

ORANGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104513

ORANGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Orangefield Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
464 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 6BH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104513)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Gary Ball	Craig Blair	John Boyd
Eric Brunton	Daphne Caldwell	Brian Campbell
Jonny Campbell	Naomi Campbell	John Compton
Thelma Crawford	Jose Cummings	Anna Davison
Gavin Doherty	Stephen Douglas	Jeremy Dowd
Hannah Elliott	Stephen Ellis	Campbell English
Deborah Ford	Dean Francis	Ross Hart
David Irvine	Robin Jamison	Alan Jennings
Gareth MacLean	Roger McConnell	Ruth McConnell
Sarah McCullough	Stephen McMechan	Vanessa Montgomery ¹
Joan Moore	Peter Shields	Mark Smyth
Gary Steenson	Ken Tweedie	Dave Whitcroft
Mark Wright		

¹ On sabbatical from March 2023

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PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Gareth MacLean
Clerk of Session	Mr Jeremy Dowd
Treasurer	Mr Gary Hartin

AUDITOR

Muir & Addy
Muir Building, 427 Holywood Road, Belfast BT4 2LT

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1

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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 ministers 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 normally held monthly from September to June.

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. Orangefield 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.

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 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.

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DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Orangefield 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.

Our congregation's purpose is to be a praying, worshipping Christian community; empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus daily and minister in his name.

As an evangelical church we are Father-Focused, Christ-Centred and Spirit-Sensitive. 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.

In September 2023, at a special weekend event, we launched our new Vision, with the strapline **Together WITH JESUS BRINGING LIFE to Belfast and the nations.**

As Jesus followers we are invited into his life, his story, and his mission. It is a story of multiplication: 1 became 12; 12 became 120; and 120 became 3000. Today there are 2.2 billion Christians on the planet with 5.8 billion people needing to encounter and accept Jesus.

As God's people in Orangefield, we continue to hunger for God's Presence; we read our Bibles, we care for one another and we love our neighbours. However, as we journey towards April 2033, the date that will celebrate the 2000th anniversary of Jesus resurrection, our goal must be multiplication – disciples making disciples, churches planting churches.

In this season we will prioritise:

- **Deep Connections**
 - We seek to grow as God's family, marked by hospitality, authenticity and deeply committed relationships.
- **Spiritual Formation**
 - We seek to become more like Jesus through our gathered and individual rhythms and we intentionally raise up others as disciple-makers.
- **Compassionate Giving**
 - We seek to support and bless individuals and communities at home and around the world through radical service and generosity.
- **Courageous Pioneering**
 - We seek to practice innovation, creativity and partnership as we equip God's people to walk in the Spirit and see His Kingdom come.

These priorities are uniquely rooted in the story God has been telling in Orangefield for over 80 years. They reflect much of who we are and what we do. However, more than that, as the cultural and spiritual landscape of Belfast and Northern Ireland changes, these are the things God is calling us to embody with a new imagination and intensity, as we partner with His Spirit in telling and living the Gospel in a world that is lost and anxious.

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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 regularly during the year, and those who have been baptised and who have made a credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations and ministries including;

4U2	Girls' Brigade
Alpha	GriefShare
Arc Café	Hamper Ministry
Bowls Fellowship	Home Groups
Boys' Brigade	JAM Summer scheme
Brownies	Lunch Club
Community Bible Experience (CBE)	Orange Pips Playgroup
Crèche	PW (Presbyterian Women)
Foodbank	Rainbow Guides
Freezer Ministry	SALT & LIGHT (Sunday School)
Friendship Group	SNYF (Sunday Night Youth Fellowship)

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation has met for worship each Sunday at 10:30am and 7:00pm. We have held Seniors' Services several times each year on Sunday afternoons for those who find it difficult to attend worship at other times. During the week, in church and in small groups, members of all ages have met together for prayer, fellowship, and to study the scriptures. Throughout the year, our morning service continued to be streamed live on YouTube, and recordings were made available to members without access to the online services.

As well as our regular services, during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life as we celebrated eight Sacraments of Baptism, and we conducted one marriage service. We also gave thanks for faithful members, and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year, as we conducted ten funerals.

