	35,519
At 31 August 2025	<u>20,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>558,753</u>	<u>302,862</u>	<u>881,695</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2025	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>803,685</u>	<u>19,510</u>	<u>837,133</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>829,530</u>	<u>25,479</u>	<u>868,947</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2024	14,733
Valuation changes	639
	<u>15,372</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>15,372</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2025	<u>15,372</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>14,733</u>

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	33,166	1,379
Other debtors	7,664	7,697
Prepayments and accrued income	21,197	19,898
	<u>62,027</u>	<u>28,974</u>

16 Loans and overdrafts

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	60,000	-
	<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Payable within one year	60,000	-
	<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	16	60,000	-
Other taxation and social security		6,752	11,325
Other creditors		119,717	110,714
Accruals and deferred income		75,813	69,942
		<u>262,282</u>	<u>191,981</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Retirement benefit schemes		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	19,198	17,275
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 August 2025
	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£
Student bursary fund	22,959	-	-	22,959
Global sponsorship fund	43,625	-	-	43,625
WSF fund	2,653	-	(27)	2,626
E-Learning Fund	30,000	-	-	30,000
	<u>99,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>99,210</u>

Restricted funds represent those monies received for a particular purpose as follows:

The Student bursary fund is used to support students from within the British Isles.

The Global sponsorship fund is used to support overseas students and include assistance with fees, travel and accommodation and out of pocket expenses.

The WSF (Women's Study Fellowship) fund is used to support students attending this course.

The E-Learning Fund is used to assist with the costs of the new e-learning suite, including the set up for the online MA course.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 August 2025 £
	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Gains and losses £	
General funds	(76,357)	461,282	(757,401)	25,845	639	(345,992)
Designated funds - capital project	109,648	-	-	-	-	109,648
Designated funds - Land & Buildings	837,018	-	-	(25,845)	-	811,173
	<u>870,309</u>	<u>461,282</u>	<u>(757,401)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>639</u>	<u>574,829</u>

The unrestricted funds represent the free funds of the Charity and comprise general funds and funds which have been designated for particular purposes.

General Funds - General Funds are available reserves for use in the future work of the School and to minimise working capital borrowing, the need for which arises from time to time, and to cover the deficit of activities in any year arising from short term financial pressures.

Capital Project - The Board have designated income received from bequests in 2014 for a capital project to improve student facilities. Such funds are not restricted in nature.

Land and Buildings - The net book value of land and buildings are held as designated funds as they represent reserves which are not readily available for use in the operation of the School and are represented by College property. The transfer represents the depreciation charge for the year borne by the General Fund and funds used to improve the School land and buildings.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	837,133	-	837,133	868,947
Investments	15,372	-	15,372	14,733
Current assets/(liabilities)	(277,676)	99,210	(178,466)	85,866
	<u>574,829</u>	<u>99,210</u>	<u>674,039</u>	<u>969,546</u>

22 Events after the reporting date

The School completed the sale of its former site at Glenburn House, Dunmurry, on 19 November 2025. The net proceeds from the sale of its former site will ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the School.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024: none).

24 Liability of members

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore there is no share capital. As at 31 August 2025 the Company had nine members (2024: eight). The liability of the members is limited to £10 each in the event of the Company being wound up.

25 Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
Deficit for the year	(295,507)	(223,251)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,723)	(5,260)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(639)	(1,429)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	35,519	40,528
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(33,053)	1,362
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	10,301	(12,798)
Cash absorbed by operations	(285,102)	(200,848)

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Accounts

Charity registration number NIC104482 (Northern Ireland)

Company registration number NI049168

**BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST
BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Ms S Graham (Chair) Mr N Jennings Mr M H Pitt Mrs J Smyth Mrs L Watson Mr A Robinson Dr A Moorehead Prof P Fleming	(Appointed 19 March 2024) (Appointed 9 February 2024) (Appointed 21 January 2025)
Principal	Mr J Burnett	
Charity number	NIC104482	
Company number	NI049168	
Registered office	Glenburn House Glenburn Road South Dunmurry BT17 9JP	
Auditor	Harbinson Mulholland 6th Floor East Tower Lanyon Plaza 8 Lanyon Place Belfast Co. Antrim BT1 3LP	
Bankers	Ulster Bank Andersonstown Branch Unit G, Westwood Centre Belfast Co. Antrim BT11 9BQ	
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin 8 High Street Holywood BT18 9AZ	

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

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BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Directors present their Strategic Report for the year ended 31 August 2024.

What the College does

The School provides education services.

The Charity's classification

The advancement of Education.

Who the Charity helps

The Charity exists to help the general public but is specifically interested in those who wish to train for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

How the charity works

The Charity delivers educational programmes to create a welcoming community in which God works to form His people by integrating spiritual, academic and experiential learning rooted in His Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were net outgoing resources for the year of £254,324 attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £870,309. In addition, there was net income before transfers for the year of £31,073 attributable to restricted reserves which now stand at £99,237.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress was made toward fulfilling our purpose in 2023-2024 in the following areas:

Education

The School offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses validated by the University of Cumbria. These courses provide a suite of vocational theology awards (CertHE, DipHE, BA (Hons) Theology, Graduate Dip, MA) validated by the University of Cumbria. Additionally, the School offers a wide range of part time courses in various theological subjects.

Advancement

i. Recruiting and Enrolment

The number of full time equivalent students attending the School for the various degree courses in the year under review was 83.

In September 2023, the School enrolled 36 (2022: 53) undergraduate and 0 (2022: 0) postgraduate full time students as well as 11 (2022: 16) undergraduate part time, 12 (2022: 22) post graduate part time and 0 (2022: 0) full time Ph.D. students.

Those attending the School were from a wide spectrum of denominations. Students attending the School come mainly from UK and Ireland with a small number coming from countries from around the world.

ii. Educational Development

During 2023 the School rolled out year 4 of a revalidated UG programme. This newly revalidated degree builds on our knowledge and experience and seeks to better serve our students with an integrated approach across theological disciplines and practical service.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The School also sought to enhance the support we offer to students, on a joined-up approach across academic, pastoral and residential support. Feedback from students has been very positive as to the quality of the support and it has been encouraging to see students access both academic support through their Personal Tutor scheme, as well as Pastoral care. This positive feedback has been echoed in the external survey based NSS that paints an encouraging picture of the School.

The MA (launched in 2018) continues to attract students from a wide range of professional backgrounds as its blended approach serves their educational and professional needs well. This year our further enhancement of the MA has enabled students to present their dissertation research proposals in an online seminar.

Alongside our formal education, the School offers short courses, created by the School and accessible to the public at large. This year we continued our suite of programmes under the banner of Catalyst Courses. The accessibility of these classes with some face-to-face and some online has worked well and resulted in a greater diversity of participants along with a wider net of contributors to the teaching.

iii. Resource Development

The level of charitable donations to general operations and specific projects continue to contribute to support the School needs. The School is dependent on the generosity of supporters to ensure the future sustainability of the School. This is supported through a funding group to help support application to Trusts and uncover new funding possibilities.

Operations

The School continued its policy of upgrading facilities through minor capital works and the ongoing maintenance programme on its buildings. During the year £4,006 (2023: £41,900) was spent in this way.

Human Resources

The School continues to support staff and volunteers, with ongoing training for our line managers and supporting staff.

Outcomes Assessment

The School continues its commitment to providing theological education at differing academic levels and for varying study periods depending on the needs of prospective applicants. In the BA (Hons) in Theology from the University of Cumbria 44% (2023: 59%) of students graduated with a 2:1 or above.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results of the School's activities are contained in the attached financial statements.

Overall a deficit of £223,251 (2023: £97,709) is reported for the year ended 31 August 2024. Unrestricted Funds returned a deficit of £254,324 compared to a deficit of £95,882 in 2023 whilst the corresponding figures for Restricted Funds were a surplus of £31,073 and a deficit of £1,827 respectively.

Unrestricted Reserves were £870,309 (2023: £1,124,633) at year end whilst Restricted Reserves were £99,237 (2023: £68,164).

Liquidity

The School decreased its bank balance during the year. Bank balances at year end were £248,873 compared to £448,467 at the end of the previous year. This is sufficient cash reserves to meet the School's funding requirements for six months without resorting to borrowing from the company's bankers or generating additional funds.

Income

During the year under review, 47.5 (2023: 73.5) full time equivalent students attended the School completing one or more of the variety of courses provided by the school. In the year to August 2024 fee income for such students amounted to almost £271,335 (2023: £408,409).

Almost 280 (2023: 398) part-time students attended evening class or day release courses generating fee income of £30,117 (2023: £46,179).

Donation income and income from the use of the School's facilities continue to provide a steady source of revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure may be broken down between that which is incurred directly on education and that which is incurred on maintaining the School's buildings and infrastructure. Over 85% of the educational costs may be analysed as employment costs. Personnel and Property costs are the major areas of expenditure within the indirect or corporate services area.

The School has been impacted by the steep rise in energy costs as a result of the current cost of living crisis.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The School also receives donation income from churches and individuals for specific projects. These are all recorded separately according to their specified use and are maintained in separate funds as follows:

Global Sponsorship Fund

This Fund is used to support overseas students who are unable to raise the fees to study at the School..

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Assistance is also given for travel, accommodation and out of pocket living expenses for such students. Where a student is supported by a church, the student is obliged to visit the sponsoring church regularly at weekends to experience pastoral work in a Northern Ireland church environment. In the year just ended, no (2023: 0) students were supported under this scheme.

Student Bursary Fund

This Fund is used to support students from within the British Isles who would otherwise be unable to meet the costs of study at the School. Such students are assessed by a Board sub-committee who bring their recommendations to the Board as appropriate. During the year ending 31st August 2024, with the assistance of a Funder, we were able to provide 3 students with a total of £3,000 of assistance.

