



McQUISTON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104506)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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

McQuiston Memorial congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
83 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 5FE.
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104506).

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

W J Best	W A Bousfield
SD Briggs	K R Galbraith
M J Gardner	R J Graham
H J Hawthorne	A L Johnston
E J Kelso	N Maynes
S McAllister	P McKeown
S O Quinn	K R Sergeant
M H Sergeant	J C Shivers
I Smyth	K R Wray (Resigned August 2023)
L M Wray	P A Wray (Deceased May 2023)
R S Wray	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev. Philip Boyd (installed September 2023)
Clerk of Session	Mr K R Galbraith
Deputy Clerk of Session	Mrs Linda Wray
Treasurer	Mr T R Graham
Secretary	Miss M J Gardner

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr David Hooks
250 Donaghadee Road
Bangor
Co Down
BT19 6NH

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd
37 High Street
Carrickfergus
Co Antrim
BT38 7AN

SOLICITORS

Hewitt & Gilpin
73 Hollywood Road
Belfast
BT4 3BA

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 every fourth Tuesday of the calendar month except June, July, August and December. Other meetings of the Kirk Session are arranged as required.

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. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of the votes off those who vote.

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. McQuiston Memorial congregation of the 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 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 June for worship and to conduct its business. This year the meeting was held from 21 June to 24 June 2023. 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.

McQuiston Memorial congregation of the Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purpose is "Jesus centred – People focused". This is demonstrated as follows that by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

- is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;
- is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;
- is relevant to people of this time and place.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- A Covenant Community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward Him and toward one another.
- Intergenerational Community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.
- An Outward looking Community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.

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 welcomes visitors to worship with us. 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 Bible study meetings (Discipleship Groups) and prayer meetings each fortnight on a Wednesday evening. We also have a wide range of organisations and activities including:

- Sunday School known as MnM Kids
- McQuiston Tots
- Craic 'n' Coffee
- Coffee with Jesus Ladies Study Group
- Senior Members Fellowship
- Redcar Crafts
- Youth Club known as Transformers
- Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys, Junior and Company Sections
- Discipleship Groups
- Praise Group
- Pastoral Visitation
- Outreach Activities

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

With the retirement of our minister, Reverend Robert Beggs, the congregation continues through this time of vacancy in the care of a Vacancy Commission of East Belfast Presbytery. We meet for worship each Sunday at 11.00am and on the First and third Sundays each month at 7.00pm. The Bible Study (Discipleship Groups) provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. The Prayer Time and Discipleship groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings each month.

An essential and vital part of our Christian witness is prayer. Accordingly we meet for times of specific prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledge God's gift of new life at Sacraments of Baptism but we had no baptisms this year. We had one celebration of Holy Matrimony. In addition we had 14 members who died during the year and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

A Remembrance Day service was held in November. In December we held our annual carol service which was well attended and was also streamed live.

On 31 December 2023 there were 104 communicant members and over 167 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was just over 70 persons. An average of 97 persons per week visited the on-line service

A What's App prayer group (operating by mobile texting) continues faithful ongoing prayer cover for Church members and other non-members, as well as prayer for situations at home and overseas. A joy continues to be the many answers to prayer.

We continue to support our food bank with groceries/essential food items which are given to the needy in the area. Our Outreach worker continued to ensure that the food is distributed to European migrants and members of the local community in need. During the Easter and Christmas periods he and a number of Elders brought gifts to many within that migrant population.

In September 2023 the contract for our Outreach worker ended and John McCandless retired from the post. As a congregation we have come to know and love John and his wife Lana. We will maintain contact with them into the future.

Safe Guarding

Taking Care is the name of the safeguarding policy and programme of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Our aim is to create and promote a safe environment for all. We believe that next to proclaiming God's Word and the love of Christ, nothing could be more important than keeping our children and young people safe.

Our church is also designated as a safe place for those suffering from domestic abuse.

McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Mission and outreach

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

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, The Presbyterian Children's Society, the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal at Christmas and other special appeals.

During the Easter period our senior members received an Easter greetings card and a small gift. Our work with Elmgrove and Euston Street Primary schools continued as they held a lovely colouring competition and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Just prior to Christmas 70 bags of shortbread were distributed to local neighbours either side of the church building and shops / businesses on the Castlereagh Road.

Our outreach work continued to develop in two local primary schools. Working with P7 classes continued with cookie decorating, planting summer bedding plants and arts and crafts work. The annual Easter arts competition continues to be a popular event.

