



THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MAIN STREET  
BALLYCLARE  
(CHARITY NO. NIC101107)

Trustees Annual Statement 2022

We the trustees of the Old Presbyterian Church, Ballyclare are pleased to recommend that the details contained in the Secretary's Report for 2022 explains 'the main activities undertaken by the charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit' and 'the main achievements of the charity during the year'.

We also believe that the charity trustees have complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Commission under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (the public benefit requirement statutory guidance).

Jaqueline Crooks  
Signed

JACQUELINE CROOKS 12-3-23  
Printed Date

E. W. Laird  
Signed

EDWARD LAIRD 12-3-23  
Printed Date

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Date

*Enquires to:*

<b>Minister:</b> Rt. Rev. Colin Campbell, M.A., B.Phil. 9 Churchlands Grove, Ballycarry, Co. Antrim BT38 9BG. Tel: 028 93 37311	<b>Treasurer:</b> Dr. Trevor Forsythe 36 Carrickfergus Road Ballynure Ballyclare Co Antrim BT39 9PX Tel. 028 93354219	<b>Correspondence</b> Mrs Evelyn Meharg 134 Lower Ballyboley Road Ballyclare BT39 9UL Co Antrim BT39 9UL Tel: 028 9334 0433
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# **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF BALLYCLARE OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **Agenda**

- 1 Opening remarks – Chairman
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of AGM – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Adoption and Signature
- 4 Presentation of Reports -
  - a) Secretary's Report – E Meharg
  - b) Treasurer's Report and Women's Group, Financial Report – T Forsythe
  - c) Sunday School Report – C Warnock
- 5 Declaration of offices vacant and elections 2023 - 2024
- 6 Any other business
- 7 Signing of Accounts and Reports
- 8 Close of Meeting and Benediction.



# Minutes of AGM, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Ballyclare Presbyterian Church

Following a service of worship the AGM was held in the Meeting House, with The Rev Colin Campbell sitting in Chair.

No	Action	Responsible
1	Welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer. Thanked the Congregation for their support.	Rev C Campbell
2	Apologies -	Mr & Mrs R Laird
3	Minister read the Minutes of the AGM 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2021. Minutes were adopted and signed.	Proposed Mr T Forsythe Seconded Mrs C Warnock All agreed
4	Secretary's Report read, adopted and signed.	Proposed Mr E Laird Seconded Mr A Todd Agreed by the Congregation
5	<p>Treasurer's Report –</p> <p>The Treasurer's Report was audited by Tom Green for 2020 and 2021. Trevor Forsythe talked through four sections of the accounts and included the Women's Group finances. Trevor noted how fortunate we are to have healthy assets and noted with gratitude the bequest of £50k to the Church by Renee Kennedy.</p> <p>The Investments were down after the outbreak of the Ukrainian war.</p> <p>The Rev Campbell thanked Trevor for a comprehensive report and was very appreciative of all his hard work.</p>	<p>Proposed Mr A Laird</p> <p>Seconded Mrs J Crooks</p> <p>Agreed by the Congregation</p>
6	<p>The Sunday School Report was given by Mrs Cathy Warnock.</p> <p>Cathy advised that activity had been suspended until October due to Covid restrictions. She noted the retirement of Jennifer Forsythe from the Sunday School and thanked her for all her work with the children.</p>	<p>Proposed Mrs S Laird</p> <p>Seconded Mrs E Logan</p> <p>Congregation Agreed.</p>



	<p>There were no Child Protection issues.</p> <p>There was a balance of £552.03 on the Sunday School accounts.</p> <p>The Minister thanked Mrs Cathy Warnock and Mrs Jennifer Forsythe.</p>	
7	<p>The Women's Group Financial Report was incorporated into the Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>Rev Colin Campbell thanked the Women's Group for their continued support.</p>	As per Treasurer's Report Congregation Agreed.
8	<p>The Rev Campbell declared all offices vacant.</p> <p>There was a proposed re-election of both secretaries. Meetings Secretary – Andrea Crook. Correspondence Secretary – Evelyn Meharg</p> <p>It was also proposed that the Treasurer was re-elected. Treasurer – Dr Trevor Forsythe</p> <p>Sunday School – proposed re-election of Cathy Warnock and Jennifer Hall.</p> <p>There was a proposal for re-election of the committee.</p>	<p>Proposed Mrs J Crooks Seconded Mrs I Campbell All Agreed</p> <p>Proposed Mr E Laird Seconded Mr A Todd All Agreed</p> <p>Proposed Mr A Laird Seconded Dr T Forsythe</p> <p>Proposed Dr T Forsythe Seconded Mrs S Laird</p>
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>Rev Campbell thanked the session and Committee, and thanked the congregation for their support. He looked forward to the opportunities and challenges in the future and thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting concluded in prayer.</p>	

Minutes Signed: .....

Date: ..... 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023



# Secretary's Report for the Year 2022

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The secretary's report encompasses the services and events of the past year, this report however encompasses the completion of another chapter in the church's history following the resignation and retirement of Rev Campbell.