College Building Fund

The School owns all its buildings and has no loans outstanding on its property. This Fund is a Designated rather than a Restricted Fund and is set aside for a capital project to improve facilities.

Land and Building Fund

The School maintains a designated reserve equivalent to the net book value of its property (land and buildings) to focus attention on the infrastructure of the School and the need to generate sufficient funds to maintain this property. This reserve is made up of the land and buildings which are held for the long term and is not readily available to meet the ongoing operating costs of the School.

RESERVES POLICY

By its nature the School meets expenditure from its income and the majority of unrestricted reserves comprises designated funds. It is the Board's policy to work towards a position where General Fund reserves as set out in note 19 are sufficient to meet three months of operating costs which amounts to £178,662 without prejudicing the ongoing activities of the School. The reserves policy is reviewed annually, and unrestricted General Fund reserves amount to -£76,357 at 31 August 2024. This represents -1.3 months of operating costs of the School. The Board is continuing to seek to achieve the reserves target while continuing to deliver the School's objectives by seeking to budget for a small surplus each year. The total reserves of the School for charitable purposes amounts to £969,546 at 31 August 2024 of which 10% are restricted, 86% are represented by land and buildings and 4% are available for use, albeit 11% is designated for future capital projects by the Board.

Plan For Future Periods

The Board is delighted to be bringing forward a new Strategic Plan coupled with unveiling a new name for the School. The Purpose Statement is:

"To equip followers of Jesus for missional impact through theological education and spiritual development within a vibrant academic and worshipping community."

The Board desires to develop a 'centres' approach for each of the following strategic areas:

- Centre for Theological Education
- Centre for Christian Spiritual Theology
- Centre for Apologetics and Ethics

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the School's educational provision and continue to improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience.
2. To enable all of our students to progress in their learning, their personal development and the maturing of their Christian character, and to help them live out their faith as 21st century disciples.
3. To raise the profile, reach and reputation of the School locally and internationally.
4. To seek to be a prophetic response to contemporary issues facing the church and society.

In addition to normal operations, other foci were a priority. They included:

- Moving sites, from an out-of-town campus to Stranmillis University Campus within Belfast City's university students' heartland. The move is highly strategic, from a recruitment and academic perspectives.
- Increasing the School's profile through a series of strategic courses as well as online inputs and Church engagements. In June 2026, BST shall host an international conference on academic theology.
- Increasing the overall long-term financial sustainability of the School through developing a new business and operational model as the School relocates to its new site. Revenue from the sale of the old site will ensure the long-term sustainability of the School.
- Commencing the construction of E-learning facilities through a bespoke E-learning centre.
- Expanding the School's postgraduation learning platform, including additional courses and an online E-learning Master's degree programme in Practical Theology.
- Global student scholarships launch online MA.
- Working towards student affiliation with CU (Ireland).

Regulatory and key performance indicators

This year the School received the endorsement from QAA as the School continues to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by



Ms S Graham (Chair)

Director

Dated: 30 May 2025

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the Company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the Directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast School of Theology Limited is a Company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The Company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The School is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are three Board sub-committees namely Education Committee, Human Resources Committee and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; the latter two sub-committees have met on a regular basis and report to the Board of Directors with the Education Committee having been in temporary abeyance for the period of this report, due to operational reasons.

The Senior Management Team is made up of three staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets monthly.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (resigned 13 September 2024)
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron (resigned 18 June 2024)
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mrs L Watson
Prof P Fleming (resigned 5 September 2023, reappointed 21 January 2025)
Dr A Moorehead (appointed 9 February 2024)
Mr A Robinson (appointed 19 March 2024)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as Directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the ground of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the School. Prior to joining the Board each prospective member meets with the Chairman. The meeting provides an overview of the School and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the School. A Directors Pack for the School is given to each new member when they join and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the Company is also appointed as a Director, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the School receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters, there are no Directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the Directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The School employs a Principal and other full time and part time teaching staff, and the day-to-day operation of the School as a place of Christian education is delegated to the Principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the School and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8th February 2003.

The School is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other School or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the School are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

During the year the School undertook an organisational review with external assistance with a view to ensuring the School remains fit for purpose to deliver its charitable objectives and secure its financial future in the post-pandemic academic environment. The outcome of this review is being worked through with staff and the transformation process will take a couple of years to fully implement, particularly changes to academic courses in consultation with our accrediting university. This is an exciting opportunity for the School to meet our stakeholders' needs in an innovative and relevant way in accordance with God's will.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the School is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the School continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Throughout this year, we successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Internal 3 month, 1 year Certificate.
- ii. Individual modules, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma, 3 year BA in Theology, and Grad Dip (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- iii. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within the School have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the School.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The School has developed a School Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the School and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- an established Education Committee together with robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the School's activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The key risks facing the School are set out in the Corporate Risk Register, but the focus of attention surrounds the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all School activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students.

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and are normally overseen by specific Board Committees in these key areas – Education Committee, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Human Resources Committee. These standing committees are supplemented by ad hoc committees as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee also looks at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the School is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the School seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through school and higher education
- ii. Community education
- iii. Religious education
- iv. Vocational training and life-long learning
- v. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the School. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time School-run courses.

The Directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the Directors, the Directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the Directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

Harbinson Mulholland have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by



Ms S Graham (Chair)

Director

Dated: 30 May 2025



Mr M H Pitt

Director

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast School of Theology Limited (Formerly Belfast Bible College Limited) (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;


A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland**

30 May 2025

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

6th Floor East Tower
Lanyon Plaza
8 Lanyon Place
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT1 3LP

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	63,989	31,100	95,089	152,918
Income from charitable activities	4	389,621	-	389,621	586,778
Investments	5	5,260	-	5,260	4,487
Total income		458,870	31,100	489,970	744,183
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	714,623	27	714,650	841,166
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	1,429	-	1,429	(726)
Net movement in funds		(254,324)	31,073	(223,251)	(97,709)
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		1,124,633	68,164	1,192,797	1,290,506
Fund balances at 31 August 2024		870,309	99,237	969,546	1,192,797

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		868,947		905,470
Investments	14		14,733		13,301
			<u>883,680</u>		<u>918,771</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	15	28,974		30,336	
Cash at bank and in hand		248,873		448,467	
		<u>277,847</u>		<u>478,803</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(191,981)		(204,777)	
Net current assets			85,866		274,026
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>969,546</u>		<u>1,192,797</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	18		99,237		68,164
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	19	(76,357)		152,121	
Designated funds	19	946,666		972,512	
			<u>870,309</u>		<u>1,124,633</u>
			<u>969,546</u>		<u>1,192,797</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

The Company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2024, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.


The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 30 May 2025



Ms S Graham (Chair)
Trustee



Mr M H Pitt
Trustee

Company Registration No. NI049168

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	23		(200,848)		(70,688)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,006)		(36,096)	
Investment income received		5,260		4,487	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			1,254		(31,609)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(199,594)		(102,297)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			448,467		550,764
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>248,873</u>		<u>448,467</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Belfast School of Theology Limited (Formerly Belfast Bible College Limited) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Glenburn House, Glenburn Road South, Dunmurry, BT17 9JP.

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The principal accounting policies adopted, which have been applied consistently, are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

The Charity reported a deficit of £223,251 and a cash outflow of £199,594 including a net operations cash deficit of £200,848 for the year. Since the year end the Directors have made the decision to put the current site up for sale and a licence to occupy a wing of Stranmillis University College has been agreed. The Directors consider this to be a more sustainable business model for the Charity moving forward. In addition to this, the Directors have secured £100,000 of additional short term funding and are in the process of agreeing further funding. The Directors have prepared projections and, having considered the circumstances outlined above, are of the view that they have secured sufficient funding to ensure that the Company can continue to trade for the next 12 months. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming fully entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Grants, including capital grants, from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but included as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example, government block grants. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land	0%
Ground rents	0%
Buildings	1%, 2%, 4% or 10% straight line
Plant, fixtures and computers	10%, 20%, 25% or 50% straight line

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company's balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The Directors do not consider there are any material estimates or judgements in these financial statements other than as set out below.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and the estimated value in use.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Impairment of such debtors involves some estimation uncertainty.

3 Donations and legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted funds	63,989	151,718
Restricted funds	31,100	1,200
	<u>95,089</u>	<u>152,918</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Course fees	301,451	455,089
Other student income	31,879	79,718
External use of facilities	55,380	41,155
Other income	911	10,816
	<u>389,621</u>	<u>586,778</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	5,260	4,487

6 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	3,800	3,625
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	40,528	40,183

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	363,681	459,038
Depreciation and impairment	40,528	40,183
Other activities undertaken directly	236,780	242,808
	<u>640,989</u>	<u>742,029</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	68,224	68,964
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	5,437	30,173
	<u>714,650</u>	<u>841,166</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	714,623	838,139
Restricted funds	27	3,027
	<u>714,650</u>	<u>841,166</u>

The charitable activity of the School is to equip students intellectually and spiritually for Christian witness and service throughout the world. The charity does this by providing training at its premises.

8 Directors

None of the Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year (2023: none).

