

# **Moira Baptist Church**

## **Trustees' Report**

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### ***Objects and aims***

Moira Baptist Church ("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.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of scripture, understood in its historical and evangelical sense, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles. Its members devote themselves to the teaching of scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism.

#### ***Objectives, strategies and activities***

The activities carried out by the Church include:

- holding regular services for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups;
- providing pastoral care to the members of the church through visitation and prayer;
- organising meetings and events that promote our charitable purpose;
- participating in the life of the local community;
- supporting other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Church should undertake.

#### ***Public benefit***

The Church meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of the Christian Faith.

The Church continues to reach out into the community in a number of ways through different organisations as follows:

- (i) Sunday Services
- (ii) Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- (iii) Home Groups
- (iv) Sunday School/Bible Classes
- (v) Creche
- (vi) Wonderkidz
- (vii) Moira Baptist Youth
- (viii) Seekers
- (ix) Mums and Tots
- (x) Baptist Women's Fellowship
- (xi) Men's Fellowship
- (xii) Ladies' Bible studies
- (xiii) Evergreens
- (xiv) Care Team
- (xv) Our own Missionaries with New Tribes Mission and Wycliffe Bible Translators

## **Moira Baptist Church**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

#### **Achievements and performance**

2023 was a year where there was cause to look back and reflect on the goodness of God to the fellowship with the following being some of the highlights:

##### **- New Pastoral Assistant**

Jonathan Dodds commenced as our new Pastoral Assistant in 2023 and we give thanks to God for the encouragement as he has developed his ministry in the pulpit whilst providing pastoral support to members and supporting church activities.

##### **- Numerical and spiritual growth**

There were 14 baptisms during the year and a number of new folks have been attending each Sunday. Sadly we said goodbye to a number of longstanding members who entered into their eternal reward.

##### **- MBC Soccer Week**

This was an event organised during the Summer where up to 100 children and young people came together under the sound of God's Word whilst being coached in their football skills at Moira Demense.

##### **- Hope Explored Course**

A course held at GAP ministries on the Main Street for those who sought to go deeper into God's Word and learn more of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

##### **- Outreach further afield**

A number of young people connected to the fellowship went on various outreach teams both at home and abroad with missionary organisations. This year the church was able to support our sister church in Waterford by sending a ministry team for a week in the summer.

#### **Financial review**

The church recorded a net surplus for the year of £35,528

Closing unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2023 were £2,895,587

Closing restricted reserves at 31 December 2023 were £NIL

#### ***Policy on reserves***

It is Church policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) which equate to at least 4 months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. This is estimated at £45,000 of unrestricted funds and on 31 December 2023 the Church had £161,179 of unrestricted funds available.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### ***Nature of governing document***

Moira Baptist Church is an unincorporated entity operating under a constitution last updated in 22 March 2023.

## Moira Baptist Church

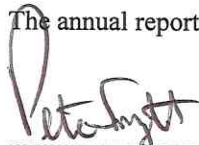
### Trustees' Report (continued)

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Pastor Mark Patterson  
Ralph Patterson  
Simon Morrison  
Peter Smyth  
Kenneth Watson (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Geoffrey Wilson (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Jonathan Rountree (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Jonathan Lloyd (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Martin Burke (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Andrew Cross (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Samuel Johnston (appointed 22 March 2023)  
William Paul (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Adam Patton (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Brian Greenaway (appointed 22 March 2023)  
David McKeown (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Andrew Fleming (appointed 22 March 2023)  
Gareth Davidson (appointed 22 March 2023)

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 18 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Mr Peter Smyth  
Trustee



.....  
Mr Ralph Patterson  
Trustee