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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND



STORMONT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**91st Annual Report  
& Statement of Accounts 2022**

[www.stormontchurch.org](http://www.stormontchurch.org)

618 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HH

Registered with the Charity Commission for  
Northern Ireland NIC104334

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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Minister:**

Rev Albin C Rankin  
9 Pembridge Court, Belfast, BT4 2RW  
Email: [albin@stormontchurch.org](mailto:albin@stormontchurch.org)  
Mobile: 07740580295  
Office: 02890 656642 Ext 21

### **Church Administrator:**

Mrs Edna Bell  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)  
Tel: 02890 656642 Ext 20  
Church office opening hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday to Friday

### **Key Leaders**

#### **Clerk of Session:**

Mrs Linda Cardy Tel: 02980 656642 Ext 20 Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)

#### **Congregational Secretary:**

Mrs Frona Clarke Tel: 02890 656642 Ext 20 Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)

#### **Congregational Treasurer:**

Mrs Alison Wilson Tel: 02890 656642 Ext 20 Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)

#### **Musical Director:**

Dr Tim Crawford Tel: 02890 656642 Ext 20 Email: [tim@stormontchurch.org](mailto:tim@stormontchurch.org)

## **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE**

There are 11 elected members of this committee who, along with the members of Kirk Session, make up the Congregational Church Committee. This body principally focuses on finance and fabric. This year, due to Covid restrictions, Committee met only twice, with the Steering Group from Kirk Session carrying out much of the work that would normally be done by the smaller teams.

Dennis Boyd	Niamh Brennan	Janet Wood
Ellen Johnston	Elizabeth Roberts	
Suzanne McLachlan	Brian Wilson	
Margaret McNeill	Cecil Wilson	
Neil Palmer	Keith Wood	

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

### **CRECHE**

Sunday 11am in Kirk Cara  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **BADMINTON CLUB**

Tuesday 7:45pm-10:30pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **J.A.M (Jesus and Me)**

Sunday, during church  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **RAINBOW GUIDES**

Tuesday 6pm -7:00pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (YF)**

Friday 7:30pm *fortnightly*  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **BROWNIE GUIDES**

Tuesday 6pm - 7:15pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Tuesdays at 2pm –4pm *as announced*  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **GIRL GUIDES**

Tuesday 7:30pm - 9pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **EVERGREENS**

Wednesday at 10am-11:45am  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **SQUIRRELS**

Wednesday 6:15pm - 7:15pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **FIRST FRIENDS**

(Babies, toddlers & carers)  
Wednesday 10:30am-12noon  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **BEAVER SCOUTS**

Thursday 6.45pm-8pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **CHOIR**

Wednesdays 7:30pm– 9pm  
*as arranged*  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **CUB SCOUTS**

Thursday 6.45pm-8pm  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



### **MESSY CHURCH**

Sunday 4:00pm—6:00pm *monthly*  
Tel: 0290 656642 Ext 20  
Email: [office@stormontchurch.org](mailto:office@stormontchurch.org)



# **Annual Report 2022**

## **Stormont Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

Stormont Presbyterian Church  
618, Upper Newtownards Road,  
Belfast.  
BT4 3HH

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104334  
The Charity Trustees who served during the year were

Mrs Linda Cardy	Mr Brian Millar
Mr Gordon Clarke (ret'd 10th May 2022)	Mrs Elizabeth Millar
Mrs Frona Clarke	Mrs Christine Patterson
Mrs Julie Power	Ms Elizabeth Pollock
Mr Stephen Duffield	Ms Joan Pollock
Mrs Pamela Fenton	Mr Brian Robinson
Dr Rosemary Hamilton	Mr Ross Reed
Mr John Hunter (ret'd 26th September 2022)	Mrs Alison Wilson
Mrs Rosemary Hunter	Rev Albin Rankin
Mr Colin Keers	
Mr Colin Kirkwood	

### **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 held normally at two-monthly intervals with additional special meetings as the need arises.

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

## Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's 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. Stormont Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of the 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 all 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 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

Stormont 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 statement is:

*Stormont Presbyterian Church seeks to share with all, the accepting, forgiving, caring love of God shown in Jesus Christ.*

This brief description of our purpose attempts to answer the question, "Why do we exist?"

