

Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106490

Details

Known as Megain Nazarene

Status Received

Registered 2017-08-11

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

Contact

Address Megain Church Of Nazarene
267 Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 1af
BT4 1AF

Phone 07493258289

Activities

Purposes: The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christ like disciples in the nations. The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God's kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures. The Church of the Nazarene exists to serve as an instrument for advancing the kingdom of God through the preaching and teaching of the gospel throughout the world.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£56,536	£73,057	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Graham Greenlee		
Mr Dale Davey		
Mr Gary Heenan		
Mr Nevin Mcdowell		
Mrs Gillian Heenan		
Mrs Joanne Mcfarlane		
Mrs Karen Porter		

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Accounts

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Annual report

LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

It is so hard to believe that I have the honour and privilege of bringing this, my sixth, report as Lead Pastor of Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene, to this Annual General Meeting. Each year, as I sit to write this report, I am filled with thankfulness for the provision of God over the year that has gone and with a fresh excitement of all that is yet to come; and this year is no different!

2023, as well as a year that seen growth in the life of the Church both numerically and spiritually, was another difficult year for us as a people as we have seen people we love dearly pass on to glory and receive their eternal reward. We remember with deep fondness Cecil Greenlee, Violet Chappell and Matt McNeice, valued and loved members of the Church family who received their home calls this past year; hearing those much coveted words from their beloved Saviour, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*"

Despite the sense of sorrow at the losses we have experienced, we do not mourn as those who have no hope and we thank God for His love and faithfulness toward us. With a deep sense of love for one another, it could be said of the Church here those words written by John:

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." // 1 John 4:11-12, 16

Whenever I talk with people, time and time again the same topic comes up in conversation: it's very obvious that the people of Megain love God and love one another. This is a real testament to the growth in Christlikeness that is happening amongst us as people; just another reason that it is such a privilege to be the Pastor of this Church. As we continue to reach out and *Share the Hope and Love of Jesus with East Belfast*, it my deep and sincere prayer that as numerical growth occurs that a deepening rather than diluting of this love will take place amongst us as we continue to pursue Christ and all that He has for us and for this community in which He has placed us for such a time as this.

The Church in Numbers - 2022/2023

Now, I know that finances don't excite everyone as much as they excite the likes of Clayre, Dave and, even, Alison, but they do form an important part of who we are as a people. As you know, we are a registered Charity with the Charity Commission NI and, therefore, rely on the faithful giving of our membership here to enable us to effectively be the people and movement that God has called us to be, here in East Belfast; sharing his hope and love with those around us.

Weekly/Monthly Offerings in 2022/2023 amounted to £18,538.91 which was down 14% from 2021/2022 (21/22: £21,436.73); however this figure is not one which causes alarm as many have made the switch to GiftAiding their giving over the past year. GiftAid giving was £25,960.00, up significantly by 31% from 2021/2022 (21/22: £18,980.00). There was, however a big increase in expenditure at £69,184.48 up 23% from 2021/2022 (21/22: £54,744.44). It is important to note that a large proportion (62%) of this expenditure was spent on salary costs at £42,679.64. This, of course, was due to an expansion in our staff team which seen Pastor Ryan Smith serve with us for 15 months (Oct 2022-Dec 2023) in the capacity of Families and Community Pastor.

Again, I know numbers aren't everybody's cup of tea, and at first glance these figures might send off some alarm bells in people's minds; however with the bequeathment of around £24,000 from Harry and Althea Johnston, as well as the ability to avail of the Income Tax Gift Aid Refund scheme and some Community Grants for our community based ministries, we are pleased to report that we were able to make a surplus of £15,977.18. We thank God for His continued faithfulness toward us, and are once again astounded at the generosity of God's people in this place. The faithful giving of you, our members, enables us to do so much more than keep the lights and the heating on, but rather to make continued and lasting impact in the

lives of people throughout the East Belfast Community and I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the Staff Team and Church Board to take this opportunity to thank you all for your faithful giving to the work of the LORD.

