

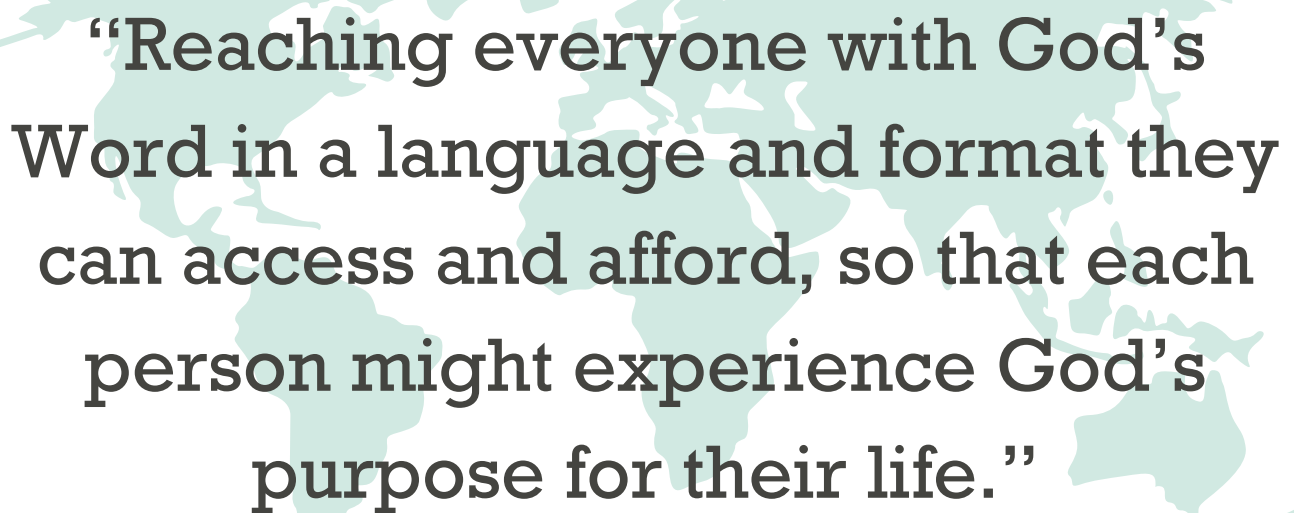
# BIBLE SOCIETY NORTHERN IRELAND

MINISTRY REPORT 2020



BIBLE SOCIETY  
NORTHERN IRELAND





**“Reaching everyone with God’s Word in a language and format they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God’s purpose for their life.”**



# MISSION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITY 2020

BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

## CONTENTS

- 4 Our Mission
- 5 Our support
- 6 Keeping You Informed
- 7 Partnerships
- 8 Global Partners
- 9 Best Practice
- 10 Using BSNI Funds
- 11 Managing Bible Society NI
- 12 Contacts



