

**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 2025. 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 2025.

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.

Directors report – 2024-25

Charitable Activities and Impact Report

The following is an overview of the ways in which the activities of the church meet the aims and objectives of the charity.

Church meetings – During the year the church has continued to meet every Sunday for worship at 11am and monthly with an evening meeting. Since the end of the financial year being reported on, we have not been having an evening service. The purpose of public meetings is to promote the Christian faith in the congregation and community (through evangelism, teaching, and discipleship) and to develop the church body along with the associated activities of the church body, and to

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educate members and the public on the teachings of the Bible. Our vision is derived from our doctrinal statements found in the meta-narrative of Scripture and the specific commands of Jesus Christ.

Life Groups – Life Groups met in different homes and areas for the purpose of fellowship, prayer, Bible study, support and spiritual growth. We encourage the groups to practise the teachings and the 'one another's' of Scripture to grow as a maturing local body of believers. We also encourage the Life Group members to be missional.

Prayer – we have regular prayer meetings at Liberty and believe that our value on prayer is a measure of our dependence on the Lord.

Prayer ministry – this impactful ministry has been offered for those requesting ministry after meetings or when requested.

King's Kids – we are so thankful for those who have volunteered their time this year to serve in our vibrant King's Kids *children's program* for ages 4-11 years on a Sunday morning. Tracey Carson has taken on the co-ordination of this ministry. Her enthusiasm and vision for the work are deeply appreciated and so beneficial for the children. The children are taught Scripture and what this means. They sing together, make crafts and talk about how faith meets life.

'Parent and child rooms' – we have two comfortable rooms upstairs for parents with small children who can watch the preach through video-link if they need to leave the main meeting area, while allowing for a space for toddlers and infants to play and interact.

Refreshments team – a big thanks to all the volunteers who have served us tea/coffee and treats throughout the year. This is always done with excellence and a smile! Thanks to Cherith Deacon who is co-ordinating this rota.

Hospitality team – thanks to all who have helped during the year with hospitality and hosting of events.

'Christianity Explored' course – a *Christianity Explored* course was run at Liberty during the year and was excellently led by Rachel Lawrence and her team. Thanks to those on team and to those who attended.

'REACH' – Liberty has been connected to a churches-together initiative in the Cookstown area.

Liberty Foodbank – alleviating food poverty:

- One of the main aims of the church is to alleviate hardship, poverty and distress within the Mid-Ulster community.
- Liberty Foodbank began in 2021 and continues to provide weekly support to many individuals and families who are struggling to put food on their table during times of crisis.
- Our staff and volunteers are to be commended for their excellence, care and resilience in delivering a caring and professionally run service that is a lifeline for service users.
- The *roles* that make Liberty Foodbank work so effectively include: Supermarket donation collections, packing donations in our store, arranging and packing boxes for clients, data collection and retention, maintaining environmental health standards, trips to the recycling centre, referral partner communications, record keeping, Fareshare ordering and deliveries, collection hosting times, deliveries for those who are unable to collect, liaising and working

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with referral partners and donors, and much more. Most of those involved are volunteers and in so many ways are unsung heroes of our community. This has become a significant service in our community and has latterly been recognised through *Hardship fund* awards from MUDC (2024-25, £4,000). We are grateful for their support and for that of community champion Janice Gibson (Asda community champion) and Asda Foundation. We would also like to recognise the generous support of other local churches, especially in Harvest season, and the public at manned food collections at Asda.

Liberty Café – a place to connect:

-*Liberty Café* happens weekly on a Wednesday between *September and June* between 10am and 2pm. We have a team of dedicated volunteers who open the doors offering high quality barista coffee and exquisite treats in a warm and welcoming environment. The popular café has both regulars and newcomers welcomed and served in an *inclusive* environment. The café is particularly effective in providing a sense of connection and community that diminishes loneliness and isolation. Some who could be regarded as being in vulnerable situations frequent the Café.

Hire of facilities – Liberty premises in the centre of Cookstown provides an affordable option for *community groups and organisations* to host their meetings.

‘Home for good’ - Liberty continued to highlight the work of ‘Home for Good’ during the year. They work with fostering and adoption in NI.

