

# McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104215

## Details

Status	Received
Registered	2016-08-04
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

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Website	<a href="http://www.mccrackenchurch.com">www.mccrackenchurch.com</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£237,017	£236,383	£0	4

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair Rankin		
Alistair Dick		
Anna Scott		
Anne Kernohan		
Barbara James		
Barry Mccroskery		
Brian Henderson		
David Scott		
Denise Hughes		
Des Mcfaul		
Elizabeth Simpson		
Finlay Reid		
Grace Bamford		
Ian Mawhinney		
Janet Scott		
Julie Dick		
Juliet Mills		
Maggie Blakeman		
Martin Brown		
Philip Courtney		
Robert Lamrock		
Rosemary Simpson		
Winston Irwin		

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Accounts

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**McCRACKEN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>					
Donations and Legacies	125,796	55,575	-	181,371	179,628
Charitable Activities	33,646	-	-	33,646	32,559
Other Trading Activities	2,159	-	-	2,159	2,100
Investment Income	19,047	-	794	19,841	18,917
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>180,648</b>	<b>55,575</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>237,017</b>	<b>233,204</b>
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>					
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	187,659	47,930	794	236,383	251,141
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>187,659</b>	<b>47,930</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>236,383</b>	<b>251,141</b>
Net Receipts/(Payments)	-7,011	7,645	-	634	-17,937
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>-7,011</b>	<b>7,645</b>		<b>634</b>	<b>-17,937</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Bank Accounts at start of year</b>	<b>13,169</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,652</b>	<b>17,740</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-7,011	7,645	-	634	-17,936
Cost of shares sold	10,496	-	-	10,496	14,848
<b>Bank Accounts at end of year</b>	<b>16,654</b>	<b>9,128</b>		<b>25,782</b>	<b>14,652</b>
<b>General Investment Fund PCI</b>		£	£		£
30,186 shares at cost	190,943	-	25,925	216,868	231,716
1,461 shares sold @ £13.6968	-10,496	-	-	-10,496	-14,848
	<b>180,447</b>		<b>25,925</b>	<b>206,372</b>	<b>216,868</b>
28,725 shares valued on 31.12.24	367,334		33,581	400,915	
30,186 shares valued on 31.12.23	370,221		32,065		402,286
<b>INSURANCE VALUATION</b>				£	£
Church				5,935,713	5,746,092
Halls				1,483,928	1,436,523
Manse				741,962	718,259
				<b>8,161,603</b>	<b>7,900,874</b>

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Accounts

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**McCRACKEN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>					
Donations and Legacies	124,057	55,571		179,628	206,865
Charitable Activities	32,559	-	-	32,559	23,739
Other Trading Activities	2,100	-	-	2,100	914
Investment Income	18,291	-	626	18,917	8,565
<b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>	<b>177,007</b>	<b>55,571</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>233,204</b>	<b>240,083</b>
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>					
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	174,885	75,630	626	251,141	230,577
Purchase of Investments		-	-	-	8,875
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	<b>174,885</b>	<b>75,630</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>251,141</b>	<b>239,452</b>
Net Receipts/(Payments)	2,123	-20,059	-	-17,936	631
Transfer between funds	-10,000	10,000	-	-	-
<b><u>Net Movement in Funds</u></b>	<b>-7,877</b>	<b>-10,059</b>		<b>-17,936</b>	<b>631</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Bank Accounts at start of year</b>	6,198	11,542	-	17,740	17,109
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-7,877	-10,059	-	-28,090	631
Cost of shares sold	14,848	-	-	25,001	-
<b>Bank Accounts at end of year</b>	<b>13,169</b>	<b>1,483</b>		<b>14,651</b>	<b>17,740</b>
<b>General Investment Fund PCI</b>		£	£		£
32,254 shares at cost	205,791	-	25,925	231,716	231,716
2,068 shares sold @ £12.0895	-14,848	-	-	-14,848	
	<b>190,943</b>		<b>25,925</b>	<b>216,868</b>	<b>231,716</b>
30,186/32,254 shares valued on 31.12.23	<b>370,221</b>		<b>32,065</b>	<b>402,286</b>	<b>394,173</b>
<b>INSURANCE VALUATION</b>				£	£
Church				5,746,092	4,714,803
Halls				1,436,523	1,178,701
Manse				718,259	589,349
				<b>7,900,874</b>	<b>6,482,853</b>

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

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# Annual report

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## **McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church**

### Minister's Report for 2023

January 2023 perhaps began with many of us thinking about getting into shape following the over-indulgence of Christmas. It was perhaps appropriate then that we began a series of five sermons called finding your shape. Using the five letters, S.H.A.P.E. each of us were invited to reflect upon how God has shaped us through our Spiritual gifts, our Heart (things that we're passionate about), our Abilities, our Personality, and Experiences in life. We recognised how God has uniquely shaped each one of us to enrich our life together as a church family, the Body of Christ. Accompanying each sermon were questionnaires to be used to help us reflect on what we uniquely have to offer in service of God and one another. Ideas and opportunities for involvement in church have since been posted in our vestibule and it's been lovely to see some people step into new spheres of service and witness in our church and community.

2023 was the year that our Friday Night Youth Club (Crackerjax) really took off with numbers consistently up in the thirties. This has been under the leadership of our youth and family worker, Bethan along with a team of committed volunteers. It has brought the added bonus of Bethan seeing many familiar faces from Friday nights when she is invited along to speak at school assemblies or School Scripture Union Groups.

