

Servant Trust – A Company Limited by Guarantee

Charity no. 105534
Company no. NI639762

SERVANT TRUST

Dbā: Charis Community, University Christian
Outreach (UCO)

A Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Servant Trust – A Company Limited by Guarantee

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**Reference and administrative details of the charity, its directors and advisors
For the year ended 31 August 2024**

Trustees/Directors

Desmond Dick (Chair)
Gary McFadden
Douglas Gilroy
Gerard Robinson

Company registered number

639762

Charity registered number

105534

Principal office

33 Greystown Avenue
Belfast
BT9 6UG

Bankers

Danske Bank
Business Banking
P.O. Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1 6JS

Administrators

Company Secretary – Mark Jordan
Administrator – Doug Smith

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Directors Report

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements for Servant Trust for the period of 01/09/23 to 31/08/24

The Charity also operates under the name Charis Community, and University Christian Outreach (UCO)

Objectives and Activities

Primary objective

To advance the Christian Religion on the Island of Ireland, and elsewhere, by:

- i. Conducting public meetings for prayer, biblical teaching, and services of praise and worship.
- ii. Offering spiritual guidance, based on biblical teaching and Christian tradition, applied to marriage, family, business and social relationships.
- iii. Assisting established Christian Churches of different traditions by training members of Christian groups whose purpose are the advancement of the Christian Religion whether within or beyond such churches.
- iv. Any other charitable purpose according to the law of Northern Ireland, decided by the Directors.

Activities for achieving objectives

In planning the activities of the charity, the Directors have given due regard to the Charities Act (NI) 2008 on public benefit, including the guidance on advancement of religion. The Charity works principally as the Charis Community, equipping and supporting its members to reach out beyond their community to the broader public and share with them the Christian gospel and way of life, and equipping community members to be good neighbours and good citizens, doing good works as an expression of their Christian faith.

Relationship with other charities and grants policy

The charity works closely with the Servants of the Word Trust (a registered charity in England and Wales) and the European Outreach Trust (a registered charity in England and Wales). With both of these it shares similar objects and to/from both it makes and receives grants in furtherance of those objects. The three charities cooperate on a number of joint projects together, and the Directors consider that this cooperation greatly enhances the ability of this charity to further its charitable objects.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The charity was established by Memorandum and articles of association on 23 August 2016 and commenced operating on that date.

The Company was registered with Companies House on 22nd July 2016.

Method of appointment or election of Directors

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Directors who are elected and co-opted under the Memorandum and articles.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

Servant Trust has continued to pursue its charitable objective of the furtherance of religion through

- the holding of public meetings,
- theological presentations,

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- youth work
- attendance at international conferences.

Financial resources were used to enable the activities outlined below.

Charis is part of an International network of communities called Sword of the Spirit (SOS). Charis contributes financial and human resource to SOS and sends representatives to European regional and International meetings.

These have included:

- Attendance at European Council meetings in October 2003 and February 2004
- Attendance at European Regional meetings for the SOS in March 2004
- Attendance at International Meetings of Sword of the Spirit in May 2004

Constituent groups of Charis include Pips (3-5), Core (6-11), and Charis Youth (11-18). These groups continue to operate within the established child protection policy. All volunteers in this area are police checked. Gary McFadden and Heather Semple are designated Child Protection officers.

Charis continues to work with University age young people through University Christian Outreach (UCO). This work is important both in terms of our Evangelistic activity and in terms of being an ecumenical witness in Northern Ireland. It includes training courses in leadership for volunteers from across Europe.

Charis has close ties with the joint Church of Ireland/Methodist Chaplaincy in Queens which provides the main venue for Charis meetings. We continue to have close relationships with the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Chaplaincy.

Adults connect to Charis as associate or underway members. The core of Charis are the publicly committed (permanent) members.

Regular Meeting Pattern –

- Fortnightly open meetings in Church of the Resurrection, Elmwood Ave, Belfast.
- Monthly Sunday gatherings at Drumbeg Parish Hall, Belfast
- Monthly Lord's Day meetings, Church of the Resurrection.
- Quarterly Members meetings also at the Church of the Resurrection
- Weekly UCO meetings in Windsor Baptist Church, Lisburn Rd., Belfast.
- Fortnightly small group discipleship meetings held in people's homes

Weekends and Residentials

- Residential weekends took place for Charis Youth (11-18) University Christian Outreach and for local and international leadership training.

