

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104314

Details

Known as	Strand Presbyterian Church
Status	Received
Registered	2016-08-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Strand Presbyterian Church 171 Connsbrook Avenue Belfast BT4 1JY BT4 1JY
Phone	028 9050 8611
Email	info.strandpc@gmail.com
Website	www.strandpresbyterian.org.uk

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	£123,962	£98,831	£0	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Doggart		
Martin Hampton		
Mr Andrew Graeme Hamilton		
Mr John Johnston		
Mr Robert Megahey		
Patricia Cooper		
Rev Alan Marsh		
Suzanne Howe		

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Accounts



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account) for the year ended 31 December 2024

Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2024		2023	
Regular Direct Giving	1	57,163.43	7,982.00		65,145.43	67,097.60		
HMRC Gift Aid	1	13,841.91	2,074.40		15,916.31	16,254.36		
Donations and Legacies	2	14,233.52			14,233.52	7,570.00		
Activities that generate income	3	646.62			646.62	719.50		
Investment Income	4	297.66			297.66	234.52		
Other income sources	5	25,972.95	1,750.50		27,723.45	23,261.76		
			11,806.90			23,261.76		
Total Receipts		112,156.09		0.00	123,962.99	115,137.74		
Payments								
Central Church Assessments	6	9,015.00			9,015.00	8,925.00		
Ministry & Support Staff	7	34,134.24			34,134.24	73,132.01		
Life & Work	8	7,805.00	438.86		8,243.86	1,253.82		
Governance	9	8,967.38			8,967.38	123,083.95		
Property & Equipment								
Utilities	10	12,237.14	1,618.53		13,855.67	13,711.01		
Repairs and Maintenance	11	7,238.78	3,719.38		10,958.16	1,811.42		
Insurance	12	2,373.00			2,373.00	1,994.79		
Grants to Missions and Charities								
United Appeal	13	£ 1,409.50	4,207.50		5,617.00	5,994.00		
Other PCI Schemes	14		540.15		540.15	645.00		
Other Missions and Charities	15	£ 1,687.50	3,440.00		5,127.50	5,293.75		
Total Payments		84,867.54	13,964.42	0.00	98,831.96	235,844.75		
Excess of Receipts over Payments		27,288.55	-2,157.52	0.00	25,131.03	-120,707.01		
*Excess of Receipts over payments, excluding house purchase		27,288.55	-2,157.52	0.00	25,131.03			

Notes to the Accounts

31/12/2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

1. Regular Direct Giving		
	2024	2023
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: FWO	56,208.43	57,923.50
Gift aid received (inc GASDS)	13,841.91	14,022.61
Loose collections	955.00	671.50
	<u>71,005.34</u>	<u>72,617.61</u>
<u>Restricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: Mission	2,060.00	2,045.00
Gift Aid: Mission	511.25	666.25
Recorded Giving: Building	2,130.00	2,485.00
Gift Aid: Building	607.50	783.75
Recorded Giving: United Appeal	3,385.00	3,440.00
Gift Aid: United Appeal	822.50	670.00
Recorded Giving: WDA	407.00	532.60
Gift Aid: WDA	133.15	111.75
	<u>10,056.40</u>	<u>10,734.35</u>
2. Donations and Legacies		
	2024	2023
Gift Days, Special Collections & General Donations	13,333.52	6,870.00
Legacies and Bequests	0.00	0.00
Received for Congregational Organisations	0.00	0.00
Donations from Congregational Organisations	900.00	700.00
	<u>14,233.52</u>	<u>7,570.00</u>
3. Charitable Activities		
	2024	2023
Income from Church events	646.62	719.50
Sale or rental of Books /CDs / DVDs	0.00	0.00
Church Magazines	0.00	0.00
	<u>646.62</u>	<u>719.50</u>
4. Investment Income		
	2024	2023
General Investment Fund	297.66	234.52
Other - bequest investment	0.00	0.00
	<u>297.66</u>	<u>234.52</u>
5. Other Income Sources		
	2024	2023
Musician Fund	0.00	0.00
Community Fund (inc Giftaid)	63.00	0.00
Charities (inc Gift Aid)	1,687.50	3,293.72
Use of Halls by external organisations	19,355.04	19,359.68
Rental of 21 Lisavon Drive	7,828.75	3,776.50
Insurance Claims recoverable/Refunds	3,655.61	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	2,962.30	608.36
	<u>35,552.20</u>	<u>27,038.26</u>

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

6. Central Church Assessments

	2024	2023
Comms Department	760.00	0.00
Central Ministry Fund	2,716.00	2,594.00
Widows of Ministers' Fund	488.00	530.00
Prolonged Disability Fund	380.00	530.00
Incidental Fund	1,955.00	2,122.00
Ministerial Development Fund	54.00	236.00
Assembly Buildings External Work	977.00	1,179.00
Sick Supply Fund	11.00	24.00
Students Bursary Fund	869.00	943.00
Presbytery Fees	805.00	767.00
	<u>9,015.00</u>	<u>8,925.00</u>

7. Ministry & Support Staff

	2024	2023
Minister Stipend & Expenses	15,503.77	44,766.69
Minister's National Insurance	1,668.32	4,776.00
Minister's Pension Scheme Fund	3,066.27	8,760.75
Apprenticeship Levy	63.88	182.75
Church Administrator (inc Pension, Expenses & HMRC)	7,185.12	8,554.50
Contract Cleaner	6,646.88	6,091.32
	<u>34,134.24</u>	<u>73,132.01</u>

8. Life & Work

	2024	2023
Worship & Fellowship	7,749.00	512.31
Discipleship & Ministry	56.00	19.15
Outreach Ministry (ROBI)	438.86	722.36
	<u>8,243.86</u>	<u>1,253.82</u>

9. Governance

	2024	2023
Advertising, Printing, Stationery & Postage	1,168.62	761.54
Other Sundry Expenses	7,642.36	2,735.37
Investment Fund (Purchase of 21 Lisavon Drive)	0.00	119,463.44
Bank Interest & charges	156.40	123.60
	<u>8,967.38</u>	<u>123,083.95</u>

