

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104938

Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-08-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 51 Rostrevor Road
Hilltown
Newry
BT34 5tz
BT34 5TZ

Phone 028 4063 1682

Email jameservine@btinternet.com

Activities

Purposes: 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

What the charity does: The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£46,977	£35,754	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr John Alexander Ervine		

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Accounts

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	25,791	10,580		36,371	31,158
Charitable activities	3		2,899		2,899	3,829
Other trading activities	4	30			30	30
Investment Income	5					
Other	6		7,677		7,677	7,581
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		25,821	21,156		46,977	42,598
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	150			150	150
Charitable activities	8	16,823	12,088		28,911	30,556
Investment costs	9					
Other	10		6,693		6,693	1,805
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		16,973	18,781		35,754	32,511
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)		8,848	2,375		11,223	10,087
Transfers between funds						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		8,848	2,375		11,223	10,087
Funds brought forward		24,423	39,601		64,024	53,937
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	13	33,271	41,976		75,247	64,024
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	24,423	39,601		64,024	53,937
Net movement in funds	8,848	2,375		11,223	10,087
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	33,271	41,976		75,247	64,024
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts					
Bank Current Accounts				75,247	64,024
Cash in Hand					
				-----	-----
				75,247	64,024
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 11					
- Church Premises				750,000	750,000
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment				125,000	125,000
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 12					
Gift Aid receivable on donations					
				-----	-----
				875,000	875,000
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other					
				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 28 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

John Ervine

28 April 2025

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	21,908	7,066		28,974	25,415
Loose collections	256	2,131		2,387	1,916
Donations and gifts	1,744	940		2,684	1,613
Gift Aid	1,883	443		2,326	2,214
Legacies and bequest					
	----- 25,791 -----	----- 10,580 -----	-----	----- 36,371 -----	----- 31,158 -----

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 December 2024

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals					
Fundraising events		932		932	877
Membership fees		280		280	352
Grants		1,687		1,687	2,600
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		2,899		2,899	3,829
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	30			30	30
Trading income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	30			30	30
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest					
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Bank Interest					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2024

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims					
Other income		7,677		7,677	7,581
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		7,677		7,677	7,581
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	150			150	150
Fundraising events					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	150			150	150
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	1,276			1,276	1,338
Presbytery fees	165			165	423
Ministry and support staff costs	11,674			11,674	11,259
Congregational running expenses	3,708	10,071		13,779	15,678
Donations to Missions and charities		2,017		2,017	1,858
Governance costs					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	16,823	12,088		28,911	30,556
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND,

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2024

9. INVESTMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment Costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. OTHER COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Property repairs / maintenance	-----	6,693	-----	6,693	1,805
	-----	6,693	-----	6,693	1,805
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

11. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Main Street, Hilltown, Co Down BT34 5UH and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1,775,270.

12. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	2024	2023
	£	£
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments		
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2024

13. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General No. 1 Fund	24,423	25,821	16,973			33,271
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	24,423	25,821	16,973			33,271
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	33,398	7,448	7,241		403	34,008
General No. 1 Charities / Reimbursements		8,158	7,755		(403)	
Sunday School	790	566	271			1,085
Youth Fellowship	1,616	203	30			1,789
Daniel's Band	195	836	334			697
Summer Fun Club	1,611	360	167			1,804
Girl's Brigade	1,306	3,468	2,775			1,999
P.W.	685	117	208			594
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	39,601	21,156	18,781			41,976
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	64,024	46,977	35,754			75,247
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Accounts

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	22,201	8,957		31,158	29,717
Charitable activities	3		3,829		3,829	2,367
Other trading activities	4	30			30	105
Investment Income	5					
Other	6		7,581		7,581	5,904
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		22,231	20,367		42,598	38,093
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	150			150	166
Charitable activities	8	16,517	14,039		30,556	30,981
Investment costs	9					
Other	10		1,805		1,805	8,386
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		16,667	15,844		32,511	39,533
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)		5,564	4,523		10,087	(1,440)
Transfers between funds						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		5,564	4,523		10,087	(1,440)
Funds brought forward		18,859	35,078		53,937	55,377
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	13	24,423	39,601		64,024	53,937
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	18,859	35,078		53,937	55,377
Net movement in funds	5,564	4,523		10,087	(1,440)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	24,423	39,601		64,024	53,937
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts					
Bank Current Accounts				64,024	53,937
Cash in Hand					
				-----	-----
				64,024	53,937
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 11					
- Church Premises				750,000	750,000
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment				125,000	125,000
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 12					
Gift Aid receivable on donations					
				-----	-----
				875,000	875,000
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other					
				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 15 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