From our **Mission Statement** we have identified four Aims:

To be a fellowship of worshipping Christians whose learning **results in responsible living**

To be a fellowship of worshipping Christians **committed to one another** under God and filled with the Holy Spirit

To be a church that **ministers unselfishly** to persons in the community in Jesus' name

To be **witnesses for Christ** in the community and throughout the world

The essence of our mission statement is captured in our **Purpose Statement**:

## Showing People Christ

## 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 during 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 organisations both for church members and for people in our wider community.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship, Prayer and Mission

2022 began with our congregation continuing to work within the restrictions of Covid mitigations, however the year has been one of encouragement as restrictions began to lift and we were able to re-establish more normal rhythms of church life.

Our congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11am with the focus on meeting with God as we listen to reading and teaching from his Word and as we speak to him in prayer. It is also a time of preparation for living out our faith during the week by caring for one another as a church family and showing God's love to our community and wider world in mission and service. This year during the church service, members of the congregation have helped to read and provide prayers for others, and our singing is led by our music director Mr Tim Crawford. One or two singers lead from the front each week, and as Covid restrictions were lifted, our music director has been able to re-establish our choir which provided additional musical input for special services such as Easter, harvest and Christmas. Communion has been celebrated three times this year. During the early part of the year our church adhered to PCI "Staying Safe-Keeping one another Safe" with all activities apart from Sunday morning worship happening online. In February changes to protocols and mitigations led to a resumption of in-person groups being able to meet, including our committee and Kirk Session and our monthly Sunday afternoon services for the elderly and less able in our congregation. These are short thirty minute services with time afterwards for conversation and a cup of tea which help keep people connected who might otherwise feel isolated. Bible teaching on Sunday mornings from January to March was on Paul's letter to the Ephesians, "God calls and we walk", and our two small study groups which met fortnightly also used this material for their discussions. Our services during Easter week followed the themes of Rejoice, Remembrance, Repentance and Renewal and online Lent resources were offered to the congregation on the theme of "taking up" as opposed to "giving up" including a six week reading plan in the Gospel of Mark. After Easter our teaching was on "The Bible Jesus Read", examining the Old Testament and how it fits within the whole context of Scripture. During the summer months we looked at the books of Ezekiel and Philippians, and the autumn began a new teaching series on the theme of "Grace is Greater". Our study groups used the PCI resource "Expressions", looking at how faith is expressed in everyday life and witness. Throughout the year our Minister expanded on these themes in his weekly pastoral emails in preparation for our Sunday morning services. Sunday services continued to be recorded to provide an online option for those unable to attend in person. JAM, (our children's Sunday school) met in a separate part of the church building until June, when they were once again included in the early part of our Sunday service.

Prayer is an essential part of the life of our congregation, and prayer gatherings were held fortnightly. Prayer points were also included in the weekly "What's Happening?" emails to the congregation. There has also been an invitation to receive prayer after the morning service on a number of occasions. In August as we approached a new season of church activities and remaining Covid restrictions were lifted, we embarked on a week of prayer, "Turning the Tide", using online material supplied by PCI. We also held a special evening of prayer and quiet reflection for our church and community. In September many of our members participated in 100 days of prayer by receiving weekly Bible readings and prayer points with a focus on asking God to refresh and empower our church family, and bless our community and city.

Pastoral care and visitation continued to be an important way of connecting and supporting all members of our congregation and also a means of keeping our Minister up to date with particular needs within families. Our pastoral care teams were able to move towards a more normal pattern of in-person visiting after February, and they were able to deliver special Easter cards and also Christmas cards which had been produced by two of our church members, with an invitation to these seasonal services. At Christmas every family also received a book, "The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist". In October a special evening was held to look at how we can enhance our pastoral care efforts that will include producing a pastoral care plan which will guide team members on how to best support families within a Biblical framework. In November our Minister, Clerk of Session and our elder who is "Designated Person for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults" attended a training event run by the East Belfast Presbytery on Adult Safeguarding, aimed at Ministers and key staff and volunteers who work with adults in the church. Following the designation in 2021 of our church as a "Safe Space", contact information is now available for those who have been affected by domestic abuse.