On 30 April Belfast held its annual marathon and we deferred our morning worship whilst cups of water were offered to the runners and tea/coffee and bacon baps to the spectators.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of East Belfast Presbytery by our minister and / or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church. A report of each Presbytery meeting is given to the Kirk Session.

General Assembly

The Convenor and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. Our Minister and Clerk of Kirk Session attended and were greatly impressed by the way affairs were conducted. A report is given to Kirk Session on the work presented.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Mr JC Shivers reported on his attendance at General Assembly in June 2023. This year there was a new format with General Assembly commencing on a Wednesday and finishing on a Saturday. He highlighted the following :-

PCI Have 22 students in training.

Guysmere is to be upgraded and used for the benefit of younger members of our church.

A document on allowing people with a learning disability to become full members of churches. A paper will go to Presbyteries and final decisions for next year's General Assembly.

Updating of the PCI Code.

Property

The general maintenance work carried out in and around the church and manse goes on in an effort to keep the property up to a high standard a high standard. Whilst it was agreed to replace the front doors with uPVC doors. This work has not yet proceeded and it has still to go to Presbytery and the General Assembly Architecture Committee before work can commence.

2023 saw the retirement of our Church Officer, Sam McNerlan, Sam served in McQuiston for more than twenty years and was a much loved member of our staff. Sam maintained the building and grounds to a high standard. We will all miss his smile and enthusiasm around the buildings.

The updating work at the vacant manse was completed and the property was rented out for a period of 6 months.

Organisations

As the congregation continues to progress and rebuild some of the organisations that we would have traditionally had operating have yet to start. The Ladies Fellowship (Presbyterian Women), the Luncheon Club will not restart as agreed by KirkSession. The Mens Fellowship (SHED) and the film club Take Two have not yet restarted.

Sunday

Our Services of worship and praise continued throughout the year as already detailed . In the early part of 2023 our congregation continues as a "vacant" pulpit under the oversight of a Commission of East Belfast Presbytery who appointed the Rev. Richard McIlHatton as Vacancy Commission Convenor who managed the provision of preachers. Rev McIlHatton steered the Kirk Session through the process of applying to the Linkage Commission of the Presbyterian Church for leave to call a new minister which was granted. At this point Rev. McIlHatton moved to take on other duties and a new convenor of vacancy was appointed. Rev. Colin Burcombe led us through the process of calling a new minister. The Sunday services were coordinated by our musical director Mark McKeown who organised the order of the services and managed a rota of service leaders who led the services up to the sermon. In June we called the Rev. Philip Boyd who accepted the call and was installed as our minister in September 2023

Our praise group continued to meet and practise new pieces of praise with a view to introducing them to the congregation.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

A crèche is available every Sunday morning for all pre-school children attending church. At present we have 2 babies and 4 toddlers who are looked after by women from our congregation. A rota system is in operation throughout the year to make sure every Sunday is covered.

Our Sunday school, known as MnM Kids continued and 2023 has been an interesting year for the young people in McQuiston. Messy Church, on a number of occasions continued to supplement our children's ministry with Vintage Church, for our more mature members, running alongside Messy Church. At all times we aim to provide a safe environment for the young people. God is at the centre of all we do and the activities we provide. Safe Guarding training was carried out in March 2023.

As the year continued it was proposed to return to a similar timetable for the young people as was observed before covid-19. Children would join the church service and leave during the service for their programme.

We have a consistent number of children weekly with 11 children attending. This number may vary slightly but we are prepared for an increase or decrease in our attendance. The weekly leaders are also helped by a young teen in the church who faithfully attends every week and helps in many different ways. The programme theme each week is the same for all children but we have activities which are specific for both KS1 and KS2 to enhance and support the lessons. We have been working through the themes, "Jesus is our hero" and more recently "The life of Jesus" in accordance to the Gospel of Matthew.

Monday

There are currently no organisations meeting on a Monday

Tuesday

Craic 'n' Coffee, our coffee drop in, continues to provide a warm and comfortable location for anyone to rest and have fellowship with friend and strangers alike. It available each Tuesday from 10.00am to 11.30am except in July and August The Senior Members Fellowship also resumed and now meets once a month on a Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday

Redcar Crafts continues to provide a useful outlet for those who crochet and knit and are generally creative. On a Wednesday morning you can learn new skills, practise and hone old skills. You may also be treated to some pavlova and coffee.

