

Chairman's report – 2024-2025 for GT (UK & Eire) – Charity No. 107036

Name of Trustees – Adeline McClenaghan (Chairperson), Emma Dorman (Secretary) Des Clarke (Treasurer – non Trustee), Gail Lawther (Trustee), Jacqui MacAulay (Trustee) and Emma Crawford (Trustee), Rebecca McMillen (Trustee)

Governing document – finalised in March 2018

Summary of Purposes – to promote the love and healing grace of Jesus Christ to all within the UK and Ireland.

To relieve those in need by reason of bereavement through death, family breakdown, separation or divorce, through the provision of training and resources, to deliver grief support programmes for children and young people within UK and Ireland.

Financial year 2024 -2025

Main events and achievements

The main celebration for us as a Charity is that in 2025 the grief support groups have been going on in N. Ireland for 25 years! It is 30 years that it has been going on in England with Jewell and Dale Erickson, beginning this fantastic journey of helping families through their grief. As such, it was decided that our AGM in September 2025 should be a public one and celebrations are currently being planned for the venue being a Bible College in Belfast and also a special social event for our hard working Board members and facilitators running the grief support groups faithfully over the years.

Another fantastic event and privilege was in February of 2025, when Mary and myself attended the Hand in Hand Conference in Birmingham. This is a full weekend of speakers and workshops as well as Christian organisations selling resources and giving away freebies, all related to helping families and children in need, while telling them of the love of Christ. On top of this we met with our fellow worker in Christ, Pastor Francis living in Ghana, running many grief support groups to children and teens. This was his first time back to the UK for a very long time and the first time we got to meet him in person rather than just seeing a picture. He was a master of networking and went home fully loaded with lots of Bibles and other resources. Many of them were given free! It was really challenging to hear of the issues that rise for him regarding running the children's groups and the fact he took a whole 24 hours to get to the Convention and won a prize as a result!

Raising our profile in the Community was done through a talk given by myself (chair) to the regular CYPSP (Children and young people 's Strategic Planning)meeting, where many organisations and Charities meet to discuss the needs of the local Community and the families that live in the areas. Many referrals for running the Pot of Gold programme in October 2024-January 2025, came from the Hub part of this CYPSP group. Eight children attended for 12 weeks and were keen to return as they had so much fun and made good friendships.

On the 11th May 2024 the UCB (United Christian Broadcasting) held it's annual event where we always get a stall to promote our services. Mary, Jacqui and Rebecca facilitated that.

In May Adeline went to three schools to see if they would be interested in our group work. These were Eden, Ballycarry and Glynn. Unfortunately, there has been no uptake so perhaps another visit may be required!

Towards the end of the year our Independent Examiner – Edel Pauley retired and Ashley Ritchie came highly recommended so she has now filled this role. None of the Board has met her but it is hoped this will be done in due course.

Fundraising

This part was significantly low with £100 given by members of Downshire Presbyterian church. It is recognised that a more regular income through fundraising applications and possibly public events in 2025/2026 would be more of a feature.

A fundraiser to focus on this would be advantageous.

Social Events

There was only one organised which was a lunch at The Dairy in Glenoe on 31st August which we all enjoyed.

Training

On 5th December 2024 Adeline attended a Trauma Toolkit workshop day at Dunsilly Arms in Antrim, 13th February 2025 Adeline attended a VOLT session on how to attract young people to become volunteers on a zoom meeting and on 19th March 2025 she also attended the Fire Warden training at Greenisland Baptist Church.

International Update

Mary Gault continues to have meetings on zoom with the Directors Dale & Jewell Erickson and their input to the updating of the Pot of Gold material (younger childrens' grief support group resources)

The licensing Agreement is still an ongoing concern but is in process between USA and ourselves through the meetings Mary Gault has with Jewel and Dale.

There was a meeting with them and Alison Crawford, one of our founding facilitators, who now lives in USA, exploring whether she would become the person in charge of all things international, as Jewell and Dale wish to retire, so watch this space!

Grief support group update

Ballyclare have been very busy this past year and ran Pots groups back to back and it has been agreed that the Newtownabbey group will hold their Pots groups in the Spring and Ballyclare team will hold theirs in the Winter.

Mary Gault and Danielle Kourpass are near finishing updating the Pot of Gold material and Rays of Light material will soon be in progress.

Social Media

GT had a great Social Media presence in 2024 but had to be reduced as Rebecca pursues her own career for the moment. She is still informed of everything going on as she is also on the Board.

Conclusion

God has been good again in allowing us space to do what is necessary to move our Charity forward. All the roles of volunteers have been written now and it is recognised that all the Policies are up for review from May 2025, so this will our big job for next year's report! No rest for the wicked, they say, or should this be "this will keep us on our toes!"

The Board, in setting out it's objectives and planning their activities for the year, had given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that it's activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

I, as Chair, am particularly proud of what we have achieved this year in that we are still moving forward, raising our profile and forging new relationships and long may this continue!

Adeline McClenaghan

Chairperson