Our Inter-Church Lent services started up again in 2023 after a three-year break following the COVID-19 pandemic. There was good representation on each of the Sunday evenings from McCracken with a sense of warm fellowship as we worshipped together, and mingled afterwards over supper in the various churches.

After reaching out to Glenveagh School in the Spring of 2023 we were delighted to be able to host them for their 30th anniversary celebration service after the church building had worked so well for them on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was another very special service, filled with joy and thanksgiving, and also tinged with some sadness as staff and pupils reflected upon the past few years.

In June I began my Sabbatical which lasted to the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. It began with a very special church leaders retreat in the surroundings of the beautiful Lee Abbey in North Devon. It was so nice to spend time in the company of other church leaders from across England who were also on Sabbatical. From the outset there was a wonderful sense of God's presence there, as we enjoyed daily times of worship and inspiring teaching, as well as time to ourselves to roam the stunning coastline. It was truly refreshing.

After a family holiday in July and some helpful reading I finished my Sabbatical at the New Horizon week in Coleraine which was also very uplifting and encouraging. Cover at McCracken during this time was provided by Rev Liz Hughes and Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton O.B.E. both of whose preaching was very much appreciated by the congregation.

In September we had our Back to School with God Service and Barbecue which was well attended. Later in the month Kirk Session took an Away Day together with Malone Kirk Session. This was led by Rev Alan McWilliam, leader of the Cairn

Course which has been helping us think more missionally about how we do church at a time when church attendance is in decline across our country. The retreat was held in Murlough House, Dundrum and enjoyed by all.

In October the BBC approached us asking if our Sunday morning service might be broadcast on Radio Ulster. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October we had a good turnout from our congregation and choir members, joined by tens of thousands across Ulster and beyond for uplifting worship, and a sermon on Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, challenging us as to what it means to be a 'neighbourhood church'.

December of 2023 was even busier than normal for the Advent season in McCracken. We ordained three new elders on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Grace Bamford, Philip Courtney, and Julie Dick. We then celebrated a very special anniversary on the following Sunday, as our senior minister, Rev Dr David Irwin reached 60 years of ordained ministry. In our service he was presented with a gift from our congregation and afterwards we enjoyed a lovely cake prepared especially for the occasion.

In June we said goodbye to our church secretary, Laura Landi, and were very ably assisted over the summer period by one of our younger church members, Hannah Sheppard. In October Valeria Pinelli began as our new church secretary and has quickly adjusted and made her home among us. I express my thanks to Valeria for how well she has done in producing our Chronicle Magazine, keeping our website up to date, and providing the order of service for each week as well as all the work involved in the compiling and printing of our 2023 annual report book and directory.

I also express my thanks to our Honorary Treasurer who not only keeps our church accounts but also annual statistical returns, charity commission reports, insurance records, and maintaining our church data base.

Our congregational secretary Brian Henderson is not only secretary to the congregational committee but is faithfully there sometimes early in the morning or late at night making sure everything functions in our church.

And our Clerk of Session has always been a great support in her role of overseeing Kirk Session, with her deeply caring pastoral heart. Rosemary has shown great courage and determination this past year as she awaited surgery on her knee, and we continue to keep her in our prayers for continued recovery.

I'd also like to thank our Kirk Session, Congregational Committee, Musical Director, Youth and Family Worker, our Church Care-Taker, and all of those who serve in so many ways in our congregation. Unfortunately, there's not enough space here to list you all.

Whether you are active or inactive, at church or confined to home, all are valued and beloved members of the Body of Christ, a value and a love that very importantly is not at all based upon our usefulness, or productivity, but on the immense worth placed upon us by God Himself in the giving of His Son.

*Glory be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)*

Rev Barry McCroskery, Minister

## Kirk Session Report for 2023.

2023 in McCracken was a year of change. The wind of change blew through Kirk Session, indirectly brought about by the influence of the Cairn course, changes within our congregation and the desire for a few Elders to move on, from District responsibilities, to the Elder Statesmanship of Elder Emeritus. This necessitated us having an Election for new Elders and a more in depth look at the need for 21 District thus giving a more business like approach to our meetings whilst not forgetting that we are a Spiritual body within the Church.

Kirk Session met regularly throughout the year and a small Task group was set up to discuss the possible changes in Districts. Eventually after much discussion at several meetings, it was agreed that the number of Districts would be reduced to 15 in total. 14 covering mainly local areas and the 15<sup>th</sup> serving outlying areas. The number of Rulings Elders would not be reduced and so 15 individual Elders would retain Districts and the remaining Elders would be divided into A Growth Group and A Pastoral Group. Elders would volunteer for these groups and would include Elders with Districts. We were very sad to see our long standing Elders decide to retire from Kirk Session. These highly respected and dedicated Elders were Mr Ian Dickie, Mr Jim Finlay, Mr Graeme Jones and Mrs Doreen McKelvey. Each of these Elders have been greatly admired and trusted by the members living in their Districts and will be greatly missed for their pastoral care, encouragement and spiritual support as will their wise counsel and thought provoking contributions at Kirk Session meetings. Hence in January the plans for the election of new Elders began. Announcements were made to the Congregation and nominations requested for the beginning of April. On receipt of these the Kirk Session then agreed to those chosen and the Moderator approached those with the most nominations. Three members agreed to let their names go forward and the Congregation voted on those at the Annual General Meeting, consequently, Mrs Grace Bamford, Mr Philip Courtenay and Mrs Julie Dick were unanimously elected as Elders Elect.

In May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles the third with a special reception after Church and greetings of loyalty were expressed.

The General Assembly was attended by Maggie Blakeman for her second year as she was unable to attend the previous year due to an attack of Covid, however she attended in 2023 and provided us with an in-depth record of the meetings.

