

Portstewart Baptist Church
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Portstewart 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.

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 of Northern Ireland in deciding what activities the church should undertake

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Achievements and performance

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.

Sunday Services

We hold 2 services each Sunday, with an average attendance of 600. At peak holiday season, this increases to 3 services on a Sunday due to the large influx of holidaymakers when we have more than 1,000 in attendance each Sunday.

Small Groups

15 small groups meet weekly across the areas of Portrush, Portstewart, Bushmills, Coleraine and Ballymoney, for Bible study and prayer, with 2 meetings in the church building and the rest in homes. The average attendance in each group is 20 people.

Youth Groups/Summer Bible Clubs

Holiday Bible Club: 128 children of primary school age attended our Holiday Bible Club each morning for a week during the Easter holidays. This was run by our Youth Coordinator and a team of volunteers alongside a Baptist Youth team. Each day consisted of Bible stories, craft, snacks and games and finished on Friday with a BBQ for the children and their parents.

Easter Youth Camp: 43 young people of high school age attended our 3 day Easter Camp and enjoyed a range of activities including a day out to a water park and games on the beach.

Football and Hockey Camp: 143 children in P3-P7 attended each evening for a week, learning and improving their football and hockey skills and enjoying a Bible message from the leaders.

Baptisms

27 people were baptised during 2023, some in the sea and some in the baptistry in the church building.

Membership

314

Financial Review

The church recorded a net surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £77,729 (2022: £72,401).

Closing unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2023 were £4,658,912, including a General Revaluation Fund of £257,471.

Closing restricted reserves at 31 December 2023 were £2,837 (2022: £7,840). This represents funds held for other specified funds and Baby Basics fund.

There are no funds held by the Church that are in deficit.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

108322

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Principal address

172/174 Coleraine Road
Portstewart
Co. Londonderry
BT55 7PL

Trustees

Mr Jonathan McGreevy
Mr Jonathan Dixon
Mr Gibson Evans
Mr Kris Fairfield
Mr Robert Kane
Mr Garth Mahood
Mr Stephen McKenzie
Mr Michael Williams
Mr Derek Leighton
Ms Brenda Blair
Mr David Barnett
Ms Kim Berrisford
Mr Paul DeCock
Mr David Johnston
Mr Mark Sheridan
Mr Graham Stirling
Ms Loreen Williams
Ms Anne Witherow
Mr Matthew Wright
Mr David Frazer (appointed 23.4.23)
Mr Lee Jennings (appointed 4.11.23)

Auditors

McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TP

Bankers

AIB NI
78 Wellington Street
Ballymena
BT43 6AF

Portstewart Baptist Church

**Report of the Trustees
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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregation and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the funds will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2019)". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



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Mr Derek Leighton - Trustee