



LOANENDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(REGISTERED CHARITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND: 104875)

ANNUAL REPORT – 2024



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Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

1. Introduction

This is the annual report of Loanends Presbyterian Church for the Year 2024. The report is structured in accordance with the Charity Commission for NI's guidelines as follows:

2. Reference & Administrative Details;
3. Structure & Management;
4. Description & Purpose;
5. Activities & Objectives;
6. Achievements & Performance;
7. Public Benefit Statement; and
8. Financial Review.

2. Reference & Administrative details

The Congregation of Loanends Presbyterian Church (Registration Number: 104875) on the Seven Mile Straight, Crumlin hold services of worship and other religious activities within the Meeting House and adjacent Church Hall. These, and all that follows, are open to anyone of appropriate age and/or gender to access, without regard to whether they are members of our congregation or not. Through prayer, we support our members, our own Church, other Christian Churches, the community and leaders in society and government.

As a local congregation we also organise meetings and events that promote our charitable purpose; the promotion of religion. Loanends Presbyterian Church is located in a rural setting and we aim to participate in the life of the local community. We also participate in and support what the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) and our supervising Templepatrick Presbytery does. In addition, as well as outreach, we support other secular and Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer.

The Congregation's key office holders are:

Minister: Mr David Morrison

Congregational Secretary: Mr Barry Spence

Treasurer: Mrs Alison Gawn

The Kirk Session is the ruling body within the congregation and its members comprise the twelve charity trustees for the Loanends Presbyterian Church. The trustees are:

Teaching Elder

1. Mr David Morrison was ordained and installed in September 2022.

Ruling Elders

2. Mrs Mary Thompson
3. Mrs Joan Wallace
4. Mrs Maureen McCourt
5. Mr Norman Moore
6. Mr Robert Griffiths
7. Mr Lyle Fleming
8. Mr Peter Leitch (Clerk)

During 2024, two of our elders, Mr Wallace Coulter and Mr George Fleming retired from active service. We thank both for the years of service to the congregation and presbytery.

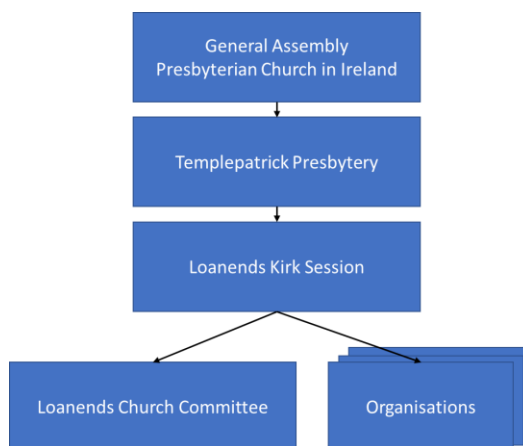
Bankers

Loanends Presbyterian Church's bankers are Ulster Bank Limited, Antrim. 98-01-80 Account number: 1779037

3. Structure & Management

The Loanends Presbyterian Church, in common with other congregations within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has a clearly defined governance and management structure. Figure 1 provides an overview of the reporting & governance process.

Figure 1: Reporting & Governance Structure



General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is the governing body for the whole Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) and meets annually and debates issues and other matters from across the church and externally; these debates may lead to revisions to the code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Presbytery

Loanends Presbyterian Church is a member of Templepatrick Presbytery and is under this Presbytery's direction. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church, however due to the Pandemic, these meetings were forced to cease.

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session of Loanends Presbyterian Church is comprised of a Teaching Elder and seven Ruling Elders who have been elected from within the Congregation. The Kirk Session is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation and provides leadership and spiritual guidance to the congregation.

The Loanends Kirk Session reports to the Templepatrick Presbytery who oversee the ordination and appointment of Elders within the congregation. As well as having roles in pastoral care, the Loanends Kirk Session reviews the activities of all the organisations associated with the Congregation and ensures that leaders are appointed following the process laid down by the General Assembly. The Kirk Session also approves the reports and financial returns provided by the congregation committee to the Templepatrick Presbytery which in turn applies oversight to these reports.

In addition to overseeing the appointment of elders, the Templepatrick Presbytery carries out consultations with each congregation under its control approximately every 10 years to ensure that the congregation is operating within the requirements of the code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The Session also acts as a court of the church empowered to take decisions in accordance with the Code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This includes minor disciplinary issues as well as decisions re baptism and communion. Issues which require a superior court's ruling will be referred to the Templepatrick Presbytery. Issues requiring changes or ruling from the wider church will be referred to the General Assembly containing the superior courts of the Church.

The Loanends Kirk Session replaced face to face meetings with on-line virtual meetings to allow the church leaders to stay in touch and to try and coordinate pastoral care etc. where possible.

Mission & 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.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and other special disaster relief appeals.