Aside from Gift Aiding your offering, which we encourage all taxpayers to do, you can choose to give via standing order. We thank those who have availed of this method of giving in the past year and, where possible, we would encourage more of our members to move to this giving method as it helps to cut down on administrative costs, ensuring that this money is rather put toward the work of the extension of God's Kingdom in this corner of His vineyard.

This past year also saw the changing of the guard around our Church Treasurership as Alison Hoy stood down and "*hung up her books*" after almost three decades of serving on the Church leadership. With big shoes to fill, the team of Clayre Scott and Dave Loyal were assembled and have worked tirelessly and faithfully behind the scenes to ensure that the pressures of financial administration are something which we as a Church body have not had to worry about. We are thankful to both, who voluntarily give of their time and expertise to serve the LORD in this essential and skilled way; returning to the LORD the giftings which He has given them.

Missions

It was Christopher Wright who said, "*The church doesn't have a mission, the mission has a church*" and he was right! God Himself is, by His very nature, a missional God; drawing and wooing people to Himself by the prevenient grace of His Holy Spirit. We are a Missional people, it's part of our DNA as Nazarene's and missions is the heartbeat of who we are as the people of God, commanded to go and make disciples. How amazing is it that God Himself invites us to be a part of His mission of salvation to the world?

I know I say it often, but I continue to be amazed at the commitment of our wee church to the missional call; not only in terms of financial giving, but also in the way in which our membership live their lives outside the church walls and in the spheres of influence that God has placed them in their families, workplaces, schools and universities, and in our community here in East Belfast. The faithful giving of the LORD's people, and your commitment to His mission has served local and abroad missions in the following ways over the past year:

- £600 to Nazarene World Missions Easter Offering.
- £723 to Nazarene World Missions Prayer and Fasting.
- £400 to Nazarene World Thanksgiving Offering.
- £500 to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) Offering.
- £451.36 to Nazarene Alabaster Offering
- £189 to our District Nazarene Missions International Fees (Administration).
- £300 to our sponsor child through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM).

When all of these figures and a small surplus which was held back to provide the opportunity for the giving to other Mission organisations as and when needs might arise, we have, as a wee local church in East Belfast, raised £3175.90 this year that will be used to spread the Gospel throughout 164 world areas. As always, it is important to note that these figures do not take into account the individual, personal contributions of many individuals within the Church body to missional organisations and charities, such as Kids4School, Project Romania, Every Home Crusade, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Sports Chaplaincy UK, and many others. Church, once again, might I thank you for your commitment to living lives which fulfil the Great Commission.

We once again thank Dr Graham Greenlee for all the work he does in the background, and indeed up front, in keeping Missions at the forefront of our thinking as a local church, and for the way that he has carried out this role in the past 12 months.

Local Church Mission - September 2023

As well as Nazarene Missions International involvement, this past year also saw us run a week long mission in the run up to our 72nd Anniversary celebrations. This week, which ran from

11th-17th September 2023 was a busy, but blessed time together which saw bespoke events for Men, Women, Children and Young People and, indeed, for Families.

Before this week of Mission, the Staff Team and Church Board felt that it was imperative that this week be covered in prayer and, as a result, we as a Church entered into a period of 40 days of Prayer and Fasting in the run up to the event. Daily devotions were produced, special prayer times called and faith began to rise as we leaned into what we felt God was calling us toward. What followed did not disappoint, and as we honoured God with our time and sacrifice, He honoured us with His presence and the building and strengthening of meaningful connections in our community here in East Belfast.

As well as the intentional times of prayer and fasting, alongside the daily devotions, we were able to organise, host and put on the following events as part of the Mission Week:

Monday 11th - Megain Men Curry Night with testimony from David Brooks

Tuesday 12th - Megain Women Cake and Craft Night with testimony from Isabel Hamill

Wednesday 13th - Midweek Prayer and Worship Evening

Thursday 14th - Olive Branch Community Meal with testimony from Pastor Joanne

Friday 15th - Special MK: Connections Session with Lucy Allen

Saturday 16th - Gospel Service with Testimony from Gary Simpson and John Menagh

Sunday 17th - 72nd Anniversary Service with Rev Philip McAlister (AM)

- Special Megain Through the Years Service (PM) with contributions from Church members and pastors past and present

We thank God for His faithfulness toward us and we look forward in expectation and anticipation that we will see many seeds planted during this week come to fruition over the next year. There is a feeling that those elected to serve on the Church Board for the incoming year will work with the Staff Team to put on yet another week of outreach this year. Please be in prayer for them as they organise, and also don't be afraid to offer ideas and feedback so that we can ensure that we make maximum impact for the sake of the Kingdom, for His glory.

