

# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The directors have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and SORP (FRS 102).

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

### THE DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law.

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

Rev Dr J Alderdice  
Mrs C Baillie  
Mrs E H Carson  
Prof F Kee  
Mrs C Hillcox  
Rev D McCullagh  
Mr C S McDowell  
Mrs G Mercer  
Dr I Taylor  
Mr J Unsworth

### PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The directors of Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity continued to provide the Public Benefits through programmes and services we offer. In particular, the directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

#### Public Benefits:

The Benefits which flow from Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast are:

- a. The provision of chaplaincy services to students and staff at third-level institutions across the city of Belfast.
- b. The provision of accommodation in residential chaplaincy communities for, primarily but not exclusively, third-level education students.
- c. The provision of acts of worship, open to the general public.
- d. Campus engagement through a public presence, the provision of public facilities, supporting university-led initiatives, ceremonies and events, and organising theological events for the general public.
- e. Pastoral support to students and staff.

# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### Public Benefits (*continued*):

The Benefits identified above are demonstrated by:

- a. The support provided by chaplains, including by attending, and where appropriate sitting on, bodies appointed to further the work of the institutions;
- b. Pastoral & spiritual support offered to students & staff alike, and engagement with university initiatives.
- c. The provision of accommodation in the student centre in South Belfast for up to 50 students annually from a mixture of universities and colleges.
- d. Providing opportunities for spiritual engagement, including church services, events, discipleship & outreach activities, social action, and pastoral support.
- e. Resourcing and encouraging students to participate fully in the life of their campus, through events, volunteering, and fundraising for partner organisations.
- f. Facilitating activities at university accommodation locations.
- g. Running a non-profit cafe to provide a safe space for students to meet, study and volunteer.
- h. Working with and/or independent of university bodies to provide pastoral support to students and staff throughout the academic year.

The benefits are monitored through regular evaluation of the services provided, and through feedback from participants and members of the public.

The purposes do not lead to harm. The only private benefit resulting from the Charity's purposes are related to staff who receive benefits as a result their employment. However, this is incidental and necessary to further our charitable purposes. There are no other private benefits. The charities beneficiaries are the public, and in particular university and college students, as well as those we can support through the work of our charitable partners who share our ethos and purposes. The public benefit further through our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public in this way.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing document

Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast is a charitable company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. It was incorporated on 25 June 2021 and registered as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 20 January 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The directors regularly review the requirements of the charity and the possibility of a need for additional directors. Any new directors would be appointed by resolution of a meeting of all the directors passed by a majority of those present. Appropriate training and induction is available to all directors.

#### **Risk management**

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

#### **Organisation Structures and related parties**

The directors oversee the running of the charitable company.

## CONTEXT AND STRUCTURAL DETAILS

The organisation is a Charity, registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, number NIC108472.

The Charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

#### **Members**

The members of the company are the Church of Ireland, and the Methodist Church in Ireland being the church as defined in Section 1 of The Methodist Church in Ireland Act 1928. These two entities are members within the meaning given in section 112 of the Companies Act 2006. These are referred to variously as the 'members', 'denominations', or 'parent denominations', being the two governing entities of their respective church organisations on the island of Ireland.

#### **Trustees**

The Board of Trustees are appointed by the members under the terms given in articles 31-34 of the Articles of Association and serve as the Directors of the company (as listed above). These include the Chaplains appointed, stationed, or licenced by the member organisations, who are remunerated directly by their denomination and not employed by the charity.

#### **History and nomenclature**

The Charity has inherited the charge and remit of chaplaincy ministry on university and college campuses in Belfast, previously managed by both denominations as two distinct unincorporated associations.