10. Utilities

	2024	2023
Electricity - Church	4,995.59	6,812.80
Gas - Church	4,043.42	3,897.58
Water rates - Church	1,801.86	659.17
Telephone, Internet, IT HW & SW	1,396.27	1,370.29
Rates & Ground Rent - Manse & Lisavon	614.11	971.17
	<u>12,851.25</u>	<u>13,711.01</u>

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

11. Repairs & Maintenance		
	2024	2023
Repairs etc... Church & Grounds	6,020.47	1,751.42
Repairs etc... Manse	5,942.11	60.00
	<u>11,962.58</u>	<u>1,811.42</u>
12. Insurance		
	2024	2023
Insurance (church/Manse & House)	2,373.00	1,994.79
	<u>2,373.00</u>	<u>1,994.79</u>
13. United Appeal		
	2024	2023
United Appeal (Target £5617)	5,617.00	5,994.00
	<u>5,617.00</u>	<u>5,994.00</u>
14. Other PCI Schemes		
	2024	2023
Presbyterian Orphan & Children's Society	0.00	0.00
World Development Appeal	540.15	645.00
Moderator's Appeal (see Misc below)	0.00	0.00
Others	0.00	0.00
	<u>540.15</u>	<u>645.00</u>
15. Other Missions & Charities		
	2024	2023
Mission Africa	1,720.00	1,000.00
Serving in Mission	1,720.00	1,000.00
Misc Charities	1,687.50	3,293.75
	<u>5,127.50</u>	<u>5,293.75</u>

<u>Bank Account Balances at year end - comparison with previous year</u>			
	2024	2023	+ / (-)
General Account	£80,214.54	£45,404.13	£34,810.41
Building Account	£668.92	£1,650.80	£(981.88)
Mission Account	£41.90	£910.65	£(868.75)
Investment Account	£8,871.37	£8,871.37	£0.00
Total	<u>£89,796.73</u>	<u>£56,836.95</u>	<u>£32,959.78</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**As at 31 December 2024****1. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 161 Connsbrook Avenue, Belfast BT4 1JY, and the associated fixtures and fittings, plant and machinery. The congregation also owns the Manse at 6 Dundela Gardens, Belfast BT4 3DH, and the associated fixtures and fittings. These have an insurance value of £2,315,817 and £370,204 respectively. The church also has a house, which was purchased in 2023 for £118,000.

2. Investments

The congregation has the following investments.

	2024 £	2023 £
General Investment Fund	297	234
Other Investments (from bequests)*	0	0

*This investment was realised and a house purchased for rental income

3. Amounts owed

At the end of the year, the following amounts were owed to the congregation

	2024 £	2023 £
Interest Free Loans	0.00	0.00

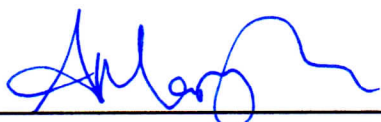
4. Cash and Bank balances

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Current Accounts	80,925	47,965
Cash Floats	0.00	0.00

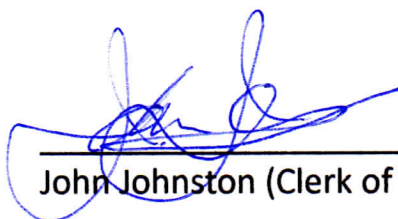
5. Amounts owed

	2024 £	2023 £
Loans	0.00	0.00

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Alan Marsh (Chairman)

Date: 14 October 2025

John Johnston (Clerk of Session)

Date: 14 October 2025

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Accounts

**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Regular Direct Giving	1	58,595.00	8,502.60		67,097.60	69,059.10
HMRC Gift Aid	1	14,022.61	2,231.75		16,254.36	15,581.18
Donations and Legacies	2	7,570.00			7,570.00	7,500.00
Activities that generate income	3	719.50			719.50	1,065.00
Investment Income	4	234.52			234.52	243.54
Other income sources	5	19,968.04	3,293.72		23,261.76	22,013.19
Total Receipts		101,109.67	14,028.07	0.00	115,137.74	115,462.01
Payments						
Central Church Assessments	6	8,925.00			8,925.00	8,773.00
Ministry & Support Staff	7	73,132.01			73,132.01	68,952.53
Life & Work	8	531.46	722.36		1,253.82	1,792.04
Governance	9	123,083.95			123,083.95	10,574.32
Property & Equipment						
Utilities	10	12,739.84	971.17		13,711.01	18,192.61
Repairs and Maintenance	11	128.75	1,682.67		1,811.42	10,600.65
Insurance	12	1,994.79			1,994.79	1,842.48
Grants to Missions and Charities						
United Appeal	13	£ 1,884.00	4,110.00		5,994.00	4,362.00
Other PCI Schemes	14		645.00		645.00	563.77
Other Missions and Charities	15	£ 3,293.75	2,000.00		5,293.75	8,291.00
Total Payments		225,713.55	10,131.20	0.00	235,844.75	133,944.40
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-124,603.88	3,896.87	0.00	-120,707.01	-18,482.39
*Excess of Receipts over payments, excluding house purchase		-5,140.44	3,896.87	0.00	-1,243.57	