Cultivating community is a key part of mission, and during the year we continued our Messy Church links with the neighbouring congregation of St Molua's. This is an all age event, with a variety of crafts and short, family-friendly time of worship based around a different theme each month. There is also a shared

meal together. Normally each church takes it in turns to host on alternate months. Although during Covid restrictions we were not able to have a full indoor programme, an alternative Muddy Church took place on Palm Sunday following a trail through Stormont Estate, finishing with some outdoor craft and refreshments. A Messy Church family fun day was held in September to re-start our programme and two further Messy Church Sundays have been well attended. Messy Church has been successful in linking two churches of different denominations, involving enthusiastic volunteers of all ages and building relationships with families in the local community. The Belfast marathon took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May and our church supported this event by providing an early morning drop-in service, toilet and changing facilities for runners, complimentary tea, coffee, water and sweets with a light breakfast served between 9-10am. All runners, supporters and volunteers were welcome and our support was well received. Thanks to the generosity of three families in our congregation, two defibrillators have been installed, one inside the church building and one outside, adjacent to our front door, which is easily accessible by the local community. Two defibrillator awareness and training sessions took place during the year for our church user groups, including one to which members of the public were also invited. In April representatives from all our organisations also attended an in-house training session for use of our new church kitchen and hygiene awareness

On September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, together with the whole of the UK, we mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As a mark of respect church activities were suspended for the following week and a service of thanksgiving was held for the life of Her Majesty.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October we held a Licensing service for Mr Neil Stewart, a member of our congregation, marking the end of his college training and his continued journey towards ordained ministry. We wish Neil, his wife Jenny and family every blessing as he continues his training as full time Assistant in Hamilton Road church Bangor.

Committee elections took place in September/October with six existing members remaining. We were delighted to welcome four new members, Mrs Jennifer Livings, Miss Johanna Burr, Mr Chris Fenton and Mr Thomas Brennan. This newly elected Committee will have its first meeting in January 2023.

During December four all-age Christmas services were held, including Messy Church Christmas Explored! And a service led by our JAM leaders and children, "Amazing Days" in which the whole congregation participated in telling the Christmas story. A carol service and midnight Christmas Eve service also took place.

Mission support at home and abroad continued throughout the year. The congregation generously supported two Moderator's Appeals; one for Afghanistan to help those suffering from winter hardship and famine, and a special appeal for Ukraine which raised a total of £3818. Our Music Director also took part in a cycle challenge for Tearfund to raise funds for their work in Ukraine. Christian Aid week took place from 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May, supporting communities across the globe suffering drought due to climate change and calling for climate justice. Fundraising included house to house collections with a "deliver only" option and supporting two members of our congregation on a 300,000 step challenge. A special Christian Aid service was held using their theme "Together we can turn hunger into hope". Regular partnership with Storehouse continued, with weekly donations of food and special contributions at harvest and for their Christmas hampers. This year the congregation generously supported a special Storehouse Appeal for contributions towards a new delivery van. Donations of selection boxes, groceries and vouchers were also made to the Belfast City Mission Christmas Appeal and a retiring collection was made after our Remembrance service for the UDR Benevolent Fund. Once again our Evergreens co-ordinated the annual Shoe Box Appeal and fifty seven filled shoe boxes were passed on to Blythswood Trust along with a donation of £300. Our Traidcraft stall re-commenced in February as Fellowship time resumed after the Sunday morning service, with a focus on Fairtrade fortnight to help everyone make better and more ethical consumer choices. Stormont Presbyterian church is a member congregation of PCI, and one of the ways in which we demonstrate our unity and commitment to the wider church family is through the United Appeal for Mission. Every aspect of the Church's mission depends to some extent on United Appeal. It supports projects, programmes and staff at home and overseas. It helps congregations and individuals to build God's Kingdom through youth and children's ministry, social action and the training of leaders. Our

contributions together with those of other churches mean we can do far more together than we could ever do on our own. We are pleased to report that in 2022 Stormont has been able to meet its target of giving to United Appeal. We also gave generously to the World Development Appeal “Re-kindling Hope: from flight to flourishing”, focusing on those who have been forced to flee their homes and the communities they have found themselves in.

During the year when our Minister was on leave we welcomed several different speakers on Sunday mornings. These included Rev Brent van der Linde, Rev Stephen Moore, Mr Martin Hampton, Rev Nigel Craig, Mr Keith Preston, Rev David Stanfield and Rev David Moore.

In January 2022 we welcomed our new Musical Director Mr Tim Crawford, together with his wife Karen and daughter Amy. Tim has proved a wonderful addition to our leadership team, not only with his musical ability but also with his enthusiasm for encouraging those with musical ability in the congregation and for re-instating our choir and looking after our choir members.