The Church of Ireland Student Centre was officially opened on Elmwood Avenue on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955; the Methodist Chaplaincy opened its doors to students in 1973. In 2012, a Local Covenant Partnership was signed between the denominations to formally commence joint partnership. This has ultimately led to the incorporation of the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### History and nomenclature (*continued*)

Often referred to as the 'Chaplaincy', the charity is also known colloquially as 'The Hub Belfast' or 'The Hub', a brand adopted under the Covenant Partnership in 2012 as shorthand for the much longer formal names. However, all formal and financial activities are carried out under the full charity name.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In alignment with its Articles of Association and Public Benefit Statement, the Charity seeks to advance the Christian faith amongst third level education, University and College campuses in Belfast in accordance with the principles, practices, and charitable purposes of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland, through:

1. **the provision of facilities and services with a Christian ethos** that aim to support and benefit the spiritual, social, academic, and professional networks across various University and College campuses.
2. creating, developing, managing, and overseeing one or more **residential chaplaincy communities** through the provision of accommodation for, primarily but not exclusively, third level education students.
3. **working with** Parishes, circuits, missions, other groups, Christian traditions and organisations to further Christian mission and ecumenism;
4. **contributing to the good and welfare of the Universities and Colleges**, their role within the city and impact on wider society.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Board are mindful of demonstrating how the Charity has served and met its purposes over the course of the academic year. To that end, we wish to highlight and celebrate some of the activities that took place across the year to 30th June 2024.

**The Church of the Resurrection** meets throughout the year on Sunday mornings. This is open to all, and regularly gathers existing and former students, local families, and the occasional member of staff of Queen's University. In this past year we have seen a significant growth in the number of young adults joining us on a Sunday morning. Around 50% of the regular congregation is now made up of these young adults, aged 18-30. They consist of local students, graduates, young professionals and a good number of international students.

The **Hub Café** has remained closed during 2023-24 but plans were put in place to upgrade the kitchen and café space with agreed intention to employ a new hospitality team lead. Both of these will be achieved during the next financial year and we look forward to reopening the café in due course.

Providing hospitality is one of the ways we show the love of God to people outside of The Hub, for example, the weekly **Free Lunch** provided to students at St Stephen's Parish, next door to Belfast Metropolitan College's Millfield campus. This ministry continues to go from strength to strength. Ulster University's move into Belfast city centre has created the opportunity to run a similar initiative for their students, in space provided by Belfast Cathedral. Between them on a weekly basis staff and students engage with between 200 and 300 individuals.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

Hospitality and friendship are also the drivers of our weekly outreach initiatives in Queen's Accommodation. **Toastie and Tunes** – staff and students visit the Treehouse at Elms BT9 (Queen's University owned accommodation) to provide live music, toasties, and conversations for students. We have seen a number of these students become members of the congregation at The Church of The Resurrection on Sunday Mornings, subsequently inviting friends to church.

**Student Residency** – The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy continues to provide residency for 49 students on Elmwood Avenue. This is a core part of our ministry on campus, providing a high level of community, social interaction, and pastoral support for residential students. Throughout the year, there are a variety of events and activities for our residents to take part in. Our residential students play an active role, both in leading and attending. They in turn, invite their peers and classmates to a range of formal and informal events at the Chaplaincy, allowing us to widen our reach to the student community, to offer support, including the following:

- Annual Student residential weekend
- Weekly Bible Study
- In House meal rotas to ensure community and friendship
- Wednesday Night Meal followed by worship and Bible Study
- Prayer Meetings
- Chaplaincy Formal
- Daily dinner provided by chaplaincy staff during exam period.
- One to one Pastoral Care
- End of Year service of Celebration
- Pop up evangelism – Often coinciding with major feasts or Saints days (St Valentine, St Patricks) staff and a team of students, will bring a table out to the street front of The Hub or Student's Union to give away tea coffee, treats, and to share the gospel.

#### **Outreach to and Engagement with University groups & societies on campuses**

- Engagement with Queen's International Students Society on a regular basis to both attend and provide events in The Hub.
- Engagement with University Christian Outreach.
- Hosting of the Christian Medical Fellowship meetings
- Hosting of Queen's Christian Union.
- Hosting of Queen's Students Against Human Trafficking Society.
- Hosting of Queen's ILIVE leadership society.
- Hosting of Queen's the Indonesian Society.
- Attendance at Stranmillis College Christian Union.
- Attendance at Ulster University Christian Union

# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

#### Worship

'**The Gathering**' is an event hosted on Wednesday evenings throughout the academic year. Our student residents are the primary audience for this, but they are encouraged to invite other students and classmates to join them. The night consists of a free meal cooked by our residents on a house-by-house rota basis, followed by sung worship and Bible teaching. The teaching is delivered by members of staff as well as the occasional guest speaker or student.