Also, a big change was brought about by our Moderator having a long overdue and necessary Sabbatical as is part of the ruling of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The seven weeks that he was away from the church during the summer months were covered by three retired ministers, the Reverend Dr. Norman Hamilton, the Reverend Morris Gault and the main part being covered by the Reverend Dr Liz Hughes who on her weekly visits was accompanied by her husband, the Reverend Brian Hughes. The ministry of these two very experienced and spiritual ministers was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. They left with gifts saying that if they lived closer they would become members of our church as they were so impressed with the warmth and friendliness they had received. We were also grateful to the Reverend Paul Jamieson, from Hillhall Presbyterian Church who provided pastoral cover during this period.

During the summer the Task Group from Kirk Session held an interview for a new Church Secretary, We were very fortunate to meet Mrs Valeria Pinelli who joined us in that capacity and has fitted in to our ways and hers seamlessly.

The Kirk Session is always aware of those rejoicing in births and those mourning loved ones and our thoughts and prayers have been with these members.

In the Autumn we held a joint retreat with Malone Presbyterian Church Kirk Session in Dundrum. This was a successful new venture and discussions together and separately were facilitated by the Reverend Alan McMillan of the Cairn Course who travelled from Scotland to be with us. An enjoyable and worthwhile day.

An intensive six week training period began in the Autumn for our new Elders Elect and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December the Ordination of the three new Elders was held under the auspices of the South Belfast Presbytery. A very moving service followed by speeches of welcome and a reception in the hall.

All these events led us to Advent when we held one of our six annual Sacraments of Communion, and as a special event a service was broadcast by the Northern Ireland British Broadcasting Corporation. Our thanks were given wholeheartedly to the Reverend Dr. Bert Tosh, Producer of Religious programmes with the BBC locally. His relaxed and light hearted manner made the whole experience a joyful one and listeners gave excellent reports of all aspects of the service. Our Gift Day service and Nativity Play followed together with a very special Sunday service when we celebrated with our Minister Emeritus, the Reverend Dr David Irwin on the occasion of his 60 years of ordained ministry. At this special service gifts of a globe lamp reminding David and Maureen of their World travels and a bouquet of flowers were presented and afterwards at a reception with a celebration cake there were speeches from the Reverend Barry McCroskery, myself as Clerk, who reminded David that at his suggestion I became his Clerk of Session and the Reverend Ivan Steen, Windsor Presbyterian Church which was David's first church. These greetings were graciously replied to by both David and Maureen.

We, in McCracken, are very grateful to have many dedicated members who serve in various capacities, both asked and voluntary, from singing in the choir to weeding in the garden, some members doing both!. Our Youth Worker Bethan Dillon, Sunday School Superintendent Juliet Mills and Young people's Elder David Scott who care for our younger members spiritual knowledge and learning, the Women's Bible Study group, our Prayer groups and Axis. Brian Henderson our most efficient Congregational Committee Secretary, Alastair Rankin our Honorary Church Treasurer expert, Mervyn Hughes our dedicated Property Convener, our Hospitality Team, our Musical Director and Choirmaster Richard Brown and all the Choir members, Denise Hughes and the publishing team, the dedicated leaders and helpers of the Babies and Toddlers group, too numerous to mention, we are indebted to them all.

Finally our most sincere thanks go to our dedicated Minister, the Reverend Barry McCroskery whose exemplary ministry and dedication to all our members is greatly appreciated. His ministry is an example of true devotion to all with whom he comes in contact. He is by our side when needed, encouraging and supporting us with a kind word, a hand held, and an encouraging prayer. We thank God for the gift to us

of a sincere, sensitive and devoted servant of Our Lord and Master and for the Manse family, for Elsy Rebecca and Gisell.

To God be the Glory.  
Rosemary EC Simpson  
Clerk of Session

## Congregational Committee Report

At the first meeting of the year held on 26<sup>th</sup> January the Annual Accounts for 2022, plus the submission to the Charity Commission, were tabled and approved. The proposed salaries of the church staff for the year then commencing were also agreed at this meeting.

It has been the usual practice that in advance of each of the Congregational Committee meetings the Honorary Treasurer circulates detailed financial statements for perusal and consideration. These include up to date records of all the income received and all the expenditures incurred since the previous circulation, together with the previous year's corresponding income and expenditure figures. This enables direct comparisons to be made as a means of spotting at an early stage any concerning income and expenditure trends that Committee members should be aware of. When meetings were less frequent during the worst of the pandemic the Honorary Treasurer also circulated electronically at the end of each month his comments on the state of the church finances and this he has continued to do. We as a congregation are greatly indebted to Mr Alastair Rankin for the thoroughness with which he oversees and attends to the church's financial affairs, a task that I on behalf of the Congregational Committee wish to thank him for continuing to undertake.

Our gratitude is also due to Mr Mervyn Hughes and the members of the Property Committee for their diligence in ensuring that the church properties are maintained in a good state of repair and for expeditiously dealing with any issues as they arose. In a previous report I mentioned that one of the church's three heating boilers had ceased to function and it was unable to be repaired. During last summer a second boiler ceased to operate and so it was considered it was time to install a more up to date heating system in advance of the onset of winter. At a special meeting convened in October this issue was discussed and it was approved that the work should proceed without delay and that it be paid for with a withdrawal from the church's holding in the PCI General Investment Fund. The installation of the new boilers was programmed to coincide with the school's autumn half term holidays when many of the users of the hall were also taking a break so the level of disruption was minimised.