Installed as our minister in November 2005, Rev Campbell had been with us from 2001. Thankfully the bonds with our church and congregation will not be broken as Rev Campbell will remain as minister in-charge, until a new minister is appointed.

I was recently flicking through an old hymn book and found the following hymn. I thought how well it summed up Rev Campbell and how blessed we have been to have him to lead our congregation.

*"Thou must be true thyself,  
If thou the truth wouldst teach;  
Thy soul must overflow, if thou  
Another's soul wouldst reach.  
The overflow of heart it needs  
To give the lips full speech.*

*Think truly, and thy thoughts  
Shall the world's famine feed;  
Speak truly, and each word of thine  
Shall be a fruitful seed;  
Live truly, and thy life shall be  
A great and noble creed."*

## Deaths

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 21/06/22 | Jean Moore – was a regular attender for many years until she moved to Bangor. Jean and her husband Alex maintained their contact and interest with the congregation.   |
| 09/11/22 | Virginia Turkington –was a life long member of our church, and long standing member of the choir. Virginia was always quick to volunteer to help out at church events and cheerfully gave of her time when catering was required. She will be much missed. |
| 29/12/22 | Elizabeth Moore (Lilian) Gilpin – Lilian was Amy Gilpin's mother-in-law.   |

## Marriages

There were no marriages

## Baptisms



26/06/22      Kia Albie Curlett, daughter of Gareth and Kerry Curlett (nee Glass)  
03/07/22      Quinn Sterling, son of Lynsey and Alexander Sterling

## **Special Services and Events**

During the year we continued to be mindful of social distancing and services remained shorter with three hymns only and it was June before the collection was taken up rather than plates being placed in the Vestibule.

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the church was open on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 11.00am to 1.00pm for prayer and reflection.

The decision was also taken for the Church to move from the Presbytery of Antrim to the Presbytery of Bangor. On 30<sup>th</sup> November a special meeting of Synod was held to transfer Ballyclare, Cairncastle and Ballymoney congregations to the Presbytery of Bangor.

## **World Day of Prayer**

World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the theme "I know the plans I have for you", from Jeremiah.

It was our church's year for hosting the service in the Ballyclare area and meetings were arranged by Jacqueline Crooks during October and January to organise the event. Lynda Kane led the service, Ethel Logan was our organist with readers from each of the participating churches in the area. Jeanette McKendry and Jennifer Hall had decorated the windows and prepared the table with candles to be lit during the service to symbolise Hope.

The ladies organised tea, coffee and with Covid measures in mind wrapped refreshments were placed in individual boxes and given out as everyone came into the church. There were also small boxes of wild-flower seeds given to each person as they arrived, again to symbolise Hope.

## **Annual General Meeting**

After a short service, the Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Reports were read and officers re-elected.

## **Mothering Sunday Service**

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, Mothering Sunday Service was taken by Lynda Kane. It was decided to go back to singing 3 hymns and using Hymn Books at this service and onwards.

## **Easter Service**



The Easter Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> April was led by Rev Campbell who talked about the message for Christians at Easter.

## **Communion**

Communion services were held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May with elders Jacqueline Crooks and Richard Laird giving out the bread and wine, with Rev Campbell leading the service.

The second communion service, on 6<sup>th</sup> November, was again led by Rev Campbell with Evelyn Meharg and Trevor Forsythe distributing the bread and wine. It was lovely to be able to use the traditional glasses and communion plates rather than the plastic variety used during Covid.

## **Jubilee Service**

The Jubilee Service was held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. It was a service of thanksgiving and was led by the Rev Colin Campbell. Hymns included "The Lords my Shepherd" and "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah". The service ended with the National Anthem.

Afterwards the congregation retired to the Church garden for refreshments and a tree was planted by Mrs Doris Forsythe, as part of our celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

## **Children's Day - 19/06/22**

The family service, led by Lynda Kane, on a bright June morning, coincided with Father's Day and had fathers as the theme.

Lynda, complete with two "volunteers" – Rev Campbell and Cathy Warnock, as the father and mother, asked the children during the Children's Address to give various items to either one of them, depending on who they felt would be using it. The Rev Campbell was given the DIY items, Kathy received an apron, bills to organise etc. During the sermon Lynda spoke of biblical fathers and spoke of Abraham. She pointed out that great responsibility is placed on fathers and a stereo type of bread winner, DIY practitioner, strong, stoical person still exists. It was important to remember the individual behind this and for a father just to be himself and to acknowledge that everything wasn't always OK all of the time. No matter what talents, jobs, hobbies or preferences it was important to be yourself and be accepted for that.

Although the Sunday School has reduced in size, it was lovely to see AJ, Gaby, Patrick and Harry all leading us in prayer. Patrick then played "Ode to Joy" on the trombone and Gaby followed this with "Morning has broken" played on the oboe. We sang three hymns, and for the first time since Covid, the collection was taken up in the church with the children performing this.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**



Harvest Service was celebrated on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October. The Rev Campbell took the service in the Church which had been beautifully decorated by the ladies on the previous day. Rev Campbell spoke about how Harvests have been celebrated for over 4000 years and of other festivals and feast days.

