

# Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104450

## Details

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

## Contact

Address  
28 Birch Dale  
Newtownabbey  
28 Birch Dale  
3  
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BT36 5ZA

Phone 02890842908

Email [abridle@sky.com](mailto:abridle@sky.com)

Website [www.immanuelbelfast.co.uk](http://www.immanuelbelfast.co.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
2025-12-31	£207,107	£187,194	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kevin Harvey		
Michael Beck		
Mr Alan Bridle		
Mr David Harvey		
Mr David Trevor Smith		
Mr Ian Thomas Stewart		
Mr Joseph Fittis		
Mr Richard Derek Bailey		
Mr Thomas Brian Davidson		
Mr Thomas Hamilton		
Mr Thomas Stewart Irwin		
Rev Colin James Gamble		
Russell Coates		
Simon Houston		

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Accounts

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**IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2025**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104450)**

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£138,440	£29,088	£0	£167,528	£134,640
Charitable activities	3	£0	£484	£0	£0	£663
Other trading activities	4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Investment Income	5	£5,414	£12,689	£0	£18,103	£17,147
Other	6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Organisations		£0	£21,476	£0	£21,476	£15,607
Sale of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sale of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loans Received		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£143,854</b>	<b>£63,737</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£207,107</b>	<b>£168,057</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£339	£0	£0	£339	£333
Charitable activities	8	£120,924	£43,567	£0	£164,491	£162,889
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other	9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Organisations		£0	£22,364	£0	£22,364	£16,957
Purchase of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Purchase of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loan Repayments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£121,263</b>	<b>£65,931</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£187,194</b>	<b>£180,179</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		£22,591	-£2,194	£0	£19,913	-£12,122
Transfers between funds		-£25,203	£25,203	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		-£2,612	£23,009	£0	£20,397	-£12,122
Funds brought forward		£227,753	£418,751	£0	£646,504	£658,626
Funds carried forward	12	£225,141	£441,760	£0	£666,901	£646,504

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	£227,753	£418,751	£0	£646,504	£658,626
Net movement in funds	-£2,612	£23,009	£0	£20,397	-£12,122
<b>Bank and Cash at end of year</b>	<b>£225,141</b>	<b>£441,760</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£666,901</b>	<b>£646,504</b>
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts				£506,365	£534,571
Bank Current Accounts				£145,439	£97,948
Cash in hand - Organisations				£3,079	£3,062
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				£12,018	£10,923
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£666,901</b>	<b>£646,504</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets - Note 10					
Church Premises				£0	£0
Fixtures and Fittings				£0	£0
Vehicles				£0	£0
Investments - Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				£0	£0
Other assets				<b>£23,075</b>	<b>£24,538</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans					
Other liabilities				£0	£0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on Monday 26th January 2026 and signed on  
its behalf by...

Name

*Alan Bridle*

*Alan Bridle.*  
Date: *04/02/26*

Name

*Simon Houston*

*[Signature]*  
Date: *03-02-2026.*

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2025**

**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.**

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.

**2 Donations and Legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Recorded givings	£94,565	£0	£0	£94,565	£97,366
Recorded Building Fd	£0	£11,012	£0	£11,012	£7,065
Loose collections	£409	£0	£0	£409	£511
Donations and Gifts	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Gift Aid	£18,466	£4,609	£0	£23,075	£24,538
Legacies and bequests	£25,000	£0	£0	£25,000	£1,000
Missions & Charities	£0	£13,467	£0	£13,467	£4,160
	<b>£138,440</b>	<b>£29,088</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£167,528</b>	<b>£134,640</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2025**

**3 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Appeals	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Publications	£0	£484	£0	£484	£613
Received for Organisations	£0	£0	£0	£0	£50
Grants	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£484</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£484</b>	<b>£663</b>

**4 Other Trading Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Trading income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**5 Investment Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	£5,414	£12,689	£0	£18,103	£17,147
General Investment Fund	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Rents investment properties	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other investment income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£5,414</b>	<b>£12,689</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£18,103</b>	<b>£17,147</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2025**

**6 Other Income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Gifts: Prayer Group	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**7 Raising Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	£339	£0	£0	£339	£333
Fundraising events	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£339</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£339</b>	<b>£333</b>

**8 Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	£17,529	£0	£0	£17,529	£20,774
Presbytery fees	£842	£0	£0	£842	911
Ministry and support staff costs	£57,734	£0	£0	£57,734	£54,502
Congregational running expenses	£43,681	£16,044	£0	£59,725	£51,364
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£27,523	£0	£27,523	£33,628
Goverance Costs/Fees	£300	£0	£0	£300	£1,169
Sundry Expenses	£838	£0	£0	£838	£541
	<b>£120,924</b>	<b>£43,567</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£164,491</b>	<b>£162,889</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2025**

**9 Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowments Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**10 Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 35 Agnes Street, Belfast BT13 1GG and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. Also a Manse for our Minister and his family at 680 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 5GP.