Church Vision

In previous years, I have used this report as an opportunity to feedback the ways in which we as a Church have worked and stepped into the three year vision launched in the last quarter of 2021. This vision, we believe, was given to us by the Holy Spirit of God as a result of much prayer, seeking and listening to His voice. We felt that He was asking us to focus on 4 key areas/goals whilst living out the values of being a Church who are **loving, compassionate, welcoming, authentic** and **faithful**. Those goals, for your remembrance were as follows:

- **Fit for Purpose Church Building**
- **Nurture the Church Membership and Discipleship**
- **Create a Meaningful Community Impact in East Belfast**
- **Strengthen and Grow our Church Programmes for all Generations.**

Over the past year, we have been actively working toward fulfilling this God-given mandate in a variety of different ways; and rather than listing and noting them all here, I would encourage you to read over the various reports which have been produced for our AGM Booklet.

Contained within them are numerous instances where God has broken through in mighty and powerful ways, how people have come under the instruction of the Good News of the Gospel in age appropriate ways and how God is blessing the faithfulness of our Staff and Volunteers through the various ministries of the Church.

For the purpose of this report, however, I would like to take the opportunity to speak to the following: Staffing, Community Engagement and Ministries from the Cradle to Glory.

Staffing

It will come as no shock to you that I take the opportunity in this report to thank the Staff Team here at Megain who I have had the pleasure of Kingdom building and leading the church alongside over the past year.

Firstly, to our Associate Pastor, Pastor Joanne McFarlane I take the opportunity to thank you for your continued faithfulness in pursuing the call of God in your life. We are so privileged that God has called you, for this time and for this season, to develop your ministerial and pastoral giftings in this place amongst us. We thank God for your compassion and your love, your can-do attitude and your willingness and example of what it means to follow after God, no matter the cost. We commend you, in particular, for the work of The Olive Branch, our Thursday evening community meal which has seen individuals and families become part of the wider church family here at Megain. As you and your team have faithfully fed, chatted with and drawn alongside people from the community here in East Belfast, building and growing deep friendships and bonds of trust cannot be adequately conveyed in words—but thank you. Also, on behalf of the wider congregation, might I also state that it has been and continues to be a real gift to us as we benefit from you fanning into flame the gift of preaching that God has so clearly given to you. Keep preaching, keep challenging, and please keep adding a couple of minutes every time you preach so people won't show preference to the preacher who'll get them out a little bit earlier on a Sunday morning!

For the past 15 months (Oct 22 to Dec 23) it was also a delight for us to have Pastor Ryan Smith serve as Families and Community Pastor here at Megain. Following the call of God, again for a time and a season, to come here to Megain, Pastor Ryan, Sarah and Blake brought with them energy, faith and a deep desire to see a community transformed. Be it building on the foundations of the work done with Megain Kids, rolling up his sleeves and helping and mingling at the Olive Branch, communicating the gospel message in local schools, preaching the Word either in the church service or to the children in MK: Sundays, or launching our Megain Tots ministry we are thankful for the time that Pastor Ryan, Sarah and Blake shared with us and are sad to see them move on to new ministry opportunities in 2024. I know my taste buds will miss staff meetings in Boojum as we chatted about the things of God and His Church over a burrito, however I have a feeling my waistline won't! Might I encourage the Church Membership to continue to be in prayer for Pastor Ryan, Sarah and Blake as they serve the purposes of God for a short time in Bangor before moving back to Scotland to take up a new pastoral charge in 2024; and may they know they will always be greeted with a warm and loving welcome here at Megain Nazarene.