John Ervine

15 April 2024

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	19,092	6,323		25,415	23,599
Loose collections	151	1,765		1,916	2,080
Donations and gifts	1,183	430		1,613	1,614
Gift Aid	1,775	439		2,214	2,424
Legacies and bequest					
	----- 22,201 -----	----- 8,957 -----	-----	----- 31,158 -----	----- 29,717 -----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

31 December 2023

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals					
Fundraising events		877		877	817
Membership fees		352		352	150
Grants		2,600		2,600	1,400
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		3,829		3,829	2,367
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	30			30	105
Trading income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	30			30	105
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest					
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Bank Interest					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2023

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims					
Other income		7,581		7,581	5,904
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		7,581		7,581	5,904
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	150			150	231
Fundraising events					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	150			150	231
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	1,338			1,338	4,688
Presbytery fees	423			423	195
Ministry and support staff costs	11,259			11,259	16,854
Congregational running expenses	3,497	12,181		15,678	14,575
Donations to Missions and charities		1,858		1,858	3,040
Governance costs					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	16,517	14,039		30,556	39,352
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2023

9. INVESTMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment Costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. OTHER COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Property repairs / maintenance	-----	1,805	-----	1,805	8,386
	-----	1,805	-----	1,805	8,386

11. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Main Street, Hilltown, Co Down BT34 5UH and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1,775,270.

12. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	2023	2022
	£	£
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments		
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2023

13. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General No. 1 Fund	18,859	22,231	16,667			24,423
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18,859	22,231	16,667			24,423
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	28,475	6,630	2,105		398	33,398
General No. 1 Charities / Reimbursements		8,747	8,349		(398)	
Sunday School	459	595	264			790
Youth Fellowship	1,458	189	31			1,616
Midweek Fellowship	762		762			
Daniel's Band	517	140	462			195
Summer Fun Club	1,644	190	223			1,611
Girl's Brigade	972	3,649	3,315			1,306
P.W.	791	227	333			685
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	35,078	20,367	15,844			39,601
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	53,937	42,598	32,511			64,024
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Annual report

**HILLTOWN 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 2023 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Hilltown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Main Street
Hilltown
Co Down
BT34 5UH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 104938)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

John Alexander Ervine

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Vacancy Convenor
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev. Kenneth Nelson
John Alexander Ervine
James Robert Alexander Ervine

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr James Lockhart A.C.M.A.
6 Breezeways
Banbridge
Co Down
BT32 3XX

BANKERS

**Bank of Ireland
12 Trevor Hill
Newry
Co Down
BT34 1DT**

SOLICITORS

**Fisher and Fisher LLP
1 Newry Street
Rathfriland
Co Down
BT34 5PY**

HILLTOWN 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 (position currently held by the vacancy convenor) 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.

Meetings of the Kirk session are held on a regular basis, usually at least 4 times a year.

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 the votes cast.

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. Hilltown congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Iveagh 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 in the Presbytery.

HILLTOWN 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

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

Hilltown 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 mission statement is simply summed up in the opening answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, which states that our 'chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. All our services, activities and organisations have this overarching purpose.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions 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 holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship
- Girl's Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- 'Daniel's Band' (primary school aged children's ministry)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:15pm and 6:30pm. The evening service is shared with Clonduff Presbyterian, our sister congregation, and the venue alternates accordingly. During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

At 31 December 2023 there were 58 communicant members and 53 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 30.

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 indeed by members of the congregation at large.

Mission and outreach

All our services and organizations have a conscious focus on mission. We likewise engage in a number of activities that are intentionally aimed at sharing the love of Jesus with people outside our own congregation, including children's ministry in Hilltown village and a Bible study in the local hotel.

One of the key elements of our mission work is to encourage and support our members in the unique mission God has given them as individuals. As part of this we have given prayerful and financial assistance to some of our members undertaking mission work elsewhere (on this island or overseas). We keenly support a number of charitable works, perhaps most notably Tearfund.

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.