In other changes of leadership, Johanna Burr has taken on the role of JAM co-ordinator, replacing Jessica Ferguson who is now co-ordinating Messy Church.

During the year we have been grateful to those who have served on Welcome Teams, led singing, served at fellowship time, provided Audio-visual and technical support and helped to set up our church and halls for activities throughout the week. Our church personnel and activities continued to be supported throughout the year by our very able church administrator Mrs Edna Bell, and we are grateful for this important contribution she makes to our church family. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December there were 307 communicant members and 248 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning service is currently 80.

### **The Kirk Session**

The work of our Kirk Session is to deliver and develop the church’s mission and purpose and meets quarterly. This year once again, due to Covid restrictions some of our meetings were held online, with decisions taken based on the recommendations of a smaller Steering Group. This group, consisting of our Minister, Clerk of Session, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Committee Chair and Pastoral Care Convenor met regularly, co-ordinating committee and Kirk Session business and ensuring action points were addressed on all matters. They also continued to monitor and consider updates from PCI with regard to Covid mitigations, ensuring that all user groups were compliant with protocols. These protocols remained in place until the autumn. A single issue meeting for Kirk Session was held in March to discuss PCI guidelines presented at the General Assembly 2021 for pastoral care on three topics relating to a credible profession of faith and admission to the sacraments, those who are same sex attracted and their families and those who struggle with gender identity. In January several members participated in “Refresh”, an online event for ruling elders hosted by the Moderator and Bishop Clarke about giving leadership in a time of uncertainty. During the year the Steering Group reviewed the current congregational profile which showed a steep decline in the number of families and contributing families in our church and it was noted that a diminishing number of families and contributing members will have an impact on what we continue to do as a congregation. A copy of our parish bounds as established by the General Assembly was also reviewed by our Steering Group and Kirk Session with no changes to this needing to be made. In May our Minister, two elders and two other members of the congregation attended “Coming Back, Going Forward” in Assembly Buildings. This event, run by the Church’s Council for Congregational Life and Witness” was for key leaders looking at the challenges faced by congregations as they return to more normal rhythms of church life. Since the autumn, at the request of our Youth Fellowship leaders, several elders have been supporting our youth and children’s ministry by attending the bi-monthly meetings of YF on a rota basis to help with discussions and relationship building. In May two members of Kirk Session, Brian and Elizabeth Millar requested that they be released to support the Grace and Hope church plant in North Belfast. In accordance with PCI regulations and as approved by Kirk Session, this required a release from their normal duties as elders and attendance at Kirk Session meetings. This arrangement will be reviewed after one year. Two members of Kirk Session retired in 2022. Gordon Clarke stepped down in May due to health reasons. We would like to express our gratitude to Gordon for the work he has done to serve KS and the wider church, particularly with overseeing the installation of our new church kitchen and liaising



during the pandemic with many people in relation to our church buildings. In September John Hunter retired from Kirk Session and we give thanks for his many years of service as an elder and former Clerk of Session and for his service in different capacities to the wider PCI.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation is represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our Minister and one other elder. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structure of the church. Six meetings of Presbytery were held in 2022 and Dr Rosemary Hamilton is our representative elder and also a member of PCI's Council for Congregational Life and Witness. CCLW 's main focus has been on identifying ways in which congregations most need help as they get back to some kind of normality following the pandemic. This is a good opportunity to rethink the way in which congregations carry out their ministry and mission in a changed environment. Much of the work has been on supporting leaders in terms of their enthusiasm and equipping for exercising the particular ministries given to them and in providing activities which can support and supplement their efforts to re-engage with all ages. The study series "Expressions" is one example of a resource produced by the Council that we have used in SPC both in our study group and in the Youth Fellowship. The Council has also aimed to enhance the way in which it connects with and informs congregations and their members by means of fortnightly blogs and podcasts delivered on a variety of areas of the Council's remit and "Equip", a catalogue of available events and resources. In September an East Belfast Presbytery service was held in our sanctuary prior to their business meeting.