He thanked everyone for their contributions of tinned and packeted goods which were donated to the local food bank.

## **Christmas Service**

The Christmas Service, on the 18 December, starred the children of the Sunday School who performed a short Nativity Play and enchanted us with musical renditions. Paddy Charlesworth played “Jingles Bells” on the trombone, while Gaby Laird played the flute. Lynda Kane conducted the service of traditional carols; of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, “Away in a Manger” and “Good King Wenceslas” along with readings from Luke and Matthew. Laura Charlesworth sung a beautiful rendition of “O Holy Night”, while her son Harry sang “Away in a Manger”.

## **Candlelit Service**

The Candlelit Service was held on 24<sup>th</sup> December, and was well attended. The tree decorated by Colin and Mary Surgeoner looked beautiful in the Vestibule. The windows and choir stalls were also decorated with candles and winter greenery, looking very festive.

The Service was led by Rev Colin Campbell who also played the guitar and sang the Calypso Carol. Traditional readings from Isaiah, Matthew, Luke and John were read by Irene Campbell, Shane Meharg, Evelyn Meharg, and Kathleen Campbell and retold the Christmas story that never seems to lose its magic.”

Susan Bates played a solo on the harp and Heather Walker also added to a delightful service.

The congregation joined in with the well known hymns – “In the bleak mid-winter”, “Once in Royal David’s City”, “Hark the Herald Angels sing”, “See Amid the winter’s snow” and “Silent Night”.

Afterwards we were treated, not only to mulled wine and short bread, but also to Heather Walker singing “O Holy Night” which was a beautiful way to head off home for Christmas.

## **Social Events**

### **Christian Aid Week**

Christian Aid Week was held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May. Envelopes were left in the pews and collected the following Sunday. Donations totalling £165 were given.

### **Women’s Group**



The Womens Group meetings recommenced organised by Lynda Kane. While educational – different themes and topics were planned and discussed these meetings were light hearted and entertaining and provided fun and fellowship.

## **Play Reading**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, a play reading, by the Library Players, was organised by Jeanette McKendry in the church. This was an exciting “Who Dunnit” murder mystery. It was well attended and refreshments were served during the interval. Donations received raised over £350 in aid of Alzheimer’s Society.

## **Fund Raising**

A Table Quiz, held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, was organised by Lynda Kane, with Lynda doing quiz master in her own inimitable way! The event was light hearted and fun for everyone.

Black Santa appeal was held on 23rd December at ASDA Ballyclare. The Rev Campbell joined with other local clergy, and over £1020 was collected.

## **Property and Investments**

The members of Session and Committee have worked hard to ensure repairs to the church have been addressed. Following the flooding which occurred in July of 2021 the flat roof of the Sunday School was replaced, the ceiling reinstated, the school room painted and new carpet was fitted to the stairs and ministers room. Fascia boards around the building have been replaced and the decision to renew the paths from the street to the church taken. This work will be undertaken with the commencement of better weather.

Investments have been performing well, but not quite to the level of last year.

## **Thanks**

May I, on behalf of the congregation sincerely thank the Rev Campbell not only for the past year but for all his years of service, devotion and love to the church and its congregation. He has worked diligently with care and compassion throughout his time here at Ballyclare. May I also acknowledge the support and help given by Kathleen.

May I also thank Lynda Kane for her enthusiasm and support.

To Trevor Forsythe, who works extremely hard for the church, not just as Treasurer but in many other areas of the church.

Thanks to our Sunday School staff Cathy Warnock and Jennifer Hall.

Special thanks to Ethel Logan our organist, for her hard work and commitment and to Susan Bates who also joins us to play the organ.

Many thanks to Andrea Crook, our Meetings Secretary, to the Women’s Group for their continued support in activities within the Church and to Jacqueline Crooks, our Representative Elder.



May I also thank Mary Surgeoner for her care in the upkeep of the Church.

I would extend our sincere thanks to the Elders and Members of the Church Committee for all their support, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year.

I would also like to mention the family and staff at Brown's, who continue to offer help and support throughout the year.

That Mr Chairman concludes the Secretary's report.



Good Morning Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this is the Sunday School report for the year 2022

Sunday School continued throughout 2022 with up to five children attending. The Sunday school syllabus has not been changed since the 2019/2020 year as the conference has not been held due to covid so although we did some work on questions we have also undertaken other activities with quizzes being particularly popular with the children.

The children took part in the special church services in June and December and their contribution was much enjoyed by all.

We had an outing to Kilcreggan Urban Farm in Carrickfergus in June, this gave lots of opportunity to feed animals and birds and we were fortunate to have a sunny day.

Denominational activities have not resumed since the pandemic and are missed as markers in the Sunday School calendar – hopefully they will resume soon.

There were no child protection issues during the year.

The Sunday School accounts are also presented, there is a balance of £450.55 at end December 2022