Notes to the Accounts

31/12/2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

1. Regular Direct Giving		
	2023	2022
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: FWO	57,923.50	58,369.00
Gift aid received (inc GASDS)	14,022.61	13,666.70
Loose collections	671.50	451.90
	<u>72,617.61</u>	<u>72,487.60</u>
<u>Restricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: Mission	2,045.00	3,171.20
Gift Aid: Mission	666.25	647.91
Recorded Giving: Building	2,485.00	3,210.00
Gift Aid: Building	783.75	453.01
Recorded Giving: United Appeal	3,440.00	3,360.00
Gift Aid: United Appeal	670.00	726.79
Recorded Giving: WDA	532.60	477.00
Gift Aid: WDA	111.75	86.77
	<u>10,734.35</u>	<u>12,132.68</u>
2. Donations and Legacies		
	2023	2022
Gift Days, Special Collections & General Donations	6,870.00	6,200.00
Legacies and Bequests	0.00	0.00
Received for Congregational Organisations	0.00	1,000.00
Donations from Congregational Organisations	700.00	300.00
	<u>7,570.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
3. Charitable Activities		
	2023	2022
Income from Church events	719.50	1,065.00
Sale or rental of Books /CDs / DVDs	0.00	0.00
Church Magazines	0.00	0.00
	<u>719.50</u>	<u>1,065.00</u>
4. Investment Income		
	2023	2022
General Investment Fund	234.52	243.54
Other - bequest investment	0.00	0.00
	<u>234.52</u>	<u>243.54</u>
5. Other Income Sources		
	2023	2022
Musician Fund	0.00	0.00
Community Fund (inc Giftaid)	0.00	302.04
Charities (inc Gift Aid)	3,293.72	3,986.09
Use of Halls by external organisations	19,359.68	15,900.00
Rental of 21 Lisavon Drive	3,776.50	0.00
Insurance Claims recoverable	0.00	704.00
Miscellaneous Income	608.36	1,121.06
	<u>27,038.26</u>	<u>22,013.19</u>

6. Central Church Assessments

	2023	2022
Central Ministry Fund	2,594.00	2,624.00
Widows of Ministers' Fund	530.00	546.00
Prolonged Disability Fund	530.00	437.00
Incidental Fund	2,122.00	2,023.00
Ministerial Development Fund	236.00	251.00
Assembly Buildings External Work	1,179.00	1,094.00
Sick Supply Fund	24.00	33.00
Students Bursary Fund	943.00	1,039.00
Presbytery Fees	767.00	726.00
	<u>8,925.00</u>	<u>8,773.00</u>

7. Ministry & Support Staff

	2023	2022
Minister Stipend & Expenses	44,766.69	42,131.60
Minister's National Insurance	4,776.00	4,668.75
Minister's Pension Scheme Fund	8,760.75	8,344.00
Apprenticeship Levy	182.75	174.00
Church Administrator (inc Pension, Expenses & HMRC)	8,554.50	8,011.78
Contract Cleaner	6,091.32	5,622.40
	<u>73,132.01</u>	<u>68,952.53</u>

8. Life & Work

	2023	2022
Worship & Fellowship	512.31	935.02
Discipleship & Ministry	19.15	124.47
Outreach Ministry (ROBI)	722.36	732.55
	<u>1,253.82</u>	<u>1,792.04</u>

9. Governance

	2023	2022
Advertising, Printing, Stationery & Postage	761.54	1,025.97
Other Sundry Expenses	2,735.37	9,411.55
Investment Fund (Purchase of 21 Lisavon Drive)	119,463.44	0.00
Bank Interest & charges	123.60	135.20
	<u>123,083.95</u>	<u>10,572.72</u>

10. Utilities

	2023	2022
Electricity - Church	6,812.80	9,601.80
Gas - Church	3,897.58	5,525.10
Water rates - Church	659.17	611.69
Internet, Website, ChurchSuite, Software	1,370.29	1,555.81
Rates & Ground Rent - Manse	971.17	898.21
	<u>13,711.01</u>	<u>18,192.61</u>

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

11. Repairs & Maintenance

	2023	2022
Repairs etc... Church & Grounds	1,751.42	5,855.65
Repairs etc... Manse	60.00	4,745.00
	<u>1,811.42</u>	<u>10,600.65</u>

12. Insurance

	2023	2022
Insurance	1,994.79	1,842.48
	<u>1,994.79</u>	<u>1,842.48</u>

13. United Appeal

	2023	2022
United Appeal (Target £5994)	5,994.00	4,362.00
	<u>5,994.00</u>	<u>4,362.00</u>

14. Other PCI Schemes

	2023	2022
Presbyterian Orphan & Children's Society	0.00	0.00
World Development Appeal	645.00	563.77
Moderator's Appeal (see Misc below)	0.00	0.00
Others (Students Bursary 2019)	0.00	0.00
	<u>645.00</u>	<u>563.77</u>

15. Other Missions & Charities

	2023	2022
Mission Africa	1,000.00	2,250.00
Serving in Mission	1,000.00	2,050.00
Misc Charities	3,293.75	3,991.00
	<u>5,293.75</u>	<u>8,291.00</u>

Bank Account Balances at year end - comparison with previous year

	2023	2022	+ / (-)
General Account	£45,404.13	£45,168.53	£235.60
Building Account	£1,650.80	£64.72	£1,586.08
Mission Account	£910.65	£199.40	£711.25
Investment/Savings	£8,871.37	£128,334.81	£(119,463.44)
Total	<u>£56,836.95</u>	<u>£173,767.46</u>	<u>£(116,930.51)</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**As at 31 December 2023****1. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 161 Connsbrook Avenue, Belfast BT4 1JY, and the associated fixtures and fittings, plant and machinery. The congregation also owns the Manse at 6 Dundela Gardens, Belfast BT4 3DH, and the associated fixtures and fittings. These have an insurance value of £2,600,214 and £358,378 respectively. The church also has a house, which was purchased in 2023 for £118,000.

2. Investments

The congregation has the following investments.