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Office overheads	4,874	-	4,874	20,223
Advertising	36,157	-	36,157	16,632
Finance	6,618	-	6,618	9,833
Information technology	20,575	-	20,575	22,276
Management	-	5,437	5,437	30,173
	<u>68,224</u>	<u>5,437</u>	<u>73,661</u>	<u>99,137</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>68,224</u>	<u>5,437</u>	<u>73,661</u>	<u>99,137</u>

10 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	<u>1,429</u>	<u>(726)</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Staff employed	14	17

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	318,954	399,578
Social security costs	27,452	36,059
Other pension costs	17,275	23,401
	<u>363,681</u>	<u>459,038</u>

The senior management team of the School comprised of 2 members of staff at the start of the year and 3 members of staff at the end of the year. The aggregate remuneration of this group was £92,123 (2023: £92,976).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Ground rents £	Buildings £	Plant, fixtures and computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	27,568	6,450	1,362,438	314,661	1,711,117
Additions	-	-	-	4,006	4,006
At 31 August 2024	<u>27,568</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>1,362,438</u>	<u>318,667</u>	<u>1,715,123</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2023	20,080	-	507,062	278,506	805,648
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	25,846	14,682	40,528
At 31 August 2024	<u>20,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>532,908</u>	<u>293,188</u>	<u>846,176</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2024	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>829,530</u>	<u>25,479</u>	<u>868,947</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>855,376</u>	<u>36,156</u>	<u>905,470</u>

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2023	13,301
Valuation changes	1,432
At 31 August 2024	<u>14,733</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2024	<u>14,733</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,301</u>

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,379	3,054
Other debtors	7,697	8,609
Prepayments and accrued income	19,898	18,673
	<u>28,974</u>	<u>30,336</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	11,325	12,049
Other creditors	110,714	118,537
Accruals and deferred income	69,942	74,191
	<u>191,981</u>	<u>204,777</u>

17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>17,275</u>	<u>23,401</u>

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 August 2024
		Income	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£
Student bursary fund	22,959	-	-	22,959
Global sponsorship fund	42,725	900	-	43,625
WSF fund	2,480	200	(27)	2,653
E-Learning Fund	-	30,000	-	30,000
	<u>68,164</u>	<u>31,100</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>99,237</u>

Restricted funds represent those monies received for a particular purpose as follows:

The Student bursary fund is used to support students from within the British Isles.

The Global sponsorship fund is used to support overseas students and include assistance with fees, travel and accommodation and out of pocket expenses.

The WSF (Women's Study Fellowship) fund is used to support students attending this course.

The E-Learning Fund is used to assist with the costs of the new e-learning suite, including the set up for the new on-line MA course.

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 August 2024
	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	
General funds	152,121	458,870	(714,623)	25,846	1,429	(76,357)
Designated funds - capital project	109,648	-	-	-	-	109,648
Designated funds - Land & Buildings	862,864	-	-	(25,846)	-	837,018
	<u>1,124,633</u>	<u>458,870</u>	<u>(714,623)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,429</u>	<u>870,309</u>

The unrestricted funds represent the free funds of the Charity and comprise general funds and funds which have been designated for particular purposes.

General Funds - General Funds are available reserves for use in the future work of the School and to minimise working capital borrowing, the need for which arises from time to time, and to cover the deficit of activities in any year arising from short term financial pressures.

Capital Project - The Board have designated income received from bequests in 2014 for a capital project to improve student facilities. Such funds are not restricted in nature.

Land and Buildings - The net book value of land and buildings are held as designated funds as they represent reserves which are not readily available for use in the operation of the School and are represented by College property. The transfer represents the depreciation charge for the year borne by the General Fund and funds used to improve the School land and buildings.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	868,947	-	868,947	905,470
Investments	14,733	-	14,733	13,301
Current assets/(liabilities)	(13,371)	99,237	85,866	274,026
	<u>870,309</u>	<u>99,237</u>	<u>969,546</u>	<u>1,192,797</u>

21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023: none).

BELFAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY LIMITED (FORMERLY BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

22 Liability of members

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore there is no share capital. As at 31 August 2024 the Company had eight members (2023: eight). The liability of the members is limited to £10 each in the event of the company being wound up.

23 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Deficit for the year	(223,251)	(97,709)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(5,260)	(4,487)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(1,429)	726
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	40,528	40,183
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	1,362	5,625
(Decrease) in creditors	(12,798)	(15,026)
Cash absorbed by operations	(200,848)	(70,688)

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Accounts

Charity registration number NIC104482

Company registration number NI049168 (Northern Ireland)

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Dr N C Morrow (Chair) Ms S Graham Mr P S Hendron Mr N Jennings Mr M H Pitt Mrs J Smyth Mrs L Watson Mr Andrew Robinson Ms Anne Moorehead	(Appointed 19 March 2024) (Appointed 9 February 2024)
Principal	James Burnett	
Charity number	NIC104482	
Company number	NI049168	
Registered office	Glenburn House Glenburn Road South Dunmurry BT17 9JP	
Auditor	Harbinson Mulholland Centrepont 24 Ormeau Avenue Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT2 8HS	
Bankers	Ulster Bank Andersonstown Branch Unit G, Westwood Centre Belfast Co. Antrim BT11 9BQ	
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin 8 High Street Holywood BT18 9AZ	

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

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BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 August 2023.

What the College does

The College provides education services.

The Charity's classification

The advancement of Education.

Who the Charity helps

The charity exists to help the general public but is specifically interested in those who wish to train for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

How the charity works

The charity delivers educational programmes to create a welcoming community in which God works to form His people by integrating spiritual, academic and experiential learning rooted in His Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were net outgoing resources for the year of £95,882 attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £1,124,633. In addition, there was net expenditure before transfers for the year of £1,827 attributable to restricted reserves which now stand at £68,164.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress was made toward fulfilling our purpose in 2022-2023 in the following areas:

Education

The College offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses validated by the University of Cumbria. These courses provide a suite of vocational theology awards (CertHE, DipHE, BA Theology, Graduate Dip, MA) validated by the University of Cumbria. Additionally, the college offers a wide range of part time courses in various theological subjects. The College appointed a new principal, James Barnett, in April 2022.

Advancement

i. Recruiting and Enrolment

The number of full time equivalent students attending the college for the various degree courses in the year under review was 83.

In September 2022, the College enrolled 53 (2021: 63) undergraduate and 0 (2021: 0) postgraduate full time students as well as 16 (2021: 7) undergraduate part time, 22 (2021: 32) post graduate part time and 0 (2021: 0) full time Ph.D. students.

Those attending the College were from a wide spectrum of denominations. Students attending the college come mainly from UK and Ireland with a small number coming from countries from around the world.

ii. Educational Development

During 2021 the College rolled out year 2 of a revalidated UG programme. This newly revalidated degree builds on our knowledge and experience and seeks to better serve our students with an integrated approach across theological disciplines and practical service.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The College also sought to enhance the support we offer to students, on a joined-up approach across academic, pastoral and residential support. Feedback from students has been very positive as to the quality of the support and it has been encouraging to see students access both academic support through their Personal Tutor scheme, as well as Pastoral care. This positive feedback has been echoed in the external survey based NSS that paints an encouraging picture of College.

The MA (launched in 2018) continues to attract students from a wide range of professional backgrounds as its blended approach serves their educational and professional needs well. This year our further enhancement of the MA has enabled students to present their dissertation research proposals in an online seminar.

Alongside our formal education, the College offers short courses, created by the College and accessible to the public at large. This year we continued our suite of programmes under the banner of Catalyst Courses. The accessibility of these classes with some face-to-face and some online has worked well and resulted in a greater diversity of participants along with a wider net of contributors to the teaching.

iii. Resource Development

The level of charitable donations to general operations and specific projects continues to support the College needs. The College is dependent on the generosity of supporters to ensure the future sustainability of the College. This is supported through a funding group to help support application to Trusts and uncover new funding possibilities.

Operations

The College continued its policy of upgrading facilities through minor capital works and the ongoing maintenance programme on its buildings. During the year £41,900 (2022: £46,550) was spent in this way.

Human Resources

The college continues to support staff and volunteers, with ongoing training for our line managers and supporting staff.

Outcomes Assessment

The College continues its commitment to providing theological education at differing academic levels and for varying study periods depending on the needs of prospective applicants. In the BA in theology from the University of Cumbria 59% (2022: 59%) of students graduated with a 2:1 or above.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results of the College's activities are contained in the attached financial statements.

Overall a deficit of £97,709 (2022: surplus £66,117) is reported for the year ended 31 August 2023. Unrestricted Funds returned a deficit of £45,882 compared to a deficit of £73,040 in 2022 whilst the corresponding figures for Restricted Funds were a deficit of £1,827 and a surplus of £6,923 respectively.

Unrestricted Reserves were £1,124,633 (2022: £1,220,515) at year end whilst Restricted Reserves were £68,164 (2022: £69,991).

Liquidity

The College decreased its bank balance during the year. Bank balances at year end were £448,467 compared to £550,764 at the end of the previous year. This is sufficient cash reserves to meet the College's funding requirements for six months without resorting to borrowing from the company's bankers or generating additional funds.

Income

During the year under review, 73.5 (2022: 83) full time equivalent students attended the College completing one or more of the variety of courses provided by the College. In the year to August 2023 fee income for such students amounted to almost £408,409 (2022: £475,643).

Almost 398 (2022: 233) part-time students attended evening class or day release courses generating fee income of £46,179 (2022: £41,996).

Donation income and income from the use of the College's facilities continue to provide a steady source of revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure may be broken down between that which is incurred directly on education and that which is incurred on maintaining the College's buildings and infrastructure. Over 85% of the educational costs may be analysed as employment costs. Personnel and Property costs are the major areas of expenditure within the indirect or corporate services area.

The College has been impacted by the steep rise in energy costs as a result of the current cost of living crisis. As this occurred during the middle of the academic year, we were unable to recover any additional costs by way of increased fees - fees being set in advance for each academic year. At the same time, we identified that Glenburn House was in serious need of major refurbishment and upgrade. However, the increased costs of materials and labour have prohibited the roll out of the work required until additional funding is in place.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The College also receives donation income from churches and individuals for specific projects. These are all recorded separately according to their specified use and are maintained in separate funds as follows:

Global Sponsorship Fund

This Fund is used to support overseas students who are unable to raise the fees to study at the College.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Assistance is also given for travel, accommodation and out of pocket living expenses for such students. Where a student is supported by a church, the student is obliged to visit the sponsoring church regularly at weekends to experience pastoral work in a Northern Ireland church environment. In the year just ended, no (2022: 0) students were supported under this scheme.

