

Example Trustees Annual Report

THE ANYWHERE CHURCH TRUST

Example Trustees report

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THE ANYWHERE CHURCH TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

OBJECTS

The primary aims of the Trust are to fulfil the role of a Christian Church in the Anywhere area and to provide help to others in promoting the Christian faith in the United Kingdom and overseas.

THE CHURCH: ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Church is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they lived. The Anywhere Church; its trustees, elders and members are committed to the restoration of those New Testament principles. It is not alone in this, it is one of many Churches in the area, country and all over the world that is re-discovering the excitement of knowing Jesus Christ. The vision is to see the people of Anywhere come into this experience of knowing Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and friend.

The Anywhere Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and has a long standing relationship with "....."; a Christian organisation that pursues similar objectives in the UK and overseas. The church works with in assisting other churches and receives voluntary help itself where needed. During the year, grants have been made (see note 8) to help the objectives which can best be done on a larger scale than the Anywhere Church could do independently.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the Trustees in consultation with the Elders, who are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church. Day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the staff and volunteers in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees. The powers of appointment or removal of Trustees rests with the Trustees. New Trustees are primarily selected from the members of the church or from the leaders of other local churches sharing the same vision, since this means the Trustee body is whole heartedly involved in seeing the mission of the church worked out in practice. On being appointed new Trustees spend time with the existing Trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

Whilst the church does employ 5 staff it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that will make the difference in the church achieving its great commission. This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in administration. The financial resources of the church, to a very large extent, are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

THE ANYWHERE CHURCH TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011 (cont)

THE YEAR: ITS OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year ended 31 March 2011 the main ways the church sought to achieve the calling of Christ upon it and its charitable purposes for the public benefit have been as follows:

- Fulfilling the objects in teaching, preaching and showing practical care in the community. This was both in the normal teaching in the church on Sunday, which are open to all, and midweek meetings for the church members and also by running specific courses to address particular aspects of Christian living which is open to the wider community; all of which are provided without charge. The aims of the teaching, preaching and discipleship programs include the impact upon lifestyle arising from following the teaching of Christ to love God and your neighbour as yourself. Sunday meetings averaged around 200, with most of those involved in mid week meetings through the year. In addition approximately 75 members of the community attended other courses over the year.
- Bringing the love of Christ to the community in running courses for those who wanted to find out about Christianity. Three Alpha courses were run during the year with 30 people undertaking the course, with the normal impact in changed lives and attitudes for those that were involved. In addition 12 adults and 6 teenagers were baptised in the year.
- Impacting the next generation. The financial position of the church having been increased last year it enabled the church to increase its investment in staff; particularly in employing a full time youth worker and part time schools worker. Alongside volunteer members of the church they have taught in 3 schools, run assemblies in 15 others, been involved in 2 youth groups and a children's holiday club to teach health and social skills, have fun and bring the love of God to the community. The objective was to bring some aspect of the love and wisdom of God to 1,000 children during the year. We estimate that approximately 800 were reached.
- Practical help to the community. The 'Mothers in Need' project was started involving providing practical help to 5 single mothers in parenting, special needs assistance, domestic practical help and, above all, time to be there. This was entirely undertaken by volunteers.
- Planting new churches. The objective has been for a number of years to plant a new church in The initial steps were taken by some members of the church moving to the town to join those meeting on Sundays.
- Bringing support to churches working elsewhere both in the United Kingdom and overseas. This support has primarily been through building personal relationship with a number of overseas churches in Mexico, Zimbabwe, the USA, Albania, Romania, New Zealand and France and then providing practical and financial assistance. No specific objectives were set in this regard but as a result of response to immediate needs £17,000 has been contributed directly to these ends.
- The members of the church have consistently been applying the principles of church life outlined in the New Testament outlined earlier to be 'salt and light' in the community, in the places they live and work and in having an impact on social attitudes in wider national society. This is a very major part of the purpose of the church and much of it is done without publicity and the amount of time spent in this way cannot be quantified.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in December 2008.

PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The key strategies for the church are to remain the same. The elders and trustees have not set specific objectives for the coming year in quantitative terms, although the level of schools work will reduce with one part time member of staff leaving employment for maternity reasons.

The church plant in will result in approximately 20 people meeting separately and additional time being spent in that community. The church will also start to investigate other ways to assist the poorer sections of the community, both in the financial sense of the word but also in others. It is not clear yet how that may be outworked.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial reserves of the Church have been strengthened during the year as members have continued to give very generously enabling a sizeable 'surplus' of income over that budgeted.

The Trustees have set a policy of retaining reserves sufficient for the foreseeable needs of the Church. Where there is specific capital expenditure foreseen amounts are set aside into designated funds so the free reserves (general reserves excluding amounts invested in assets for the churches use) are available to meet the costs of normal running and expansion of the Church and to ensure the Church can meet the commitments that have been entered into. The level of free reserves are not set as a specific formula, but are anticipated to be between three and twelve months of the level of fixed expenditure (approximately £190,000 pa) over committed income (approximately £100,000 pa). At the year end the level was approximately £77,000 which is at top end of that range. During 2011/12 this will be reviewed to determine if surplus funds have been generated and what action will be undertaken to use these.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives. There are no upper or lower limits of support.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All major insurable risks are subject to normal Churches and employers' insurance. Contractual risks are reviewed before being entered into to assess that they could not significantly impact upon the Churches ability to fulfil its objectives. An annual review of areas of risk is undertaken by the Trustees in conjunction with staff and volunteers responsible for the area of activity.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the profit and loss of the Charity for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Acts. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and those of the Charity's trust deed.

**Approved by the Board of Trustees on:
and signed on its behalf by:**

Bringing the love of Christ to the community.