	2023 £	2022 £
General Investment Fund	234	234
Other Investments (from bequests)*	0	128,334

*This investment was realised and a house purchased for rental income

3. Amounts owed

At the end of the year, the following amounts were owed to the congregation

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest Free Loans	0.00	0.00

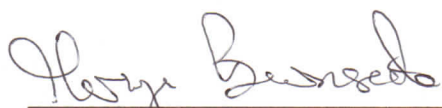
4. Cash and Bank balances

	2023 £	2022 £
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Current Accounts	47,965	45,432
Cash Floats	0.00	0.00

5. Amounts owed

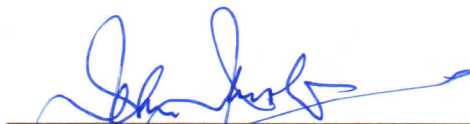
	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	0.00	0.00

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Mervyn Burnside (Vacancy Convenor)

Date: 16 October 2024



John Johnston (Clerk of Session)

Date: 16 October 2024

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Annual report



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Strand Presbyterian Church

161 Connsbrook Avenue

Belfast

BT5 1JY

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

Rev Daniel Rankin	George Hampton	John Johnston
Samuel Kennedy	Patricia Cooper	Suzanne Howe
Robert Megahey	Graeme Hamilton	Harry Black
Martin Hampton	Susan Lilley	David Doggart
Rev Mervyn Burnside		

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Vacancy Convenor	Rev Mervyn Burnside
Clerk of Session	John Johnston
Treasurer	Martin Hampton

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Robert Martyn Russell

SOLICITORS

Peden & Reid
22 Calendar St
Belfast
BT1 5BU

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd
Connswater Branch
Arches Retail Park
Belfast BT5 4AF

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**The Kirk Session**

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are usually held on a monthly basis.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant of its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of votes cast.

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Strand Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the church, representing in one body the whole church and acting as its supreme legislative, administrative and judicial authority, in dealing with matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of the business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired

ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Strand Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. 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.

The Congregation's mission purpose is:

Acknowledging that God is sovereign in all things we aim, by the preaching of the word, by prayer and fellowship to train and motivate Christians to bear witness to Christ in Sydenham and elsewhere, through loving service and evangelism.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people through the following areas of church life:

Worship & Prayer – to achieve vital and meaningful worship of God;

Discipleship – to grow together in knowledge of God, God's word and God's will;

Evangelism – to reach out actively and seek to bring others into the community of faith;

Fellowship & Pastoral care – to provide a supportive and caring ministry to one another;

Ministry – to proclaim God's love, by word and action; and

Resources – to develop and deploy our property and other resources in line with our mission and objectives.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several occasions throughout the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of activities & organisations including:

Sunday

- Sunday PALS – P1-P7
- Sunday Creche

Monday

- Mixed Bowls
- Girls Brigade

Tuesday

- Badminton Club

Wednesday

- HOPE Club (for retired folk)

Thursday

- Parents and Toddlers
- Boys Brigade (Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section)

In addition, we offer free tea and coffee every Monday. Wednesday and Friday morning, having registered as a 'Warm Welcome Space' and provide access to our halls for outside groups to use on a weekly basis:

These include:

- Breakfast Club and After Schools Care
- Mixed Fitness Classes

Several local charities and organisations also make use of our facilities on an ad hoc basis:

- Barnardos
- Eastside Partnership
- Queen's Island Male Voice Choir
- Angel Eyes
- Latin Link
- Lace Guild
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Belfast City Council

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1-2-3 Lunch Club:

This is a monthly Lunch Club for anyone 50+ to attend. Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, we meet at 1pm, for a 2-course lunch for a cost of £3.00 (Hence 1-2-3). We have regularly had 30-40 people attending from within the Sydenham Community each month. Following lockdown, this proved a popular attraction, bringing people back together safely for a meal.

Worship and prayer:

The congregation normally meets for worship every Sunday at 10.30am. During the week, we hold a prayer meeting and study the bible, providing the opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at sacraments of baptism and services of thanksgiving. We gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31st December 2023, there were 80 communicant members and 104 families connected with the congregation.

The average weekly attendance at morning worship sits at around 60-65.

Near the end of the year, the Rev D. Rankin announced his intention to retire on 30th April 2024.

Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to illness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister and elders.

Mission and Outreach

At a local level the congregation runs several organisations which are available to residents in the local area around Connsbrook Avenue. Details of the activities of the organisations can be found below, starting at page 11.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregations in the area of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

In addition, The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has launched appeals to help with world crises, such as hurricane damage, tsunami damage etc... The congregation contributes financially to these appeals as and when called upon.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. In addition, one of our elders is an official for the Presbytery and also attends the meetings.

General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders are nominated to attend the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in Assembly Buildings, normally held in Belfast in the month of June.

Property

General upkeep of the church and Manse continue throughout the year. Regular scheduled maintenance of the fire alarm and the fire safety systems, and of the gas heating system has been completed.

Administration

We continue to maintain our church records using *Churchsuite*, a cloud hosted web-based church management system (<https://churchsuite.com/>) to keep track of our membership and record direct donations from members, utilising its Gift Aid claim facility direct to HMRC. Churchsuite assists us in adherence to GDPR, as a single source of membership data.

Organisations – Those listed below have been running during 2023.

Sunday

- Sunday Creche

The church provides childcare facilities to allow parents with babies, both members and visitors, to attend the worship service.

- Sunday PALS – P1-P7

Children in the age range for primary school start out in the main worship service with their family, but then leave to have their own time together and be taught from the bible in an engaging manner.

Monday

- Mixed Bowls

This activity has a long history in Strand having been established by those members of the church who wanted a winter indoor game, to complement what was a traditional outdoors one played during the summer months at local parks and private clubs. While primarily played by the men of the congregation, numbers dwindled over the years as the key membership grew older and folk became less active.

The indoor bowling club was rejuvenated about 10 years ago with the involvement of a recently retired Elder. This expansion also saw the club attracting women and other members drawn from the wider community. It is now a fully mixed activity with new members injecting much needed vitality.

The aim is to provide competitive indoor bowling for those who love the game; and provide a good atmosphere of fellowship and friendship for Christians and non-Christians alike. We take time to have tea and coffee and (as we are evangelistic in our outlook) usually have a short 'insight to the scriptures' from the Minister (who's an average bowler).

The new church building, with catering facilities adjacent to the playing hall, has also played its part in growing the game and we are 'full' in terms of those attending from 1.30 until 4pm most Monday afternoons. Approximately 50% of the membership now comes from outside of Strand church with a similar split in terms of gender. While the vast majority of the membership is in the 60+ age group the activity is not confined to pensioners but is open to all from the local and wider community, albeit that the club is fast approaching its membership limit given that there is no scope to increase the current number of playing mats that can be accommodated.