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

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister (vacancy convenor) 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 (vacancy convenor) 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

There was no significant property repairs with only maintenance being carried out in 2023 with regards to the Church manse. We are thankful to be able to keep our property well maintained.

Organisations

While only a handful of children are in our **Sunday School**, we are very grateful for them and for their excellent teachers. Their participation in Sunday services is appreciated by one and all.

Roughly a dozen post-primary aged young people are involved in our **Youth Fellowship**, which typically meets after the evening service on Sundays.

Daniel's Band is on a Tuesday evening for primary school aged children, with somewhere in the region of 20 attending regularly. Among the highlights is the enthusiastic singing of the children, which the whole congregation enjoyed at the annual Daniel's Band Service.

On Thursday evenings our **Presbyterian Women (PW)** group meets once a month. The ladies have close relationships and are a great support to one another and the congregation at large.

Around 30 members attend **Girls' Brigade** on a Friday evening, with a variety of activities provided for girls aged 3 – 18. The annual display around Easter time was a great night for one and all.

Youth Club meets on Saturday evenings once a fortnight. While numbers are lower than the huge crowds of years gone by, those present continue to enjoy a range of games and other fun.

Volunteers

We are deeply grateful to all who enthusiastically and consistently serve the Lord in various ways within our congregation.

**HILLTOWN 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.

**HILLTOWN 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 101 contributors during the year [100 in previous year, 2022] donating a total of £25,415 (£23,599 in previous year, 2022)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £42,598 compared to £38,093 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £39,533 to £32,511.

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) 208 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 at a meeting on 15 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

John A. Ervine

15 April 2024

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:

Mr James Lockhart A.C.M.A.

6 Breezeways, Banbridge, Co. Down BT21 3XX

15 April 2024

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Accounts

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	21,990	7,727		29,717	34,589
Charitable activities	3		2,367		2,367	2,405
Other trading activities	4	105			105	30
Investment Income	5					3
Other	6		5,904		5,904	1,039
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		22,095	15,998		38,093	38,066
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	166			166	231
Charitable activities	8	18,402	12,579		30,981	39,352
Investment costs	9					
Other	10		8,386		8,386	
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		18,568	20,965		39,533	39,583
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)		3,527	(4,967)		(1,440)	(1,517)
Transfers between funds		(140)	140			
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		3,387	(4,827)		(1,440)	(1,517)
Funds brought forward		15,472	39,905		55,377	56,894
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	13	18,859	35,078		53,937	55,377
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	15,472	39,905		55,377	56,894
Net movement in funds	3,387	(4,827)		(1,440)	(1,517)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	18,859	35,078		53,937	55,377
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts					
Bank Current Accounts				53,937	55,377
Cash in Hand					
				-----	-----
				53,937	55,377
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 11					
- Church Premises				750,000	750,000
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment				125,000	125,000
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 12					
Gift Aid receivable on donations					
				-----	-----
				875,000	875,000
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other					
				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 2 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

John Ervine

2 May 2023

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	18,624	4,975		23,599	26,692
Loose collections	326	1,754		2,080	1,583
Donations and gifts	1,154	460		1,614	3,810
Gift Aid	1,886	538		2,424	2,504
Legacies and bequest					
	----- 21,990 -----	----- 7,727 -----	-----	----- 29,717 -----	----- 34,589 -----

HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
31 December 2022

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals					
Fundraising events		817		817	
Membership fees		150		150	
Grants		1,400		1,400	2,405
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		2,367		2,367	2,405
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	105			105	30
Trading income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	105			105	30
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest					
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Bank Interest					3
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
					3
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2022

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims					
Other income		5,904		5,904	1,039
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		5,904		5,904	1,039
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	166			166	231
Fundraising events					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	166			166	231
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	1,480			1,480	4,688
Presbytery fees	302			302	195
Ministry and support staff costs	12,095			12,095	16,854
Congregational running expenses	4,525	10,523		15,048	14,575
Donations to Missions and charities		2,056		2,056	3,040
Governance costs					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	18,402	12,579		30,981	39,352
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2022

9. INVESTMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment Costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. OTHER COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Property repairs / maintenance	-----	8,386	-----	8,386	-----
	-----	8,386	-----	8,386	-----

11. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Main Street, Hilltown, Co Down BT34 5UH and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1,775,270.

12. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	2022	2021
	£	£
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments		
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

**HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

31 December 2022

13. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General No. 1 Fund	15,472	22,095	18,568		(140)	18,859
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	15,472	22,095	18,568		(140)	18,859
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	32,007	5,395	9,328		401	28,475
General No. 1 Charities / Reimbursements		7,131	6,870		(261)	
Sunday School	261	240	42			459
Youth Fellowship	1,488		30			1,458
Midweek Fellowship	762					762
Daniel's Band	867	190	540			517
Summer Fun Club	1,675	190	221			1,644
Girl's Brigade	2,092	2,566	3,686			972
P.W.	753	286	248			791
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	39,905	15,998	20,965		140	35,078
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	55,377	38,093	39,533			53,937
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Annual report

**HILLTOWN 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 2022 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Hilltown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Main Street
Hilltown
Co Down
BT34 5UH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 104938)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

John Alexander Ervine

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Vacancy Convenor
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev. Kenneth Nelson
John Alexander Ervine
James Robert Alexander Ervine

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr James Lockhart A.C.M.A.
6 Breezeways
Banbridge
Co Down
BT32 3XX

BANKERS

**Bank of Ireland
12 Trevor Hill
Newry
Co Down
BT34 1DT**

SOLICITORS

**Fisher and Fisher LLP
1 Newry Street
Rathfriland
Co Down
BT34 5PY**

HILLTOWN 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 (position currently held by the vacancy convenor) 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.

Meetings of the Kirk session are held on a regular basis, usually at least 4 times a year.

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 the votes cast.

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. Hilltown congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Iveagh 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 in the Presbytery.

HILLTOWN 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

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

Hilltown 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 mission statement is simply summed up in the opening answer of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, which states that our 'chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. All our services, activities and organisations have this overarching purpose.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions 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 holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship
- Girl's Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- 'Daniel's Band' (primary school aged children's ministry)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:15pm and 6.30pm. The evening service is shared with Clonduff Presbyterian, our sister congregation, and the venue alternates accordingly. During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

It goes without saying that the pandemic continued to have some impact on congregational life in 2022.

At 31 December 2022 there were 59 communicant members and 53 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 30.

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 indeed by members of the congregation at large.

Mission and outreach

All our services and organizations have a conscious focus on mission. We likewise engage in a number of activities that are intentionally aimed at sharing the love of Jesus with people outside our own congregation, including children's ministry in Hilltown village and a Bible study in the local hotel.

One of the key elements of our mission work is to encourage and support our members in the unique mission God has given them as individuals. As part of this we have given prayerful and financial assistance to some of our members undertaking mission work elsewhere (on this island or overseas). We keenly support a number of charitable works, perhaps most notably Tearfund.

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.

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

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister (vacancy convenor) 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 (vacancy convenor) 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

Significant property repairs and maintenance was carried out in 2022 with regards to the Church Hall. We are thankful to be able to keep our property well maintained.

Organisations

While only a handful of children are in our **Sunday School**, we are very grateful for them and for their excellent teachers. Their participation in Sunday services is appreciated by one and all.

Roughly a dozen post-primary aged young people are involved in our **Youth Fellowship**, which typically meets after the evening service on Sundays.

Daniel's Band is on a Tuesday evening for primary school aged children, with somewhere in the region of 20 attending regularly. Among the highlights is the enthusiastic singing of the children, which the whole congregation enjoyed at the annual Daniel's Band Service.

On Thursday evenings our **Presbyterian Women (PW)** group meets once a month. The ladies have close relationships and are a great support to one another and the congregation at large.

Around 30 members attend **Girls' Brigade** on a Friday evening, with a variety of activities provided for girls aged 3 – 18. The annual display around Easter time was a great night for one and all.

Youth Club meets on Saturday evenings once a fortnight. While numbers are lower than the huge crowds of years gone by, those present continue to enjoy a range of games and other fun.

Volunteers

We are deeply grateful to all who enthusiastically and consistently serve the Lord in various ways within our congregation.

HILLTOWN 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 100 contributors during the year [108 in previous year, 2021] donating a total of £23,599 (£26,692 in previous year, 2021)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £38,093 compared to £38,066 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £39,583 to £39,533.

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

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) 208 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 at a meeting on 2 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

John A. Ervine

2 May 2023

Hilltown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104938

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HILLTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:

Mr James Lockhart A.C.M.A.

6 Breezeways, Banbridge, Co. Down BT32 3XX

2 May 2023