These have a combined insurance valuation of **£5,173,969**

**11 Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2025	2024
	£	£
General Investment Fund	£0	£0
Property	£0	£0
Other investments	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2025**

**Fund Balances**

	Balance at start £	Receipts £	Payment £	Surplus / (Deficit) £	Transfers £	Balance at end £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	£227,753	£143,854	£121,263	£22,591	-£25,203	£225,141
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>£227,753</b>	<b>£143,854</b>	<b>£121,263</b>	<b>£22,591</b>	<b>-£25,203</b>	<b>£225,141</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance Fund	£3,316	£12,558	£15,357	-£2,799	£0	£517
Boiler Fund	£5,000	£0	£0	£0	£25,000	£30,000
Mission Funds	£386,693	£12,635	£11,200	£1,435	-£2,000	£386,128
EMF	£250	£1,770	£2,000	-£230	£0	£20
Tear Fund	£87	£3,566	£3,556	£10	£0	£97
United Appeal	£1,112	£6,721	£7,209	-£488	£0	£624
Leprosy Mission	£130	£0	£130	-£130	£0	£0
Presby Childs Society	£0	£515	£515	£0	£0	£0
Local I.M.P.	£0	£2,065	£2,065	£0	£0	£0
Outreach - Organisation	£347	£0	£0	£0	£0	£347
Benevolent	£4,867	£349	£100	£249	£0	£5,116
Magazines	£0	£484	£687	-£203	£203	£0
Fresh/BB/Jun CE	£2,964	£1,598	£748	£0	£0	£3,814
Organisations	£13,985	£21,476	£22,364	-£888	£2,000	£15,097
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED</b>	<b>£418,751</b>	<b>£63,737</b>	<b>£65,931</b>	<b>-£2,194</b>	<b>£25,203</b>	<b>£441,760</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£646,504</b>	<b>£207,591</b>	<b>£187,194</b>	<b>£20,397</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£666,901</b>

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Accounts

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**IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104450)**


**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£109,375	£25,265	£0	£134,640	£141,633
Charitable activities	3	£0	£663	£0	£663	£0
Other trading activities	4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Investment Income	5	£9,745	£7,402	£0	£17,147	£8,981
Other Organisations	6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£280
		£0	£15,607	£0	£15,607	£17,806
Sale of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sale of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loans Received		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£119,120</b>	<b>£48,937</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£168,057</b>	<b>£168,700</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£333	£0	£0	£333	£0
Charitable activities	8	£123,110	£39,779	£0	£162,889	£172,143
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other Organisations	9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
		£0	£16,957	£0	£16,957	£21,708
Purchase of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Purchase of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loan Repayments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£123,443</b>	<b>£56,736</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£180,179</b>	<b>£193,851</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		-£4,323	-£7,799	£0	-£12,122	-£25,151
Transfers between funds		-£1,581	£1,581	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		-£5,904	-£6,218	£0	-£12,122	-£25,151
Funds brought forward		£233,657	£424,969	£0	£658,626	£683,777
Funds carried forward	12	£227,753	£418,751	£0	£646,504	£658,626


**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	£233,657	£424,969	£0	£658,626	£683,777
Net movement in funds	-£5,904	-£6,218	£0	-£12,122	-£25,151
<b>Bank and Cash at end of year</b>	<b>£227,753</b>	<b>£418,751</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£646,504</b>	£658,626
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts				£534,571	£527,435
Bank Current Accounts				£97,948	£119,392
Cash in hand - Organisations				£3,062	£1,648
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				£10,923	£10,151
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£646,504</b>	£658,626
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets - Note 10					
Church Premises				£0	£0
Fixtures and Fittings				£0	£0
Vehicles				£0	£0
Investments - Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				£0	£0
Other assets				<b>£24,538</b>	<b>£21,114</b>
				£0	£0
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans					
Other liabilities				£0	£0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 24th February 2025 and signed on

  
 Name **Alan Bridle**

its behalf by...

