

THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING THE MOUNT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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).

Objectives and activities

The main objectives of The Church's Ministry of Healing The Mount, are to enable people to know and receive Christ's healing power irrespective of their cultural or religious affiliation, through Christian healing, prayer and counselling, delivered in a non-judgemental, accepting, professional, ethical and theologically sound manner. Prayer is at the core of our activities as we endeavour to supplement statutory and church provision by offering a professional counselling service at the 'point of need' responding with support in a crisis situation.

The principal activities are;

- to be a servant of and responsible to the Church of Ireland;
- to practise and promote Christian healing on the island of Ireland for the benefit of the public in accordance with the teaching of the Holy Bible and the doctrinal beliefs embodied in the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed; and
- and advance the Christian faith through the Ministry of Healing for the benefit of the public by prayer, the laying on of hands, Christian counselling, deliverance ministry, inner healing, befriending, church services, prayer groups, seminars, lectures, broadcasting, literature and any other means as may develop to enlighten others about the Christian faith and specifically the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The Church's Ministry of Healing-The Mount continues to demonstrate a cross-community, inter-denominational outreach to those of any faith or none, who are in difficulty and who need help. The Ministry is grounded in the Christian values of hospitality, belonging and wholeness which fosters opportunities for healing, growth and reconciliation at an individual and communal level so that all can reach their fullest potential. This is achieved through a wide range of professional and strictly confidential counselling and support services, which are provided in a private, safe, and non-judgemental environment.

The Covid pandemic results in significant change in patterns of provision and finance. Provision of the ministry was responsive to Government restrictions and continues in safe protection of staff and clients. Whereas the financial projection was pessimistic, the actual situation has steadily improved primarily as a result of sacrificial donations.

Before Covid emerged, the Board had completed two Scoping days in preparation for a strategic review in consultation with members, supporters and recipients of the Ministry. The planning process has proceeded with a focus on succession. The strategic process has produced cordial and positive discussions with the Bishops of the Northern Province of the Church and plans continue to develop closer representation between the Church and the Charity.

Despite changing restrictions because of Covid, the normal work of the Charity has proceeded safely and continuously throughout the period, the ministry proved safe for staff and clients. The financial status has been closely monitored, and has shown a steady growth over the year. We have adopted an early request pattern, in the parish cycle of giving to encourage support the Ministry. The financial situation has placed the Ministry in a good position pending any change to withstand reduced parish donations in the winter and subsequent uncertain months, resulting from Covid variants, the Northern Ireland protocol issues and the war in Ukraine. Ongoing expenditure continues to be closely scrutinised, and excess pruned without detriment to the building and equipment.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The premises continue to be fit for purpose and strict Covid prevention measures have not caused any significant extra costs due to the favourable layout, ventilation and ease of provision of cleansing. At each stage of easing of restrictions, activity was specifically risk-assessed and achieved without breaching Government guidelines or Church of Ireland Guidance.

Throughout the recent strategic review the frequency of Board meetings has increased to gather and discuss information. The vacancy for administrative matters has been filled with volunteers, and plans are well advanced for advertising the post.

Financial review

The Church's Ministry of Healing the Mount statement of financial activities is set out on page 7 of the accounts. The figures for the year ended 31 December 2022 show a surplus of £20,866 (2021: £10,764). Income from Donations and Gifts in the year fell slightly when compared with the previous year £53,038 (2021: £58,051) and continue to reflect the ongoing support of our supporters and stakeholders. However increased income from fundraising activities meant that total income for the year increased to £69,494 (2021: £63,190).

The premises at 162 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast, are occupied under a 99-year lease from Church of Ireland Trustees, a charitable company, at a peppercorn rent.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to no less than three month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained and increased in the year with total funds at 31 December 2022 being £207,367 (2021: £186,501). Total net current assets (representing cash and other net assets less liabilities) at 31 December 2022 were £116,037 (2021: £89,412).

Risk factors

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for future periods

The plans for the future are:

- continue the strategic review;
- appoint an administrative assistant;
- continue to develop the activities at the premises at 162 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast, and enhance the development of ministry such as a drop-in centre, weekly services, seminars and focus groups. We will also encourage the use of the premises by local churches for reflection and prayer;
- expand quiet days and team development meetings as Covid restrictions are eased;
- consolidation and expansion of counselling through additional support staff and volunteers;
- extension of the ministry and practice of prayer for healing with the Laying on of Hands and anointing throughout the parishes of the Church of Ireland and to other denominational churches where invited;
- to develop and grow our relationships with key stakeholders including The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland, local Church of Ireland parishes in the Dioceses of Connor, Down and Dromore, Clogher, Armagh and Derry and Raphoe and other Christian churches; and
- responding to requests for prayer for healing of memories.

Structure, governance and management

The Church's Ministry of Healing the Mount is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated on 24 June 2009. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association. The company was incorporated in Northern Ireland and its registered office is 162 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast, BT6 9QF.