During the year we welcomed 27 new communicant members, and at 31 December 2023 there were 605 communicant members and 515 families connected with the congregation.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited or otherwise contacted on a regular basis by the minister, pastoral staff, elders, or one of the congregation's volunteer pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

We provide services to our local area through ministries such as the Arc Café, our pre-school playgroup (Orange Pips), our Foodbank, our parent and toddlers group, our youth work in Clonduff and Clarawood, our support of the OAK Partnership in Clarawood, and our many other organisations. We seek to proclaim the Good News through these groups and other outreach events like the Alpha course.

We support local and global mission workers through our offerings, and give prayerful and practical support to many of our members who are involved in short-term mission and outreach projects each year.

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. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College (the training college for ministry students), and financially supports congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

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Presbytery

The congregation is represented at regular meetings of Presbytery by our ministers and two of our elders. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The ministers, one of our elders and an under-30 representative attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

No major repairs or refurbishment projects were required during the year. A significant investment was made towards the end of the year when solar panels were installed on the roof of our building. It is anticipated that this will result in substantial savings to our electricity bills.

Organisations:

4U2 is a group run through the church for adults with and without additional needs and disabilities. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month either in the church building or off-site, depending on the activity planned. We normally have around 9 members who often bring along family members that stay and participate in the session, providing an opportunity for connection and support for them too. We try to run a varied programme which ranges from crafting and cooking to quiz and games nights and off-site activities such as ten pin bowling or crazy golf. We have a family Christmas Party and an end of term June Family Party.

Alpha is Orangefield's central outreach activity for adults. This year has been a very busy year as we ran and supported 5 individual courses. There have been many highlights one being in September we had 10 people involved in a partnership with Windsor Presbyterian to deliver an Alpha at the International Meeting Point. This course was primarily focused on foreign nationals and we are very thankful that around 60 -70 people attended each week. We are blessed to have an Alpha team who are not only committed to Alpha but also have a heart for each and every guest who comes along.

Boys' Brigade meets each Friday to cater for boys aged 4 years to 18 years old, with an average attendance of around 100 boys.

Bowling Fellowship meets every Monday evening from 7.00pm until 9.30pm from September until April (or Easter, whichever comes first). We enjoy both bowling and fellowship and end each evening with an epilogue and light supper. The ages of our members range from 40s to 90s and our members come from Orangefield, other churches and a few with no church connection. Our average attendance since September has been 28.

Brownies 111th Belfast Brownies continue to meet on a Monday evening from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm. The girls continue to enjoy a varied programme including completing their 'Take Action' badge, games, crafts, cookery, planting bulbs and taking part in UK Parliament Week. They had visits from The Cats Protection and Clayful Minds. They also had an outing to Belvoir Forest Park and a Pantomime. The average weekly attendance was 15.

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Community Bible Experience (CBE) Three CBE groups, comprising about 30 people, meet weekly to read the Bible (in CBE format) and discuss it together. We believe reading the Bible and seeking / sharing a deeper understanding of what it contains is the most fundamental element of each individual's faith journey.

Community Youth Clubs These clubs within our local communities of Clonduff and Clarawood have continued throughout 2023. The clubs run across 3 sessions (Monday and Friday night in Clarawood // Friday night in Clonduff in partnership with the Clonduff Community Association) for approximately 48 weeks a year. We have 59 children aged 7 – 12 and 24 teens aged 12 – 18 currently registered and attending throughout the year. This was supported by 2 part-time Youth Support staff and 13 volunteer leaders who planned and delivered a programme that included games, crafts, trips, sports and group work in order to contribute to the personal, social and spiritual development of children and young people.

Crèche runs on Sunday mornings alongside church, for babies and toddlers from 0-3yrs. It provides a nurturing environment for children up to nursery age during the morning service and provides age-appropriate activities and regular bible story time. Attendance has increased lately, with an average of 15-17 children per service. Activities include storytelling, arts and crafts, puzzles and outside play time, encouraging children's social development. Our volunteers ensure a safe and welcoming space for all of our children, and we try and have some quieter, calm time during a small snack and drinks break. Recent feedback from parents has been very positive and we are pleased to provide this safe space for the youngest members of our church family.