  
 Name **Simon Houston**

Date: 24-2-25

Date: 24-2-25

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts - 31 December 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.**

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.

**2 Donations and Legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Recorded givings	£88,299	£9,067	£0	£97,366	£92,754
Recorded Building Fd	£0	£7,065	£0	£7,065	£6,946
Loose collections	£511	£0	£0	£511	£813
Donations and Gifts	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Gift Aid	£19,565	£4,973	£0	£24,538	£21,114
Legacies and bequests	£1,000	£0	£0	£1,000	£0
Missions & Charities	£0	£4,160	£0	£4,160	£20,006
	<b>£109,375</b>	<b>£25,265</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£134,640</b>	<b>£141,633</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**3 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Appeals	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Publications	£0	£613	£0	£613	£0
Received for Organisations	£0	£50	£0	£50	£0
Grants	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£663</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£663</b>	<b>£0</b>

**4 Other Trading Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Trading income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**5 Investment Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	£9,745	£7,402	£0	£17,147	£8,981
General Investment Fund	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Rents investment properties	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
Other investment income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£9,745</b>	<b>£7,402</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£17,147</b>	<b>£8,981</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**6 Other Income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Magazines	£0	£0	£0	£0	£280
Gifts: Prayer Group	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£280</b>

**7 Raising Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	£333	£0	£0	£333	£0
Fundraising events	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£333</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£333</b>	<b>£0</b>

**8 Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	£20,774	£0	£0	£20,774	£20,370
Presbytery fees	£911	£0	£0	£911	713
Ministry and support staff costs	£54,502	£0	£0	£54,502	£52,263
Congregational running expenses	£44,877	£6,151	£0	£51,028	£58,553
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£33,628	£0	£33,628	£39,946
Bank Charges	£336	£0	£0	£336	£0
Governance Costs/Fees	£1,169	£0	£0	£1,169	£0
Sundry Expenses	£541	£0	£0	£541	£298
	<b>£123,110</b>	<b>£39,779</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£162,889</b>	<b>£172,143</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )  
Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**9 Other Expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowments Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment properties expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**10 Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 35 Agnes Street, Belfast BT13 1GG and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. Also a Manse for our Minister and his family at 680 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 5GP.  
These have a combined insurance valuation of £5,173,969

**11 Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General Investment Fund	£0	£0
Property	£0	£0
Other investments	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**Fund Balances**

	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	£233,657	£119,120	£123,443	-£4,323	-£1,581	£227,753
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£233,657</b>	<b>£119,120</b>	<b>£123,443</b>	<b>-£4,323</b>	<b>-£1,581</b>	<b>£227,753</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance Fund	£0	£8,714	£5,498	£3,216	£100	£3,316
Boiler Fund	£5,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£5,000
Mission Funds	£394,616	£8,681	£16,604	-£7,923	£0	£386,693
EMF	£0	£2,500	£2,250	£250	£0	£250
Tear Fund	£3,658	£2,939	£6,510	-£3,571	£0	£87
United Appeal	£431	£8,026	£7,345	£681	£0	£1,112
Leprosy Mission	£0	£130	£0	£130	£0	£130
Outreach - Organisation	£347	£0	£0	£0	£0	£347
Benevolent	£4,441	£426	£0	£426	£0	£4,867
Magazines	-£41	£613	£653	-£40	£81	£0
Fresh/BB/Jun CE	£4,718	£1,301	£919	£382	-£2,136	£2,964
Organisations	£11,799	£15,607	£16,957	-£1,350	£3,536	£13,985
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£424,969</b>	<b>£48,937</b>	<b>£56,736</b>	<b>-£7,799</b>	<b>£1,581</b>	<b>£418,751</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£658,626</b>	<b>£168,057</b>	<b>£180,179</b>	<b>-£12,122</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£646,504</b>

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Annual report

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***“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour, if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up”. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10).***

In one of Rev Gamble’s sermon series in 2024, the Teacher (most likely Solomon) reminds us of the significant benefits of having others run the race of life with us. In setting forth the principle of partnership, Solomon articulates the advantages of joint effort and mutual toil, the importance of having a companion during times of difficulty, for warmth and protection when under threat or danger. With all our weaknesses and frailties, we need the strong support and security of a community of believers in Jesus – the church.