Thursday

Coffee with Jesus

Coffee with Jesus is exactly what it claims to be, a time of studying God's word, prayer, alongside coffee and cake.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Women from the congregation meet at 9.30-10.30am in the Youth Room (two Thursdays a month) where we have a coffee and catch up and discuss the chapters of the book which we have read in advance.

This years favourite book was Rebekah Lyons's "Building a Resilient Life". Through this book we discovered five practical, life-changing rules of resilience to help you thrive in difficult times.

Each time we meet we end with a time of prayer; praying for one another, the church, the world and anything/anyone else the Lord puts on our hearts.

This group has really been an encouragement to the women involved and their commitment to it has proven how important they think it is as part of their faith journey.

Transformers

We continue to meet in the church halls Thursday evenings. We have 31 children on our roll and an average attendance of 25 each week. As usual our night follows a routine of circle time where the children share what they have done from the previous Thursday. We then share a Bible story and either a quiz or craft. Games are always a favourite especially football and relay races. We end the night with juice and biscuits.

We have 4 faithful leaders each week and 2 helpers, without their help Transformers wouldn't function.

We pray with the children before the parents come back to collect them. No matter what we do each week God is with us, His love is so important to us.

Friday

McQuiston Toddlers

Following a great first year at toddlers, we look forward to seeing how God continues to bless us as we head into the next school year.

Over the past 12 months we have welcomed several new families through the doors of our church to join us each Friday morning for play time, music and snacks.

Many of the families returned week after week, which has been incredibly encouraging for the leaders. We are so grateful to God for the relationships that have been formed, and continue to pray for opportunities to reach out to those in our local community as we prepare for the year ahead.

Toddlers meets on Friday, of each week from 10.00-11.30. All toddlers of pre-school age and their parents, grandparents or carers are very welcome.

Boys Brigade

In 2023 the 19th Company Boys' Brigade became part of a new organisation and are now a company in Boys Brigade NI. This organisation is now separate from the Boys Brigade in the rest of the UK. The Company continued the face-to-face activities at the church on a weekly basis, with

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

restrictions hand washing/sanitising, opening windows for ventilation are still in place. The programme has now been based on resources produced by Boys Brigade NI HQ, including themed programmes of physical, mental and spiritual activities. The themed programmes have been a great success, with the Anchors Boys enjoying dinosaur nights, Junior section enjoying World War 2, and Seniors enjoying a James Bond theme.

The boys continue to work for their badges and awards. Three boys, Michael Greenwood, Aaron Greenwood and Ross Elliot, achieved the Queens Badge. Our parents night in May which is always great fun for both the boys and parents, many of whom get involved in the games.

It has been great to have the boys back to face-to-face activities in the church, watching them grow in their faith, and seeing them enjoying themselves with their friends.

We have a great team of dedicated leaders, and we are very grateful for all the work and passion they put into advancing Christ's Kingdom among boys.

We would also be extremely grateful of new potential leaders who could prayerfully consider joining our team in our mission to advance Christ's Kingdom among boys in the local neighbourhood. Thanks for all your help, support and prayer for our BB in McQuiston; it means so much to all the boys and their leaders.

Miscellaneous

Other events such as the ever popular Ladies Nights are held on a regular basis and are always over subscribed. Music at McQuiston is a concert which is held in the church once a year. Music and singing covering a wide range of tastes is performed to a very high standard.

In addition to our own church organisations the church halls are used by other external organisations as follows :

Pilates Classes
Narcotics Anonymous Meetings
Ballet Classes
Trinity School of Music

As in previous years around Christmas a number of Elders and Mr. McCandless prepared and packaged gifts for our senior members. These were delivered to their homes and were well received.

Gifts of shortbread biscuits were delved to the businesses in the local area.

Our Christmas Carols service at twilight was performed on Sunday evening 19 December with a large congregation. This service was also broadcast live on-line. Some light refreshments were served at its conclusion.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

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.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 167 contributors during the year (same 2022) donating a total of £63,629.00 .

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £127,395 compared to £129,292 in the previous year.

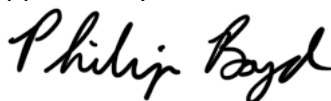
Total expenditure increased from £142,278 in 2022 to £143,824 in 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

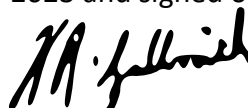
Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 24 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Rev. Philip Boyd

Minister

22 October 2023



KR Galbraith

Clerk of Session

22 October 2023

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.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

RISK REVIEW

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees, and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 22 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Philip Boyd

Minister

Date 22 October 2024



K R Galbraith

Clerk of Session

Date 22 October 2024