Student Bursary Fund

This Fund is used to support students from within the British Isles who would otherwise be unable to meet the costs of study at the College. Such students are assessed by a Board sub-committee who bring their recommendations to the Board as appropriate. During the year ending 31st August 2023, with the assistance of a Funder we were able to provide 3 students with a total of £3,000.00 of assistance.

College Building Fund

The College owns all its buildings and has no loans outstanding on its property. This Fund is a Designated rather than a Restricted Fund and is set aside for a capital project to improve facilities.

Land and Building Fund

The College maintains a designated reserve equivalent to the net book value of its property (land and buildings) to focus attention on the infrastructure of the College and the need to generate sufficient funds to maintain this property. This reserve is made up of the land and buildings which are held for the long term and is not readily available to meet the ongoing operating costs of the College.

RESERVES POLICY

By its nature the college meets expenditure from its income and the majority of unrestricted reserves comprises designated funds. It is the Board's policy to work towards a position where General Fund reserves as set out in note 17 are sufficient to meet three months of operating costs which amounts to £210,292 without prejudicing the ongoing activities of the College. The reserves policy is reviewed annually, and unrestricted General Fund reserves amount to £152,121 at 31 August 2023. This represents 2.2 months of operating costs of the College. The Board is continuing to seek to achieve the reserves target while continuing to deliver the College's objectives by seeking to budget for a small surplus each year. The total reserves of the College for charitable purposes amounts to £1,192,797 at 31 August 2023 of which 6% are restricted, 76% are represented by land and buildings and 18% are available for use albeit 9% of that is designated for future capital projects by the Board.

Plan For Future Periods

The Board is delighted to be bringing forward a new Strategic Plan coupled with unveiling a new name for the College. The Purpose Statement is:

"To equip followers of Jesus for missional impact through theological education and spiritual development within a vibrant academic and worshipping community."

The Board desires to develop a 'centres' approach for each of the following strategic areas:

- Centre for Theological Education
- Centre for Christian Spiritual Theology
- Centre for Apologetics and Ethics

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the College's educational provision and continue to improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience.
2. To enable all of our students to progress in their learning, their personal development and the maturing of their Christian character, and to help them live out their faith as 21st century disciples.
3. To raise the profile, reach and reputation of the College locally and internationally.
4. To seek to be a prophetic response to contemporary issues facing the church and society.

In addition to normal operations, other foci were a priority. They included:

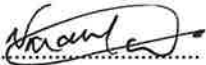
- Launching the new name and focus of the College including a new website, logo, and branding.
- Increasing the College's profile through a series of strategic courses as well as online inputs and Church engagements.
- Increasing the overall long-term financial sustainability of the College through the commercialisation of additional services.
- Commencing the construction of E-learning facilities through a bespoke E-learning centre.
- Expanding the College's postgraduation learning platform, including additional courses and an online E-learning Master's degree programme in Practical Theology.
- Global student scholarships launch online MA.
- Working towards student affiliation with CU (Ireland).
- A new site development plan which includes the construction of three new centres for learning.

This will continue into 2023-24.

Regulatory and key performance indicators

This year the College received the endorsement from QAA as the College continues to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities.

Approved by the Board on 30th June 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast Bible College Limited is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The College is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are three Board sub-committees namely Education Committee, Human Resources Committee and Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; each subcommittee meet on a regular basis and report to the Board of Directors.

The Senior Management Team is made up of three staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets monthly.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Prof N D Black (resigned 15 June 2023)
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mr P Fleming (resigned 5 September 2022)
Mrs Lisette Watson (appointed 8 December 2022)
Ms Anne Moorehead (appointed 9 February 2024)
Mr Andrew Robinson (appointed 19 March 2024)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the ground of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the College. Prior to joining the Board each prospective member meets with the Chairman. The meeting provides an overview of the College and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the College. A Directors Pack for the College is given to each new member when they join and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the Company is also appointed as a director, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the College receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters there are no directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The College employs a principal and other full time and part time teaching staff, and the day to day operation of the College as a place of Christian education is delegated to the principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the College, and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8th February 2003.

The College is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other college or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the College are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

During the year the College undertook an organisational review with external assistance with a view to ensuring the College remains fit for purpose to deliver its charitable objectives and secure its financial future in the post-pandemic academic environment. The outcome of this review is being worked through with staff and the transformation process will take a couple of years to fully implement, particularly changes to academic courses in consultation with our accrediting university. This is an exciting opportunity for the College to meet our stakeholders' needs in an innovative and relevant way in accordance with God's will.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the College is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the College continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Through this year, we successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Internal 3 month, 1 year Certificate & graduate Diploma courses.
- i. 3 month Certificate, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma and 3 year BA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- i. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within College have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the College.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board Finance, Risk and Audit Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The College has developed a College Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the College and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- an established Education Committee together with robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the College activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The key risks facing the College are set out in the Corporate Risk Register but the focus of attention surrounded the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all College activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and overseen by specific Board Committees in these key areas – Education Committee, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and Human Resources Committee. These standing committees are supplemented by ad hoc committees as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee also look at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the College is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the college seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through college and higher education
- ii. Community education
- iii. Religious education
- iv. Vocational training and life-long learning
- v. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the college. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time college courses.

The directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023


DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the directors, the directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

Harbinson Mulholland have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting and to authorise the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Approved by the Board on 30th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by



.....
Dr N C Morrow (Chair)

Director

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Bible College Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

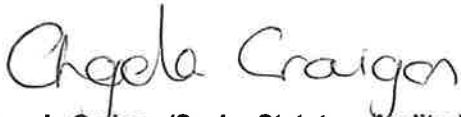
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

30/4/24

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8HS

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	151,718	1,200	152,918	113,612
Income from charitable activities	4	586,778	-	586,778	736,494
Investments	5	4,487	-	4,487	859
Total income		742,983	1,200	744,183	850,965
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	838,139	3,027	841,166	914,992
Other		-	-	-	1,181
Total resources expended		838,139	3,027	841,166	916,173
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(726)	-	(726)	(909)
Net movement in funds		(95,882)	(1,827)	(97,709)	(66,117)
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		1,220,515	69,991	1,290,506	1,356,623
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		1,124,633	68,164	1,192,797	1,290,506

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		905,470		909,556
Investments	13		13,301		14,026
			<u>918,771</u>		<u>923,582</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	30,336		35,961	
Cash at bank and in hand		448,467		550,764	
		<u>478,803</u>		<u>586,725</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(204,777)		(219,801)	
Net current assets			274,026		366,924
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,192,797</u>		<u>1,290,506</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		68,164		69,991
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	18	152,121		244,228	
Designated funds	18	972,512		976,287	
			<u>1,124,633</u>		<u>1,220,515</u>
			<u>1,192,797</u>		<u>1,290,506</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 30/14/24



Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Trustee



Mr M H Pitt
Trustee

Company Registration No. NI049168

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	21		(70,688)		10,367
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(36,096)		(46,550)	
Investment income received		4,487		859	
Net cash used in investing activities			(31,609)		(45,691)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(102,297)		(35,324)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			550,764		586,088
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			448,467		550,764

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Belfast Bible College Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Glenburn House, Glenburn Road South, Dunmurry, BT17 9JP.

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The principal accounting policies adopted, which have been applied consistently, are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

The charity reported a cash outflow of £102,297 and net operations cash deficit of £70,688 for the year. The directors have prepared projections and, having considered the circumstances outlined above, are of the view that they have secured sufficient funding to ensure that the company can continue to trade for the next 12 months. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming fully entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Grants, including capital grants, from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but included as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example, government block grants. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land	0%
Ground rents	0%
Buildings	1%, 2%, 4% or 10% straight line
Plant, fixtures and computers	10%, 20%, 25% or 50% straight line

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company's balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

(Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The Directors do not consider there are any material estimates or judgements in these financial statements other than as set out below.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Impairment of such debtors involves some estimation uncertainty.

3 Donations and legacies

	2023 £	2021 £
Unrestricted funds	151,718	106,662
Restricted funds	1,200	6,950
	<u>152,918</u>	<u>113,612</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Course fees	455,089	517,640
Other student income	79,718	67,796
External use of facilities	41,155	38,363
Other income	10,816	112,695
	<u>586,778</u>	<u>736,494</u>

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from Equity Fund	-	564
Interest receivable	4,487	295
	<u>4,487</u>	<u>859</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	459,038	543,324
Depreciation and impairment	40,183	55,802
Other activities undertaken directly	242,808	226,673
	<u>742,029</u>	<u>825,799</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	68,964	83,160
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	30,173	6,033
	<u>841,166</u>	<u>914,992</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	838,139	914,965
Restricted funds	3,027	27
	<u>841,166</u>	<u>914,992</u>

The charitable activity of Belfast Bible College is to equip students intellectually and spiritually for Christian witness and service throughout the world. The charity does this by providing training at its premises.

7 Directors

None of the Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year (2022: none).