In 2024, Immanuel embarked on a new partnership with EMF when we agreed to a (minimum) 5 year commitment to support a little church in Jyvaskyla in Finland under the ministry of Eelis Halmemies. This decision was taken after Eelis had preached in Immanuel and met separately with the elders to share something of the work of the gospel and challenges of a being a small, reformed church in a country with an historic Lutheran tradition but is now increasingly secular.

At the end of November, we were pleased to pass on a financial contribution to EMF, raised directly from the giving from the congregation. However, the partnership is about much more than money. We pray for each other, we have exchanged videos to introduce each other, we share updates on zoom calls and our Minister was able to make a short personal visit to Finland during his summer holidays. A different country, a different culture but the same gospel and we look forward to seeing the partnership develop further in the coming years.

A highlight for the congregation in 2024 came in December with the service of Ordination and Installation of Kevin Harvey as an Elder of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of North Belfast. We pray that Kevin will know God’s guiding hand as he takes up these new responsibilities and joins the Kirk Session in the spiritual leadership of this congregation.

The Kirk Session’s agenda in 2024 was again busy and varied.

Following a report from the Mission Standing Committee, the Presbytery requested the Kirk Session to complete a detailed “7p’s” questionnaire looking at all aspects of congregational life and further engagement, including identifying areas for action, is anticipated in early 2025. At a PCI denominational level, discussions are ongoing on a “reconfiguration of ministry” in response to the shifting trends both within and outside the church.

Following a consultation, the Kirk Session approved the earlier starting time of 6.30pm for the evening service during the winter months with the initial feedback broadly favourable. Average attendance is largely unchanged and the YF is able to start their meeting a little earlier. Please pray for our young people and for their protection in these days of temptation and social media.

In early 2024, permission was granted to Mr Neil Cranston to access our records for the purposes of copying for the North of Ireland Family History Society. The Kirk Session also took the opportunity to review and update our Child Protection Policy and introduce some changes to the procedures for the appointment of organisation leaders.

Some members of Kirk Session met with organisation leaders for an end-of-year debrief in June when we heard of encouragements, blessings and disappointments from the past year. Some leaders report seeing modest growth in numbers, some are stable but others commented on

the difficulty of retaining young people given the many competing attractions in the area. The growing numbers of children and young people with more complex needs and from different backgrounds was also a common theme.

The Kirk Session would again express our appreciation to Rev Colin Gamble for his faithful ministry and pastoral visitation during 2024. We give thanks for those who have recovered after a period in hospital and we continue to remember in prayer all who are bereaved and those with short and long-term health conditions, some of whom are scheduled to have surgery in 2025. We thank the members of the Caring Team who look in on others with friendship and support, particularly those who are sorrowing and lonely.

During periods of leave, we were again pleased to welcome back the Rev Frank McKeown to conduct worship.

In 2024, the Kirk Session had extensive engagement with solicitors with regard to the receipt of a rather unusual bequest from the Trust Estates of JH and EAM Hutchinson. As a consequence, the Kirk Session approved the appointment of Mr Simon Houston, Mr Kevin Harvey and Mr Alan Bridle as new Trustees of this estate on behalf of the congregation. It is hoped that the administrative work will be completed in early 2025 and the legal transfer of Trustees will be executed.

The Kirk Session would again also say a big “thank you” to all the leaders and helpers in our organisations over the past year for their dedicated service. We must pray for continued wisdom and patience, particularly as the work among children and youths is increasingly difficult. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the church secretary, treasurer and designated person for all of their work in 2024 and to the musicians, those who operate the sound desk and to numerous others who work quietly in the background. As Clerk, I would offer my personal thanks again to Russell Coates for his invaluable assistance during the year.

In general, average attendance numbers at morning and evening worship and midweek prayer meeting are relatively steady although clearly much lower than in the past. There is always room for more. The Kirk Session would again encourage the congregation to take every opportunity to gather together for times of corporate worship and prayer.

We were again very pleased to have special choirs leading the worship at both the Harvest and Christmas services and this was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Karen Fitzsimons for arranging and leading and to all the enthusiastic members who participated. The occasional “songs of praise” after the evening service were also well received and also provided an opportunity to celebrate important anniversaries with some of our members.

