

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Elders of Armagh Baptist Church, as Charity Trustees, present the following report on the work of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the trust deed and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Structure, governance and management

The charity has Trustees as detailed out in the charity constitution. The church is recognised as a charity under the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as at the date of registration being the 8 July 2020.

Where appropriate, Trustees are appointed following a selection process undertaken by the members of the church. The Trustees will hold their positions on a 5-year cycle until such times as they resign, retire or are removed.

Trustee's records are updated on the charity commission website to represent these changes.

Organisation

The Trustees who have served during the year are detailed on page 3. The Trustees are expected to play several key roles in the running of the charity.

The principal function of the Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Church the mission of the Gospel, pastoral, social and evangelistic. All the functions of the Church relate to the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating and caring for worshippers of all ages especially the sick, elderly and others in our local community.

Public Benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duties in line with the Commission's Public Benefit statutory guidance. Regular worship and reaching out into the community as well as other activities both social and fundraising have been carried out throughout the year to fulfil our statement of public benefit. The premises are regularly used by various organisations within the church.

Statement of Public Benefit

The direct benefits which flow from our purpose include attendance at meetings convened for the teaching of Scripture, for fellowship, for the breaking of bread, as well as involvement in prayer meetings and evangelism. This is evidenced in personal growth in faith of those who attend the church, comfort to the bereaved and to the sick and elderly members of the church who receive encouragement through visitation and prayer. The provision of religious education for children and young people. Financial support for the departments of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland and for missionaries sent out from our church locally and to other parts of the world through like-minded organisations.

These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from regular attendees at the various church services, interest in missions shown by prayer and financial support given, and the ongoing regular attendance of members at worship services. The number of DVDs issued on a weekly basis to those unable to attend a service and statistical reports of the number of downloads of services via the Internet.

The Trustees are satisfied that carrying out the purpose of our charity will not cause harm to any individual attending the church, or to any other members of the wider community. The charity's beneficiaries are church members and adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend the church services which are open to the general public. Any trustee who is a pastor, is an employee of Armagh Baptist Church. Their salary and any incurred expenses are incidental and necessary to enable Armagh Baptist Church to provide the pastoral support required to fulfil our stated purpose.

Aims and Objectives

Armagh Baptist Church conducts regular services for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the sick and elderly of the church through visitation and prayer. Other activities of the church include Sunday School, Parent & Toddler Groups, Children's Meetings, Youth Meetings, Women's Meetings, Men's Events & Friendship Hour, together with regular outreach events to the wider community, in schools and residential care homes.

31 December 2022 Report

The Elders of Armagh Baptist Church, as Charity Trustees, present the following report on the work of the church for the year 2022.

We added 4 new members in the Spring of this year, but with one family moving house to Portadown that left us with 128 members in Armagh at the end of 2022. We didn't have any baptisms this year, and we didn't have any funerals in the church either, but two young people who grew up in the church got married in the summer, and we had quite a number of babies born to families in our fellowship too.

Ian Grant is now in his 14th year as Pastor. He was joined by Mark Rooney as Assistant Pastor in June, and Andrew Moorcroft joined us on a student placement from the Irish Baptist College in October. Together they have been faithful in visiting members and adherents of the church throughout the year.

Ian and Mark continue to speak at assemblies in three local schools on a monthly basis. We also hosted an evangelism team of students from the Irish Baptist College for a week in October, helping us to visit the houses around our church building and to bring *The Amazing Journey* into 4 local primary schools, ably presented by James Robinson, a former member of our church, now working for Baptist Youth.

We had visits from representatives of a number of missionary organisations during the year, giving us the opportunity to receive information about their work in N.I. and further afield. Again, we supported some of them financially, raising around £25,000 for the work of various missions at home and abroad. We also gave £13,000 to help churches in Ukraine and Poland reach out to refugees who had been displaced following the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine in February. Following some initial training we are now recognised as a 'Safe Place' enabling us to respond practically to help those who find themselves victims of domestic abuse. We have also joined the 'Welcome Church' network and hope to be in a position to welcome asylum seekers whenever they are placed in Armagh in the future.

Our church website, together with our Facebook page and Youtube channel continue to host videos of our church services, enabling a wider audience to get a taste of all that goes on within our church.

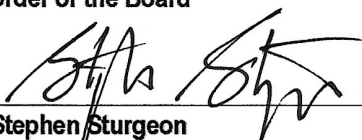
Following 2 years of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is good to be able to report that everything is now back to normal in Armagh Baptist Church. Even though we planted Keady Baptist Church in September 2021, our Sunday morning congregation still almost fills our church building. It's good to know that almost 100 people are meeting on Sunday mornings over in Keady and as a church they continue to go from strength to strength. They were accepted into membership of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland in May 2022 and were welcomed at the Churches Council in November.

Pastor Ian Grant (On behalf of ABC Trustees)

Financial Review and Reserves

The principle sources of income are mainly from gifts and donations. The annual accounts show a surplus for the year of £21,532. The trustees have reviewed the financial position of the Church and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Church can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 can be signed off as a going concern.

By order of the Board



Mr Stephen Sturgeon
Trustee

31/7/2023

Date

Charity Commission Number: NIC107549

Statement Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Accounts in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102). Accounting and Reporting by charities: Statements of recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the financial activities of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the application of accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. 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.

Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charities website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Board


Mr Stephen Sturgeon
Trustee

31/7/2023
Date