In March 2022 our Minister took on additional responsibilities as the Moderator of East Belfast Presbytery and will serve in this role until March 2023. This involves chairing Presbytery meetings and conducting opening worship at each meeting. The Moderator leads Presbytery services for Licensing of students, ordination and/or installation of Ministers and ordination and installation of elders. The Moderator is also ex-officio on all Commissions, Committees and Task groups of Presbytery. He will also continue in his role as Convenor of the Presbytery Mission Panel until February 2023. In May our Minister, Clerk of Session and Pastoral Care Convenor attended an East Belfast Presbytery interview panel with regard to our current missional activity, partnerships, challenges, support and training and potential missional opportunities within the Presbytery.

### **General Assembly**

Our Minister and one representative elder normally attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which this year took place from 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> June in Assembly Buildings. Our representative elder was Mrs Frona Clarke.

### **Buildings and Maintenance**

A new heating circuit was installed in our Thornhill room and there were alterations to the foyer heating circuit. Some redecorating was required following this, and new notice boards were put up in the Thornhill room for use of the Playgroup. There were improvements made to the church office with a new radiator installed and redecoration. There have been roof repairs to the main hall and repair to the gutter channel. Additional and upgraded LED lighting was installed in Kirk Cara and in the Minister's office. In the church tower there was clearance of some materials that had been stored and damp issues were addressed. In 2021 a special project had raised funds for an upgrade to the audio-visual system and two new projectors and these were installed in 2022. There were some improvements made to our Family room with removal of an old fridge and filing cabinets. Some changes were made to external floodlighting. Improvements were made to the back courtyard which is used by the Playgroup, to make a more suitable space for outdoor play, and artificial turf was laid. A lean-to shed was also removed. Work to the Manse in 2022 included replacement of windows and doors and a new kitchen was also installed.

### **Organisations**

A wide range of organisations use our buildings and serve our community, catering for all ages. Our Guides and Scouts are well established organisations, although in 2022 our Scouts/Explorer group has not been functioning as there has been no one to replace our Scout leader who retired in 2021. Our younger Squirrels and Cub Scouts continued to meet. A Youth Fellowship meets on alternate weeks,

which aims to encourage faith and share fellowship and a First Friends group brings together parents, carers and toddlers to build early friendships. "Tuesday Coffee", an after school drop-in was available until the autumn for year 8 and above. For our senior members, Evergreens meets weekly and members can enjoy a cup of tea and chat and listen to a variety of speakers on various topics. A badminton club meets weekly. The PW gives fellowship opportunities for ladies in the congregation as well as a missionary focus. A full programme of meetings was prepared for the 2022/23 season and these have taken place since September. Attendances have varied between 13-21. A lifting of Covid restrictions in February 2022 meant that groups could meet again in person, while adhering to protocols drawn up by the Steering Group, however the Bowling Club and Art Club have ceased meeting altogether. Stormont hosts an active Playgroup which is attended by around 40 pre-schoolers each week day, and the Julie Dorman School of Dance holds classes in our building each week. From 8<sup>th</sup> August -3<sup>rd</sup> September several of our rooms were leased to NI Opera as rehearsal spaces for their forthcoming production and a new user group, Jo-Jingles now uses one of our halls on Friday mornings. All new user groups completed risk assessments and were compliant with all health and safety, security and kitchen protocols.

## **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 purpose 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 and 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 locally. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services, and informal 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 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.

## **Congregational Register 2022**

### **Baptisms**

July	17	Samuel Robert Johnston
December	11	Amelie-Rose Vera Cardy

### **Deaths**

February	19	Mrs Eileen Armer	11 Kings Brae, BELFAST
May	10	Mr Wesley Shannon	Bloomfield Nursing Home, 115-117 North Road, BELFAST
May	26	Mr Trevor Johnston	15 Glenmillan Park, BELFAST
August	08	Mrs June Gouk	3 Rhanbuoy Park, CRAIGAVAD
November	25	Mr Kenneth Acheson	7 Gilnahirk Drive, BELFAST
November	30	Mr George Anderson	70 Gilnahirk Road, BELFAST
December	27	Mr Sydney Gilmore	8 Rosemount Avenue, BELFAST

### **Marriages**

February	12	Nicholas Robinette and Alison Duffield
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**FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR STORMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL YEAR 2022**

The following is a simplified version of the church accounts which has been prepared by the church finance committee and is not part of the audited accounts. This has been prepared to help the congregation better understand our financial position. Please note the organisations each manage their own finances and organisational income & expenditure included in this report are not part of the church finances and therefore do not appear in the church year end accounts which follow this summary.