Community Engagement

This year has been another year in which we have seen the reputation of the Church outside of the Church membership grow positively. As I work in and around the community in East Belfast, particularly in the Voluntary and Community Sector, it is so encouraging to hear the ways in which the Church is spoken about by those who do not (hopefully yet!) Attend. It is clear that the values of being a people who are loving, compassionate, welcoming, authentic and faithful are being lived out by you, the Church membership. Just another reason that I count it an honour and privilege to serve as Pastor of this remarkable group of people here at Megain Nazarene.

This year has seen the Church building used by a variety of community groups, local businesses and networks and forums within the local East Belfast Area including, but not limited to, Funeral Partners, East Belfast Community Development Agency, Inner East Forum, East Belfast Churches Network, Ulster Tower Street Community Agency, East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance and Newtownards Road Development Planning Group. As Karen Porter, one of our Church Trustees as often said, to have a building the size of ours is both a blessing and a hinderance, but what a blessing it is to be able to host these groups in our building and use our space for the benefit of the wider community; of which we continue to be an integral and increasingly important part.

It has also been a personal privilege for me this year to be elected to serve as a Board Director of both East Belfast Sure Start and East Belfast Community Development Agency, which speaks not to my own personal reputation but rather to the esteem in which the Church here at

Megain is held in the community. It is also a privilege to be invited to take part in a three-year, community funded accredited leadership training programme called the *Emerging Leaders* programme alongside 15 other leaders in East Belfast. I continue to pray that God will continue to open up doors for service in this community that will enable us as a Church to continue to *Share the Hope and Love of Jesus with East Belfast* in meaningful and tangible ways.

Ministries from the Cradle to Glory

One of the promises that the LORD gave to Chloe and I whenever we arrived at Megain in September 2018 was that He would enable us to become a multi and intergenerational church which contained and provided bespoke ministries for people right across the generations. It has been a joy to watch as God has continued to make this more and more a reality over this past year. Our wonderful God, Who makes everything beautiful in its time, has entrusted us as a Church family with responsibility for and to the youngest right through to the oldest in our community. Starting with Megain Tots and running to the M257, Olive Branch and prayer times, it is a delight to see various ages and demographics catered for and attending the various ministries on offer at Megain Nazarene. These ministries, some more established than others, continue to grow from strength to strength and it our earnest prayer that those being reached would not only experience the love of God extended to those who volunteer their time and lead these ministries, but that our community would also experience the transformation of heart and mind which only Jesus Christ can offer. That we would be a Church who journey with people from the cradle, right through until their home call to glory, and that the 72 years which follow these 72 would be greater than any which have preceded.

Volunteers

None of what we do at Megain Nazarene would be possible without the people who sacrifice and volunteer their time for the extension of God's Kingdom. The truth is, there are too many to name individually, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers their time, expertise, finances, prayers and encouragement to ensure that we can fulfil the calling that God has placed upon us as a Church. Special mention, however, must be given to Mrs Karen Porter who after three decades of faithful service in leadership in the local church has taken the decision to step down from Church Board responsibilities and not allow her name to go forward for nomination this year. Karen, as well as being a close friend and confidant to me as Pastor, has served and represented the people of Megain Nazarene so well and so passionately in her capacity as a board member and, as Pastor, I was and still am thankful for Karen's embodiment of Jonathan's armour bearer from 1 Samuel 14:7. You are indeed, loved and appreciated! Karen won't be going anywhere and will still be involved in a variety of different ways and ministries, serving the purposes of God in this place—but her decision not to stand for election to the Church Board this year is a significant and prayerful one on her part and, whilst she might not want it, her exemplary service over many years deserves recognition.

Looking Forward

As we launch into 2024 together, I do so filled with fresh hope and excitement. Expectant of a mighty move of God in our midst as we consider in an intentional way how we can best embody *The Story that Changes Everything* and live out the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our every day lives.

May 2024 be a year of fresh vision, renewed hope and a contagious desire to see the Kingdom of God extended in East Belfast. Where individuals, couples, families, streets and whole communities are transformed by Jesus Christ—and might we be faithful in allowing God to continue to write His story with the ink of our obedience.

