

Liberty Church Mid-Ulster
Company limited by guarantee

The Directors are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 (note, the comparative period figures relate to the four month period ended 31st March 2023, for this reason they are not directly comparable). This report has also been prepared to meet with the requirements for a directors report and accounts for the purposes of the Companies Act.

The Directors who served during the year were as follows:

Mr David Adair
Mr Paul Harper

Mrs Helen Hart
Mr Jason Shiels

The directors meet regularly to discuss the broad strategy of the charity to include areas of activity for the charity, assessment of reserves and risk management. The day-to-day administration of the charity is delegated to Mr Jason Shiels (Director).

Risk Management

The Directors actively review any major risks, which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the incoming year. The Directors have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the most significant risks.

Objectives of Liberty Church Mid-Ulster

The church is established and has a primary area of benefit in Mid-Ulster for:

a) the promotion of the Christian faith b) to relieve sickness, poverty, hunger, hardship and promote well-being c) to further Christian education d) partnership for the common good in society e) any other exclusively charitable purposes

Activities, meeting objectives and public benefit

The Directors have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's Public benefit requirements, as demonstrated through the following overview of the years activities:

This report provides an overview of the work of Liberty Church Mid-Ulster for the year ended 31st March 2024.

This is the second annual report for Liberty Church Mid-Ulster.

Charitable Activities and Impact Report

This period has seen considerable success in meeting the aims and objectives of the charity.

-Promotion of the Christian faith - Church meetings have included *Sunday services* – morning and (monthly) evening services, *Life-groups* to build community, discipleship and study the Word of God. There have also been regular *prayer meetings*, *courses*, *training times* and special events involving visiting speakers. We have had various *outreach programs*. These met the aims of the church.

-Promotion of the alleviation of hardship, distress, poverty – Liberty Foodbank continues to meet food poverty needs in the community. Our bank of *referral partners* is as strong as ever, and indeed, is expanding. This is a key marker of the growing footprint in how the church is helping to meet food poverty needs in Mid-Ulster. We continue to deliver parcels where needed. However, we

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

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are transitioning to higher percentage of recipients who now collect their food parcels from the building. During the year, approximately 62 people are being served weekly by around 20 food parcels per week from Liberty Foodbank. The growth in parcel collection at our base also further enhances our effectiveness in sign-posting people to our other services and indeed to broader community wide services. In this regard, we have a very 'joined up' approach to connecting people into community benefiting services. We are grateful to donors for supporting the Foodbank, including Asda grant award, Foodshare, and of course the supermarkets. We are also very grateful for local churches and individuals who give generously towards the Foodbank during the year. Foodbank Co-ordinator Gillian Brown and her team of hard-working volunteers are to be commended for their tireless work on behalf of food poverty.

-Liberty Counselling service: has developed and expanded in reach and volume of clients over the period under review. This service has had a very significant impact during the year with several hundred hours of counselling being conducted to help those with a range of mental and emotional health issues. Ali Shiels, lead counsellor, has expertise with trauma and has helped clients with 'Troubles' trauma, domestic violence, and sexual abuse, among many other areas of distress.

-Safe Families and Home for Good – we have had speakers from these charities to Liberty in the past year and have promoted their work. There are now volunteers associated with each of these charities from members of Liberty and we couldn't be happier about that because their work and vision are amazing.

-We have had very successful **mental health support groups** for ladies using *crafts* as the common interest and facilitated mental health support. Jeanette Logan has done a great job with these, along with Tracey Carson. We have **Befriending community support** and have seen how this links in well with our other services, especially the Foodbank, in alleviating distress – especially *loneliness and isolation*. All of these met the aims of the church.

-Promotion of education (and training) – we are a faith-based charity that also has valued a *holistic perspective* and approach on the well-being of people in our community – body, soul, and spirit. We promote training and education times around understanding of the Christian Gospel and Biblical worldview but also how *varied types of education* are valuable for the community. We have had **seminars** open to the public on health related topics. These seminars were well-attended and great feedback was given to the facilitators.

-We have a **weekly group for children** aged 4-11 years known as 'King's Kids'. These are fun times for children that incorporate games, singing, crafts, Bible teaching and discussion *applied to the lives of the children* along with fun trips and outings. All of these met the aims of the church.

-Ladies' nights were also held giving **talks on various topics relevant to women**.

-Training was given on sound and media during the year with an enthusiastic group of volunteers in this service.

-Training on leadership and volunteering was given to our volunteers.

-Training took place on pastoral prayer ministry with Kairos Trust in Belfast. We now have a trained prayer ministry team operating weekly.

-Financial Support – we would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of Delmarva Education £11,087 (2023: £4,773) and Drop Inn Ministries £11,900 (2023: £2,500).

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Financial Overview:

The Financial Statements are presented in the standard format required by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2015 and in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Statement of Financial Activities on page 9 shows the gross income from all sources.

Total Incoming Resources £ 120,163 (2023; £30,096)
Total Resources Expended £ 116,025 (2023; £34,903)
Surplus/ (Deficit) for year £ 4,138 (2023; £(4,807))

No funds held by the charity were in deficit either during the year or at the year end.

Registration Details:

Registered Northern Ireland Charity No: NIC109066
Registered Limited Company No: NI684479
Company Registered in Northern Ireland

Statement of directors responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors 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 company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

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

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

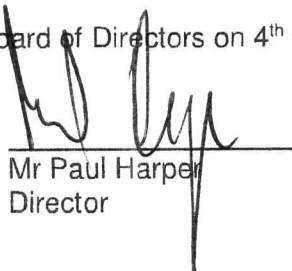
Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 4th October 2024, and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Helen Hart
Director



Mr Paul Harper
Director

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