In last year's report I mentioned the replacement of the metal framed windows in the Youth Centre with double glazed uPVC units. It was agreed that part of the bequest received from the estate of the late Roberta Campbell, a former Sunday School teacher and member of the choir, be used to pay for this work. This has now been acknowledged with an appropriately worded plaque at the entrance to the Youth Centre.. Further information about these and other property matters may be found in the Property Convenor's report.

Mr Ivor Kinghan voluntarily kept the grass to the south side and rear of the church cut throughout the growing season and the programme of church gardening and tidying of the grounds on the first Tuesday of each month has kept all looking as it should. Thanks are extended to Ivor and to those who regularly volunteered to help with these tasks. A special word of thanks is again extended to Mr Raymond Todd for willingly providing the means of conveying quantities of gardening waste to a recycling centre. This included the Christmas

trees after the festive season. The trees were erected by members of the gardening team and decorated by those that regularly meet in the Axis study group.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February the Annual Congregational Lunch was held in Harlequins Rugby Club pavilion. This very enjoyable occasion was well attended.

Church premises continue to be much used. On Sunday mornings the Prayer Group meet before worship in the Minor Hall, the Sunday School members during the latter part of the Sunday morning service adjourn to the Dowling Hall and after worship there is a time when the adults attending church can enjoy further fellowship together with refreshments also in the Dowling Hall.

The Women's Bible Study, Axis, the Indoor Bowling Club, the Luncheon Circle, "Babies and Toddlers", the Coffee Drop In, the Presbyterian Women, the Art Club, "CrackerJax" and the uniformed organisations all are again meeting regularly. Also a number of external organisations use our church halls for activities such as Ballet, Pilates, Keep Fit, Judo, Unislim classes and by the Belfast Philatelic Society for its monthly meetings.

Several Messy Church gatherings and the Summer Holiday Bible Club organised by Mrs Bethan Dillon also took place in the Dowling Hall during the school holidays.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May the sanctuary was used for a service to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Glenveagh Special School with refreshments provided afterwards for parents and some of the teaching staff attending the service.

The Church's facilities were made available on 12<sup>th</sup> July to those participating in or watching the parade.

The Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning in September raised the magnificent sum of £1,085. Two movie nights in the weeks before Christmas when "Paddington 2" and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", were shown also attracted good audiences.

Members of the Flowering Arranging team ensured that the church was decorated with flowers on each of the occasions that Sunday services in the sanctuary took place and they organised the decoration of the church at Harvest with food items for donation to the Storehouse charity. Choir members installed and decorated the candle holders in place for the Candle Light Carol Service.

Members of the Hospitality Committee continue to organise the refreshments following Sunday morning worship in the Dowling Hall, at the weekly Thursday morning "Coffee Drop In", the monthly Luncheon Circle meals and at other times when requested to do so.

Births, baptisms and the anniversary of deaths still continued to be acknowledged in appropriate ways and Mrs Di Hanna reports on these and other Congregational Care matters at the Congregational Committee meetings.

Mrs Laura Landi, our former Administrative Secretary, resigned at the end of May to commence full time employment. For six years, in addition to "The Chronicle", she produced the copies of the Annual Reports, the Sunday morning Orders of Service and the Sunday service Power Point slides using her training in Marketing and

Communication and IT skills to great effect. Whilst seeking a suitable replacement we were blessed with having the services temporarily of Miss Hannah Shepherd, who had just completed her university studies and was available, to cover the period of vacancy before her permanent employer required her to commence her new duties. Mrs Valeria Pinelli was appointed and commenced as Mrs Landi's replacement as Administrative Secretary in October. The transitions between the three ladies proved to be as seamless as one could wish for and we wish all three well going forward. Mrs Bethan Dillon's knowledge of computing and internet technology has also proved to be invaluable. We thank each of them for their innovations, enthusiasm, cooperation and willingness to readily address all of the challenges as they arose.

Mr Trevor Templeman, the Church Caretaker, continued to attend to the caretaking duties. We are in the fortunate position that our premises, as indicated above, are being widely used. This can be very disruptive to the pre planning of work so Mr Templeman's times on the premises often have to vary. We thank him for his flexibility in this regard and his willingness to continue to do all that was asked of him. I would also express thanks to Miss Janet Scott and Mr Ian Mawhinney for undertaking some of the caretaking tasks during a period when Mr Templeman was unwell.

We also thank Mr David Kennedy for organising and participating with others last October in a thorough cleaning of the sanctuary.

To fulfil all the expectations of our congregation and others using the premises is a mammoth task. It is therefore appropriate that this is shared amongst as many of the congregation that remain fit and able and we are grateful to all who have assisted in any way. Additional help is always welcome so if you consider that you could offer some assistance please don't hesitate to make this known.

In conclusion the members of the Congregational Committee would wish to again record their heartfelt thanks to Rev Barry McCroskery for his chairmanship of the Committee meetings and for his leadership, encouragement, wise counsel, guidance, support and his pastoral care of the congregation.

Brian Henderson  
Honorary Secretary

#### Honorary Treasurer's Report

The generosity of McCracken members continued through 2023. Our Freewill Offering income increased from £93,425.00 to £99,316.20 – an increase of 6.3% while donations to our Building Fund increased by 7.5% to £10,932.00. This latter increase was very welcome as during the autumn we learnt that we would have to replace our boilers at a cost of £25,239.00. The balance funds required to meet this necessary expenditure were realised by selling 2,068 shares in the General Investment Fund of PCI. The total sale proceeds amounted to £25,001.09 including a profit of £10,152.85 over the average purchase cost.

