

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 2024.

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 2024 Report

The Elders of Armagh Baptist Church, as Charity Trustees, present the following report on the work of the church for the year 2024.

We have had a good year in the life of our church. We have seen 10-12 people professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What an encouragement it has been to see God at work in people's lives, from so many different backgrounds. We had the joy of baptising 9 believers during the year: 4 men in March, 3 women in May, and another 2 women in December. Many of these had only come to faith in the last year or so. We added 8 new members during the year, which should have brought us to a total of 143 members, but we sent out two couples into ministry elsewhere, so our membership currently stands at 139.

Two funerals were held in Armagh Baptist Church during the year: Joe Elliott on 5th April 2024 and Alan Frazer on 30th December 2024. Although neither were members of our church, they were much loved fathers (and grandfathers) of some of our church members.

Two weddings took place in our church this year: Naomi Todd was married to Dylan Smyth on 3rd April 2024, and Keady Baptist Church used our building for the wedding of Gareth Finlay and Gillian Clark on 26th April 2024. Six babies were also born to young married couples in our congregation!

Ian Grant completed his 15th year as pastor of the church on 1st May 2024. His role as President of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland came to an end on Sunday 12th May as he preached in Portstewart Baptist Church, having handed over the role to Edwin Ewart at the ABCI Churches Council meeting in Moira the previous day.

The church agreed to appoint Graham Dougan as a Part-Time Assistant Pastor for two years from 1st August 2024. We also agreed to appoint Andrew Moorcroft as a Full-Time Pastoral Assistant from 1st June 2024, also for two years. Graham has a particular focus on a new Men's Ministry in the church called 'Forged', Andrew continues to be involved in the children's and youth ministries of the church, allowing Ian to give some time to develop the outreach in Crossmaglen, through fortnightly Bible Studies and visitation. We record thanks to the men of the ABC Preaching Group who preached on 1 Timothy at the midweek meetings last summer.

As well as ministry and visitation, Ian, Andrew and Graham have continued to speak at assemblies in three primary schools, and at meetings in Lisanally Day Care Centre, and our own Friendship Hour. We also brought the Amazing Journey into several schools in the area.

Our missionary interest continued throughout the year, guided by the missions committee, enabling us to give nearly £31,000 to the work of various mission agencies at home and abroad. Our Facebook page and YouTube channels continue to host videos of our church services, enabling a wider audience to get a taste of what goes on within the walls of our church building. Our Church Website is currently undergoing redevelopment and should be live in early 2025.

Our Towards 2030 vision has guided our outreach efforts in local, focussed and world mission through the year. We took a particular interest in providing a new kitchen for Cavan Baptist Church, and in helping a Bible Translation ministry in Madagascar this year.

Our outreach to Crossmaglen continued with fortnightly meetings being held in the Community Centre in the Square, and every home in the town being visited twice with Gospel literature. The 'Crossmaglen Baptist Outreach' Facebook page enables us to reach people with news of how Armagh, Keady, and Newry Baptist Churches are trying to work together in the area. About a dozen people from a five-mile radius of Crossmaglen have been attending the meetings occasionally, but we have been in contact with many more through the regular visitation of homes in the area. We hope to keep this going in 2025.

We record thanks to God for his faithfulness throughout another year of ministry.

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 £12,322. 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 2024 can be signed off as a going concern.

By order of the Board



Mr Alister Knipe
Trustee

28/5/2025
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 Alan Abraham
Trustee

28/09/25
Date