# OUR MISSION

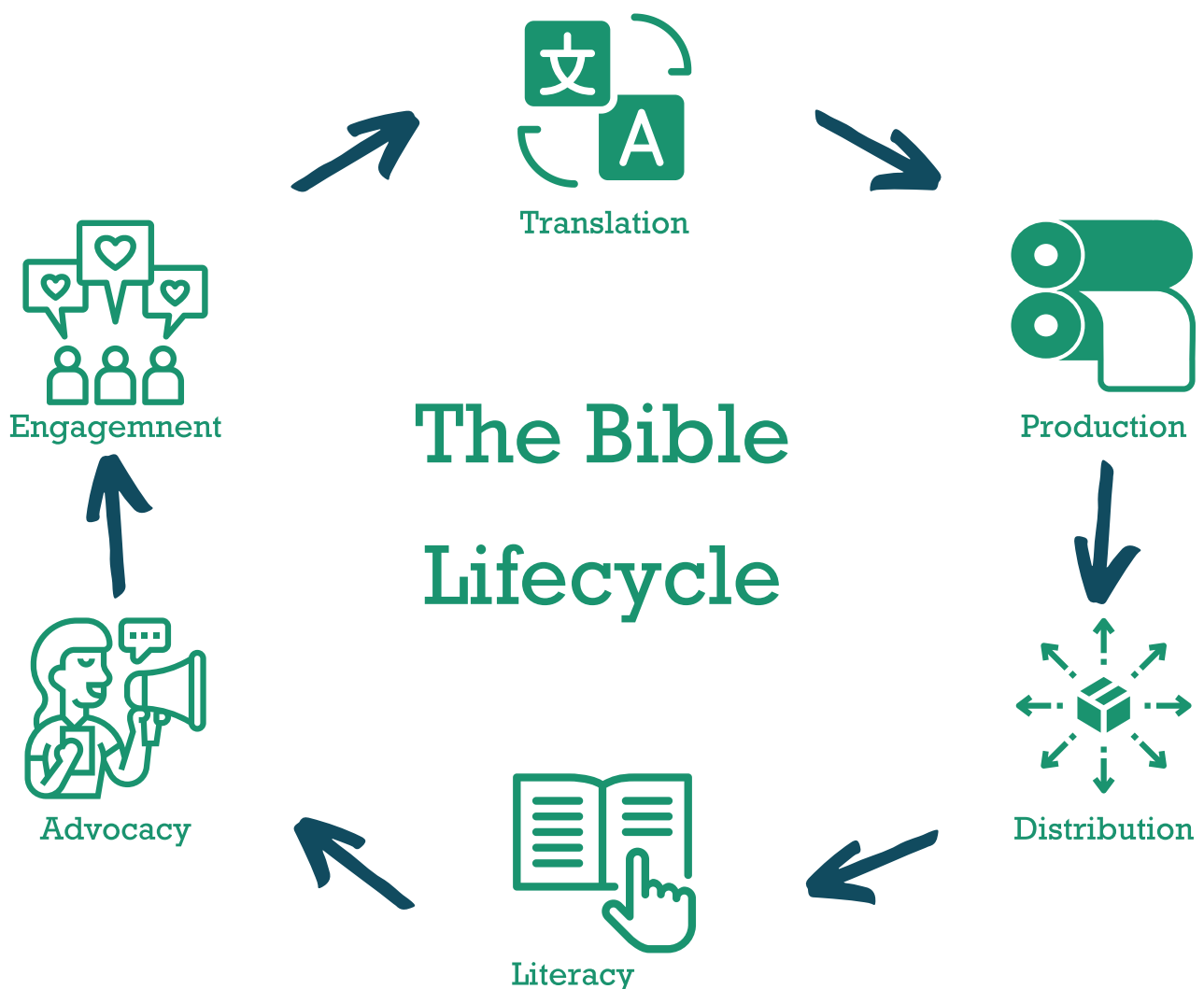
Our mission is **“to reach everyone with God’s word in a language and format they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God’s purpose for their life.”**

We are one of over 150 Bible Societies worldwide who form part of the United Bible Societies global fellowship. We raise both prayer and financial support for other Bible Societies around the world. The projects the Bible Society NI supports include all aspects of the Bible Lifecycle: **Translation, Publication, Distribution, Literacy work, Engagement and Advocacy.**

We also support Bible projects here in Northern Ireland, helping people here engage more with God’s Word.

Over the course of 2020, we supported 47 projects across 40 countries.

We also supported the emergency Global Solidary Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund helped Bible Societies across the world as they struggled to make ends meet.





# WHERE OUR SUPPORT COMES FROM

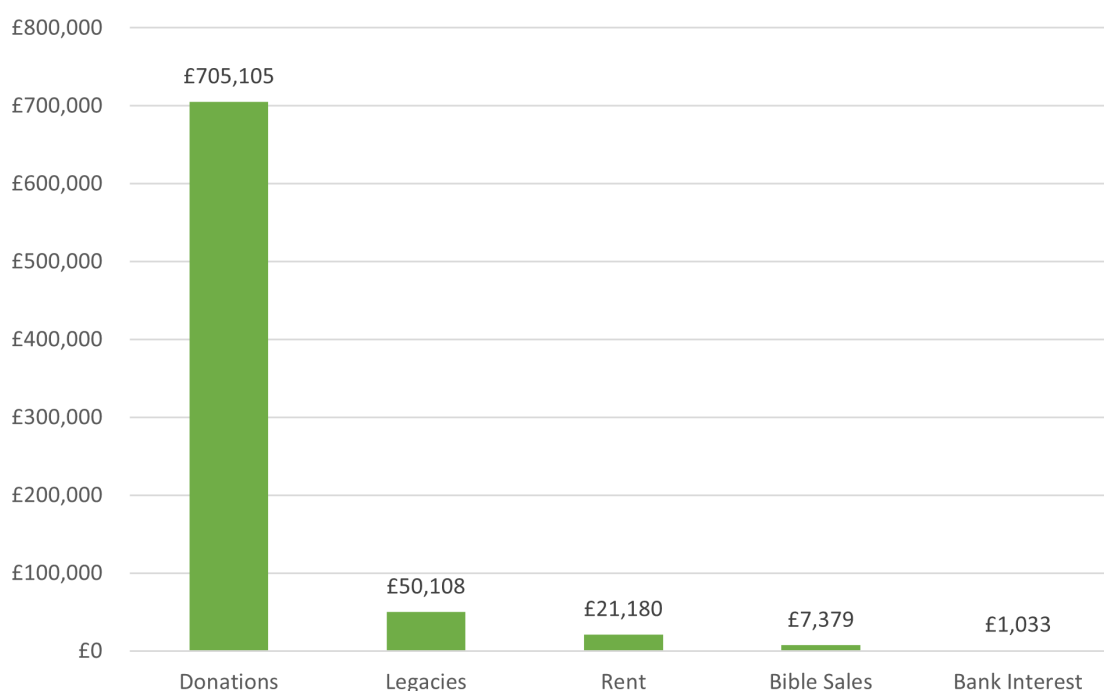
During the year a range of projects were presented to supporters through our Word at Work magazine, Direct Mail letters, Greatest Gift alternative Christmas present catalogue, our Bible-a-Month Calendar and Bible Twinning.