Servant trust plans to continue to fulfil the objectives of the trust through maintenance of these and similar activities.

Workers

Charis remunerates a part time administrator and, a part time youth worker for Charis Youth, and 2 full time outreach workers for University Christian Outreach

Financial review

The accounts for 2023-2024 and a five-month review of the accounts for 2024 – 2025 have been reviewed and found to be satisfactory. Servant Trust (Ltd) had an income of £157,456 in 2022-2023 and expenditure of £158,456 creating a deficit of £6,808 for the year. This was financed by

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reserves from previous years. Fund balances and adjustments carried forward bring the total surplus to £28,782

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Reserves Policy

The 'free' reserves are held for the following purposes:

- to fund working capital requirements, which the Directors consider to be £10,000;
- to provide a buffer in case of any unexpected deterioration in income, for which the Directors use £10,000

Principal Funding

The income of the charity comes from regular donations from its members and bank deposit interest. The charity does not own property or fixed assets, nor does it have investments.

Organisational structure and decisions making

The charity is governed by its Directors. The Charis Community is governed by a Coordinators Council made up of some Directors and Senior Management. Day to day responsibility for the charity's financial affairs is vested in the administrator who meet regularly with the Directors and is accountable to them.

Plans for future periods

Future development

The charity plans to continue its existing work. There have been no significant events since the year end that need to be reported upon.

Directors responsibilities statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. 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 Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015 and the provisions of the trust's Memorandum and articles of association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Directors, on 25th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:
Desmond Dick

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08/12/2024

Independent Examiners Report

Independent examiner's report to the charity Directors of Servant Trust Charitable Company

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of charity Directors and examiner

As the charity Directors (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity Directors concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept as required by section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: John Lilly

Relevant professional qualification or body: Retired Bank Manager

Address: 31 Greystown Park, Belfast, BT9 6UP

Date:



Mr. John Lilly

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Sep-22 Aug-23	Sep-23 Aug-24
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Tithe	77,578	77,481
SOS Mission	3,500	3,500
UCO Belfast Income	26,179	41,443
Alms	1,795	2,180
Misc. Income	4,657	2,500
Event Income	8,756	1,730
Grant Income	646	1,400
Gift Aid	20,407	21,414
Total Incoming Resources	143,518	151,648
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
<i>Charitable Activity</i>		
Charis Expenditure	89,503	72,406
Charis Overheads	9,653	12,960
University Christian Outreach	44,220	70,801
Mission	452	129
Derry Missional Community	4,000	0
Alms	1,853	2,160
Grants	31,674	0
Total Resources Expended	181,355	158,456
Net Incoming Resources for the Year:	-37,837	-6,808
Funds Balance Brought Forward	72,529	34,692
<i>Adjustment (Barclay Account Added)</i>		898
Fund Balances Carried Forward	34,692	28,782

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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Sep-22	Sep-23
Net Assets	Aug-23	Aug-24
Fixed Assets		
Current Assets		
External Debtors	0	0
Short Term Deposits	0	0
Cash at Bank and in Hand		
Danske Bank - Charis	29,150	25,546
Danske Bank - UCO	5,522	1,004
Danske Bank - Charis Youth	20	1,400
Barclays Bank - UCO	0	832
Total Current Assets	34,692	28,782
less Creditors and Income in Advance	0	0
Net Assets	34,692	£28,782
Fund Balances	Aug-23	Aug-24
Charis General Fund	29,150	23,046
Danske UCO Fund	5,522	1,004
Danske- Charis Youth	20	1,400
Barclay's Bank - UCO Fund	0	832
Kenya Medical Alms	0	2,500
Total Funds	34,692	28,782

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 25th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by


Mr. Desmond Dick,
Chair

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Notes to the financial statements - Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Servant Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing these accounts, the Directors have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. Having considered the key accounting policies it was determined that the prior year figures were not materially impacted. As such, no restatement of comparative figures was required.

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Directors named on page 1 and the Company Secretary. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised once the company has received the income. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of when the amount is received from HMRC. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is received. Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once transfer of economic benefit has been made to a third party. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements. Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.