At Easter, we were pleased to join again with our friends at West Kirk and Woodvale in sharing Good Friday and Easter Sunday evening services and during the year we also heard more about PCI’s new work in West Belfast with the Rev David Moore. We were also reminded by David Surgenor from the Vine Centre of the many addictions and social ills within our own district and the much-needed practical and spiritual support being provided. Immanuel’s foodbank on Monday afternoons continues to report increased demand and we thank all who give of their time and resources to help with this.

In the summer, the outreach programme continued with open-air meetings in May and door-to-door visitation in late August. Door-drops of gospel tracts again took place at Easter and Christmas and we appreciate all who took part and helped. The very limited response on door-

steps has given the Kirk Session cause to reflect and to consider prioritising the homes where we already have some family connection through the organisations or, who live in the immediate vicinity of the church.

In this context, we are planning a slightly different morning service in early new year to which families and neighbours will be invited, with a focus on the basics of who God is and what he has done for us in Christ. In 2025, Immanuel will also be a host venue for one of the North Belfast Presbytery services while a revamp of the church website is also planned.

In the 2023 report we heard the sad news that Jersey Street City Mission – with whom we have had a long and important association – was closing. During 2024, it was pleasing to hear that outreach from the hall in Jersey Street was to resume in a new format as the Jersey Street Hub.

At the time of writing, 2025 stretches out ahead of us with myriad uncertainties. It may be wise to conclude by returning to the book of Ecclesiastes - despite what may be perceived as a rather bleak and pessimistic outlook that everything is meaningless, the Teacher still reveals glimmers of hope and goodness. As we journey this road of discipleship, we're not alone. Christ walks with us and will deliver us safely to His Father's home. Ultimately, the great truth of Ecclesiastes lies in the acknowledgment of God's ever-present hand on our lives and that the key to life is not in life itself.

***“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:  
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.  
For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing,  
whether it is good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14)***

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of IMMANUEL Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **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:

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 account 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.

Name: ... Roy Eakin   
Occupation ... Retired Bank Official  
Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland  
... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. BT38 8XH  
Date: ... 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Accounts

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**IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104450)**

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£109,289	£32,344	£0	£141,633	£139,678
Charitable activities	3	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other trading activities	4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Investment Income	5	£3,443	£5,538	£0	£8,981	£2,389
Other	6	£0	£280	£0	£280	£1,291
Organisations		£0	£17,806	£0	£17,806	£15,596
Sale of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sale of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loans Received		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£112,732</b>	<b>£55,968</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£168,700</b>	<b>£158,954</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Charitable activities	8	£120,160	£51,983	£0	£172,143	£209,213
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other	9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Organisations		£0	£21,708	£0	£21,708	£16,412
Purchase of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Purchase of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loan Repayments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£120,160</b>	<b>£73,691</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£193,851</b>	<b>£225,625</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		-£7,428	-£17,723	£0	-£25,151	-£66,671
Transfers between funds		-£3,799	£3,799	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		-£11,227	-£13,924	£0	-£25,151	-£66,671
Funds brought forward		£244,884	£438,893	£0	£683,777	£750,448
Funds carried forward	12	<b>£233,657</b>	<b>£424,969</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£658,626</b>	<b>£683,777</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	£244,884	£438,893	£0	£683,777	£750,448
Net movement in funds	-£11,227	-£13,924	£0	-£25,151	-£66,671
<b>Bank and Cash at end of year</b>	<b>£233,657</b>	<b>£424,969</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£658,626</b>	£683,777
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts				£527,435	£321,180
Bank Current Accounts				£119,392	£346,895
Cash in hand - Organisations				£1,648	£2,680
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				£10,151	£13,022
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£658,626</b>	£683,777
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets - Note 10					
Church Premises				£0	£0
Fixtures and Fittings				£0	£0
Vehicles				£0	£0
Investments - Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				£0	£0
Other assets				<b>£21,114</b>	<b>£19,653</b>
				£0	£0
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans					
Other liabilities				£0	£0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 17th April 2024 and signed on  
its behalf by...

Name *Alan Bridle*

Date:

Name *Simon Houston*

Date:

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts - 31 December 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.**

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.

