

Castlederg Baptist Church

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Reference and Administrative Details

Castlederg Baptist Church,
10 Upper Strabane Road,
Castlederg,
Co.Tyrone,
BT81 7BG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 107670)

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the time of this report were:

Mr.Stanley Baxter (Chairperson)

Pastor Jude Colhoun

Mr. Ivan Gowdy

Mr. Norman Irwin

Mr. David Nesbitt

Mr. David Porter

Independent Examiner

Mr. Thomas Oliver and Associates Limited, 1 Moygashel Row, Dungannon, BT71 7DH

Bankers

Danske Bank, 5-7 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1BN

The office bearers of the church consist of the Pastor, elders and deacons and they act as trustees of the congregation. The elders deal with all matters of spiritual importance and the deacons take responsibility for all practical and temporal affairs. As a leadership they endeavour to promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and to encourage the members to witness and serve in the local community.

Male members of the church who have been in membership for at least two years can be recommended for the office of an elder by existing elders, or by three members. The appointment of an elder takes place at a Church meeting called for that purpose. Deacons, either male or female, must be members of the church. They are to be chosen by the membership of the church and appointed at the annual A.G.M. Elders require a seventy five per cent majority and deacons require a majority vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

The leadership meet together at least six times a year.

Castleberg Baptist Church

Association of Baptist Churches

Castleberg Baptist Church is a member of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland. Although all churches in the Association are autonomous, the church benefits from support, guidance and encouragement provided by the Association Director and members of staff. The Castleberg church values its links with other churches in the Association.

Description and Purpose

Castleberg Baptist Church was established in 1987 and at first rented the premises at 10 Upper Strabane Road, Castleberg. Eventually the church purchased the building and in 2010 erected a new building to meet the requirements of the congregation.

The church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately. Its members devote themselves to the teaching of scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his kingdom. The principal charitable purpose of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teachings of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

Activities and Objectives

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join us. Normally Breaking of Bread (communion) follows the sermon every Sunday. A regular bible study and prayer meeting is held once a week. Services are open to anyone regardless of whether or not they are church members. Sunday School is arranged for the teaching of young children. Youth nights are held for primary and secondary aged young people. An annual holiday Bible Club is held for a week during the summer months. Ladies events, visits to residential care homes and organised walks allow us to participate in the life of the community. Prayer is offered on behalf of our members and their families, the community and for those in government. We support, both financially and through prayer, local and international Christian organisations.

Achievement and Performance

Church services were held each Sunday to enable members and adherents to gather together for worship and Bible teaching. On Tuesday evenings Bible Studies were held, providing the opportunity for teaching and discussion on Bible passages. Sunday school was provided for the young people during the morning service. Sunday School numbers are small but all attend well. Our J4U Club and Youth Club run throughout the year but not during the summer months. Almost all of the children attending are from outside the church family and from different backgrounds and experiences. The Ladies' Friendship evenings and our 'Walk and Talk' events saw people from the community joining together with church folk to enjoy these activities. One of the highlights of the year was our summer Holiday Bible Club when very good numbers of children and teenagers attended the events of the week.

Castleberg Baptist Church

Mission and Outreach

The church was able to financially support Baptist Missions and the Baptist College. The fellowship contributed to the financial support of a Scripture Union E3 project making Good News known in local schools, an Irish University Christian Unions' worker and an O.M. worker in Germany. The Sunday School helped raise some funds, then the congregation added to this amount, and one of our congregation joined a Baptist Association trip to Peru in summer 2023 and distributed the financial support to Baptist churches in Peru. The church supported the 'Kids for School' organisation funding education for some children in Tanzania. The pastor arranged for a college team to visit local schools to take assemblies and R.E. lessons and to visit Care Homes during a week in October. A visit to a local school by Baptist Youth to relate, 'The Amazing Journey to Bethlehem', story to local children took place in December. Our ladies crocheted blankets for premature babies born in Altnagelvin Hospital. Shoe boxes assembled by the congregation were donated to Samaritan's Purse.

Property

The new building of 2010 had been completed in such a way that when finances permitted the development of the First Floor could be facilitated. This work was completed in 2023.

Public Benefit Statement

The church meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making the Christian gospel known through the advancement of religion. The teaching provided by the church leads to spiritual and moral development for those who are affiliated. In turn this leads to practical expression of Christian beliefs and standards in the community. Public activities are made known via social media and printed materials. The purposes do not lead to harm. The only private benefit arising from our purpose is related to our pastor, who receives benefits as a result of holding office, and a Christian Unions Ireland worker and an O.M. staff member. These are necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, and other individuals with whom they have direct and indirect contact; other communities throughout Ireland and worldwide.

Finance

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions. An annual report detailing income and expenditure was presented at the church's A.G.M.

Trustees Verification of Financial Report

We as Trustees of Castlederg Baptist Church, verify that this financial report for the year ending 31st December 2023, is an accurate reflection of the financial transaction that occurred during the aforesaid financial year.

Signed



date

28/04/2024

Chairman

D.S. Nesbitt

Treasurer

28/4/24

Ivan Hawley
(Secretary)

28/04/24

J. Colman
(pastor)

28/04/2024.