



BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

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

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104901)

BALLYCARRY PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Ballycarry congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
60 Hillhead Road, Ballycarry, BT38 9HE.

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104901)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Mark Russell	Mr Arthur McQuitty
Miss Daphne Bashford	Miss Denise Savage
Mrs Mabel Bell	Mr Roy Bamford
Mr Mark Campbell	Mrs Joan Dobbin
Mrs Anne Cowan	Mr Ivan Jefferson
Mr Samuel McAllister	Mrs Rosemary Junkin
Mr Stephen McFaul	Mrs Kristina Loughridge
Mrs Ethel McKibbin	Mrs Libby Russell

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Mark Russell
Clerk of Session	Daphne Bashford
Treasurer	Mrs Chris Shaw

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

K.A. McAnoy, Accountant

BANKERS

Danske Bank, High Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7AN

SOLICITORS

MacAuley & Ritchie Solicitors, 1 St. John's Place, Larne, BT40 1TB

BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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 at least three times in 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. Ballycarry congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Carrickfergus 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.

BALLYCARRY 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 early 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

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Ballycarry 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 purpose is as described in our mission statement:

Our desire is to be 'a light on the hill', drawing people together for God and for each other

A people

- increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others.
- committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible.
- 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.
- An 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.

BALLYCARRY 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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed at least 5 times 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 has two Bible study groups that meet regularly. This year these groups continued to meet in person. Prayer Cell Groups remained in touch throughout the year and are constantly updated with prayer needs and requests. It has a wide range of organisations including:

- Discovery Bible Club (incorporating our Sunday School and Children's Church)
- Connect 1 (Youth Bible class)
- Threads
- PW (Presbyterian Women)
- Parents and Toddlers – Jack and Jill
- Mini Explorers/Explorers

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am with an occasional evening service, which we moved to an earlier time, to accommodate older members of the congregation who would prefer not to drive at night. We encourage our members to attend these special services at Harvest and Christmas. Our weekly and monthly Bible Study groups give an opportunity for members to meet for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year, we were able to have special services during Holy Week and we also had united times of Praise and Prayer on a Sunday Evening joining with our sister congregations in Whitehead and Islandmagee. We also shared with the local congregations in the village at Easter with a co joined Good Friday and Dawn service on Easter Sunday. Sadly, we also met to give thanks for the lives of 6 members who had died through the year and sought to bring comfort to those who were bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2024 there were 117 communicant members and 210 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 100.

BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Pastoral care

The Minister and Elders sought to visit members at home, in Residential care and in Hospitals. At the same time, we continued to use the alternate methods we had utilised during the restrictions such as by telephone and text to encourage and support one another. The trustees continue to take Child Protection seriously in their activities. The current Designated persons are Audrey Stewart & Stephen McFaul, who report on this at the Kirk Session meetings.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

This year we were able to join in several joint worship services with the other congregations in the village. We met together on Good Friday for a service in St John's church of Ireland; shared in a service of lessons and carols in our own congregation as well as coming together for the community Carol service held at the community centre on the Sunday evening before Christmas. We also joined with the congregations of Whitehead and Islandmagee on several occasions to reach out to youth, Ladies and men through specially themed events. In particular we had a joint holiday Bible club, led by Salt Factory Sport and supported by volunteers from the 3 local Presbyterian congregations. We held a Bible club for primary age children in the morning, teen events at night and then finished the week with a BBQ and celebrated with joint worship on the Sunday.

Throughout the year, services of worship are made available through several social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. The WhatsApp Prayer Group was extended and updated, and other WhatsApp groups were made available to all members. These allowed us to share and encourage members as well as pray for their friends and others in the community who were going through worrying and difficult times. We also would use this to share with one another in the happier times as well, such as the birth of a grandchild etc.

EVENTS

During the year we commenced an election for a new congregational committee which was completed in May 2024. We would like to thank those who had served in the previous committee and welcome the new members, who quickly began to take on areas of responsibilities in our subgroups.

In March we held a St Patrick's day soup lunch which was well attended by many in the congregation. We also held a Family fun day in June with a BBQ immediately after the church service. Again, this was well attended. This year we joined with Whitehead and Islandmagee to hold our Holiday Bible Club. It was led by Salt Factory Sports, a local Christian faith based organisation who use sport as a means of bringing young people together, building relationships and promoting the Christian faith. They had brought a team from America, to lead the week's activity supported by a team of volunteers from the local churches.

BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Once again, we were able to decorate the church for the Harvest celebrations in October with our church choir leading us in Praise. These floral decorations were then distributed to members of the congregation. Our Harvest offering went towards church funds and a tenth was sent to support KIndercare fostering agency and the congregation of Greenisland Church of Ireland who had recently suffered a devastating fire in their premises.

During the year we supported the local food bank and at Christmas we:

- Donated gifts to KIndercare
- Visited housebound and bereaved members with a gift of shortbread.

Donations to external missions and agencies:

As well as the donations mentioned above, 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, 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.

The congregation contributes to the Presbyterian Children's Society, United Christian Broadcasters, Christian Aid, World Development Appeal and other special appeals throughout the year.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our Minister and representative Elder. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The General Assembly met this year in June 2024 slightly later than usual as well as a different format to try and encourage younger members to contribute to the debates.

BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Property

We had no major items of expenditure during the year.

ORGANISATIONS

Bible Discovery Club – Children are part of the worship at the beginning of our service and then go across to the Halls after a time of praise and a suitable talk to them to begin their own specialised study. It is our goal to teach the children about Jesus and God's love for us using Bible Stories and themes, Christian Songs suitable for young people as well as Quizzes and craft to add to the learning. We have four different teams of teachers and helpers who share the workload each week. We held monthly Family services when we all met together with leaders and children of the Bible Discovery Club taking part in the service. They also led our worship at our Nativity service held in December 2024,

Connect 1 – Our youth Bible class continued this year, again with several volunteer leaders to help spread the load. Numbers have increased and it is good to hear about how the young people are engaging with all that they are being taught.

Creche - Provides a safe place for babies, toddlers & Primary school children during worship on a Sunday. This is made available for any family that need to use the facilities.

Chat and Chill –. Unfortunately, this group failed to meet this year due to the dwindling attendance. The Session are thinking of how we meet the needs of the Elderly, even through a monthly event.

Threads - A ladies' group meeting twice monthly with refreshments served. Those attending knit/crochet for many charitable outlets at home and abroad. There are also ladies who are unable to come to the meetings but who work at home and are linked into the Group. The items produced by this group are many and they support mission abroad in Malawi and Romania, and at home mission to Seafarers, local residential homes, Tiny Life and premature baby units in hospitals, fund raising by Age N.I. With toppers for 'Innocent' drinks and the homeless on the streets of Belfast.

Indoor bowls – They have not been able to resume their activities as numbers have dwindled considerably over the last number of years.

BALLYCARRY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Jack and Jill (Parents and Tots) - We are grateful for the volunteers who set up our large hall with play areas and a variety of toys and puzzles for the children to enjoy. Refreshments for the children and adults are provided. The accompanying adults also appreciated the chance to come and share; to swap stories and advice of their own experiences. A number of special events were also held over the summer to build relationships with the parents and guardians and to provide some practical help as they seek the development of their children. We are encouraged that the group has been well attended with many new families joining each week.

Presbyterian Women (PW) - The aim of this group is to bring women together of all ages for friendship and support, highlighting the need for love and unity, obedience to God, Christian Living and service to others using our talents and skills. The group endeavours to support local and global mission. Membership is open to all women, regardless of race, nationality, disability or sexual preference. The group is administered by a committee, elected by the group at the AGM and consists of Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and a maximum of two other members of PW. The group meets on a regular basis for a range of activities, including speakers, events and outings.

Mini Explorers/Explorers – This organisation caters to boys within the P2-P6, age bracket meeting weekly in the halls for games, bible stories, quizzes and craft. It seeks to build friendships that they will be able to take further into life, sharing with one another along the way. About 8 boys regularly meet each week. The Explorers caters for an older group from P7 upwards. Up to 12 boys would regularly meet ably cared for by a number of willing helpers who diligently give of their time each week.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of all those who still give freely of their time by serving on committees, helping with organisations and other church activities as we continue to seek to be a light into the community of Ballycarry and beyond.

BALLYCARRY 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 Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

BALLYCARRY 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. There were 160 contributing families during the year donating £56,364 (£53,415 in the previous year 2023). The Trustees note the increased donations by the members and want to acknowledge their generosity and support.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £101,743 compared to £102,105 in the previous year.

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.

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.

Approved by the Kirk Session and signed on its behalf by

Name *Joseph Berghof*

Date *26th June, 2025.*

Name *Stefan Widal*

Date *26/06/2025*