**2 Donations and Legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Recorded givings	£92,754	£0	£0	£92,754	£97,016
Loose collections	£813	£0	£0	£813	£2,060
Donations and Gifts	£0	£0	£0	£0	£539
Maintenance income	£0	£6,946	£0	£6,946	£6,016
Gift Aid	£15,722	£5,392	£0	£21,114	£19,653
Legacies and bequests	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Missions & Charities	£0	£20,006	£0	£20,006	£14,394
				£0	
	<b>£109,289</b>	<b>£32,344</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£141,633</b>	£139,678

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2023**

**3 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Appeals	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Fees from weddings and funerals	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Received for Organisations	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Grants	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**4 Other Trading Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Trading income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**5 Investment Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	£3,443	£5,538	£0	£8,981	£2,389
General Investment Fund	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Rents investment properties</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
Other investment income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£3,443</b>	<b>£5,538</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£8,981</b>	<b>£2,389</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2023**

**6 Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Magazines	£0	£280	£0	£280	£641
Gifts: Prayer Group	£0	£0	£0	£0	£650
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£280</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£280</b>	<b>£1,291</b>

**7 Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Fundraising events	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**8 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	£20,370	£0	£0	£20,370	£19,675
Presbytery fees	£713	£0	£0	£713	821
Ministry and support staff costs	£52,263	£0	£0	£52,263	£49,143
Congregational running expenses	£46,516	£12,037	£0	£58,553	£90,981
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£39,946	£0	£39,946	£48,593
Sundry Expenses	£298	£0	£0	£298	£0
	<b>£120,160</b>	<b>£51,983</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£172,143</b>	<b>£209,213</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2023**

**9 Other Expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowments Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment properties expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**10 Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 35 Agnes Street, Belfast BT13 1GG and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. Also a Manse for our Minister and his family at 680 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 5GP.  
 These have a combined insurance valuation of £4,927,590

**11 Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General Investment Fund	£0	£0
Property	£0	£0
Other investments	£0	£0
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2023**

**Fund Balances**

	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	£244,884	£112,732	£120,160	-£7,428	-£3,799	£233,657
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£244,884</b>	<b>£112,732</b>	<b>£120,160</b>	<b>-£7,428</b>	<b>-£3,799</b>	<b>£233,657</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance Fund	£0	£8,238	£12,037	-£3,799	£3,799	£0
Boiler Fund	£5,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£5,000
Mission Funds	£401,834	£7,612	£14,830	-£7,218	£0	£394,616
Africa Fund	£10,048	£0	£10,048	-£10,048	£0	£0
Tear Fund	£100	£3,558	£0	£3,558	£0	£3,658
United Appeal	£213	£8,018	£7,800	£218	£0	£431
Outreach - Organisation	£703	£61	£417	-£356	£0	£347
Benevolent	£5,013	£878	£1,450	-£572	£0	£4,441
Magazines	£281	£280	£602	-£322	£0	-£41
Fresh/BB/Juice	£0	£9,517	£4,799	£4,718	£0	£4,718
Organisations	£15,701	£17,806	£21,708	-£3,902	£0	£11,799
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£438,893</b>	<b>£55,968</b>	<b>£73,691</b>	<b>-£17,723</b>	<b>£3,799</b>	<b>£424,969</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£683,777</b>	<b>£168,700</b>	<b>£193,851</b>	<b>-£25,151</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£658,626</b>

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Annual report

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## **IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

For the year ended 31 December **2023**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December **2023** including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Immanuel congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Agnes Street

Belfast BT13 1GG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (**NIC104450**)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were Trustees at the date of this report were (in alphabetical order)

Mr Derek Bailey

Mr Michael Beck

Mr Alan Bridle

Mr Russell Coates

Mr Brian Davidson

Mr Joe Fittis

Rev. Colin Gamble

Mr Tom Hamilton

Mr David Harvey

Mr Simon Houston

Mr Tom Irwin

Mr Trevor Smith

Mr Ian Stewart

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister            Rev. Colin Gamble

Clerk of Session Mr Alan Bridle

Treasurer Mr Kevin Harvey

Secretary Mr Tim Fitzsimons

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

S Huddleston FCA

Chartered Accountant

24a High Street

Ballynahinch BT24 8AB

### **BANKERS**

Ulster Bank

11-16 Donegall Square East

Belfast BT 1 5UB

### **SOLICITORS**

Hewitt & Gilpin

14-16 James St South

Belfast BT 2 7GA

IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### **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 congregations. 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 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 on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session.

