

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least four times each year or as appropriate.

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 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. Granshaw 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 each congregation.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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

Granshaw 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 seeks to be a haven for people with broken hearts. We believe that as God's family we should love, care for and support one another in the ups and downs of everyday life. We want all who attend our services to feel at home, be inspired by the worship, and challenged by the biblical messages.

Granshaw Presbyterian Church exists to help the wider community in its practical and spiritual needs. The church is open to anyone who wishes to worship God or explore spiritual question. It serves the island of Ireland with it links to congregations both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and its social care outreach. It serves the wider world by its overseas partnerships. Granshaw has supported COTN (Children of The Nations) and their work in Malawi, East Africa.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The services are streamed online to enable everyone to be part of the service.

Communion is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in Jesus are admitted to the Lord's Supper.

The congregation holds regular bible study meetings for various age groups and at various times through the week. As well as weekly prayer times the church has a wide range of organisations including:

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| - Sunday School (JAM) | - Youth Fellowship (GIG) |
| - All Stars & Little Stars (Creche) | - Mothers and Toddlers (MOPS) |
| - Bible Class | - Bowling Club |
| - Prayer Ministry Team | - Presbyterian Women (PW) |
| - Kids Klub | - Common Threads |
| - Youth Club (Young Life) | - Time Out |
| - Boys' Brigade | - Summer Outreach Program |
| - Girls' Brigade | - Scripture Union (SU) at Moneyrea PS |

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am. During the week various Bible Study groups provide the opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we celebrated baptisms, conducted marriage services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors. They can also request digital copies of the Sunday morning service to view in their own homes.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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Mission and outreach

The congregation seeks to be a haven for people with broken hearts. We believe that as God's family we should love, care for and support one another in the ups and downs of everyday life. We do this in many ways, by worshipping together as a Church family on Sundays and during the week and by reaching out with the love of God to those around us.

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 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 congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

Presbytery

The congregation is represented at the regular meetings of 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.

General Assembly

The minister 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, in June.

Property

Granshaw Church is a grade B listed building and is well maintained to a high standard. The church is over 150 years old and needs constant upkeep, which the congregational Committee oversee.

Other properties belonging to the congregation include a suite of halls. Our halls are looked after by a part time caretaker and volunteers. There is also a graveyard and football pitch on the church's property and these are well maintained.

The Minister is required to live in the manse provided by the church. The manse address is 8 Gransha Road, Comber, BT23 5QA and is well maintained. The church has an additional residential property located beside the main church building.

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.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland****TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)****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.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland****TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)****FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. Donations for the year were £156,816 (2023: £145,038).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £340,549, a small increase on the prior year (£340,196). Income raised from charitable activities increased by £18,102 but there were fewer donations in the year.

Total expenditure increased to £389,072 from £330,536 mainly due to increased running costs (£166,906, 2023: £122,744) but also increased costs for charitable events.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregations and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregations and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". 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.

GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland****GOING CONCERN**

The total income of the church is in line with the prior year although expenses have increased significantly. The balance sheet shows a cash balance of £169,954 with current liabilities of £17,979.

The activities of the congregation are dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and subject to the continuing support from members to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments. As a result, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. At the year end unrestricted reserves were £1,300,766 (2023: £1,314,678), the Trustees, consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent of the ongoing financial support of members.

RISK REVIEW

The Trustees regularly review the risks and the systems and procedures implemented to manage the 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 19 August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

[Name] 

[Date] 19.8.25

[Name] 

[Date] 19.8.25