Respectfully Submitted in the Service of Jesus the King,

Rev Sammy Robinson

Rev Sammy Robinson (Lead Pastor & Chairperson)

Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106490

Annual return

Independent Examiner's report to the Charity Trustees of Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Charity Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with Section 64 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedure laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners 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)(b) of the Charities Act.

My 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 Trustees 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 in accordance with 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 proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Independent examiners 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: COLIN SIMPSON

Relevant professional qualification or body : ACCA

Address : 20 SAGIMOR GARDENS, BELFAST, BT5 5LW

Date : 8th MARCH 2024

Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

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Accounts

Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

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Annual report

LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

It is my honour and privilege to bring this, my fifth, report as Lead Pastor of Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene, to this Annual General Meeting. As I sat to write this report a real sense of excitement and holy anticipation swept over me as I took the opportunity to purposefully reflect on how far the LORD has brought us a people over this past year; and how that sets us up for all that He has for us in this new year together.

In many ways, 2022 has been a difficult year for us as a people, as we have had individuals we love pass and receive their eternal reward. We remember the godly legacies of loved Church members Maureen Reaney, Eileen Cash and Belle Lamont, and founding member Evelyn Wallace, who have heard those words from the mouth of their beloved Saviour, "*Well done, good and faithful servant*". Yet despite the sorrow and grief, the LORD has been faithful and looked favourably upon us as a congregation as we have experienced, first hand, the truth of Lamentations 3:22-23 in our lives:

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
²³They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

I am filled with thankfulness and gratitude to the LORD, and His people, for all that has happened over the past year; a year which has seen steady spiritual and numerical growth and increased reach in the community in which we find ourselves planted in East Belfast. This sense of appreciation of the LORD's moving in our midst is perhaps no better illustrated by the step of faith taken in the construction of a staff team with Pastor Joanne and Pastor Ryan joining the staff here at Megain over this past year, as we seek to step into the clear calling that the LORD has given to us to *Share the Hope and Love of Jesus with East Belfast*.

As His Word is proclaimed in Word and in deed, the LORD is continuing to pour out His great love and compassion, blessing us as a local congregation.

The Church in Numbers - 2022

Whilst not the most glamorous side of Church life, the finances of the Church form an important part in our ability to be the people and movement that God has called us to be, here in East Belfast.

Weekly/Monthly Offerings in 2022 amounted to £21,436.73 which was down 21% from 2021 (2021: £26,506.06); GiftAid giving was £18,980.00 down slightly by 0.3% from 2021 (2021: £18,980.00); and expenses at £54,774.44 up 8.7% from 2021 (2021: £50,192.36).

At first glance, these figures look as though they raise some cause for concern, however, in reality these numbers are consistent with those of previous years. Even with a fall in Tithes and Offering based income, coupled with increased expenses, we were still able to make a small surplus of £78.39, in large part due to the ability to avail of the Income Tax Gift Aid Refund scheme and some Community Grants for our community based ministries. With an increase in ministries operating from the Church, and with these expected only to grow in number over the next year, we continue to be encouraged and, quite frankly, taken aback by the generosity of God's people in this place. Your sacrificial generosity of spirit allows us to not only keep the lights and heating on, but to make a lasting impact in the lives of people within this community and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your faithful giving to the work of the LORD.

Aside from Gift Aiding your offering, which we encourage all taxpayers to do, you can choose to give via standing order. We thank those who have availed of this method of giving in the past year and, where possible, we would encourage more of our members to move to this giving method as it helps to cut down on administrative costs, ensuring that this money is rather put toward the work of the extension of God's Kingdom in this corner of His vineyard.

Once again, I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the Church Board and wider congregation to extend sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Church Treasurer, Alison Hoy, who once again has worked tirelessly and faithfully behind the scenes to ensure that the pressures of financial administration are something which we as a Church body have not had to worry about. Alison, and indeed husband Henry, are such a blessing to us and we recognise the great cost of personal time which has been sacrificed to ensure that everything has been able to tick over. Alison has indicated to myself that, after many years of serving in this way, she will be taking a well-earned and well-deserved break from serving in this capacity and has decided that this is the right time for her to *"hang up her books"*. Henry, who has served faithfully as a board member for many years, has also indicated that he will not be seeking re-election to the Church Board for the upcoming year, and whilst we know all too well that this couple have served out of their love for the LORD and not for thanks, I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Henry for his faithful and spiritually-minded service over many years as a Church Board member, and for his personal support to me during my nearly 5 years as Pastor here. Whilst we know that they will still remain very much involved in the life and fellowship of the Church here at Megain, it does not in any way dilute our gratitude to them for their many years of service in the leadership of the Church.