'**Worship101**' is 60-90 minutes of late-night worship on a Thursday evening, and this event attracts up to and often over 200 students on a weekly basis. These students come from right across the city to attend this.

#### Campus Events

**Thanksgiving Meal in November** – After realising that American students often feel homesick at this point of the year, we have provided a night of free food, entertainment, and community for several years. This is always well attended with up to 100 people enjoying the evening.

**Around the World Food Fair** – With the aim of integrating international students into the community, we host a night where people from different countries and cultures make and bring food from home to share with others.

**Superbowl Watch Party**- Students are welcome to sit up late with us to watch the Superbowl live, with free refreshments.

**Inter-chaplaincy Carol Service** – A time for staff and students to mark Christmas. Hosted jointly by the chaplaincies in the Great Hall at Queen's.

**St Patrick's Day Ceilidh** – A social night of dancing open to all students. Many of our student residents came, but also invited friends from their classes and from other chaplaincies.

**12 hours of prayer and worship on St Patrick's Day.** Organised, led and hosted by a small group of students. This was open to all students and throughout the 12 hours hundreds of students came for worship and prayer

**Church of Ireland Theological Lecture** – Professor Stephen Williams, Honorary Professor of Theology at Queen's University Belfast, delivered the 66th Church of Ireland Annual Theological Lecture at Queen's. The lecture was held in the Great Hall and was entitled: Artificial Intelligence - Religious Friend or Foe.

It should be noted that, as Queen's University no longer has a Theology department or degree option, the annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture is the only formal theological provision on campus.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

**End of Year Service of celebration-** A service which takes place in the Church of the Resurrection at the end of May to mark the end of the year. Open to staff, students and family. The Church of the Resurrection was filled with over 200 people who came to join this special service. The service was followed by a BBQ for students, friends and families, and was provided by the congregation of Church of the Resurrection.

### Chaplaincy Representation

Staff and Students represent the chaplaincy at several events and festivals. At **Summer Madness** a group of volunteer students join chaplaincy staff to set up and run 'Hub' venue. We host social events at night, late night worship each evening, and seminars each day. This offers an opportunity to share the work of chaplaincy with thousands of young people, some of whom have in previous years become residents or interns.

### Leadership and Service Development Opportunities

**Residential Leadership** - The residential community relies upon the active leadership of senior students, developing their abilities and potential in the process. There are 4 main residential houses, each of which has a House Warden, who is a senior student. There is also a Student Committee who assist with overseeing a wide range of social activities.

**Worship Academy** - Led by James Turner, this is a year long training programme for students who are musicians to help them grow in skill and experience in leading sung worship. The programme involves teaching, mentoring and a residential weekend. Current and past students of worship academy with responsible for providing sung worship at no less than 3 Christian conferences and festivals over the summer.

**Events** - many chaplaincy events - welcome meals, street outreach, Easter Outreach, Foodbank, Charitable fundraising, Church Services, and other activities all provide a range of opportunities and contexts for students to volunteer in a wide variety of roles.

**Internships** - the chaplaincy runs an internship program that provides an opportunity for recent graduates / young adults to work in the chaplaincy for one year. This is an excellent opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and abilities, pertaining to ministry, social skills, public presentation, experiencing a workplace environment, and more. This past year, we were joined by two Interns, but due to their late arrival, they lived off site and became part-time employees for the year. They added greatly to the worship and witness of the chaplaincy through their time with us.

**South Belfast Foodbank** - Our students and members of Church of the Resurrection are encouraged on an ongoing basis to contribute to and volunteer at the foodbank. Many have made a significant commitment to this.