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Office overheads	20,223	-	20,223	18,635
Advertising	16,632	-	16,632	21,732
Finance	9,833	-	9,833	5,740
Information technology	22,276	-	22,276	37,053
Management	-	30,173	30,173	6,033
	<u>68,964</u>	<u>30,173</u>	<u>99,137</u>	<u>89,193</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>68,964</u>	<u>30,173</u>	<u>99,137</u>	<u>89,193</u>

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	<u>(726)</u>	<u>(909)</u>

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Staff employed	17	23

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	399,578	475,343
Social security costs	36,059	40,652
Other pension costs	23,401	27,329
	<u>459,038</u>	<u>543,324</u>

The senior management team of the College comprised of 2 members of staff at the start of the period and 2 members of staff at the end of the period. The aggregate remuneration of this group was £92,976 (2022: £82,565).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Ground rents £	Buildings £	Plant, fixtures and computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	27,568	6,450	1,340,328	300,675	1,675,021
Additions	-	-	22,110	13,986	36,096
At 31 August 2023	<u>27,568</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>1,362,438</u>	<u>314,661</u>	<u>1,711,117</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2022	20,080	-	482,506	262,878	765,464
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	24,556	15,627	40,183
At 31 August 2023	<u>20,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>507,062</u>	<u>278,505</u>	<u>805,647</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>855,376</u>	<u>36,156</u>	<u>905,470</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>7,488</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>857,822</u>	<u>37,796</u>	<u>909,556</u>

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2022	14,026
Additions	(725)
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,301</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,301</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>14,026</u>

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	3,054	2,043
Other debtors	8,609	8,306
Prepayments and accrued income	18,673	25,612
	<u>30,336</u>	<u>35,961</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	12,049	14,312
Other creditors	118,537	118,840
Accruals and deferred income	74,191	86,649
	<u>204,777</u>	<u>219,801</u>

16 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £23,401 (2022: £27,329).

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 August 2023
		Income	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£
Student bursary fund	25,959	-	(3,000)	22,959
Global sponsorship fund	41,525	1,200	-	42,725
WSF fund	2,507	-	(27)	2,480
	<u>69,991</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>(3,027)</u>	<u>68,164</u>

Restricted funds represent those monies received for a particular purpose as follows:

The Student bursary fund is used to support students from within the British Isles.

The Global sponsorship fund is used to support overseas students and include assistance with fees, travel and accommodation and out of pocket expenses.

The WSF (Women's Study Fellowship) fund is used to support students attending this course.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Unrestricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 August 2023 £
	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	
General funds	244,228	742,983	(838,139)	3,775	(726)	152,121
Designated funds - capital project	110,978	-	-	(1,330)	-	109,648
Designated funds - land and buildings	865,309	-	-	(2,445)	-	862,864
	<u>1,220,515</u>	<u>742,983</u>	<u>(838,139)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(726)</u>	<u>1,124,633</u>

The unrestricted funds represent the free funds of the Charity and comprise general funds and funds which have been designated for particular purposes.

General Funds - General Funds are available reserves for use in the future work of the College and to minimise working capital borrowing, the need for which arise from time to time, and to cover the deficit of activities in any year arising from short term financial pressures.

Capital Project - The Board have designated income received from bequests in 2014 for a capital project to improve student facilities. Such funds are not restricted in nature.

Land and Buildings - The net book value of land and buildings are held as designated funds as they represent reserves which are not readily available for use in the operation of the College and are represented by College property. The transfer represents the depreciation charge for the year borne by the General Fund and funds used to improve the College land and buildings.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	905,470	-	905,470	909,556
Investments	13,301	-	13,301	14,026
Current assets/(liabilities)	205,862	68,164	274,026	366,924
	<u>1,124,633</u>	<u>68,164</u>	<u>1,192,797</u>	<u>1,290,506</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022: none).

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
	£	£
Deficit for the year	(97,709)	(66,117)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(4,487)	(859)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,181
Fair value gains and losses on investments	726	909
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	40,183	55,802
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	5,625	(5,981)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(15,026)	25,432
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(70,688)	10,367

22 Liability of members

The company is limited by guarantee and therefore there is no share capital. As at 31 August 2023 the company had eight members (2022: eleven). The liability of the members is limited to £10 each in the event of the company being wound up.

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Annual report

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast Bible College Limited is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The College is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are three Board sub-committees namely Education Committee, Human Resources Committee and Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; each subcommittee meet on a regular basis and report to the Board of Directors.

The Senior Management Team is made up of three staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets monthly.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Prof N D Black (resigned 15 June 2023)
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mr P Fleming (resigned 5 September 2022)
Mrs Lisette Watson (appointed 8 December 2022)
Ms Anne Moorehead (appointed 9 February 2024)
Mr Andrew Robinson (appointed 19 March 2024)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the ground of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the College. Prior to joining the Board each prospective member meets with the Chairman. The meeting provides an overview of the College and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the College. A Directors Pack for the College is given to each new member when they join and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the Company is also appointed as a director, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the College receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters there are no directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The College employs a principal and other full time and part time teaching staff, and the day to day operation of the College as a place of Christian education is delegated to the principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the College, and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8th February 2003.

The College is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other college or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the College are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

During the year the College undertook an organisational review with external assistance with a view to ensuring the College remains fit for purpose to deliver its charitable objectives and secure its financial future in the post-pandemic academic environment. The outcome of this review is being worked through with staff and the transformation process will take a couple of years to fully implement, particularly changes to academic courses in consultation with our accrediting university. This is an exciting opportunity for the College to meet our stakeholders' needs in an innovative and relevant way in accordance with God's will.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the College is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the College continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Through this year, we successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Internal 3 month, 1 year Certificate & graduate Diploma courses.
- i. 3 month Certificate, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma and 3 year BA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- i. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within College have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the College.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board Finance, Risk and Audit Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The College has developed a College Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the College and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- an established Education Committee together with robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the College activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The key risks facing the College are set out in the Corporate Risk Register but the focus of attention surrounded the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all College activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and overseen by specific Board Committees in these key areas – Education Committee, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and Human Resources Committee. These standing committees are supplemented by ad hoc committees as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee also look at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the College is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the college seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through college and higher education
- ii. Community education
- iii. Religious education
- iv. Vocational training and life-long learning
- v. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the college. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time college courses.

The directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

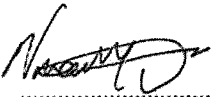
DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the directors, the directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

Harbinson Mulholland have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting and to authorise the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Approved by the Board on 30th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by



.....
Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Annual return

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Bible College Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

30/4/24

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8HS

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Accounts

Charity registration number NIC104482

Company registration number NI049168 (Northern Ireland)

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Dr N C Morrow (Chair) Prof N D Black Ms S Graham Mr P S Hendron Mr N Jennings Mr M H Pitt Mrs J Smyth Prof P Fleming Mrs L Watson	(Appointed 5 October 2022) (Appointed 8 December 2022)
Principal	James Burnett	(Appointed 30 May 2022)
Charity number	NIC104482	
Company number	NI049168	
Registered office	Glenburn House Glenburn Road South Dunmurry BT17 9JP	
Auditor	Harbinson Mulholland Centrepoint 24 Ormeau Avenue Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT2 8HS	
Bankers	Ulster Bank Andersonstown Branch Unit G, Westwood Centre Belfast Co. Antrim BT11 9BQ	
Solicitors	Hewitt & Gilpin 8 High Street Holywood BT18 9AZ	

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

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BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 August 2022.

What the College does

The College provides education services.

The Charity's classification

The advancement of Education.

Who the Charity helps

The charity exists to help the general public but is specifically interested in those who wish to train for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

How the charity works

The charity delivers educational programmes to create a welcoming community in which God works to form His people by integrating spiritual, academic and experiential learning rooted in His Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were net outgoing resources for the year of £73,040 attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £1,220,515. In addition, there was net income before transfers for the year of £6,923 attributable to restricted reserves which now stand at £69,991.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress was made toward fulfilling our purpose in 2021-2022 in the following areas:

Education

The College offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses validated by the University of Cumbria. These courses provide a suite of vocational theology awards (CertHE, DipHE, BA Theology, Graduate Dip, MA) validated by the University of Cumbria. Additionally, the college offers a wide range of part time courses in various theological subjects.

Advancement

i. Recruiting and Enrolment

The number of full time equivalent students attending the college for the various degree courses in the year under review was 83.

In September 2021, the College enrolled 63 (2020:95) undergraduate and 0 (2020:4) postgraduate full time students as well as 7 (2020:5) undergraduate part time, 32 (2020:39) post graduate part time and 0 (2020:1) full time Ph.D. students.

Those attending the College were from a wide spectrum of denominations. Students attending the college come mainly from UK and Ireland with a small number coming from countries from around the world.

ii. Educational Development

During 2021 the College rolled out year 2 of a revalidated UG programme. This newly revalidated degree builds on our knowledge and experience and seeks to better serve our students with an integrated approach across theological disciplines and practical service.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The College also sought to enhance the support we offer to students, on a joined-up approach across academic, pastoral and residential support. Feedback from students has been very positive as to the quality of the support and it has been encouraging to see students access both academic support through their Personal Tutor scheme, as well as Pastoral care. This positive feedback has been echoed in the external survey based NSS that paints an encouraging picture of College.

The MA (launched in 2018) continues to attract students from a wide range of professional backgrounds as its blended approach serves their educational and professional needs well. This year our further enhancement of the MA has enabled students to present their dissertation research proposals in an online seminar.

Alongside our formal education, the College offers short courses, created by the College and accessible to the public at large. This year we continued our suite of programmes under the banner of The Transformation Project. The accessibility of these classes with some face-to-face and some online has worked well and resulted in a greater diversity of participants along with a wider net of contributors to the teaching.

iii. Resource Development

The level of charitable donations to general operations and specific projects continues to support the College needs. The College is dependent on the generosity of supporters to ensure the future sustainability of the College. This is supported through a funding group to help support application to Trusts and uncover new funding possibilities.

Operations

The College continued its policy of upgrading facilities through minor capital works and the ongoing maintenance programme on its buildings. During the year £46,550 (2021: £42,877) was spent in this way.

Human Resources

The college continues to support staff and volunteers, with ongoing training for our line managers and supporting staff.

Outcomes Assessment

The College continues its commitment to providing theological education at differing academic levels and for varying study periods depending on the needs of prospective applicants. In the BA in theology from the University of Cumbria 59% (2021: 46%) of students graduated with a 2:1 or above.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results of the College's activities are contained in the attached financial statements.