Foodbank continues to operate on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as a satellite of Dundonald Foodbank, in association with Trussell Trust. The Foodbank mission statement is, "Inspired by the example of Jesus, we seek to support those in need within our community and help people connect with Him". We do this by offering food, a listening ear, prayer and information. This work is generously supported by our congregation and other local individuals and organisations. We have 15 volunteers and staff involved in the ministry and in 2023 we distributed 793 food packs which helped feed approximately 2,500 local people in need.

Friendship Group The purpose of the group is to encourage friendship and fellowship and give opportunities to our senior members to visit new places, through our summer coach trips, and enjoy a variety of speakers and activities in the autumn and winter months. Following an April Afternoon Tea, we offer a varied programme of seven visits by coach during the summer months, when church activities have stopped, with an average attendance between 40 and 45. During autumn and winter, we arrange fortnightly meetings, offering physical exercises, refreshments and a variety of speakers and activities, with an average attendance of 25. 58 of the 65 members attended the Christmas dinner.

Girls' Brigade We have had a fantastic year at GB during 2023, continuing in our mission to encourage the next generation of girls to seek, serve and follow Christ in their lives. Each Thursday night we have had approximately 110 girls through our doors, from 3 years old right up to 18. Our team of devoted leaders plan engaging activities each week - as always singing, art, bible study and baking are GB favourites. A highlight of the year for older girls was a trip to Colin Glen while our younger girls enjoyed their annual trip to the fire station.

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GriefShare 2023 was a very quiet year for GriefShare, although we had several courses on offer no one attended, possibly due to the fallout from the pandemic.

Home Groups Home Groups provide a special opportunity for spiritual growth, support and encouragement and during 2023 we had 22 home groups within Orangefield with a total membership of over 220. Highlights for the year include 2 new young adults' groups and a number of new members for a range of ages and stages. We are planning for ongoing growth in membership and are expectant for how our wider vision for Deep Connections, Spiritual Formation, Compassionate Generosity and Courageous Pioneering will bring further life and depth to this valuable ministry.

INSPIRE is a Football and Creative Arts week that is run for a week in July for children and young people. In 2023 we had 82 children aged 7 – 12 registered. The programme consisted of teamwork, football skills, matches, dancing, crafts, baking, STEM, music and drama. This was supported by a team of over 25 volunteers who planned and delivered activities that supported the physical and mental health and personal development of children and young people. We also brought in local experts to train up and deliver specific areas of speciality i.e. football and dance.

JAM is a summer scheme for children and teenagers. It runs for one week during the month of August. In 2023, we had 257 registered children aged 5 – 11 (daytime) and 140 teens aged 11 - 16 (evening) attending across 3 locations (Orangefield, Clonduff and Clarawood) with an average attendance of 317 children and young people every day for 5 days. This was supported by over 70 leaders. We also ran a junior leader training programme within this week for 40 young helpers aged 11-16. The programme was a week filled with singing, stories, crafts, games, team building and FUN when children and young people got to hear the amazing story of Jesus.

Orange Pips is our pre-school playgroup. Our aim is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment. We welcome children from all sections of the community, with up to 24 attending per session. We currently run 5 sessions weekly and have 42 children attending across the week. We had a consistent staff team in 2023 with the playgroup manager continuing to develop the team and playgroup and hoping to expand the staff and recruit volunteers in 2024 to meet the changing needs of the children attending.

Presbyterian Women Our PW group continues to meet every month. It has been lovely to welcome over forty ladies at each meeting with some attending for the first time and to see returning members. We have had a variety of speakers over this year's session who have all been well received by our members. Supper is served at the end of each meeting. We appreciate the support given to PW by the church.

Rainbow Guides meet on a Monday night with an average attendance of 12 girls. During 2023 we had a visit from Cats Protection and Jo Jingles, went 10 pin bowling and had educational visits to Knock Fire Station and Belvoir Forest Park. The Minister came along to tell the girls all about the Easter story. We did badge work and attained our Agility, Drawing and First Aid Stage 1 and 2 badges. We went to the Christmas Panto at Stranmillis College and attended the Girlguiding Division Carol Service. We also made different crafts, e.g., painted stones for hiding in Orangefield Park, made jewellery, planted bulbs, decorated pancakes and cupcakes.

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SALT is our Sunday school that meets during the morning service, and has 4 main priorities.