This year was tough, as of March 2020 we had very few in person deputations. However, we were so blessed that individuals and churches still sent us their generous support.

**We are so grateful for the many individuals, groups and churches that support our work.**



Where Our Support Comes From



# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**We love sharing with our supporters about how God is working around the world.**

One of our main channels of communication with our supporters is through our magazine, Word at Work, which comes out in January, May and September. Word at Work includes stories from various projects, updates from our colleagues around the world, resources and prayer points. We hope that the stories we include encourages those who read it and moves them to pray for Bible work around the globe.

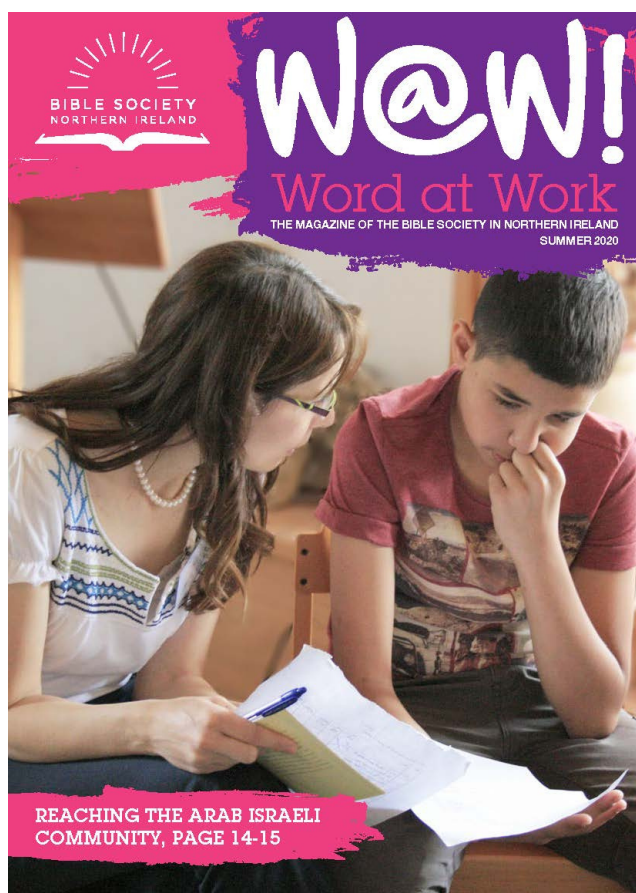
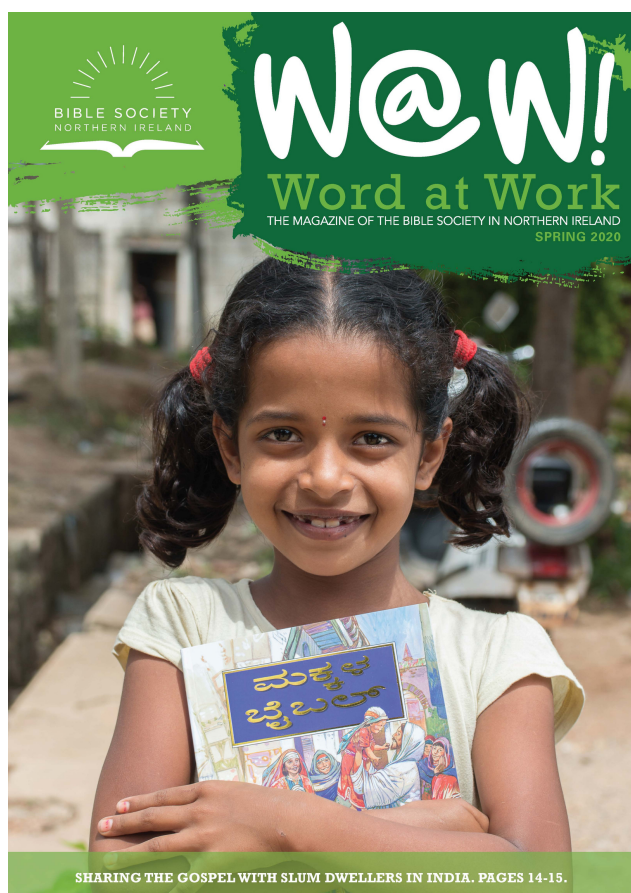
In 2020 we relied a lot on technology to communicate our work. Despite not being able to attend deputations in