Property

Loanends Property Committee carried out no major repairs during 2020, although additional disinfectant dispensers and screens were installed. The Congregational Committee had previously made a recommendation to the Congregation at a stated meeting in December 2018 in respect of joining the Church to the Church Hall with an additional building to be called "The Link". A key driver for this work is to provide greater resources for the church and the wider community. As part of the initiative, we hope to be able to provide the community with a useful space for meetings, socialising (in a café) and a suitable place for activities. The Committee advanced plans during 2019 with a view to obtaining planning permission for the Link in 2019/2020 and to commence work thereafter as soon as sufficient finance had been obtained. Whilst planning approval was granted the Committee decided to stay any further action given the uncertainty due to the Covid Pandemic. Subsequently, the Committee has focussed upon general repairs, recommending to the congregation that substantial building be placed on hold.

Volunteers

The Charity Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who gave freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities where these were still possible.

4. Description and Purpose

Loanends Presbyterian Church was birthed in mission. In the early 1800s some Presbyterians from Scotland came over to Ireland to preach the Gospel. They were known as Seceeders as they had left the Church of Scotland due to what they saw as a lack of zeal for preaching the gospel and reaching out to those beyond the church. In 2020, reaching out to the community is still a key part of what we do.

Loanends Presbyterian Church is now a congregation within the Templepatrick Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland having joined the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in July 1932.



Our mission statement is:

“Loanends Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and to encourage everyone to become fully committed followers of Christ and by example, show God’s Love to the wider community.”

What is Mission?

We believe that GOD CALLS US TO MISSION as witnesses to Christ through both evangelism and social witness, challenging the values of the world in which we live with the values of God's kingdom, and winning men and women to faith and discipleship.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations....” In Mathew 28 V19 Jesus calls all believers to the great commission.

Progressing Mission in Loanends’ community

Our Ministry values represent the “marks of behaviour” of a maturing disciple that help to form the boundary lines within which we work. All we seek to do is aimed at encouraging the development of these characteristics in the lives of the people God has given us in our church. We seek to:

- Keep God at the centre of our lives;
- Be grace orientated;
- Have everyone serving and using their gifts in ministry;
- Be part of a caring community; and,
- Make God known to everyone.

This then is our purpose; through our behaviour, service and commitment to the community around us to win men and women to faith and discipleship.

5. Activities & Objectives

The Loanends 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 Objectives of the Loanends Presbyterian Church may be summarised as:

- to love and honour God through faith in His Son;
- to fulfil God's mission through outreach to the wider Loanends Community; and
- to support the Mission of the Church.

Our activities are widespread and include worship, music, sport, fellowship and practical help and outreach to our members and the wider rural community. In normal times, these activities include:

- Church Services;
- Sunday School and Bible Class;
- Children's Church;
- Mission & Outreach;
- Presbyterian Women;
- E.T.C;
- Girls' Brigade & Boys' Brigade;
- Youth Club;
- Holiday Bible Club;
- Messy Church;
- Bowling;
- Badminton;
- Parents & Toddlers;
- Cameo Lunch;
- Annual Fete; and
- Other events.

In 2024, church services were back to normal and the numbers attending worship and organisations, whilst better than 2023, were generally down on the levels pre-pandemic.

6. Achievements and Performance

Loanends Presbyterian Church congregation has continued to serve its people and the wider community in 2024.

Church Services – Were held through out the year every Sunday morning unless there was a joint service with our sister congregation in Killead Presbyterian Church.

Mid-Week Prayer – meetings were held throughout the year with a combination of teaching evenings, prayer evenings and a number of house groups.

Salt & Light – Our Sunday school (SALT) and Bible Class (Light) met from September 2023 to June 2024, recommencing after a summer break in September 2024.

Bowling Club – Recommenced with a Summer series for individuals to try their hand at bowls.

Cameo Lunch – continued through 2024, allowing our older members to meet for lunch and fellowship.

Parents & Toddlers – met every Wednesday from September through to June, providing an opportunity for social activities for pre-school children and their families.

Threads of Hope – a group meeting weekly to pursue crafts such as knitting, needlework etc and providing a community / social service.

GB & BB – both met as normal in Killead Church Halls.

Annual Fete – we held our annual fete in June 2024 which was well attended by the church family and wider community.

7. Public Benefit Statement

The Loanends Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement, as outlined in the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance, 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) and the provision of services which provide additional help to the community.

Local delivery of these benefits in the Loanends area 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 our Minister, who receives 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 Loanends Presbyterian Church 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.

8. Financial review

Loanends Presbyterian Church prepares its accounts on a receipts and payments basis as the total income is less than £250,000 and the Kirk Session has elected to prepare them in this way. The accounts are provided as a separate attachment to the Charities Commission although some summary comments are provided here.

The amount contributed through freewill offering amounted to £50,946. This was down by approximately 0-5% on the previous year which showed tremendous support by the congregation. The congregation has some savings but has a report indicating a need for significant upgrades to church property which the Property Committee are taking forward.

The church accounts were completed in March and submitted to Presbytery along with the annual statistical return. The Charity Trustees would wish to record their thanks to Mr Graham Ferguson who kindly audited the books and accounts. (Please see separate attachment in respect of Mr Ferguson's review).