Despite the boilers being out of action for a period our gas bill increased from £12,235.25 to £17,640.25 partly due to there being no government help during 2023.

We are fortunate that the various groups that use our halls generously contribute towards the cost of heat and light and general wear and tear.

The various assessments issued by the Financial Secretary's Office showed a small increase over 2022 while salaries and associated expenses increased by £2,203.56. This relatively small increase was mainly due to the fact that Laura Lundi, who had been our secretary since 2017, resigned in May and her successor, Roberta Pinelli, did not start until October. I wish to thank Laura for her unfailing courtesy and wish her well in her new position. Hannah Sheppard ably covered the intervening period. Roberta, who prefers to be called Valeria, has proved to be a very able and willing successor.

While the amount received for other charities reduced from £37,379.12 to £31,921.56 this was largely due to there being only one Moderator's Appeal in 2023. Once again, the amount contributed to the United Appeal - £7,904.50 – was considerably less than our Target of Honour of £10,457.00.

Donations to our Outreach Fund increased by over 17% enabling the Outreach Committee to continue to support the David Gordon Memorial Hospital at Livingstonia, Malawi, Stephen and Angelina Cowan's work in Tuum, Kenya, Taughmonagh Presbyterian Church, the International Meeting Point, the Leprosy Mission, the Corrymeela Community and the Simon Community.

According to our records there are 203 families claiming a connection with McCracken. Unfortunately, 25% of these families did not contribute to any of our funds during 2023. If these non-contributing families contributed to our funds during 2024 our finances would be in a much healthier position.

As always, I wish to thank the various members who assist in counting the collection each Sunday and especially the team leaders, Anna Scott, Brian Henderson, Ian Mawhinney and Des McFaul. When the new Committee has been elected in 2024, I will prepare an updated rota. Finally, I wish to thank our Independent Examiner, Tim Browne, who completed his examination very quickly and assisted me in completing the daunting Annual Statistical Return required by Presbytery and the Financial Secretary's Office. If any member wishes to see a more detailed Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities please get in touch with me.

Alastair J Rankin  
Honorary Treasurer

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

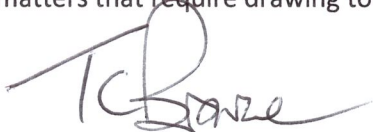
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Timothy C Browne F.C.A.  
36 Bresagh Road  
Boardmills  
BT27 6TU

10th February 2024

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Accounts

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**McCRACKEN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	ENDOWMENT FUNDS £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and Legacies	149,752	57,113	-	206,865	182,821
Charitable Activities	23,739	-	-	23,739	8,706
Other Trading Activities	914	-	-	914	177
Investment Income	7,915	-	650	8,565	7,867
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>182,320</b>	<b>57,113</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>240,083</b>	<b>199,571</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	162,465	67,462	650	230,577	186,180
Purchase of Investments	8,875	-	-	8,875	21,800
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>171,340</b>	<b>67,462</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>239,452</b>	<b>207,980</b>
Net Receipts/(Payments)	10,980	-10,349	-	631	-8,409
Transfer between funds	-10,980	10,980	-	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>-8,409</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	ENDOWMENT FUNDS £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Bank Accounts at start of year	6,198	10,911	-	17,109	25,518
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	631	-	631	-8,409
<b>Bank Accounts at end of year</b>	<b>6,198</b>	<b>11,542</b>		<b>17,740</b>	<b>17,109</b>
General Investment Fund PCI		£	£		£
31,544 shares at cost	196,916	-	25,925	222,841	222,841
? shares purchased	2,500	-	-	2,500	-
? shares purchased	6,375	-	-	6,375	-
	<b>205,791</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,925</b>	<b>231,716</b>	<b>222,841</b>
31,544 shares valued on 31.12.21	387,987	-	32,037	-	420,024
? shares valued on 31.12.22		-			
<b>INSURANCE VALUATION</b>				£	£
Church				4,865,677	4,714,803
Halls				1,218,419	1,178,701
Manse				608,208	589,349
				<b>6,690,304</b>	<b>6,482,853</b>

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Annual report

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## **McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church**

### **Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2022**

#### **Minister's Report**

I entered 2022 as I exited 2021, with my foot in a cast. One of our Babies and Toddlers helpers commented that breaking my ankle on the stairs might have been the best thing that ever happened as it became a great talking point for the parents and grandparents, and an excellent way to become acquainted. Babies and Toddlers started back in January 2022 with a bang after a pause of almost two years. It was instantly obvious that so many in our neighbourhood were very eager to connect with others again. Children who had been born during the pandemic needed the opportunity to socialize with other children, and as the weeks went on, we were almost overwhelmed by the numbers attending.

For me, being there each week was one of the ways I felt that after the pandemic we as a congregation needed to be looking outwards in every activity that we started up again. Babies and Toddlers was one of the first to get back. Other groups soon followed but it became clear that it wasn't just a matter of getting back to things exactly as they were. The previous two years had left their mark. Many of those who had led activities previously felt unable to continue to do so, and it was time to reach out to new people.

By the end of the year we saw the PW come back, the Tuesday Luncheon Circle restarted, as well as the bowls and badminton. Choir practices were back with a few new young and keen recruits. Bethan reached out to local schools, and we had a flood of new primary aged children regularly coming along on to our Crackerjax Youth Club on Friday evenings. Coffee moved to Thursdays, and the Women's Bible Study started up again with many coming along who hadn't been before. Our uniformed organisations returned. Axis gained new members and we began another Alpha Course in September. The church was abuzz with activity again.