Missions

Missions are at the heart of who we are as a people; not only as members of the Church of the Nazarene, but as members of the household of God. Our God is, by very nature, a missional God who seeks out and woos individuals by His prevenient grace, drawing people to Himself and meeting them at the point of their need. It is such a blessing to be reminded that we are called to join Him in His mission to the world and are to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is therefore critical that Missions continue to be a vital part of the DNA of our local Church here at Megain as we seek to honour God and win souls to the Kingdom.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the commitment of our wee Church to this missional call and the way in which this is so consistently reflected in the financial giving to the work of Missions, both Nazarene and other, throughout the world. The faithful giving of the LORD's people in this place has served local and abroad missions over the past financial year in the following ways:

- £600 to Nazarene World Missions Easter Offering.
- £373 to Nazarene World Missions Thanksgiving Offering.
- £700 to Nazarene World Missions Prayer and Fasting.
- £698.20 to Nazarene Alabaster Offering
- £300 to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) offering.
- £168 to our District Nazarene Missions International Fees (Administration).
- £100 to Nazarene District Table Offering which this year supported the work of the JESUS film.
- £300 to our sponsor child through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM).
- A further £640.48 was raised through our quarterly Mission offerings, and it was decided by the local Church Board that this would be carried forward to next year and provide the opportunity for the giving to local missional ventures within the life not only of the local Church, but also to support other Mission organisations as and when needs might arise - or the LORD lay them upon our hearts.

When all of these figures are taken into consideration we have, as a local church in East Belfast, raised £3879.68 toward missional work this past year, which will be used to spread the Gospel throughout 164 world areas. It should also be noted that these figures do not take into account the individual, personal contributions of many individuals within the Church body to missional organisations and charities such as Kids4School, Project Romania, The Every Home Crusade, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and many others. Once again, Church, we thank you for your generosity of spirit and commitment to living lives which fulfil the Great Commission. Your giving in this way is helping to bring Kingdom transformation, not only in East Belfast, but throughout the world!

We also thank Dr Graham Greenlee for all the work he does in keeping Missions at the forefront of our thinking as a local Church, and for his infectious passion with which he has carried out the role of Missions Director over the past 12 months.

Church Vision

As many of you may remember, in the last quarter of 2021 we launched a 3 year vision for the Church Family here at Megain. This vision, we believe, was given to us by the Holy Spirit of God as a result of much prayer, seeking and listening to His voice. We felt that He was asking us to focus on 4 key areas/goals whilst living out the values of being a Church who are **loving, compassionate, welcoming, authentic** and **faithful**. Here are some of the ways in which we stepped into this vision in 2022:

Fit for Purpose Church Building

Building on the foundations formed in 2021, our building has been used by a number of outside groups from within the local community as we continue to move towards our goal of being a *Fit for Purpose Church Building* which is of benefit to the community. Community groups and forums, businesses and charities have all availed of our beautiful building this year with groups ranging from Funeral Directors who have used the premises for leadership meetings and staff training, right through to the Inner East Forum or East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA).

It was also a privilege for us as a Church body to host the British Isles North District District Assembly in March 2022 as we gathered with other Nazarene Churches throughout Northern Ireland, Scotland and the North of England for a weekend of teaching, business and fellowship. This was a blessed weekend which was only made possible through the hard work of the congregation who volunteered their time during the weekend to serve in a variety of different ways; greeting at the door, cleaning toilets, serving tea and coffee, manning car parks, ensuring people were well looked after...the list goes on. However, the biggest undertaking was actually in the build up with a number of key jobs being done by volunteers to ensure that the building was spic and span before the weekend took place. So, to everyone who lifted a paint brush, a hammer, a drill, a dust cloth, or any other tool for that matter, and gave so freely of their valuable time to help and make the District Assembly weekend a reality; please accept our sincerest of thanks and join us in praising the LORD that this only takes place in Northern Ireland once every three years!