**Shankill Road Partnership-** we continue to assist with ministries and outreach on the Shankill Road, working with St Stephen's, and St Michael's parishes, providing opportunities for students to assist with their drop-in centre and work with young children, including a weekly homework club.

**St Patrick's Day Outreach** - This year our Outreach worker and several students volunteered to help the PSNI & Community groups in their efforts to maintain peace in the Holyland area of Belfast..



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

#### Inter-Chaplaincy Outreach

**Regular meetings with other chaplains and chaplaincies** at Queen's, Stranmillis and Ulster University. Ulster University works on a model of ecumenical chaplaincy, in which the chaplains comprise one team who share in every ministry. This includes the free chaplaincy lunch and other outreach activities.

At Queen's and Stranmillis, the chaplains and chaplaincies, while separate teams, often get to work together on events, worship and outreach activities. This is borne out of good friendships and working relationships. These activities include:

- **Ecumenical Carol Service** co-organised and co-hosted on an annual basis.
- **'Toasties and Tunes'** (see outreach activities) This is in conjunction with the Presbyterian chaplaincy and Queen's Christian Union.
- **Queen's University Staff Prayer**, hosted in the Presbyterian Chaplaincy once a month but with regular teaching input by the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincystaff

#### University Interaction

'Toasties and Tunes' – as well as student engagement, we aim to support and engage with the work of the Residential team at Elms, with whom we have come to build good relationships.

The chaplain has attended Student Support Forum Meetings, 2 Public Lectures, has Regular contact with the Student Guidance Centre, the Public Engagement Team, the Student Support Forum, and Eventus.

She has also been involved in and attended Summer and Winter Graduations. An often unseen area of the chaplain's work is the Pastoral Care of staff with several university staff requesting one-to-one pastoral meetings with the chaplain

#### Ulster University Belfast

The second year in the new Belfast campus was a more settled time for the UU Belfast Chaplaincy team. The **Chaplaincy lounge** on campus was officially opened and students and staff began to visit again - some to hang out between classes, some specifically to chat to a chaplain and others to attend Chaplaincy, CU and other well-being events hosted in this space. During the exam months of January and May, coffee, biscuits and prayer are available every day.

In semester two, the chaplains were also finally given a **Chaplaincy Office**, just down the corridor from the Lounge so that has also been fantastic for letting us have a private space for meetings, planning, consultations and somewhere to store resources.

It is a privilege and blessing to have these spaces on campus and students and staff particularly think the Lounge, a lovely space to come and just "BE" in which of course gives us many opportunities to chat and minister to all who come through the door. The guitars and board games are always out and the Prayer Wall always shows some new request. For this reason, the team try to maintain a presence here as much as possible ensuring that there is always fresh coffee on the brew and the "everyone's welcome" vibe maintained.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

The chaplains have had a busy year not only running events in the Chaplaincy but **out and about** on campus too. The Freshers and Re:Freshers weeks at the start of each semester bring lots of opportunities to meet new students and staff and share publicity for our services and activities.

As a **Student Wellbeing service**, we attended many induction talks and visited the various campus networks and UU student residences at the start of year to talk about the Chaplaincy services. Following on from this, we received several referrals and emergency calls to assist both students and staff with various pastoral situations throughout the year and sadly attended and participated in a few funeral services also.

The Methodist and Church of Ireland Chaplain is also on the rota for manning the weekly drop-in service for students as part of the *Well-being Wednesdays* campaign which runs across all the UU campuses. We are told that the Belfast campus one, is the most frequented due to our famous Chaplaincy Hot Chocolate!

In December, we re-launched the annual **ecumenical Chaplaincy Carol Service** with participation from students and staff. This event used to be held annually in Jordanstown Assembly Hall but when we first moved to the new campus, it was replaced with a new, *Christmas Lights Switch On* event. Recognising that there was still a place for an additional event to share the Christmas of the gospels, we asked St Anne's Cathedral to let us host there with the support of the Dean, the Musical Director and a thoughtful reflection from Rev Cameron Mack. Feedback showed that the university community were pleased to see this event reinstated and we hope to repeat this next year in the local R.C church where the Catholic chaplain has connections. It is also important for us at Christmas time to encourage students and staff to give what they can to help those who are finding Christmas time difficult. This year, donations from the Carol service were split between the Cathedral's Black Santa Appeal and the UUSU Student Hardship Fund. A small group of local and international students also spent two days volunteering to pack food hampers and prepare toys for East Belfast Mission's Annual Neighbours in Need Appeal.