Where needed, we provide transport for those unable to travel on their own and have facilitated the participation of those with special needs.

The club levies a nominal membership charge of £5 per year with weekly dues of 50P to cover the cost of refreshments.

- Girls Brigade

The Girls Brigade meets every Monday from 6.15pm – 7.15pm and covers two of the age-ranges set by GB. Explorers for ages 3-7 and Juniors for ages 8-10

As part of the wider movement, Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland is recognised as a dynamic, relevant, Christ-centred organisation effectively reaching out to all girls to value, nurture and equip them for life.

Tuesday

- Badminton Club

Meeting on a Tuesday evening (7.30pm – 9.30pm), the club is not a competitive club (playing in a league) but plays for fun and we provide a relaxed social atmosphere for those who attend. Run by church members, the majority of those attending have no church connection. We charge £1 per week to cover expenses

Wednesday

- HOPE Club (for retired folk)

The Hope Club runs from 2.00pm to 3.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and is open to anyone in the community. A programme for the year is developed and hosts a number of speakers on a range of subjects, with a couple of outings and a meal or two throughout the year. The Club brings the older community together for refreshments and provides the opportunity to socialise. We also encourage the sharing of faith and beliefs as our aim as a church group is to win souls for Christ.

Thursday

- Parents and Toddlers

This provides an environment for young children and their carers to meet, for children to develop their social skills and for carers to share their experiences and support each other. We include members of all faiths and none and foster the acceptance of minorities in our community.

As a church group to show Gods love in a practical way and to share the gospel with all. To encourage church attendance if possible where one does not exist.

Everyone is made very welcome. A small charge of £1 is made to cover our weekly costs.

Several of our members are from the Polish community, the Indian community and the Iranian community.

Babies and Toddlers use age appropriate toys. Where requests are made for specialist toys we endeavour to accommodate this.

Each week a short bible story is shared as well as a few choruses and finger songs/rhymes. This is followed by juice, tea/coffee toast and cheese and occasional treats. This is one of the highlights for the adults as they get to enjoy tea etc., made for them.

- Boys Brigade (Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section)

Anchor Boys is the youngest section of the 42nd BB organised by Strand Presbyterian Church & held in its halls every Thursday from 6.30 – 7.30pm for boys in P1 – P4. Each week they meet and enjoy games, Bible stories, group-work, craft and much more!

The Anchor Boys is attended mostly by boys without any other church connection. We follow the main themes of the Boys Brigade in planning our programme. Our main focus is evangelism and have a regular Bible teaching element as part of our weekly programme. We also seek to build relationships with the children attending and our hope is to see those who don't have a Church connection, coming along to join us in Sunday worship. We also try to build relationships with the parents by encouraging them to come into the building and pick up their children and a couple of times each session we visit the homes to give out notes about our activities and to reconnect with the families following a break.

The Junior Section helps to support boys aged 8-11 (P5 - P7) to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to meet together and engage in a range of fun and developmental activities & experiences. In keeping with the object of the Boys Brigade – "The advancement of Christ's kingdom", we encourage boys to explore their faith.

The Company Section, for boys in school years 8 to 14 is gaining momentum following its restart. The Company Section's challenging, fun and varied programme is designed to contribute to a boy's physical, educational, social and spiritual development.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

THE Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter & Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for

response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian Beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by local resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, websites and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission Workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering (WFO). There were 77 contributors during the year (82 in previous year, 2022), donating a total amount of £67,097 (£69,059 in previous year, 2022).

Total income of the congregation during the year was £115,137; compared to £115,462 in the previous year.

Total Expenditure was £116,421 however, in addition, we purchased a house for £119,000 as an investment, which produces monthly rental of £755.00.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for

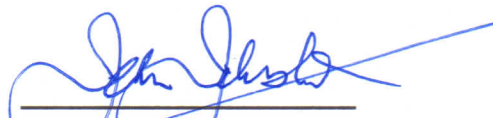
safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Mervyn Burnside
Vacancy Convenor

Date: 16 October 2024



John Johnston
Clerk of Session

Date: 16 October 2024

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Annual return



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Independent Examiners Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

I report on the accounts of Strand Presbyterian Church for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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:

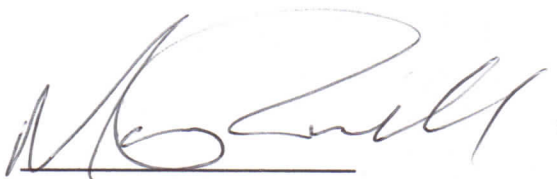
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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.

Signature



Name:

Robert Martyn Russell

Relevant professional body:

Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors UK & Ireland

Address:

38 Woodbrook Manor
Lisburn
BT28 0AD

Date:

11th April 2024

Accounts



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Regular Direct Giving	1	58,840.90	10,218.20		69,059.10	67,455.50
HMRC Gift Aid	1	13,666.70	1,914.48		15,581.18	16,532.07
Donations and Legacies	2	7,500.00			7,500.00	8,400.00
Activities that generate income	3	1,065.00			1,065.00	0.00
Investment Income	4	243.54			243.54	234.52
Other income sources	5	17,725.06	4,288.13		22,013.19	13,502.79
Total Receipts		99,041.20	16,420.81	0.00	115,462.01	106,124.88
Payments						
Central Church Assessments	6	8,773.00			8,773.00	10,007.00
Ministry & Support Staff	7	68,952.53			68,952.53	68,376.93
Life & Work	8	1,059.49	732.55		1,792.04	1,285.06
Governance	9	10,574.32			10,574.32	5,031.74
<i>Property & Equipment</i>						
Utilities	10	17,294.40	898.21		18,192.61	14,911.96
Repairs and Maintenance	11	6,179.16	4,421.49		10,600.65	4,653.59
Insurance	12	1,842.48			1,842.48	1,704.18
<i>Grants to Missions and Charities</i>						
United Appeal	13	£ 275.21	4,086.79		4,362.00	5,920.00
Other PCI Schemes	14		563.77		563.77	400.00
Other Missions and Charities	15	£ 3,991.00	4,300.00		8,291.00	3,600.00
Total Payments		118,941.59	15,002.81	0.00	133,944.40	115,890.46
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-19,900.39	1,418.00	0.00	-18,482.39	-9,765.58