As if District Assembly was not enough for us, we also had the privilege of hosting a team of 20 young people from Nazarene Youth United Kingdom for a week-long Summer Mission Trip in August 2022; during which they served the local community and local congregation by, amongst other things, leading our *Under The Sea* themed Holiday Bible Club. It was a blessing to have them with us for the week, and to be able to host them within our building allowed for them to bond together in a meaningful way as a team.

Comment cannot be made on a *Fit for Purpose Church Building* without giving a special shout out to Karen Porter for all that she continues to do as the Head of Building Trustees here at Megain. This past year has been a very busy and draining one for Karen personally, but her commitment to the LORD and His house remains a constant source of inspiration, as along with the Building Trustees, she continues to work through the actions of the *Murray Report (2021)* survey of the building. Please continue to be in prayer for Karen, and the Building Trustees, as they seek to lead us in best utilising this space, building and prime geographical location for the extension of the Kingdom; and don't be afraid to show your support by rolling up your sleeves and getting involved in the Church Work & Witness Days which are planned for throughout the year. Many hands make light work!

Nurture the Church Membership & Discipleship

In his book, *Crazy Love*, Francis Chan observes that as the Church, "*We reduce discipleship to a canned program, and so many in the church end up sidelined in a spectator mentality that*

delegates disciple making to pastors and professionals, ministers and missionaries." At Megain Nazarene, we are firm believers that following Jesus is not just for Sunday services, and is something which must be lived out in an intentional way every day of the week by every member of the family of God. As such, we believe that we are called to be a disciple-making people who take seriously the Great Commission which Jesus gave in Matthew 28.

We sense, now more than ever, that God is calling us to return to a more holistic model of Church life, where each and every person who attends the various services and ministries of the Church are equipped and empowered to share their story of faith; understanding that they themselves are a miracle of God's grace and that He is still in the business of transforming the lives of everyday people. A model where prayer is foundational and not an optional extra; where we enjoy God and growing in His grace, together, in community. A model in which people are not only encouraged, but enabled to step into the gifting which have been bestowed upon them by the Spirit of God, for the benefit of the body of Christ. A Kingdom community that are devoted to the Word and being together, and to which *"the LORD add(ed) to their number daily those who were being saved"* (see Acts 2:47).

In this environment disciples are nurtured and encouraged to go and make disciples. And whilst we have not, by any stretch of the imagination, "made it" yet, I am encouraged by the steps which we have taken over the past year to make this more and more a reality in our lives. Might I take this opportunity to encourage you, over this next year, to immerse yourself more and more into the life of the Church. We all benefit whenever this happens. This year, as we officially launch our Life Groups in March, our Prayer and Worship Times on the fifth Wednesday of the month, increase our corporate prayer times and prayer opportunities, see an increase in frequency and variety of different ministries. Let us not reduce discipleship to a canned program that delegates its importance to someone else, but rather let us be a community of disciples who make disciples that the Kingdom of God might be extended in East Belfast to the glory of God.

Create a Meaningful Community Impact in East Belfast

As a Church community, we are strategically placed in the heart of the East Belfast community; a privilege and honour which we should neither take for-granted nor a responsibility we should shy away from. Now in our 72nd year in this community, we do still hold the firm belief that the best days of our church are not behind us, but rather are yet to come.

We believe that God continues to challenge us to make a meaningful community impact here, and over the past year positive strides have been made to do just that. As a Church body we are represented on the Inner East Forum (a forum made up of Statutory, Community and Faith-Based Organisations who work together for the betterment of East Belfast), EB Anti-Poverty Alliance, EB Churches Network, EB Youth Practitioners Forum, EB Tension Monitoring Group and the positive reputation of the Church in the community continues to grow as our voice and compassionate heart is heard and shown in constructive ways.