Counselling services – Liberty offers quality **counselling** sessions towards alleviation of mental and emotional health struggles in our community. Information and bookings can be made via phone, email or the booking platform on the church’s website. Many testimonials are available of the significant help this has brought to service users.

Partnership – *Liberty Church Mid-Ulster* works in partnership with other churches and organisations where there is a strong sense of relational connection, shared philosophy of ministry and beliefs.

- During the year a strong partnership was established with *Watoto ministries* (Uganda) and their UK Director Andrew White. We hosted the Watoto children’s choir who were amazing! Part of the thrill was to be able to facilitate numerous new *child sponsorships* and raise money on the night for the work of Watoto.
- Partnership is truly in the DNA of Liberty, and it is hoped that more teams will travel from and to Liberty for the purpose of partnership for the Kingdom of God in various ventures. Jason and Ali Shiels have continued to spearhead these efforts again in the last year - encouraging and strengthening other churches both near and far. The Shiels also hosted and led an event for Pastors in March 2025 in Northern Ireland. Jason ordained a new Lead Pastor at Kingsgate church in Kingston in November 2024. These are just a few examples of *partnership with mission in mind*.
- We have also continued to *seek out and receive* input and consultation in partnership during the year from gifted external ministry partners.
- Jason hosts a group of local ministers for monthly prayer at Liberty premises.

Signposting and referral partners – one key element of our philosophy of ministry is *signposting*. This happens through building relationships of trust and understanding with other

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agencies, churches, and organisations over time. Liberty is now well established in Cookstown. We are pleased to say that we have a range of referral partners to our public benefitting services. We are equally pleased to say that we *also* refer people we have contact and relationship with to *other local services* which are best positioned to assist and meet needs.

-One example of this is that we refer some of our Foodbank service users to the *Social Supermarket scheme* facilitated by *STEP*, within the MU area. This is an example of groups working together for public benefit and offering 'wrap around service' to the community.

Education and training – Bible classes and courses, mental health seminars, and volunteer training. The ministry of the *Word* has been taught and studied in various forums and applied to various facets of life.

Young Adults – this ministry has developed well over the past year and has been a source of connection and spiritual encouragement to those involved.

Ladies ministry – events and meetings for ladies have been an important part of the church since it began in 2014 and in the past year too.

Ali Shiels and a team of ladies now lead the new Liberty lady's ministry called '*Wholehearted*'.

Media and Sound team – a big thanks to all involved in this important work over the past year. Opportunity exists for new volunteers for sound, audio-visuals, video, and social media.

Worship team – we have a team of musicians who serve us so well through song, music and the creative arts.

Fundraising for mission – we are deeply grateful for the donations for mission during this financial year. This included donations for a 'Nepal fundraiser'. Most of the outgoing expenditure from the latter fundraiser were spent after the end of the financial year and will be seen in next year's report.

A word of thanks...

We would like to thank Gillian Brown for her hard work on staff as a part-time Administrator at *Liberty Church Mid-Ulster*. Gillian's employment at the church ended in February 2025. We wish Gillian well in her future endeavours.

We would also like to *recognise and* thank ***all*** volunteers / leaders who gave of their time and service in the past year, *including those* who are no longer involved in these roles.

We would also like to acknowledge and offer thanks for the generous donations by Dropinn Ministries £7,700 (2024; £11,900), Delmarva Foundation £10,913 (2024; £11,087) during the year to help facilitate our public benefitting vision and activities.

Financial Overview:

The Financial Accounts are presented to the Church annually at the Family Meeting by David Adair, Director and Treasurer, with an opportunity for any members of Liberty to ask questions and receive answers on all aspects of Liberty's accounts. Copies of accounts are also made available for members at this meeting. This is in line with the value and ethos of all Directors to be both accountable for, and transparent in all aspects of Liberty Finances

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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 £ 96,790 (2024; £ 120,163)
Total Resources Expended £102,455 (2024; £ 116,025)
(Deficit)/ Surplus for year £(5,655) (2024; £ 4,138)

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:

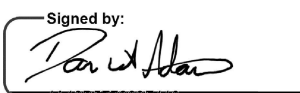
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.


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 14th November 2025, and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

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Mr David Adair
Director/ Treasurer

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Mr Paul Harper
Director

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