A number of things provided us with a bit of direction as we sought to move forward. The first was that for the past couple of years, I along with a few others from our congregation have been following a course led by a Church of Scotland group called 'Cairn'. It's focus through 2022 was helping us build communities of disciples, or 'learning communities', as well as multiplying leaders which was very timely in 2022 as we emerged from the pandemic. The course continues to be very helpful and inspiring.

The second was our Kirk Session Away Day in June 2022, at which we set ourselves some measurable goals to work towards. One was the goal that no one should do anything in church alone but should seek to be preparing at least one other person to come alongside them to learn, and to follow after them. We also did some useful reflection upon the make-up of our Kirk Session in terms of our ministry strengths and weaknesses, in preparation for seeking new elders in 2023.

The third was an encouraging South Belfast Presbytery Consultation report on our congregation which was presented to us by Rev William Harkness on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

October 2022. Common themes emerged, of the need for increased participation in our Sunday morning worship, and having more all-age involvement, with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship to appeal to all ages.

In March a service of communion in our church marked the handing over of my moderatorship of Presbytery. A couple of months later I also got to hand over my convenorship of Belvoir to Rev Ben Walker of Saintfield Road Presbyterian as the two congregations began to explore an exciting new partnership.

Our Back to School with God service in September was very well attended by younger families reinforcing the need for more of these types of services. For the older generations, the Jubilee Afternoon Tea in May was a very joyous occasion at which many ventured out for the first time to such an event since COVID.

All of us were deeply touched in 2022 by what was happening in Ukraine, and it was heart-warming to see members of our congregation respond in different ways, including hosting in their homes those whose faces have now become familiar to us in church. We very much welcome them and continue to remember them, their families, and their country in our prayers.

Thank you to all of you who have put in so much prayer and effort into helping us get on our feet again in 2022. I express my thanks and deepest appreciation again to Rosemary, our Clerk of Session, Alastair Rankin, our Treasurer, and Brian Henderson, our Congregational Secretary, Bethan, our Youth and Family Worker, and Laura our Office Secretary, but also to all our conveners, committee members, elders and leaders and volunteers.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Barry McCroskery

### **Kirk Session Report**

2022 brought about a return to some sort of normality – not exactly as we had known it before, but a life without, in the most part, masks, being two meters apart, separated pews and quiet singing! A year when we returned to our normal Communion, a way we knew, felt at home and familiar with, passing salvers and wine trays to each other, whilst being able to say “the body of Christ broken for you” and “the blood of Christ shed for you”. A feeling of intimacy of being in the presence of God, caring, sharing.

As usual Kirk Session met regularly during the year. Several items had been discussed and delayed because of Covid restrictions. The Presbytery Consultation process had been on hold but eventually took place and a report was given to the congregation in October. Prior to that Kirk Session held an ‘Away Day’ in Helen’s Bay Church coming up with some ideas to enhance the spiritual opportunities for young people who remained at home for their further education and discussion programmes for men. Also plans were considered to make the halls more visually Christian with Biblical themes and that was started in the Autumn. The Book Case in the Dowling Hall vestibule was enhanced and further plans were encouraged for the New Year. Elections for several new Elders had been discussed and also the appropriate times

for elections for both Elders and Congregational Committee members. This plan was encouraged in the Consultation Process and as such are moving ahead for New Year elections meanwhile a Task group had been set up to discuss the number of Elders required and the possibility of a change in Districts. An interesting exercise was undertaken at the Away Day to established for each Elder's own information which of a 5- Fold Ministry Test they represented. The headings were Prophet, Teacher, Apostle, Evangelist and Shepherd/Pastor. Confidentially in order of personal consideration the headings which when collated anonymously showed a personal preference for Shepherd/Pastor, followed by Teacher, then Evangelist, Prophet and finally Apostle. A thought- provoking exercise which resulted in further consideration at Kirk Session.

Kirk Session was saddened by the decision of our respected Elder, Richard Wilson to retire from Kirk Session and although efforts were made to dissuade him he felt compelled to retire. Richard had given sterling and dedicated service to McCracken as a District Elder and Congregational Secretary and had very successfully headed the Stonework Appeal. For all this faithfulness on his part, to Richard, our thanks.

The Moderator and some Elders had attended the Cairn Course and also a Mapping Planning meeting to encourage us to think missionally at home and further afield. Both led by the Reverend Alan McWilliam from Scotland. Others attended the Four Corners Festival which was well publicised with a personal blessing by the Pope and prayers from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Our Minister had completed his year as Moderator of the South Belfast Presbytery and Brian Henderson remains the Representative from Kirk Session. The General Assembly was to be attended by Maggie Blakeman but unfortunately Covid prevented her attending, however she streamlined the debates and provided us with an excellent report of proceedings. Graciously Elizabeth Simpson stepped in at the last minute to ensure we had a representative vote at the Assembly, as well as that of our Minister.

In June we celebrated Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second's Platinum Jubilee with a splendid Afternoon Tea Party, in the Dowling Hall, our Minister's idea, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation, and enjoyed by many members and guests. Sadly, a few months later we mourned the passing of a gracious and courageous lady when Her Majesty, our longest reigning Monarch, died on Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The Kirk Session is always mindful of those rejoicing in births and those mourning loved ones, our thoughts and prayers have been with these many members.

As the year progressed, we became aware that our Minister had not received his due annual Sabbatical and Study week, and our Minister had selflessly not reminded us of this oversight. Therefore, it was decided that in 2023 he would take seven weeks Sabbatical, and one week's Study leave with part of his Annual leave. Our Minister will plan this time and will arrange for Stand-in ministers and those covering pastoral care.