Notes to the Accounts

31/12/2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

1. Regular Direct Giving		
	2022	2021
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: FWO	58,389.00	59,204.00
Gift aid received (inc GASDS)	13,666.70	14,652.47
Loose collections	451.90	0.00
	<u>72,507.60</u>	<u>73,856.47</u>
<u>Restricted</u>		
Recorded Giving: Mission	3,171.20	2,792.50
Gift Aid: Mission	647.91	628.10
Recorded Giving: Building	3,210.00	1,952.50
Gift Aid: Building	453.01	546.30
Recorded Giving: United Appeal	3,360.00	3,132.50
Gift Aid: United Appeal	726.79	705.20
Recorded Giving: WDA	477.00	374.00
Gift Aid: WDA	86.77	0.00
	<u>12,132.68</u>	<u>10,131.10</u>
2. Donations and Legacies		
	2022	2021
Gift Days, Special Collections & General Donations	6,200.00	8,400.00
Legacies and Bequests	0.00	0.00
Received for Congregational Organisations	1,000.00	0.00
Donations from Congregational Organisations	300.00	0.00
	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>8,400.00</u>
3. Charitable Activities		
	2022	2021
Income from Church events	1,065.00	0.00
Sale or rental of Books /CDs / DVDs	0.00	0.00
Church Magazines	0.00	0.00
	<u>1,065.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
4. Investment Income		
	2022	2021
General Investment Fund	243.54	234.52
Other - bequest investment	0.00	0.00
	<u>243.54</u>	<u>234.52</u>
5. Other Income Sources		
	2022	2021
Musician Fund	0.00	0.00
Community Fund (inc Giftaid)	302.04	852.79
Charities (inc Gift Aid)	3,986.09	170.00
Use of Halls by external organisations	15,900.00	12,480.00
Insurance Claims recoverable	704.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,121.06	0.00
	<u>22,013.19</u>	<u>13,502.79</u>

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

6. Central Church Assessments		
	2022	2021
Central Ministry Fund	2,624.00	3,217.00
Retired Ministers' Fund	0.00	0.00
Widows of Ministers' Fund	546.00	737.00
Prolonged Disability Fund	437.00	536.00
Incidental Fund	2,023.00	2,479.00
Ministerial Development Fund	251.00	349.00
Assembly Buildings External Work	1,094.00	1,408.00
Sick Supply Fund	33.00	54.00
Students Bursary Fund	1,039.00	469.00
Presbytery Fees	726.00	758.00
	<u>8,773.00</u>	<u>10,007.00</u>
7. Ministry & Support Staff		
	2022	2021
Minister Stipend & Expenses	42,131.60	41,405.70
Minister's National Insurance	4,668.75	4,334.75
Minister's Pension Scheme Fund	8,344.00	8,160.00
Apprenticeship Levy	174.00	170.00
Church Administrator (inc Pension, Expenses & HMRC)	8,011.78	7,608.28
Contract Cleaner	5,622.40	5,530.20
Summer Assistant (2021)	0.00	1,168.00
	<u>68,952.53</u>	<u>68,376.93</u>
8. Life & Work		
	2022	2021
Worship & Fellowship	935.02	400.00
Discipleship & Ministry	124.47	110.19
Outreach Ministry (ROBI)	732.55	774.87
	<u>1,792.04</u>	<u>1,285.06</u>
9. Governance		
	2022	2021
Advertising, Printing, Stationery & Postage	1,025.97	1,303.86
Other Sundry Expenses	9,411.55	3,596.28
Bank Interest & charges	136.80	131.60
	<u>10,574.32</u>	<u>5,031.74</u>
10. Utilities		
	2022	2021
Electricity - Church	9,601.80	7,486.26
Gas - Church	5,525.10	3,480.58
Water rates - Church	611.69	438.89
Telephone, Internet, IT HW & SW	1,555.81	2,571.18
Rates & Ground Rent - Manse	898.21	935.05
	<u>18,192.61</u>	<u>14,911.96</u>

STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

11. Repairs & Maintenance			
	2022	2021	
Repairs etc... Church & Grounds	5,855.65	4,653.59	
Repairs etc... Manse	4,745.00	0.00	
	<u>10,600.65</u>	<u>4,653.59</u>	
12. Insurance			
	2022	2021	
Insurance	1,842.48	1,704.18	
	<u>1,842.48</u>	<u>1,704.18</u>	
13. United Appeal			
	2022	2021	
United Appeal (Target £5816)	4,362.00	5,920.00	
	<u>4,362.00</u>	<u>5,920.00</u>	
14. Other PCI Schemes			
	2022	2021	
Presbyterian Orphan & Children's Society	0.00	0.00	
World Development Appeal	563.77	400.00	
Moderator's Appeal (see Misc below)	0.00	0.00	
Others (Students Bursary 2019)	0.00	0.00	
	<u>563.77</u>	<u>400.00</u>	
15. Other Missions & Charities			
	2022	2021	
Mission Africa	2,250.00	1,700.00	
Serving in Mission	2,050.00	1,700.00	
Misc Charities	3,991.00	200.00	
	<u>8,291.00</u>	<u>3,600.00</u>	

Bank Account Balances at year end - comparison with previous year

	2022	2021	+ / (-)
General Account	£45,168.53	£62,411.55	£(17,243.02)
Building Account	£64.72	£823.20	£(758.48)
Mission Account	£199.40	£680.29	£(480.89)
Investment Account	£128,334.81	£128,334.81	£0.00
Total	<u>£173,767.46</u>	<u>£192,249.85</u>	<u>£(18,482.39)</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**As at 31 December 2022****1. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 161 Connsbrook Avenue, Belfast BT4 1JY, and the associated fixtures and fittings, plant and machinery. The congregation also owns the Manse at 6 Dundela Gardens, Belfast BT4 3DH, and the associated fixtures and fittings. These have an insurance value of £2,110,957 and £337,456 respectively.