Overall a deficit of £66,117 (2021: surplus £47,869) is reported for the year ended 31 August 2022. Unrestricted Funds returned a deficit of £73,040 compared to a surplus of £43,146 in 2021 whilst the corresponding figures for Restricted Funds were a surplus of £6,923 and a surplus of £4,723 respectively.

Unrestricted Reserves were £1,220,515 (2021: £1,293,555) at year end whilst Restricted Reserves were £69,991 (2021: £63,068).

Liquidity

The College decreased its bank balance during the year. Bank balances at year end were £550,764 compared to £586,088 at the end of the previous year. This is sufficient cash reserves to meet the College's funding requirements for six months without resorting to borrowing from the company's bankers or generating additional funds.

Income

During the year under review, 83 (2021: 122) full time equivalent students attended the College completing one or more of the variety of courses provided by the College. In the year to August 2022 fee income for such students amounted to almost £475,643 (2021: £625,109).

Almost 233 (2021:339) part-time students attended evening class or day release courses generating fee income of £41,996 (2021:£41,352).

Donation income and income from the use of the College's facilities continue to provide a steady source of revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure may be broken down between that which is incurred directly on education and that which is incurred on maintaining the College's buildings and infrastructure. Over 85% of the educational costs may be analysed as employment costs. Personnel and Property costs are the major areas of expenditure within the indirect or corporate services area.

The College has been impacted by the steep rise in energy costs as a result of the current cost of living crisis. As this occurred during the middle of the academic year, we were unable to recover any additional costs by way of increased fees - fees being set in advance for each academic year. At the same time, we identified that Glenburn House was in serious need of major refurbishment and upgrade. However, the increased costs of materials and labour have prohibited the roll out of the work required until additional funding is in place.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The College also receives donation income from churches and individuals for specific projects. These are all recorded separately according to their specified use and are maintained in separate funds as follows:

Global Sponsorship Fund

This Fund is used to support undergraduate overseas students who are unable to raise the fees to study at the College.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Assistance is also given for travel, accommodation and out of pocket living expenses for such students. Where a student is supported by a church, the student is obliged to visit the sponsoring church regularly at weekends to experience pastoral work in a Northern Ireland church environment. In the year just ended, no (2020: 2) students were supported under this scheme.

Student Bursary Fund

This Fund is used to support students from within the British Isles who would otherwise be unable to meet the costs of study at the College. Such students are assessed by a Board sub-committee who bring their recommendations to the Board as appropriate. During the year ending 31st August 2022, with the assistance of a Funder we were able to provide 4 students with a total of £3,000.00 of assistance.

College Building Fund

The College owns all its buildings and has no loans outstanding on its property. This Fund is a Designated rather than a Restricted Fund and is set aside for a capital project to improve facilities.

Land and Building Fund

The College maintains a designated reserve equivalent to the net book value of its property (land and buildings) to focus attention on the infrastructure of the College and the need to generate sufficient funds to maintain this property. This reserve is made up of the land and buildings which are held for the long term and is not readily available to meet the ongoing operating costs of the College.

RESERVES POLICY

By its nature the college meets expenditure from its income and the majority of unrestricted reserves comprises designated funds. It is the Board's policy to work towards a position where General Fund reserves as set out in note 17 are sufficient to meet three months of operating costs which amounts to £228,741 without prejudicing the ongoing activities of the College. The reserves policy is reviewed annually, and unrestricted General Fund reserves amount to £269,146 at 31 August 2022. This represents 3.5 months of operating costs of the College. The Board is continuing to seek to achieve the reserves target while continuing to deliver the College's objectives by seeking to budget for a small surplus each year. The total reserves of the College for charitable purposes amounts to £1,290,506 at 31 August 2022 of which 5% are restricted, 64% are represented by land and buildings and 31% are available for use albeit 9% of that is designated for future capital projects by the Board.

Plan For Future Periods

The Board is cognizant of the challenges facing theological colleges in a post-pandemic landscape. In 2022-2023, members strove to achieve strategic objectives (which were agreed to in 2021), with courage, adaptability and creativity.

The strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the College's educational provision and continue to improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience.
2. To enable all of our students to progress in their learning, their personal development and the maturing of their Christian character, and to help them live out their faith as 21st century disciples.
3. To raise the profile, reach and reputation of the College locally and internationally.
4. To seek to be a prophetic response to contemporary issues facing the church and society.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

In addition to normal operations, other foci were a priority. They included:

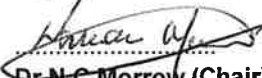
- The appointment of a new Principal.
- Increasing the College's profile through a series of strategic courses as well as online inputs and Church engagements.
- Increasing the overall long-term financial sustainability of the College through the commercialisation of additional services.
- Exploring the College's capacity for E-learning.
- Expanding the College's postgraduation learning platform, including additional courses.

This will continue into 2022-23.

Regulatory and key performance indicators

This year the College received the endorsement from QAA as the College continues to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities.

Approved by the Board on 30/3/23 and signed on its behalf by


Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast Bible College Limited is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The College is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are three Board sub-committees namely Education Committee, Human Resources Committee and Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; each subcommittee meet on a regular basis and report to the Board of Directors.

The Senior Management Team is made up of six staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets monthly.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Dr M E J Bennett (resigned 16 June 2022)
Prof N D Black
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mr D R Wheeler (resigned 16 June 2022)
Mr P Fleming (appointed 16 June 2022)
Mrs Lisette Watson (appointed 8 December 2022)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the ground of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the College. Prior to joining the Board each prospective member meets with the Chairman. The meeting provides an overview of the College and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the College. A Directors Pack for the College is given to each new member when they join and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the Company is also appointed as a director, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the College receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters there are no directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The College employs a principal and other full time and part time teaching staff, and the day to day operation of the College as a place of Christian education is delegated to the principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the College, and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8th February 2003.

The College is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other college or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the College are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

During the year we said goodbye to Helen Warnock, our Principal for the last 5 years and wish to record our thanks to Helen for her contribution to the College. In April we welcomed Rev James Burnett as our new Principal. James has a very real sense of calling to the College and comes with considerable experience in theology, mission and pastoral ministry and we also value his leadership skills.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the College is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the College continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Through this year, we successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Internal 3 month, 1 year Certificate & graduate Diploma courses.
- i. 3 month Certificate, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma and 3 year BA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- i. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within College have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the College.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board Finance, Risk and Audit Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The College has developed a College Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the College and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- an established Education Committee together with robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the College activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The key risks facing the College are set out in the Corporate Risk Register but the focus of attention surrounded the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all College activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and overseen by specific Board Committees in these key areas – Education Committee, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and Human Resources Committee. These standing committees are supplemented by ad hoc committees as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee also look at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the College is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the college seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through college and higher education
5. Community education
6. Religious education
7. Vocational training and life-long learning
8. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the college. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time college courses.

The directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

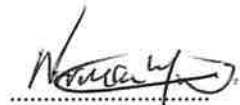
DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the directors, the directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

Harbinson Mulholland have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting and to authorise the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Approved by the Board on 30/12/23 and signed on its behalf by



Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Bible College Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;


A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

30/3/23
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8HS

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	106,662	6,950	113,612	106,856
Income from charitable activities	4	736,494	-	736,494	804,089
Investments	5	859	-	859	737
Total income		844,015	6,950	850,965	911,682
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	914,965	27	914,992	866,909
Other		1,181	-	1,181	-
Total resources expended		916,146	27	916,173	866,909
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(909)	-	(909)	3,096
Net movement in funds		(73,040)	6,923	(66,117)	47,869
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		1,293,555	63,068	1,356,623	1,308,754
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		1,220,515	69,991	1,290,506	1,356,623

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	19		10,367		65,980
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(46,550)		(3,297)	
Investment income received		859		737	
Net cash used in investing activities			(45,691)		(2,560)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(35,324)		63,420
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			586,088		522,668
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			550,764		586,088

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	909,556		919,989	
Investments	11	14,026		14,935	
		<u>923,582</u>		<u>934,924</u>	
Current assets					
Debtors	12	35,961		29,980	
Cash at bank and in hand		550,764		586,088	
		<u>586,725</u>		<u>616,068</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(219,801)		(194,369)	
Net current assets		<u>366,924</u>		<u>421,699</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,290,506</u>		<u>1,356,623</u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15	69,991		63,068	
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	16	234,874		273,400	
Designated funds	16	912,601		1,063,301	
		<u>1,220,515</u>		<u>1,293,555</u>	
		<u>1,290,506</u>		<u>1,356,623</u>	

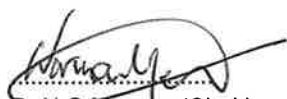
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 30/9/23



Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Trustee



Mr M H Pitt
Trustee

Company Registration No. NI049168

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Belfast Bible College Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Glenburn House, Glenburn Road South, Dunmurry, BT17 9JP.

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The principal accounting policies adopted, which have been applied consistently, are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

The charity reported a cash outflow of £35,324 and net operations cash deficit of £66,117 for the year. The directors have prepared projections and, having considered the circumstances outlined above, are of the view that they have secured sufficient funding to ensure that the company can continue to trade for the next 12 months. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming fully entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Grants, including capital grants, from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but included as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example, government block grants. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land	0%
Ground rents	0%
Buildings	1%, 2%, 4% or 10% straight line
Plant, fixtures and computers	10%, 20%, 25% or 50% straight line

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company's balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

(Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The Directors do not consider there are any material estimates or judgements in these financial statements other than as set out below.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Impairment of such debtors involves some estimation uncertainty.