person we were able to produce video materials and attend Zoom meetings to share about Bible projects. Social media and our website were very important when it came to emergency appeals, such as the Solidarity Fund and the Beirut Explosion appeal. We have also been sharing about some of the fantastic resources we have available to promote Bible engagement in Northern Ireland.

To keep up to date with Bible Society NI news, check out our website, or follow us on social media.



@biblesocietyni





# LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Whilst the unprecedented circumstances of 2020 resulted in changes to our approach we were able to continue to develop and strengthen new and existing partnerships, particularly online. Such partnerships provided us with many new opportunities to raise awareness, promote our work, increase Bible engagement within the Church, Para-Church and wider society in Northern Ireland and ultimately have a greater impact in our mission to reach everyone with God's Word.

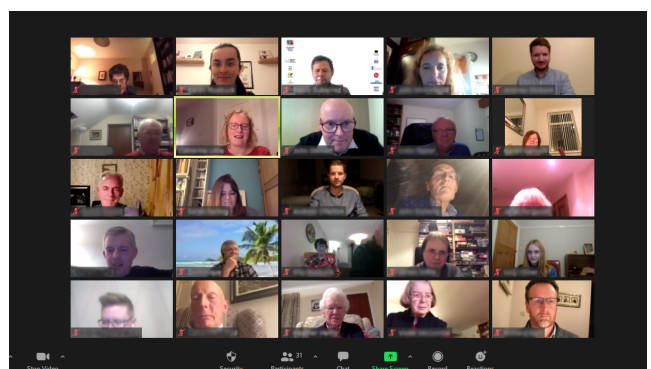
- Deputations in churches and online from a range of denominations.
- Youth leader training sessions and youth fellowship sessions were delivered.
- Development of Bible engagement resources – Woven, Holy Week Devotional; SOAP Bible Study books; and A Thrill of Hope Advent Devotional – used by hundreds of people across Northern Ireland.
- Regular contact and support provided to churches participating in Bible 2020 and The Bible Course.
- We continue to play an active part in the Association of Mission Societies and Mission Action Partnership (MAP), where Andrew has involvement with the Conferences and Festivals Team.
- We strengthened our involvement with Bangor Worldwide, facilitating Bible engagement within the 20/30s events.

- Throughout the year we hosted online prayer meetings and in November 2020 gathered virtually for our Bible Society NI Gathering.

Within this we also maintained close links with our neighbour Bible Societies, by hosting and attending meetings on both strategic and operational levels with senior leaders from the National Bible Society of Ireland, Scottish Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society.



Throughout 2020, we held monthly Zoom Prayer meetings.



The Gathering Online, our annual supporters' event.



In 2020, we were able to help small groups facilitate the Bible Course online.

# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

During 2020 we continued to be committed to supporting Bible Mission and the full life cycle of the Bible (Translation, Printing, Distribution, Literacy, Engagement and Advocacy) through our support of our Bible Society colleagues around the world in the United Bible Societies (UBS) Fellowship.

We supported 47 projects in 40 countries. As we reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic we were very aware of our colleagues experiencing much tougher situations. In response, UBS launched the 'Solidarity Fund' to support those Bible Societies facing challenges beyond their means, we put this request to our supporters who responded in unprecedented levels to the needs of our global colleagues.