In January UUB Chaplaincy in **partnership with the 4 Corners Festival** Belfast hosted another fantastic event in the university for 50 sixth year pupils from different parts of the city. Sue Divin, a local Young Adult author and peace activist inspired and guided us through the creative process of writing short stories of hope for our shared city of Belfast. Some of the stories / poems were later published and used in other Festival events.

During the Freshers' periods and prior to and following the St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Methodist and Church of Ireland Chaplain is part of the university's **Holylands' Student Safety team**. Organised by the UU Community Relations Officer, this team of university staff work in partnership with PSNI, Belfast City Council, Holylands' Landlords' Association and SOS Bus to maintain a pastoral presence on the streets and local area during peak party times when student anti-social behaviour increases. Following SPD, the Chaplain made several pastoral visits to students living in this area.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND AND METHODIST CHAPLAINCY BELFAST COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)

### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### Achievements And Performance (*continued*)

During this academic year the **weekly activities** in the Chaplaincy featured around:

##### Mondays:

Prayer Lunches hosted by the Chaplaincy and CU Prayer Team, an opportunity for students and staff to come eat lunch together and pray for the university community.

##### Tuesdays:

Chaplaincy Free Lunch for students and staff in St Anne's Cathedral Hall (Talbot Street) – a larger event for students and staff to come together for fellowship and food.

##### Wednesdays:

10.30am: International Coffee and Chat – a special drop-in session for overseas students

12.30-2pm: Chaplaincy "Time to Think" – weekly small group sessions exploring life and faith together. Began in Semester One with The Difference Course and continued with small group discussions, seminars and bible studies around various topics.

7pm: Weekly I-café Christian hospitality event, meals, outings, social activities hosted by local students for international students. Supported by Chaplaincy and Friends International

##### Thursdays:

5pm – Chaplaincy / CU teatimes – invitation to students waiting around on campus for the evening CU meeting to meet in Chaplaincy lounge for tea together.

7pm - CU – main meeting in Lecture Theatre 1 on campus followed by prayer in Chaplaincy prior to Cathedral Quarter outreach.

10.30pm –Worship 101 – late night worship event for students from across the city – held in The Hub Chaplaincy space on Elmwood Avenue.

##### Fridays:

10.00am – Chaplain's meeting

12noon – Chaplaincy Grief Share groups

##### Saturdays:

Saturday Danders – Chaplaincy small group walks for students living in Belfast who wish to get off campus and enjoy the beauty of God's creation on Saturday mornings.

Throughout **Lent** we invited students and staff to attend the Lenten Wednesday events in St Anne's Cathedral and the Holy Week Film nights in the Belfast Jesuit Centre. We also took a small group of students to The Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle for a one-day retreat to conclude and reflect upon the year that had passed.

Following the summer exam period, the chaplain attended the **European University Chaplains' conference**, CEUC 24 in Denmark. Joining with about 90 other chaplains from various parts of Europe including Ireland and the UK. This again was a great opportunity for further specialist training, fellowship and reflection on another busy year in Chaplaincy.

The year finished with the summer graduations which like the winter ones are always a lovely time of celebration for the whole university community. As is our tradition, a Chaplaincy meal / party was held for students who for whatever reason had no family or friends able to attend with them.

In a busy university community, no two days are ever the same and each new day we find ourselves chatting and listening to all different kinds of people with all different kinds of stories and situations. Whilst we celebrate with some, we cry with others, as we share faith or pray with some, we just sit with and listen to others. As we look to God to lead us to the people and situations who need our love and support the most, we thank you for your continuous support through prayer.