3 Donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds	106,662	99,106
Restricted funds	6,950	7,750
	<u>113,612</u>	<u>106,856</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Course fees	517,640	666,461
Other student income	67,796	69,042
External use of facilities	38,363	21,750
Other income	112,695	46,836
	<u>736,494</u>	<u>804,089</u>

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5 Investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income from Equity Fund	564	651
Interest receivable	295	86
	<u>859</u>	<u>737</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	543,324	547,268
Depreciation and impairment	55,802	54,893
Other activities undertaken directly	226,673	180,566
	<u>825,799</u>	<u>782,727</u>
Share of support costs (see note 7)	83,160	78,152
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	6,033	6,030
	<u>914,992</u>	<u>866,909</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	914,965	863,882
Restricted funds	27	3,027
	<u>914,992</u>	<u>866,909</u>

The charitable activity of Belfast Bible College is to equip students intellectually and spiritually for Christian witness and service throughout the world. The charity does this by providing training at its premises.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Office overheads	18,635	-	18,635	16,380
Advertising	21,732	-	21,732	27,690
Finance	5,740	-	5,740	8,360
Information technology	37,053	-	37,053	25,722
Management	-	6,033	6,033	6,030
	<u>83,160</u>	<u>6,033</u>	<u>89,193</u>	<u>84,182</u>
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	<u>83,160</u>	<u>6,033</u>	<u>89,193</u>	<u>84,182</u>

8 Directors

None of the Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Company during the year (2021: none).

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Staff employed	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>

Employment costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	475,343	479,310
Social security costs	40,652	40,459
Other pension costs	27,329	27,499
	<u>543,324</u>	<u>547,268</u>

The senior management team of the College comprised of 2 members of staff at the start of the period and 2 members of staff at the end of the period. The aggregate remuneration of this group was £82,565 (2021: £100,218).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land	Ground rents	Buildings	Plant, fixtures and computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2021	27,568	6,450	1,315,410	378,989	1,728,417
Additions	-	-	24,918	21,632	46,550
Disposals	-	-	-	(99,947)	(99,947)
At 31 August 2022	27,568	6,450	1,340,328	300,674	1,675,020
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2021	20,080	-	459,484	328,864	808,428
Depreciation charged in the year	-	-	23,022	32,780	55,802
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(98,766)	(98,766)
At 31 August 2022	20,080	-	482,506	262,878	765,464
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2022	7,488	6,450	857,822	37,796	909,556
At 31 August 2021	7,488	6,450	855,926	50,125	919,989

11 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2021	14,935
Valuation changes	(909)
At 31 August 2022	14,026
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2022	14,026
At 31 August 2021	14,935

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	2,043	4,591
Other debtors	8,306	6,808
Prepayments and accrued income	25,612	18,581
	35,961	29,980

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	14,312	12,837
Other creditors	118,840	115,249
Accruals and deferred income	86,649	66,283
	<u>219,801</u>	<u>194,369</u>

14 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £27,329 (2021: £27,499).

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 August 2022
	Balance at 1 September 2021	Income	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£
Student bursary fund	22,959	3,000	-	25,959
Global sponsorship fund	37,575	3,950	-	41,525
WSF fund	2,534	-	(27)	2,507
	<u>63,068</u>	<u>6,950</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>69,991</u>

Restricted funds represent those monies received for a particular purpose as follows:

The Student bursary fund is used to support students from within the British Isles.

The Global sponsorship fund is used to support overseas students and include assistance with fees, travel and accommodation and out of pocket expenses.

The WSF (Women's Study Fellowship) fund is used to support students attending this course.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

16 Unrestricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 August 2022 £
	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Gains and losses £	
	General funds	307,914	844,015	(916,146)	9,354	
Designated funds - capital project	122,228	-	-	(11,250)	-	110,978
Designated funds - land and buildings	863,413	-	-	1,896	-	865,309
	<u>1,293,555</u>	<u>844,015</u>	<u>(916,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(909)</u>	<u>1,220,515</u>

The unrestricted funds represent the free funds of the Charity and comprise general funds and funds which have been designated for particular purposes.

General Funds - General Funds are available reserves for use in the future work of the College and to minimise working capital borrowing, the need for which arise from time to time, and to cover the deficit of activities in any year arising from short term financial pressures.

Capital Project - The Board have designated income received from bequests in 2014 for a capital project to improve student facilities. Such funds are not restricted in nature.

Land and Buildings - The net book value of land and buildings are held as designated funds as they represent reserves which are not readily available for use in the operation of the College and are represented by College property. The transfer represents the depreciation charge for the year borne by the General Fund and funds used to improve the College land and buildings.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	909,556	-	909,556	919,989
Investments	14,026	-	14,026	14,935
Current assets/(liabilities)	296,933	69,991	366,924	421,699
	<u>1,220,515</u>	<u>69,991</u>	<u>1,290,506</u>	<u>1,356,623</u>

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021: none).

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

19 Cash generated from operations	2022	2021
	£	£
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(66,117)	47,869
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(859)	(737)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,181	-
Fair value gains and losses on investments	909	(3,096)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	55,802	54,893
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,981)	2,204
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	25,432	(35,153)
Cash generated from operations	<u>10,367</u>	<u>65,980</u>
20 Liability of members		

The company is limited by guarantee and therefore there is no share capital. As at 31 August 2022 the company had eight members (2021: eleven). The liability of the members is limited to £10 each in the event of the company being wound up.

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Annual report

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 August 2022.

What the College does

The College provides education services.

The Charity's classification

The advancement of Education.

Who the Charity helps

The charity exists to help the general public but is specifically interested in those who wish to train for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

How the charity works

The charity delivers educational programmes to create a welcoming community in which God works to form His people by integrating spiritual, academic and experiential learning rooted in His Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the world.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were net outgoing resources for the year of £73,040 attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £1,220,515. In addition, there was net income before transfers for the year of £6,923 attributable to restricted reserves which now stand at £69,991.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress was made toward fulfilling our purpose in 2021-2022 in the following areas:

Education

The College offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses validated by the University of Cumbria. These courses provide a suite of vocational theology awards (CertHE, DipHE, BA Theology, Graduate Dip, MA) validated by the University of Cumbria. Additionally, the college offers a wide range of part time courses in various theological subjects.

Advancement

i. Recruiting and Enrolment

The number of full time equivalent students attending the college for the various degree courses in the year under review was 83.

In September 2021, the College enrolled 63 (2020:95) undergraduate and 0 (2020:4) postgraduate full time students as well as 7 (2020:5) undergraduate part time, 32 (2020:39) post graduate part time and 0 (2020:1) full time Ph.D. students.

Those attending the College were from a wide spectrum of denominations. Students attending the college come mainly from UK and Ireland with a small number coming from countries from around the world.

ii. Educational Development

During 2021 the College rolled out year 2 of a revalidated UG programme. This newly revalidated degree builds on our knowledge and experience and seeks to better serve our students with an integrated approach across theological disciplines and practical service.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The College also sought to enhance the support we offer to students, on a joined-up approach across academic, pastoral and residential support. Feedback from students has been very positive as to the quality of the support and it has been encouraging to see students access both academic support through their Personal Tutor scheme, as well as Pastoral care. This positive feedback has been echoed in the external survey based NSS that paints an encouraging picture of College.

The MA (launched in 2018) continues to attract students from a wide range of professional backgrounds as its blended approach serves their educational and professional needs well. This year our further enhancement of the MA has enabled students to present their dissertation research proposals in an online seminar.

Alongside our formal education, the College offers short courses, created by the College and accessible to the public at large. This year we continued our suite of programmes under the banner of The Transformation Project. The accessibility of these classes with some face-to-face and some online has worked well and resulted in a greater diversity of participants along with a wider net of contributors to the teaching.

iii. Resource Development

The level of charitable donations to general operations and specific projects continues to support the College needs. The College is dependent on the generosity of supporters to ensure the future sustainability of the College. This is supported through a funding group to help support application to Trusts and uncover new funding possibilities.

Operations

The College continued its policy of upgrading facilities through minor capital works and the ongoing maintenance programme on its buildings. During the year £46,550 (2021: £42,877) was spent in this way.

Human Resources

The college continues to support staff and volunteers, with ongoing training for our line managers and supporting staff.

Outcomes Assessment

The College continues its commitment to providing theological education at differing academic levels and for varying study periods depending on the needs of prospective applicants. In the BA in theology from the University of Cumbria 59% (2021: 46%) of students graduated with a 2:1 or above.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results of the College's activities are contained in the attached financial statements.

Overall a deficit of £66,117 (2021: surplus £47,869) is reported for the year ended 31 August 2022. Unrestricted Funds returned a deficit of £73,040 compared to a surplus of £43,146 in 2021 whilst the corresponding figures for Restricted Funds were a surplus of £6,923 and a surplus of £4,723 respectively.

Unrestricted Reserves were £1,220,515 (2021: £1,293,555) at year end whilst Restricted Reserves were £69,991 (2021: £63,068).

Liquidity

The College decreased its bank balance during the year. Bank balances at year end were £550,764 compared to £586,088 at the end of the previous year. This is sufficient cash reserves to meet the College's funding requirements for six months without resorting to borrowing from the company's bankers or generating additional funds.

Income

During the year under review, 83 (2021: 122) full time equivalent students attended the College completing one or more of the variety of courses provided by the College. In the year to August 2022 fee income for such students amounted to almost £475,643 (2021: £625,109).

Almost 233 (2021:339) part-time students attended evening class or day release courses generating fee income of £41,996 (2021:£41,352).

Donation income and income from the use of the College's facilities continue to provide a steady source of revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure may be broken down between that which is incurred directly on education and that which is incurred on maintaining the College's buildings and infrastructure. Over 85% of the educational costs may be analysed as employment costs. Personnel and Property costs are the major areas of expenditure within the indirect or corporate services area.