### *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. Immanuel congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the North Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the 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, administration 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**

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Immanuel 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 to glorify God and to promote the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. We seek to do this by:

Joining together in heartfelt worship.

Applying the Word of God to our lives.

Seeking His will through prayer as we live for Him each day.

Making the gospel known at home and supporting opportunities abroad.

Showing God's unconditional love to everyone we meet.

As a church we believe in God who is Lord and sovereign over all things – without Him we can do nothing. It is God alone we worship, and to Him we give all the praise and glory. We stand firmly on the Gospel set forth in the Bible, which is central to our beliefs. There is only one Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone offers forgiveness of sin and peace with God.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

### **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 four 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 Table. The congregation also holds a midweek bible study and prayer meeting and has had a range of other organisations and activities including,

- Children's Church
- Junior Christian Endeavour
- Youth Fellowship
- Uniformed Youth Organisations – Boys' Brigade / Girls' Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Ladies Bright Hour
- Tealeaf
- Immanuel Tots
- Fresh
- Young Adults
- Caring Team

### **KIRK SESSION REPORT 2023**

***“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:1-3)***

“Polycrisis” and “Permacrisis” were two of the words of the year again in 2023 as events on the global stage and closer to home brought much heartache and despair. The continued war in Ukraine was followed by renewed and bloody conflict in the Middle East while the continued suspension of the Stormont Assembly and ongoing financial constraints on public services and among households with cost-of-living pressures were enduring. We didn't have to look far to see bad news.

Yet, as Christians we are called to proclaim the good news of the gospel to a needy world and the verses above – covered in one of Rev Gamble's sermon series during the year – bring timely reassurance of the status of the believer “in Christ” and instruction to apply both our hearts and

minds to seek heavenly things, whatever is happening all around us. It is there we find true joy in serving God.

The Kirk Session would again place on record our thanks to Rev Colin Gamble for his faithful ministry of the Word and sacraments during 2023, for his studies in both the Old and New Testaments and during the midweek prayer meeting. His pastoral visitation is also appreciated and an ageing congregation has inevitably resulted in him conducting funerals on a more regular basis. This has also brought a requirement for additional catering and we again express our sincere thanks to the ladies who freely give of their time for these and many other occasions during the year. It is much appreciated.

In October, George Ussher, elder emeritus, was called home and we give thanks for his life and service for His Lord and His church in this place. We continue to remember all in the church family who have been bereaved in the last year and commit them to the care and keeping of Almighty God in these days.

2023 was a year of elections in Immanuel and we congratulate all who have come through to serve on either the congregational committee or, in due course, on Kirk Session. May they find joy in service and for the task ahead. Psalm 100:2 instructs us to “serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing”. The Kirk Session would again express our gratitude to all the leaders and helpers in our organisations over the past year for their faithful dedication to the work and their witness to all who come into our premises. The work among children and youths can be particularly difficult and we must pray for continued wisdom and patience. At the annual de-brief meeting with leaders in the summer, the challenge of succession planning was again highlighted.

The annual report also affords an opportunity to say “thank you” to the church secretary and treasurer for their work in 2023 and to the musicians, those who operate the sound desk and to numerous others who work quietly in the background on the tasks that allow the church to operate. As Clerk, I would again express my personal thanks to Russell Coates, the deputy clerk, for his ever-willing help during the year.

At the start of 2023, the Kirk Session was pleased to appoint Mrs Barbara Gregg as our Designated Person to help keep us compliant with all the regulations regarding Child Protection and Safeguarding. We thank Barbara for taking on this important role and pray that she will be blessed as she serves in this capacity.

2023 will also be remembered as the year of coronation for King Charles III and as a church we were able to mark this historic occasion in May with a service and special lunch when we were reminded of the “King of Kings” and all that He has done and will continue to do for us. Some of the children from the church organisations took part in the service. The Kirk Session is very aware that it is only on the occasions when the children are participating, will the parents and guardians attend a service of worship. This is a pattern repeated elsewhere. However, we do give thanks to the group of ladies who took the initiative to come down and engage with the parents of children in JCE, GB and BB while they were waiting for their children in the halls on the nights when they were meeting.