### **Statement of Receipts and Payments**

## List of Contributors for 2022

Mr & Mrs T Adams	Mr C T Hogg	Mr & Mrs D A Patterson
Mr & Mrs D Allen	Dr & Mrs C Holland	Mrs C Patterson
Mrs E Allen	Mr J Hooks	Mrs A Pinkerton
Mr & Mrs W Beattie	Mrs B Hume	Miss E Pollock
Mrs W Blacoe	Mr & Mrs J Hunter	Miss J Pollock
Mr D Boyd	Mr & Mrs R Hutcheson	Mrs J Power
Mrs E Boyd	Mr & Mrs J Irvine	Mrs E Price-Stephens
Mr & Mrs T S Brennan	Mr C Irwin	Mr & Mrs K Pugh
Mr & Mrs G Browne	Mrs J Isherwood	Rev & Mrs A Rankin
Mr & Mrs A Burr	Mr B Jeffery	Mr & Mrs R Reed
Miss J Burr	Mrs T Johnston	Mr & Mrs A W Reid
Mrs D Byrne	Mrs K Johnston	Mrs E Reid
Mrs M Campbell	Mr & Mrs P Johnston	Miss P Reid
Mrs D Campbell	Mr E Johnston	Mrs L Richardson
Mr & Mrs R Campton	Mr & Mrs D E Johnston	Mrs J Roberts
Mrs M Cardwell	Miss I Jordan	Mr & Mrs J Robinson
Mr & Mrs P Cardy	Mr & Mrs J Jordan	Mr & Mrs B Robinson
Mr & Mrs G Cardy	Mr & Mrs C Keers	Mr & Mrs A Robinson
Ms J Carmichael	Mr & Mrs J Kelly	Mr & Mrs H Rolston
Mr & Mrs I Clark	Mrs E Kenny	Rev Dr & Mrs R Savage
Mr & Mrs A Clarke	Miss S Kenny	Mr & Mrs J Sayers
Mr & Mrs G Clarke	Mrs J Kerr	Mr & Mrs G Scott
Mrs J Coates	Mr D Kerr	Mrs B Sharpe
Mrs B Coburn	Mr C Kirkwood	Mr & Mrs J Speers
Mrs & Mr M Cole	Mrs J Livings	Dr & Mrs M Stafford
Mrs A Colhoun	Dr R Loughridge	Mr & Mrs R Stephenson
Dr & Dr I Corry	Mrs M Manson	Mr & Mrs N Stewart
Mr & Mrs M Cousins	Ms S M Maxwell	Mr & Mrs J Stewart
Mrs P Cousins	Mrs J McAleese	Mr & Mrs C Stewart
Mr G Craig	Mr & Mrs G McBride	Mrs A Valentine
Dr T Crawford	Mrs J McCay	Mr R White
Mr & Mrs J Crawford	Mr & Mrs P McClelland	Mr & Mrs G Williams
Ms N Darnbrook	Miss S McDowell	Mr C Williamson
Mr T Dick	Mr G McIlhagga	Mr & Mrs B Wilson
Mr & Mrs I Donaldson	Mrs A McKechnie	Mrs E Wilson
Mr & Mrs L Dorman	Mr & Mrs I McLachlan	Miss R Wilson
Mr & Mrs L Downey	Mr & Mrs T McMath	Mrs G Wilson
Mr & Mrs S Duffield	Mrs J McMeekin	Miss A Wilson
Mrs A Earls	Mrs M McNeill	Miss M Wilson
Mr & Mrs C Fenton	Mr & Mrs B Millar	Mr & Mrs C Wilson
Mrs J C Ferguson	Mr J Millar	Mr & Mrs R Wilson
Mrs M Fleming	Mr & Mrs A Millar	Mr & Mrs J Young
Mr & Mrs S Galway	Dr & Dr C Miller	
Mrs H Gillanders	Mrs G Moir	
Mrs G Gowdy	Mr S Murray	
Miss V Gray	Mrs E Neill	
Dr & Mr R Hamilton	Mrs D Nelson	
Mr & Mrs V Henry	Mr & Mrs A Newberry	
Mr D Henry	Mrs I O'Prey	
Mrs B Henry	Mr G Owens	
Mrs P Hill	Mr & Mrs J Paterson	