The College has been impacted by the steep rise in energy costs as a result of the current cost of living crisis. As this occurred during the middle of the academic year, we were unable to recover any additional costs by way of increased fees - fees being set in advance for each academic year. At the same time, we identified that Glenburn House was in serious need of major refurbishment and upgrade. However, the increased costs of materials and labour have prohibited the roll out of the work required until additional funding is in place.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The College also receives donation income from churches and individuals for specific projects. These are all recorded separately according to their specified use and are maintained in separate funds as follows:

Global Sponsorship Fund

This Fund is used to support undergraduate overseas students who are unable to raise the fees to study at the College.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Assistance is also given for travel, accommodation and out of pocket living expenses for such students. Where a student is supported by a church, the student is obliged to visit the sponsoring church regularly at weekends to experience pastoral work in a Northern Ireland church environment. In the year just ended, no (2020: 2) students were supported under this scheme.

Student Bursary Fund

This Fund is used to support students from within the British Isles who would otherwise be unable to meet the costs of study at the College. Such students are assessed by a Board sub-committee who bring their recommendations to the Board as appropriate. During the year ending 31st August 2022, with the assistance of a Funder we were able to provide 4 students with a total of £3,000.00 of assistance.

College Building Fund

The College owns all its buildings and has no loans outstanding on its property. This Fund is a Designated rather than a Restricted Fund and is set aside for a capital project to improve facilities.

Land and Building Fund

The College maintains a designated reserve equivalent to the net book value of its property (land and buildings) to focus attention on the infrastructure of the College and the need to generate sufficient funds to maintain this property. This reserve is made up of the land and buildings which are held for the long term and is not readily available to meet the ongoing operating costs of the College.

RESERVES POLICY

By its nature the college meets expenditure from its income and the majority of unrestricted reserves comprises designated funds. It is the Board's policy to work towards a position where General Fund reserves as set out in note 17 are sufficient to meet three months of operating costs which amounts to £228,741 without prejudicing the ongoing activities of the College. The reserves policy is reviewed annually, and unrestricted General Fund reserves amount to £269,146 at 31 August 2022. This represents 3.5 months of operating costs of the College. The Board is continuing to seek to achieve the reserves target while continuing to deliver the College's objectives by seeking to budget for a small surplus each year. The total reserves of the College for charitable purposes amounts to £1,290,506 at 31 August 2022 of which 5% are restricted, 64% are represented by land and buildings and 31% are available for use albeit 9% of that is designated for future capital projects by the Board.

Plan For Future Periods

The Board is cognizant of the challenges facing theological colleges in a post-pandemic landscape. In 2022-2023, members strove to achieve strategic objectives (which were agreed to in 2021), with courage, adaptability and creativity.

The strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the College's educational provision and continue to improve the quality of the teaching and learning experience.
2. To enable all of our students to progress in their learning, their personal development and the maturing of their Christian character, and to help them live out their faith as 21st century disciples.
3. To raise the profile, reach and reputation of the College locally and internationally.
4. To seek to be a prophetic response to contemporary issues facing the church and society.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

In addition to normal operations, other foci were a priority. They included:

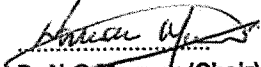
- The appointment of a new Principal.
- Increasing the College's profile through a series of strategic courses as well as online inputs and Church engagements.
- Increasing the overall long-term financial sustainability of the College through the commercialisation of additional services.
- Exploring the College's capacity for E-learning.
- Expanding the College's postgraduation learning platform, including additional courses.

This will continue into 2022-23.

Regulatory and key performance indicators

This year the College received the endorsement from QAA as the College continues to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality of student learning opportunities.

Approved by the Board on 30/3/23 and signed on its behalf by


Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements of the company.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors, who also act as Trustees, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards comprising FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure account, of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102): Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Belfast Bible College Limited is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006. The company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

The College is formally recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charitable body under reference XN47242, and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104482. The statutory reliefs under s505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are admissible on income subject to compliance with the terms of s505 of the Act.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the review of all activities, approval of budgets and implementation of future strategy. The Board meets five times per annum. There are three Board sub-committees namely Education Committee, Human Resources Committee and Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; each subcommittee meet on a regular basis and report to the Board of Directors.

The Senior Management Team is made up of six staff under the leadership of the Principal and is responsible for all operational and day to day matters. It recommends key decisions to the Board for approval and will also provide information and recommendations to the Board sub-committees for consideration and approval in the relevant operational areas. This Group meets monthly.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements, unless otherwise noted, were:

Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Dr M E J Bennett (resigned 16 June 2022)
Prof N D Black
Ms S Graham
Mr P S Hendron
Mr N Jennings
Mr M H Pitt
Mrs J Smyth
Mr D R Wheeler (resigned 16 June 2022)
Mr P Fleming (appointed 16 June 2022)
Mrs Lisette Watson (appointed 8 December 2022)

Appointment of Directors

Those serving as directors are invited by the existing Board of Directors on the ground of their proven ability, relevant experience, and personal interest in the work of the College. Prior to joining the Board each prospective member meets with the Chairman. The meeting provides an overview of the College and the role and responsibilities of each member of the Board. An induction process for new Board members has been developed and is used to ensure they are familiar with the objectives, activities, public benefit and risks facing the College. A Directors Pack for the College is given to each new member when they join and ongoing training is provided as required.

Each member of the Company is also appointed as a director, serves for a specific term, retires by rotation, and upon retirement is eligible for re-appointment. As the College receives only limited financial assistance from public funds, relying upon fees charged to students and upon gifts received from supporters there are no directors nominated by any public body or outside agency.

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 each in the event of a winding up.

The College employs a principal and other full time and part time teaching staff, and the day to day operation of the College as a place of Christian education is delegated to the principal and his staff. However, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the activities of the College, and are governed by the doctrinal statement set out in paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association as well as the original objects expressed in the Declaration of Trust of 8th February 2003.

The College is an independent body and has no constitutional connection with any other college or education establishment.

The professional advisors to the College are set out on the first page of the Annual Report.

During the year we said goodbye to Helen Warnock, our Principal for the last 5 years and wish to record our thanks to Helen for her contribution to the College. In April we welcomed Rev James Burnett as our new Principal. James has a very real sense of calling to the College and comes with considerable experience in theology, mission and pastoral ministry and we also value his leadership skills.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the College is:

To equip 21st century followers of Jesus through theological education that fosters the ability to communicate the Christian faith intelligently and with conviction in word and action.

The main activity of the College continued to be in the area of delivering educational programmes in keeping with that purpose. Through this year, we successfully continued to provide courses leading to:

- i. Internal 3 month, 1 year Certificate & graduate Diploma courses.
- i. 3 month Certificate, 1 year Certificate, 2 year Diploma and 3 year BA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated courses).
- i. Postgraduate 2 year Part Time MA in Theology (University of Cumbria [UOC] validated course).

EMPLOYEES

All departments within College have regular staff meetings whereby information is disseminated to and obtained from staff by senior management. There are regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of this information and also on the agenda for discussion at these meetings is the current statistical, quality and budgetary information for the College.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is considered by the Board annually but operational oversight rests with the Board Finance, Risk and Audit Committee who consider risk at each meeting. The College has developed a College Strategic Risk Register supported by a subsidiary Register of more minor risks and the risk management process will continue to develop in the incoming year. The Board has considered the financial and operational risks associated with running the College and considers that it has in place the procedures to manage any such ongoing risks. The following is a summary of the key activities in place to mitigate exposure to risk:

- ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and analysis of the market for students who wish to obtain formal bible based training and accreditation;
- monitoring of financial information on a monthly basis with adequate planning and financial controls in place;
- an established Education Committee together with robust reporting and independent quality review procedures through our accrediting sponsors;
- extensive range of policies and procedures to cover all aspects of the College activities;
- organisational structure which includes provision for deputies to cover key roles and an effective succession planning process;
- robust governance controls with sufficient management and reporting structures in place; and
- frequent assessment of risk to ensure all possible consequences are considered and controls implemented.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The key risks facing the College are set out in the Corporate Risk Register but the focus of attention surrounded the following risks:

- i. Maintenance of a high standard of educational quality and excellence to support academic achievement and Christian service development among the student population.
- ii. Sustainability of funding to support all College activity.
- iii. Maintenance of an appropriate physical environment for both staff and students

These risks are managed and mitigated through various management operated policies and procedures and overseen by specific Board Committees in these key areas – Education Committee, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and Human Resources Committee. These standing committees are supplemented by ad hoc committees as and when required to oversee other risks and opportunities as they arise. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee also look at emerging risks such as the General Data Protection Regulation to ensure the College is aware of the impact and is planning to mitigate the risk if and when it arises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Board believes that the public benefits from its activities in the areas of the advancement of religion and the advancement of education through:

- i. The training of full and part time ministers of religion, lay associates and pastoral ministry workers
- ii. Spiritual formation of laity
- iii. Teaching and spreading the principles of the Christian religion
- iv. Raising awareness and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- v. The carrying out of missionary and outreach work

The areas in which the college seeks to achieve this are:-

- i. Through college and higher education
5. Community education
6. Religious education
7. Vocational training and life-long learning
8. The development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding

The key beneficiaries are the students who have the opportunity to attend full or part time courses provided by the college. In addition, the public at large may attend public lectures and part time college courses.

The directors confirm they have had regard to the statutory guidance in respect of the Public Benefit Requirement published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds as custodian for any other trustee body.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

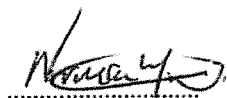
DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of the directors, the directors confirm that there is no relevant information that the company's auditors are not aware of. They further confirm that they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure the directors are aware of any such relevant information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of such information.

AUDITORS

Harbinson Mulholland have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting and to authorise the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Approved by the Board on 30/1/23 and signed on its behalf by



Dr N C Morrow (Chair)
Director

Belfast School of Theology Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104482

Annual return

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Bible College Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;


A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE DIRECTORS OF BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE LIMITED

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

30/3/23

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8HS

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.