2. Investments

The congregation has the following investments.

	2022 £	2021 £
General Investment Fund	234	234
Other Investments (from bequests)	128,334	128,334

3. Amounts owed

At the end of the year, the following amounts were owed to the congregation

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest Free Loans	0.00	0.00

4. Cash and Bank balances

	2022 £	2021 £
Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Current Accounts	45,432	63,915
Cash Floats	0.00	0.00

5. Amounts owed

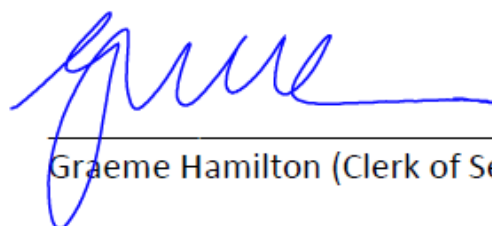
	2022 £	2021 £
Loans	0.00	0.00

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 18th September 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Danny Rankin (Minister)

Date: 18/09/23



Graeme Hamilton (Clerk of Session)

Date: 18/09/23

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Annual report



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Strand Presbyterian Church

161 Connsbrook Avenue

Belfast

BT5 1JY

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

Rev Daniel Rankin	George Hampton	John Johnston
David Simpson	Samuel Kennedy	Edward Duly
Robert Megahey	Victor Chestnutt	Graeme Hamilton
Martin Hampton	Harry Black	Patricia Cooper
David Doggart	Susan Lilley	Suzanne Howe

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Daniel Rankin
Clerk of Session	Graeme Hamilton
Treasurer	Martin Hampton

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Robert Martyn Russell

SOLICITORS

Peden & Reid
22 Calendar St
Belfast
BT1 5BU

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd
Connswater Branch
Arches Retail Park
Belfast BT5 4AF

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**The Kirk Session**

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation.

Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are usually held on a monthly basis.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant of its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of votes cast.

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Strand Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the church, representing in one body the whole church and acting as its supreme legislative, administrative and judicial authority, in dealing with matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of the business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired

ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Strand Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. 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.

The Congregation's mission purpose is:

Acknowledging that God is sovereign in all things we aim, by the preaching of the word, by prayer and fellowship to train and motivate Christians to bear witness to Christ in Sydenham and elsewhere, through loving service and evangelism.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people through the following areas of church life:

Worship & Prayer – to achieve vital and meaningful worship of God;

Discipleship – to grow together in knowledge of God, God's word and God's will;

Evangelism – to reach out actively and seek to bring others into the community of faith;

Fellowship & Pastoral care – to provide a supportive and caring ministry to one another;

Ministry – to proclaim God’s love, by word and action; and

Resources – to develop and deploy our property and other resources in line with our mission and objectives.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is observed on several occasions throughout the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord’s Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of activities & organisations including:

Sunday

- Sunday PALS – P1-P7
- Sunday Creche

Monday

- Mixed Bowls
- Girls Brigade

Tuesday

- Badminton Club

Wednesday

- HOPE Club (for retired folk)

Thursday

- Parents and Toddlers
- Boys Brigade (Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section)

In addition, we offer free tea and coffee every Monday. Wednesday and Friday morning and provide access to our halls for outside groups to use on a weekly basis:

These include:

- Breakfast Club and After Schools Care
- Mixed Fitness Classes
- “Chi Chi Fit” Exercise Class
- The ‘Treehouse at Strand’ Playgroup ceased operating at the end of August 2022 due to insufficient funds, following a period of closure and restricted opening during the Covid Pandemic. One member of staff resigned in May and the other two were made redundant.

Several local charities and organisations also make use of our facilities on an ad hoc basis:

- Barnardos
- Eastside Partnership
- Angel Eyes

- Latin Link
- Lace Guild
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Belfast City Council

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE – During restrictions in 2021

1-2-3 Lunch Club:

This is a monthly Lunch Club for anyone 50+ to attend. Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, we meet at 1pm, for a 2-course lunch for a cost of £3.00 (Hence 1-2-3). We have regularly had 40-50 people attending from within the Sydenham Community each month. Following lockdown, this proved a popular attraction, bringing people back together safely for a meal.

Worship and prayer:

The congregation normally meets for worship every Sunday at 10.30am. During the week, we hold a prayer meeting and study the bible, , providing the opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at sacraments of baptism and services of thanksgiving. We gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31st December 2022, there were 80 communicant members and 113 families connected with the congregation.

Following the pandemic, the average weekly attendance at morning worship has not fully recovered and sits at around 65 -70.. Throughout 2022 we have continued to manage the risk of spreading Covid, and the services are live streamed for those who still feel unable to attend. Evening Services have not yet resumed.

Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to illness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister and elders.

Mission and Outreach

At a local level the congregation runs several organisations which are available to residents in the local area around Connsbrook Avenue. Details of the activities of the organisations can be found below, starting at page 11.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregations in the area of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

In addition, The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has launched appeals to help with world crises, such as hurricane damage, tsunami damage etc... The congregation contributes financially to these appeals as and when called upon.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. In addition, one of our elders is an official for the Presbytery and also attends the meetings.

General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders are nominated to attend the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in Assembly Buildings, normally held in Belfast in the month of June.

Property

General upkeep of the church and Manse continue throughout the year. Regular scheduled maintenance of the fire alarm and the fire safety systems, and of the gas heating system has been completed.

Administration

We continue to maintain our church records using *Churchsuite*, a cloud hosted web-based church management system (<https://churchsuite.com/>) to keep track of our

membership and record direct donations from members, utilising its Gift Aid claim facility direct to HMRC. Churchsuite assists us in adherence to GDPR, as a single source of membership data.

