

**Mountpottinger Presbyterian Church
a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

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**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 104529

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Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024 including a balance sheet as of that date.

Reference and Administrative Details

Mountpottinger Presbyterian a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

45 Castlereagh Street Belfast BT5 4NE

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland NIC104529

Charity Trustees

The Charity Trustees at the date of this report were

Rev Enrique Tagle Aguiar

Mr Thomas Baker

Mr Ronnie Baxter

Mr David Craig

Mr Brian Currie

Mrs Margaret Grayson

Mr Gordon Kennedy

Mr John Minnis

Mr Hill McRoberts

Mr Neill McRoberts

Mr Peter Parke

Dr Robin Wilson

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Principal Office Bearers

Minister.	Rev Enrique Tagle Aguiar
Clerk of Session.	Margaret Grayson
Deputy Clerk of Session	Neill McRoberts
Treasurer	Wendy Baker
Congregational Secretary	Pat Jones

Auditor

Joseph Connolly CPFA
44 Downshire Park East
Belfast
BT6 9JP

Bankers

Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

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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. In June 2024 Congregational Committee elections were held and 10 members elected.

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 voice 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 bi-monthly from September to June. To be chosen for the office of 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. Mountpottinger 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 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 Session of each congregation.

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Description and Purpose

Mountpottinger 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 – in faithful prayer and relying totally on God.

The congregation aims to live out its mission purpose as a family of God's people by being:

- a community of believers that seeks to study and learn from God's Word
- a community where each member is developing a discipleship life
- a community seeking to love Jesus and that is evident to all as we welcome everyone
- to be outward looking to share this love, the gospel and the blessings of God with others beyond our church bounds
- all we do is totally dependent on God, on the truth in His Word, surrounded by the power of prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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Activities and Objectives

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday at 11am. This service is open to all the community and visitors are welcome to join. There is a live stream of this service for those members unable to attend in person. From September, on the first Sunday each month at 3pm we have a Spanish worship service. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is normally observed four times during the year and all those who have been baptised and have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted as members. Anyone who professes Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour is welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper. The congregation has regular midweek Bible Study meetings and a wide range of organisations including:

- Bible Class
- Boys' Brigade
- Creche
- Food table
- Friday Club
- Girls' Brigade
- Junior Church
- Homework Club
- Open Door
- Prayer meeting
- Presbyterian Women
- Seniors
- Toddlers
- SNYF (Sunday Night Youth Fellowship)

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Activities and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11am. The service in Spanish is held monthly on the first Sunday at 3pm. At the bi-weekly, midweek meeting the members study the Scriptures and through the teaching continue to develop their everyday living as a witness to the Love of God in their lives. On a Monday morning there is the opportunity to meet to pray for our church, our community, our city and the wider world.

As well as our regular services, during the year, we acknowledged and celebrated God's gift of personal salvation at three Sacraments of Adult Baptism and we conducted one marriage service. In addition we also gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

On 31st December 2024 there were 96 communicant members and 108 families connected to the congregation. During the year, we welcomed eight new communicants to the Lord's Table.

The normal weekly attendance at worship was 90.

Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church, due to sickness or age, are visited regularly by the minister, pastoral support worker (new staff post - appointed in September 2024), elders and members of the congregation.

Mission and Outreach

At a local level, members of the congregation seek to live as disciples, loving Jesus, loving others, both within the Mountpottinger family and in the wider community. Our weekly free food table ministry has continued to develop, building relationships, getting to know people and their life concerns over coffee and toast in our coffee dock area. The trust that has been earned allows those involved in the ministry, the opportunity to share on a personal basis about Jesus. As a congregation we would like to acknowledge and thank Tesco for their generosity, also the support of FareShare and James Brown, Funeral Directors. The food table was registered with Belfast City Council and on inspection awarded the highest rating of 5*

There is an open invitation to members and to the community to join us at our Friday Club for a time of fellowship, games, chat, coffee and treats.

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Mission Possible, our charity shop, has built relationships with customers and the volunteers for over 20 years. Many come in for a chat to share about family issues and request prayer, and faith is shared in a natural conversation.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission, which is the 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 denomination 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, assists 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.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and 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 are nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, which is held in the Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June annually.

Property

The congregational property consists of a church sanctuary and halls complex, located in Castlereagh Street in inner East Belfast; a manse at Crawford Park and our Mission Impossible Charity Shop on Castlereagh Road.

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Organisations:

- Junior Church - aged up to 11, meet during the Sunday morning service, to learn from the Bible and grow in their understanding of God
- Creche – area for babies and toddlers aged three and under, there is a bible story programme and related activities
- Bible Class – young people meet, in our refurbished youth room, on a Sunday morning during the church service, as well as meeting for social events during the year
- SNYF – Sunday Night Youth Fellowship meets with a varied study programme
- Prayer meeting – Monday - members meet to pray for our church, our community, our city and the wider world
- Homework club on Monday for primary school children drawn from schools in the area
- Seniors – meet on Tuesday afternoon twice a month, enjoying spending time together and hear visiting speakers
- Girls' Brigade – on Tuesday evenings, girls aged 3 to 18
- Food table – free food table to help those in need of food in the local area, of friendship and opportunity share personal faith with those who come regularly, over tea and toast
- Toddlers – on Wednesday mornings, children and carers gather to spend time together, play activities, bible story and a snack
- Midweek Bible Study - on 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening
- Open Door – opportunity for members to come together on alternate Tuesday mornings for friendship and fellowship
- Boys' Brigade – meets on a Thursday evening for boys aged 4 to 18
- Friday Club – open to all who want to come, activities, chat, coffee and treats
- Presbyterian Women (MPW) – ladies in the congregation meet on 2nd Saturday in the month, at 11.00, to share a varied programme of worship, activities and hear invited speakers, including missionaries

In June 2024 Session met individually with the leader of each organisation/ministry to acknowledge their service and give the opportunity to share areas of praise and areas of concern. This enabled Session to have a working framework and prayer topics.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving in all aspects of church life.

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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 of 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 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 advertisements, websites and social media or in other ways.

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

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

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Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income continues to be the generous contributions from our members.

Total Income during the year was £164,901 compared to £151,476 in 2023
Total Expenditure during the year was £157,779 compared to £154,595 in 2023

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 congregation 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 a 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 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 91 January 2015)." They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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 continuing support from members to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

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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.

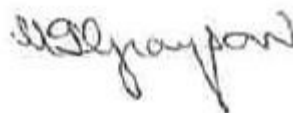
Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16th September 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Enrique Tagle Aguiar

Minister

Date 16 September 2025



M I Grayson

Clerk of Session

Date 16 September 2025