We, in McCracken, are most fortunate to have dedicated members who serve in many capacities, known and unknown. From Bethan Dillon, Juliet Mills and David Scott who care for our younger members spiritual knowledge and learning, our Women's Bible

Study group, our Prayer groups, Axis'. Brian Henderson who seemingly can turn his hand to every need, Alastair Rankin who is our expert mathematician, Mervyn Hughes our Master Builder, our Hospitality Team, our music guru Richard Brown and all the songsters, Denise Hughes and the publishing team, the dedicated leaders and helpers of the Babies and Toddlers group, the welcoming ushers, our secretary Laura and so many more too numerous to mention, we are indebted to them all.

Finally, our most sincere thanks to our dedicated Minister, the Reverend Barry McCroskery who leads as the loving shepherd, caring for his flock, in sickness and in health. Barry's ministry is one of true devotion to us all. Always there when needed, ready with an encouraging word, a sensitive glance and an encouraging smile. We thank God for blessing us with this humble caring pastor and for the Manse family, we have 'lent' Elsy to Windsor Presbyterian Church but she remains our Minister's wife consequently a most important member of our church family together with their daughters, Rebecca and Gisell.

To God be the Glory.

Rosemary EC Simpson  
Clerk of Session

## **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE**

As had been the arrangement throughout 2021, the first two meetings of the Congregational Committee in 2022, in January and March, were conducted using Zoom technology but, as the various levels of restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the Covid 19 virus eased, it was considered safe thereafter to meet in person in the Minor Hall and four further meetings, in April, August, October and November were held on church premises.

At the first meeting of the year held on 25<sup>th</sup> January the Annual Accounts for 2021, including the submission to the Charity Commission, were tabled and approved. The proposed salaries of the church staff for the year then commencing were also agreed at this meeting.

It has been the usual practice that in advance of each of the Congregational Committee meetings the Honorary Treasurer circulates detailed financial statements for perusal and consideration. These include up to date records of all the income received and all the expenditures incurred since the previous circulation, together with the previous year's corresponding income and expenditure figures. This enables direct comparisons to be made as a means of spotting at an early stage any concerning income and expenditure trends that the Committee should be aware of. When meetings were less frequent during the worst of the pandemic the Honorary Treasurer also circulated electronically at the end of each month comments on the state of the church finances and this he continues to do. It was also decided that the income and expenditure figures for 2019, the year before Covid, be included to overcome any distortions in the comparisons that may be a consequential of the congregation not having worshipped on the premises during 2021. We as a congregation are greatly indebted to Mr Alastair Rankin for the thoroughness with which he oversees and

attends to the church's financial affairs, a task that I on behalf of the Congregational Committee wish to thank him for continuing to undertake.

Our gratitude is also due to Mr Mervyn Hughes and the members of the Property Committee for their diligence in ensuring that the church properties are maintained in a good state of repair and for expeditiously dealing with any issues as they arose. To satisfy insurance requirements the church properties were checked each week when not being extensively used to ensure all remained in order. In last year's report I mentioned that one of the church's three heating boilers had ceased to function and it is unable to be repaired. Thankfully the remaining two boilers have proved sufficient to meet heating requirements. Several major items of work were undertaken during the year, namely the replacement of the metal framed windows in the Youth Centre with double glazed uPVC units and the addressing of problems with dry rot and issues with the church roof. Mr Ivor Kinghan voluntarily kept the grass to the south side and rear of the church cut throughout the growing season and the programme of church gardening and tidying of the grounds on the first Tuesday of each month has kept all looking as it should. Thanks are extended to Ivor and to those who regularly volunteered to help with these tasks. A special word of thanks is extended to Mr Raymond Todd for willingly providing the means of regularly conveying quantities of gardening waste to a recycling centre on whichever of his range of farm trailers seemed most appropriate to the task. This included the Christmas trees after the festive season. The trees were erected by members of the gardening team and decorated by those that regularly meet in the Axis study group.

Before the period of lock down our church premises were being much used. In last year's report I mentioned that as the restrictions eased a number of the external organisations that use our range of halls for activities such as Ballet, Pilates, Keep Fit, Judo and Unislam classes had returned. The Sunday School had also recommenced meeting in the Dowling Hall, the Bible Class in the Youth Centre and the Sunday morning Prayer Group in the Minor Hall. Several Messy Church gatherings had also been held in the Dowling Hall. The Badminton Club had also restarted on a Monday evening. In 2022 all the other organisations such as the Women's Bible Study, the Indoor Bowling Club, the Luncheon Circle, the "Babies and Toddlers", the Coffee Drop In, the Presbyterian Women meetings, the Art Club, "CrackerJax" and the uniformed organisations have recommenced meeting again on church property at differing times throughout the year as soon as members felt it was safe to do so. Since recommencing most of the organisations, especially the "Babies and Toddlers", CrackerJax and the Luncheon Circle, have seen an increase in numbers attending which gives an indication of how much they were missed.

Choir practices on a Wednesday evening are again taking place in the choir room after a period of being held in the church sanctuary where it had been possible to maintain social distancing.

The Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning also took place again after a gap of several years. Two other special events, the Queen's Jubilee Tea and a showing of the movie "Paddington", were also held with all three events being very well supported.

Members of the Flowering Arranging team ensured that the church was decorated with flowers on each of the occasions that Sunday services in the sanctuary took place and

they organised the decoration of the church at Harvest with food items for donation to the Storehouse charity. Choir members installed and decorated the candle holders in place for the Candlelight Carol Service.