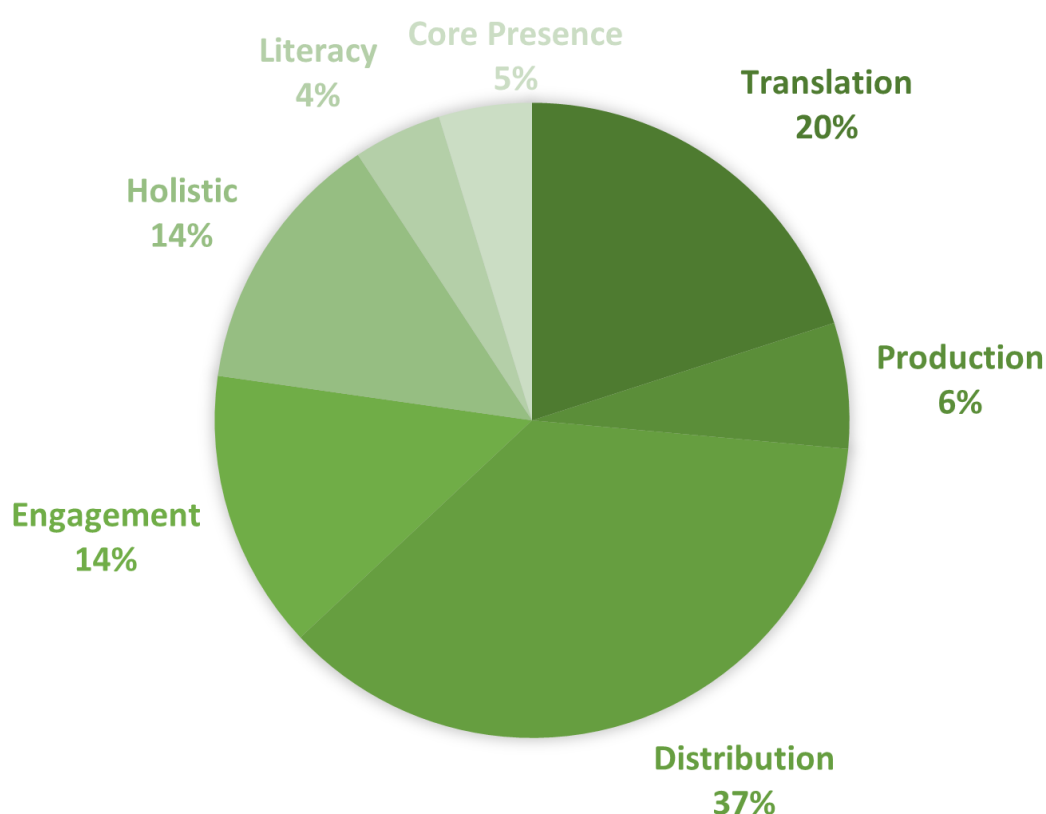
In a year when travel and face to face meetings largely did not happen, we have

found greater connection as a team with our global colleagues through Zoom and other online platforms. All the team here in Northern Ireland participate in regional and global prayer events and have been able to meet colleagues for project updates regularly. Life online has also facilitated more interaction for our Board of Trustees with our global colleagues.

Our annual supporters event, 'The Gathering', took place on Zoom in November and had participation from Peru, Egypt, the Gulf and England.

In what has been a challenging year for our global fellowship we have seen colleagues fully embrace the opportunities presented to them to further reach out with God's Word.

## PROJECTS FUNDED BY THEME





# BEST PRACTICE

We are committed to operating in an efficient, effective and streamlined way by following best practice guidelines for charity management.

We have continued to comply with the regulations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and have continued to comply with data protection regulations following the General Data Protection Regulations implementation in May 2018.

We have developed a Risk Register for the Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

During 2020, Trustees met as a full Board on 4 occasions; the Finance Committee met on 5 occasions throughout 2020. Only one Board

meeting and one Finance committee were in person, the others happened on Zoom.