1. Word - we will try to improve children's biblical knowledge and understanding. We are focusing on the life of Jesus using the Energize resource.
2. Presence - we will enable children to develop confidence in prayer. We aim to pray with and for the children each week.
3. People - we will try to develop warm and caring relationships. We try to give time to help the children to get to know each other. We had a Christmas Party and a trip to Streamvale Farm.
4. World - we will encourage children to live out their faith. This year we were able to take part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box appeal.

We have 18 leaders, 3 worship leaders, 71 children registered and an average attendance of 34 per week

LIGHT is the weekly Sunday programme which takes place during the morning service for those between 10 and 13 years old where age-appropriate Bible teaching is provided using presentations, group discussion and interactive activities. Over the past year, the average attendance was around 16 children per week and the programme followed a number of teaching series, including looking at Old Testament characters and what it means to live as a Christian.

SNYF – In the past year, our Sunday Night Youth Fellowship (SNYF) has seen over 30 young people attend each week. Our evenings begin with some active games in the Parke Hall before moving to the Youth Room. We have dedicated time to worship and prayer, aiming to encourage a deeper relationship with God. Our teaching sessions have delved into understanding our faith and its relevance in our daily lives, providing opportunities for discussion. Emphasising missions has helped to broaden our perspective and actively consider ways to serve our community and beyond. Additionally, inviting church members to share their stories has helped to inspire and encourage, creating deeper connections with the wider church family.

Tots & Co Clarawood runs weekly during term time in the OAK Centre, with numbers varying between 8-16 adults accompanied with a child or children (usually no more than 3 per adult). This is a space that allows the parent/carer to create bonds with their child/children doing crafts, singalong and imaginary play. The activities help babies/toddlers engage with other children which helps to develop their social skills and build confidence in the children. This space also creates friendships with other parents/carers to help eliminate loneliness. Most activities will have a faith-based theme to them.

TnC@OPC on average has 30 attendees. We meet every other week and provide a relaxed, safe space where tots and their carers chat, sharing stories and experiences over a cuppa. As volunteers we provide a listening ear and support.

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. Without them, we would not be able to offer many of the services outlined above.

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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. At times, local delivery is facilitated by central resources. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media.

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

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

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income continues to be the generous contribution from our members. There were 361 contributing families during the year (365 in previous year, 2022). Donations received from the Freewill Offering totalled £304,832 (£318,173 in previous year, 2022).

Other Donations & Gifts decreased when compared to the previous year - £44,459 in 2023 (2022 - £141,275). This was mainly due fundraising efforts for the Ukraine Anniversary appeal in the prior year.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £699,645 compared to £845,723 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased in the year from £918,411 to £893,816.

This year, donations distributed to other charities decreased from £219,317 in 2022 to £118,626 in 2023.

There was good news for the Building Fund in 2023. At the start of this financial year, the loans used to finance the construction of our church building stood at £259,242. At the year ended 31 December 2023, this debt stood at £83,205.

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 congregation 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.

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GOING CONCERN

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.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees approved the following as the Reserves Policy, based on the recommendation of the Treasurer and Finance Team;

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold, taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to endeavour to hold at least 2 months' normal expenditure (£50,000).

Loan repayments: It is the intention of the Trustees to retain 2 months' loan repayments in the Building Fund a/c. This affords the comfort that, should there be a shortfall in monthly loan repayments, they would be in a position to make up the difference in the short term.

Assets: A church asset register is in place and will be updated monthly. A rolling replacement schedule is in place for major assets.

At the year-end the free reserves (excess of unrestricted current liabilities over current assets) were in deficit by £120,030. This has not met the levels identified within the current reserve policy. The reason for the negative free reserve position is due to the annual loan repayment commitment that was required for the construction of the church building. An optimal level of working capital will be maintained to meet the Ministry, staffing and congregational running costs and will support a medium-term goal of full repayment of the church building loan. On final completion of the loan repayment additional surplus reserves will go towards meeting the reserve policy.

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RISK REVIEW

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures are being 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. We have agreed a Risk Management Policy and have compiled a Risk Register to ensure that 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 10 June 2024 and Signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Date] 10th June 2024.

[Name] 

[Date] 10 June 2024