Members of the Hospitality Committee continue to organise the refreshments following Sunday morning worship in the Dowling Hall and at other times when requested to do so.

As you will note the various activities are now back to very close to pre Covid levels and thankfully so.

Births, baptisms and the anniversary of deaths still continued to be acknowledged in appropriate ways and Mrs Di Hanna reports on these and other Congregational Care matters at the Congregational Committee meetings.

2020 saw the commencement of the electronic circulation of "The McCracken Times", that like "The Chronicle" was eagerly awaited and enjoyed by so many of us especially during times when opportunities for social gatherings were limited. With the returning to a greater degree of normality it was decided that production of "The McCracken Times" was no longer necessary. Mrs Laura Landi, our Administrative Secretary, was the person who with assistance from Mrs Patricia Rees, compiled and circulated by email the editions to all on the mailing list. In addition to "The Chronicle" Mrs Landi also produces the copies of the Annual Report, the Sunday morning Orders of Service and the Sunday service Power Point slides using her training in Marketing and Communication and IT skills to great effect. Our Youth and Family worker Mrs Bethan Dillon's knowledge of computing and internet technology has also proved to be invaluable. We thank both ladies for their innovations, enthusiasm, cooperation and willingness to readily tackle many of the challenges that have arisen during the past year.

Mr Trevor Templeman, the Church Caretaker, continued to attend to the caretaking duties. When required he had augmented the routine cleaning duties with the sanitising of those points of personal hand contact such as door handles, the church pews and the toilets each time the property was used to lessen any risks of the Covid virus possibly being present and infectious. We are in the fortunate position that our premises are again being widely used. This can be very disruptive to having a pre planned work schedule so Mr Templeman's times of working often have to vary. We thank him for his flexibility in this regard and his willingness to continue to do all that was asked of him.

We also thank Mr David Kennedy for organising and participating with others last September in a thorough cleaning of the sanctuary.

To fulfil all the expectations of our congregation and others using the premises is a mammoth task. It is therefore appropriate that this is shared amongst as many of the congregation that remain fit and able and we are grateful to all who have assisted in any way. Additional help is always welcome so if you consider that you could offer some assistance please don't hesitate to make this known.

In conclusion the members of the Congregational Committee would wish to again record their heartfelt thanks to Rev Barry McCroskery for his chairmanship of the Committee meetings and for his leadership, encouragement, wise counsel, guidance, support and pastoral care of the congregation, during a year in which for the first couple of months he was Moderator of the South Belfast Presbytery, a duty that added to his more normal work load.

Brian Henderson  
Honorary Secretary,

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The ending of lockdown appears to have brought out the generosity in members of McCracken as our income from Freewill Offering, Building Fund, Outreach, Presbyterian Children's Society, Presbyterian Women, United Appeal and World Development envelopes all showed increases over 2021. In addition, the response to the two Moderator's appeals – for Afghanistan (£1,380.00) and Ukraine (£5,995.00) – showed particular generosity. The total amount received for work outside McCracken amounted to £37,379.12 compared to £28,138.34 in 2021. However, we again failed to meet our Target of Honour of £9,600.00 in respect of the United Appeal falling short by just under £2,000.00.

The Outreach Committee was able to donate a total of £7,900.000 to the David Gordon Memorial Hospital, Livingstonia (£2,400.00), to help educate five girls through Stephen and Angelina Cowan in Tuum, Kenya (£2,500.00) two of whom have now entered university in Nairobi, to Taughmonagh Presbyterian Church (£750.00) and to the International meeting Point (£1,250.00). The Outreach Committee also gave smaller amounts to South Belfast Friendship House, the Leprosy Mission, the Corrymeela Community and the Simon Community.

We were very fortunate to receive a bequest of £26,021.75 representing a one third share of the residue of the estate of the late Patricia Roberta Jane Campbell who had been for many years a Sunday School teacher and a member of the choir until she moved to Hollywood some years ago. The Committee decided to allocate part of this bequest to the cost of installing new double-glazed windows in the Youth Centre (£10,980.00) and to invest £6,375.00 in the General Investment Fund of the Presbyterian Church. We also received a legacy of £2,500.00 from the late Lady (Audrey) Crossland which the Committee has also invested in the General Investment Fund.

As well as installing new double-glazed windows in the Youth Centre the Property Committee carried out work to eradicate dry rot in the church, to fix the ceiling panels in the church and replace some slates on the church roof.

As the church and halls were closed for the early part of 2022 our bills for heat and light were not as horrendous as they might have been. While in January 2023 the church has received £600.00 as part of the Government's contribution to ease the cost of electricity it is unclear what further assistance, if any, will be given to the charity sector as the church buildings are heated by gas.

About 50 of our members have set up monthly standing orders which assured us of a steady income even during lockdown. If any member would like to set up a standing order, or if any of the members who have created standing orders would like to increase their monthly amount please get in touch with me.

As always I should thank the members of the counting team who stay behind after Church on Sunday mornings to count and record the offering. A special thank you goes to Brian Henderson who is always willing to stand in when others are unable to do so.

Finally a big thank you to Tim Browne our Independent Examiner who has very quickly approved our detailed accounts, as seen by Kirk Session and the Church Committee, as well as the abbreviated accounts attached to this report which will be downloaded on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's website in accordance with our legal requirements. If any member wishes to receive a copy of the detailed accounts, they should get in touch with me.

Alastair J Rankin MBE  
Honorary Treasurer

**McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104215

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF McCracken Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which are set out on the following pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Timothy C Browne F.C.A.  
36 Bresagh Road  
Boardmills  
BT27 6TU

8th February 2023