In general, attendance numbers at morning and evening worship, while lower relative to the past, were relatively steady. However, it is encouraging to report an extra helper was needed to cope

with the growth in creche numbers while the Tea Leaf was able to resume after an extended period when Mrs Lauren Bingham came forward with an offer to lead. Towards the end of 2023, it was also good to see the Caring Team being refreshed and remobilised to support and look in on some of the older members who perhaps live alone or have particular pastoral needs.

Ahead of the start of the winter's work, the Kirk Session issued a letter to the congregation on the importance of corporate prayer and accompanied this with a little card, as a reminder and encouragement for more to take the opportunities available to gather together before the evening service and especially at the midweek prayer meeting. On occasion, the numbers for the former have been a little higher while on Wednesday nights the numbers are broadly unchanged. We would repeat that not only will you be blessed by gathering with others, but your attendance will be an encouragement to others.

At Easter, we were pleased to join again with our friends at West Kirk in sharing Good Friday and Easter Sunday evening services with the venues reversed from the previous year. In the summer, the outreach programme continued with open-air meetings in May and door-to-door visitation in late August. Gospel tracts were again distributed at Easter and Christmas and we appreciate all who took part and helped. It is recognised that this work is becoming more challenging with many reporting on more doors being closed and relatively few people in the district prepared to engage at the door-step in a meaningful conversation about the gospel.

For the second consecutive year, we were very pleased to have special choirs leading the worship at both the Harvest and Christmas services and this was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Karen Fitzsimons for arranging and leading and to all the enthusiastic members who participated. The occasional "songs of praise" after the evening service were also well received.

In December, we were pleased to host a Youth event organised by Presbytery when over 120 teenagers and young people gathered for a time of praise and to hear of some of the dangers of social media in a presentation from the Love for Life organisation. Thanks to all who helped facilitate and provide supper. The Session recognises these are especially difficult times for teenagers and young people with all the apparent attractions and temptations and when it is all too easy to be led astray. Please make this a priority in your prayers.

During the year, there were a number of specific items on the Kirk Session agenda which commanded attention. Following changes approved at the General Assembly, a recommendation from Kirk Session to transfer our Trustees to a new legal entity – The Presbyterian Church in Ireland Holding Trustee Company - was approved at a meeting of the congregation before Christmas while further consideration was given to PCI's Back Together Again document which challenges the leaders of congregations to reflect afresh on church life and witness in a post-pandemic world when much has changed. Towards the end of the year, the Kirk Session received a presentation from Mr Phil Dunn of EMF on what partnering with one of the Mission's associated churches would entail. This information was subsequently shared with the congregation as part of a wider consultation.

In a sign of changed times, our minister and some elders attended a PCI conference on Pastoral Care aimed at those struggling with issues of gender identity and same sex attraction. Some also attended and found benefit from an evening on "Renewing your Calling as an Elder" while others participated on a seminar on evangelism.

At the end of 2023 we heard the sad news that Jersey Street City Mission – with whom we have had a long and important association – was to close and Immanuel was represented at the final service on Christmas Eve. We give thanks to God for the work of the mission in proclaiming the gospel to children and families in the Shankill area over many decades and the faithful devotion of those who were called to serve. We remember Tom and Deborah Gamble as they seek the Lord's will for the times ahead.

At the time of writing, a new year appears to stretch out ahead of us with all its uncertainties, crises, joys and sorrows but as the old chorus reminds us ... "I know who holds the future and he holds it in his hands, with God things don't just happen, everything by him is planned".

May we find comfort and reassurance in such times and follow Paul's instructions to the church at Philippi – ***"Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving continue to make your requests known to God". ( Philippians 4:6)***

**Alan Bridle**

**Clerk of Session**

**January 2024**

## **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 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 centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, 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 Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

#### **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 congregations 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 in **April 2022** and signed on its behalf by

Alan Bridle (Clerk of Session)

Russell Coates (Deputy Clerk)

Date 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Date 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Immanuel Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104450

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# Annual return

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# **IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 104450)**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which comprises the attached Statement of Financial Activity, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and all supporting Notes to the Accounts.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and it is my responsibility as Independent Examiner to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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. The 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 the trustees concerning any such matters.

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


1. That the 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.

**CONTINUED:**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND (CONTINUED)**

**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 respect of the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Stephen Huddleston FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
1 Bramble Hill Lane  
Hillsborough  
BT26 6FQ

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024