Organisations – Those listed below have been running during 2022, following the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions

Sunday

- Sunday Creche

The church provides childcare facilities to allow parents with babies, both members and visitors, to attend the worship service.

- Sunday PALS – P1-P7

Children in the age range for primary school start out in the main worship service with their family, but then leave to have their own time together and be taught from the bible in an engaging manner.

Monday

- Mixed Bowls

This activity has a long history in Strand having been established by those members of the church who wanted a winter indoor game, to complement what was a traditional outdoors one played during the summer months at local parks and private clubs. While primarily played by the men of the congregation, numbers dwindled over the years as the key membership grew older and folk became less active.

The indoor bowling club was rejuvenated about 10 years ago with the involvement of a recently retired Elder. This expansion also saw the club attracting women and other members drawn from the wider community. It is now a fully mixed activity with new members injecting much needed vitality.

The aim is to provide competitive indoor bowling for those who love the game; and provide a good atmosphere of fellowship and friendship for Christians and non-Christians alike. We take time to have tea and coffee and (as we are evangelistic in our outlook) usually have a short 'insight to the scriptures' from the Minister (who's an average bowler).

The new church building, with catering facilities adjacent to the playing hall, has also played its part in growing the game and we are 'full' in terms of those attending from 1.30 until 4pm most Monday afternoons. Approximately 50% of the membership now comes from outside of Strand church with a similar split in terms of gender. While the vast majority of the membership is in the 60+ age group the activity is not confined to pensioners but is open to all from the local and wider community, albeit that the club is fast approaching its membership limit given that there is no scope to increase the current number of playing mats that can be accommodated.

Where needed, we provide transport for those unable to travel on their own and have facilitated the participation of those with special needs.

The club levies a nominal membership charge of £5 per year with weekly dues of 50P to cover the cost of refreshments.

- Girls Brigade

The Girls Brigade meets every Monday from 6.15pm – 7.15pm and covers two of the age-ranges set by GB. Explorers for ages 3-7 and Juniors for ages 8-10

As part of the wider movement, Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland is recognised as a dynamic, relevant, Christ-centred organisation effectively reaching out to all girls to value, nurture and equip them for life.

Tuesday

- Badminton Club

Meeting on a Tuesday evening (7.30pm – 9.30pm), the club is not a competitive club (playing in a league) but plays for fun and we provide a relaxed social atmosphere for those who attend. Run by church members, the majority of those attending have no church connection. We charge £1 per week to cover expenses

Wednesday

- HOPE Club (for retired folk)

The Hope Club runs from 2.00pm to 3.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and is open to anyone in the community. A programme for the year is developed and hosts a number of speakers on a range of subjects, with a couple of outings and a meal or two throughout the year. The Club brings the older community together for refreshments and provides the opportunity to socialise. We also encourage the sharing of faith and beliefs as our aim as a church group is to win souls for Christ.

Thursday

- Parents and Toddlers

This provides an environment for young children and their carers to meet, for children to develop their social skills and for carers to share their experiences and support each other. We include members of all faiths and none and foster the acceptance of minorities in our community.

As a church group to show Gods love in a practical way and to share the gospel with all. To encourage church attendance if possible where one does not exist.

Everyone is made very welcome. A small charge of £1 is made to cover our weekly costs.

Several of our members are from the Polish community, the Indian community and the Iranian community.

Babies and Toddlers use age appropriate toys. Where requests are made for specialist toys we endeavour to accommodate this.

Each week a short bible story is shared as well as a few choruses and finger songs/rhymes. This is followed by juice, tea/coffee toast and cheese and occasional treats. This is one of the highlights for the adults as they get to enjoy tea etc., made for them.

- Boys Brigade (Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section)

Anchor Boys is the youngest section of the 42nd BB organised by Strand Presbyterian Church & held in its halls every Thursday from 6.30 – 7.30pm for boys in P1 – P4. Each week they meet and enjoy games, Bible stories, group-work, craft and much more!

The Anchor Boys is attended mostly by boys without any other church connection. We follow the main themes of the Boys Brigade in planning our programme. Our main focus is evangelism and have a regular Bible teaching element as part of our weekly programme. We also seek to build relationships with the children attending and our hope is to see those who don't have a Church connection, coming along to join us in Sunday worship. We also try to build relationships with the parents by encouraging them to come into the building and pick up their children and a couple of times each session we visit the homes to give out notes about our activities and to reconnect with the families following a break.

The Junior Section helps to support boys aged 8-11 (P5 - P7) to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to meet together and engage in a range of fun and developmental activities & experiences. In keeping with the object of the Boys Brigade – “The advancement of Christ's kingdom”, we encourage boys to explore their faith.

The Company Section, for boys in school years 8 to 14 is gaining momentum following its restart. The Company Section's challenging, fun and varied programme is designed to contribute to a boy's physical, educational, social and spiritual development.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

THE Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter & Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian Beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by local resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, websites and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission Workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and

support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering (WFO). There were 82 contributors during the year (84 in previous year, 2021), donating a total amount of £69,059 (£67,455 in previous year, 2021).

Total income of the congregation during the year was £115,462; compared to £106,124 in the previous year. Room Hire income improved as the building was open for unrestricted use. The increase in the income recorded was due to the room hire and additional donations towards an appeal for Ukraine.

Total Expenditure increase by £18,000. Utility costs rose due to the various external world factors. £4,000 was sent to a Romanian church for their support of Ukrainian refugees. Two unusual and one-off items of expenditure account for the rest of the increased expenditure.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 18th September 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Danny Rankin (Minister)

Date: 18/09/23



Graeme Hamilton (Clerk of Session)

Date: 18/09/23

Strand Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104314

Annual return



**Strand Presbyterian Church - a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Independent Examiners Report
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104314

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STRAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

I report on the accounts of Strand Presbyterian Church for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of charity 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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.

Signature



Name:

Robert Martyn Russell

Relevant professional body:

Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors UK & Ireland

Address:

38 Woodbrook Manor
Lisburn
BT28 0AD

Date:

27 January 2023