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

**The Charity  
Commission**  
for Northern Ireland



# USING BIBLE SOCIETY NI FUNDS

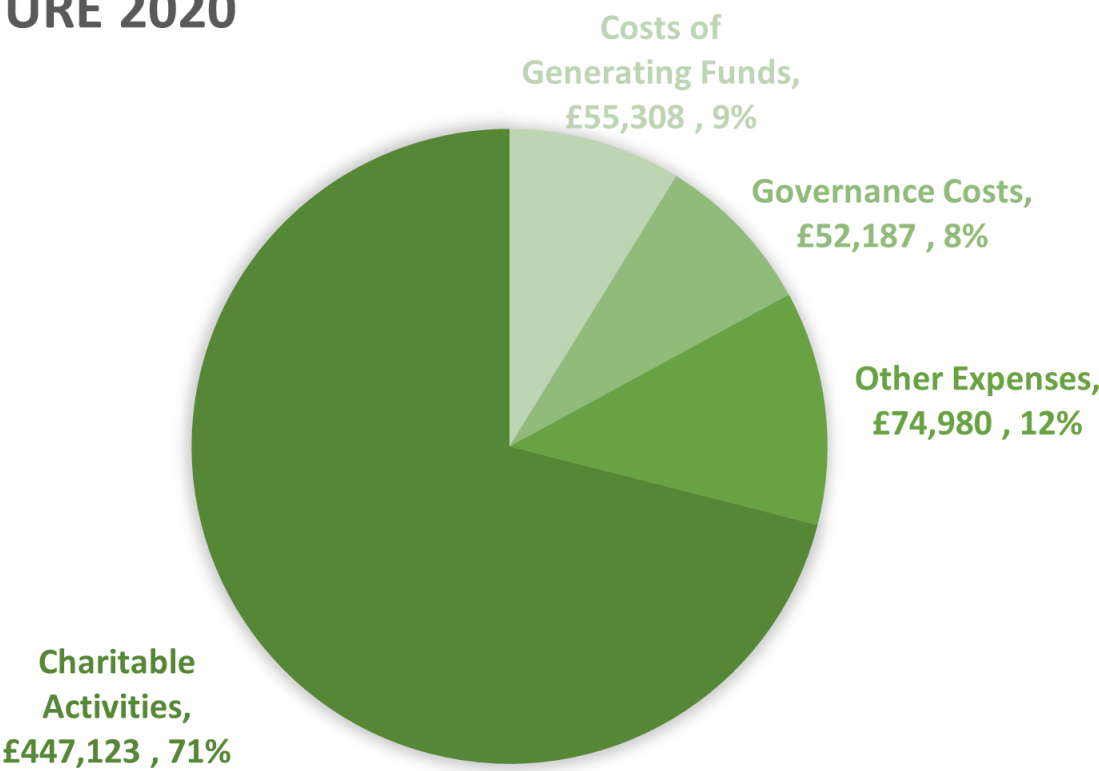
We have continued to support Bible Mission in our own context as well as globally through the United Bible Societies Fellowship in partnership with other Bible Societies.

## EXPENDITURE 2020:

- **Costs of Generating Funds –**  
Part of salaries, fundraising, printing, packing and postage expenses, advertising, investment management : **£55,308** (9%)
- **Governance Costs –**  
Part of salaries, Bible House costs, Bank and professional fees : **£52,187** (8%)

- **Other expenses –**  
Part of salaries, postage, travel and accommodation, IT, purchases of Scripture materials : **£79,980** (12%)
- **Charitable Activities –**  
Grants to Bible mission projects in 40 countries through the United Bible Societies as well as ministry in Northern Ireland : **£447,123** (71%)

## EXPENDITURE 2020





# MANAGING BIBLE SOCIETY NI

During 2020 we had some changes within the Board of Trustees.

## BIBLE SOCIETY NI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reverend Captain Colin Taylor, Vice Chair\*

Mr Tommy Stewart, Chair\*

Mr Alan Bridle (resigned 19 October 2020)\*

Mr James Diffin

Reverend Dario Leal

Miss Sarah Farling (appointed 9 March 2020)

Reverend Stephen Lowry

Mr Lawson McDonald (resigned 19 October 2020)\*

Reverend Karen Salmon (appointed 9 March 2020)

Mr John Stewart (appointed 9 March 2020)\*

Mrs Rachel Swift (appointed 19 October 2020)\*

Mrs Nicola Taylor\*

*\* Member of the Finance Committee*

## THE BIBLE SOCIETY NI STAFF TEAM:

*Left to right:*

**Office and Finance Manager -**

Campbell Moore

**Communications and Fundraising Manager -**

Keren Roebuck

**General Secretary -**

Catherine Little

**Community Partnerships Manager -**

Andrew Dickson



"Cast your burden on the  
Lord, and He will sustain  
you; He will never  
permit the righteous to  
be moved"

PSALM 55:22 (ESV)

### CONTACT:

Bible Society NI, 27 Howard Street, Belfast, BT1 6NB

**Email:** [info@biblesocietyni.co.uk](mailto:info@biblesocietyni.co.uk) **Tel:** 02890326577

**Website:** [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk)

**NI Charity Commission Number:** NIC102557