Most significantly, however, this year has seen meaningful community impact be made through the ministry of the Olive Branch which runs each Thursday evening from 6-8pm. We are so thankful to Pastor Joanne and her team who have created a warm, safe place where individuals from the community and congregation join together for a time of food and fun for all ages. Set up in response to the drastic increase in the Cost-of-Living, this ministry not only meets a physical need in our community, but is also organically becoming a place where the things of Christ are discussed. We are thankful to the James Brown and Son's Community Grant for their generous contribution towards our running costs for the Olive Branch over this past year, and are delighted to announce that we have received further funding, this time from Urban Villages, for the work of this vital Compassionate ministry in 2023.

Strengthen and Grow our Church Programmes for all Generations

As our reach within the community has continued to grow, so too has the demand for more frequent, bespoke and age appropriate ministries within the life of the Church. It was a delight

for me as Lead Pastor to announce the appointment of Pastor Joanne McFarlane as the Volunteer Associate Pastor here at Megain at last year's AGM. This is a role in which Pastor Joanne has really grown and shone over the past year and it is a privilege for us to have her and her family as part of our congregation as she ministers alongside her full-time role as Deputy Director of Kids4School.

Further to this appointment, it was also a privilege to inform, on behalf of the Church Board, the wider congregation of the appointment of Pastor Ryan Smith as our new Families and Community Pastor from October 2022. Pastor Ryan, alongside wife Sarah and son Blake, have slotted into the life of our congregation seamlessly since their arrival and we are thankful to God for calling them to serve in this place for such a time as this.

The increase in staff members who work alongside myself not only increases our capacity as a Church body to meaningful reach into the community and strengthen and grow our church programmes for all generations, but it also enables us to further equip the saints of God in this place to carry out the work that God, in His grace, has prepared in advance for them to do.

This year has seen our Megain Kids Ministries (namely Sunday School and Friday Night Connections) grow from strength to strength and has also seen our bigger annual events such as Easter Saturday Family Fun Day, Holiday Bible Club and Breakfast with Santa making a welcomed and impactful return following a hiatus due to COVID. A huge thanks to Pastor Ryan, our Children's Director; Chloe Robinson; and their team of willing and able volunteers who have continued to give of themselves for the sake of the Kingdom and served faithfully at the different events and ministries of Megain Kids over the past year. It is evident to all who attend our Sunday services that there is a real buzz (and lots of noise) around our Megain Kids department at the moment, and we could not be more thankful - with God's help, please keep doing what you're doing for it is making a difference!

I am also thankful to Gillian Heenan for her faithfulness in organising our Megain 257 ministry which facilitates a time of fellowship and fun for all ages each month with trips to Garden Centres, cafés, conventions and even the cinema, all being enjoyed over the past year. I know there's loads in the pipeline for 2023, so make sure to see Gillian for more details about how you, too, can get in on the action!

And as we look forward, we are excited that 2023 will see the relaunch of Megain Youth and Megain Tots, that our Megain Men and Megain Women ministries will begin, and that, in the Will of the LORD, precious souls will be won and brought into the Kingdom.

Looking Forward

It is with enthusiasm and anticipation that we enter into this new Church year together, confident that He who started His work in us as a people will not leave it unfinished. Keeping our eyes fixed on Him Who is the Author and Perfecter of our faith; and with renewed belief that the fields are white unto harvest.

May 2023 be the year that we become a people of renewed prayer and fasting, who are found in the Word, changed by the Spirit and living for the King. Pursuing Jesus with all that we have, that others too might come into a saving relationship with the Saviour of the World and know the joy of sins forgiven. The year that we step more and more into the calling that has always been upon us - reaching out to the broken, meeting the needs of the needy, the widow and the orphan, being the hands and feet of Christ, that East Belfast might be transformed in His Name.

Hope has a Name, and His Name is Jesus. Let us be a people of Hope.

Respectfully Submitted in the Service of Jesus the King,

Rev Sammy Robinson

Rev Sammy Robinson (Lead Pastor & Chairperson)

Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106490

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene
I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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)(b) of the Charities Act.

My 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 trustees 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 in accordance with 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: COLIN SIMPSON

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACCA

Address: 20 SAGIMOR GARDENS, BELFAST BT5 5LW

Date: 06/03/2023