

**LYLEHILL CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

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

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland 105008

LYLEHILL 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 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Lylehill Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

90 Lylehill Road

Templepatrick

Ballyclare

BT39 0HL

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105008)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Colin McDowell (resigned 1st Jan 2024)

Mr Dennis Jones

Mr Sam Carlisle

Mr Ivan Liddle

Rev Derek Weir (appointed 1st Jan 2024)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Rev Colin McDowell

Clerk of Session

(currently vacant)

Treasurer

Mr Dennis Jones

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tanya Gilbride FCA

36 Station Road

Upper Ballinderry

Lisburn

BT28 2LW

BANKERS

Danske Bank

Business Banking

P.O. Box 183

Donegall Square West

Belfast BT1 6JS

SOLICITORS

King & Gowdy

298, Upper Newtownards Road

Belfast

BT4 3EJ

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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held at least twice 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. Lylehill congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Templepatrick 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.

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. Lylehill 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 mission purpose is to show God's love with gentleness and respect.

Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:-

- brings together people from different generations and backgrounds to worship Jesus Christ as Lord.
- grows in knowledge of God and our ability to speak of him to others.
- lovingly treats others with gentleness and respect.
- is known in the community for our good and loving lives.

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.

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 partakes in Bible study and prayer meetings and has a range of organisations including:

- Jesus and Me
- Girl's Brigade

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12noon and occasional evening services are held at 7pm. During the week Bible studies and prayer meetings provide an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

On 31st December 2023 there were 44 communicant members and 45 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 24.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are contacted and visited on a regular basis by the minister and the elders.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation is involved in mission and outreach and donates to the work of external missions and agencies.

Locally, the congregation:

runs church programmes for children and young people with the intention of developing the faith of church families and sharing faith with new families. This includes a Sunday School programme called Jesus and Me (JAM) during the morning service, and occasional all-age family Services;

- holds Bible Studies that inquirers into the Christian faith can be invited to in order to learn more.
- encourages people to come to prayer meetings or send prayer requests.
- oversees the running of a Girls' Brigade company to reach out to children and young people, involving them in several church services during the year.
- runs a Holiday Bible Club for children of primary-school age during summer, primarily organised by the Girl's Brigade Leaders
- organises special services of worship at significant times of the year where a special effort is made to invite the wider local community, e.g. Candlelight Carol Service
- serves the community through a transferor representative on the Board of Governors for Templepatrick Primary School
- conducts outreach in Templepatrick Primary School via school assemblies conducted by the Minister.
- helps couples prepare for marriage by offering classes with the minister and publicising classes run by another charity, Christian Guidelines
- raises awareness of mission work in the wider church by inviting speakers to come to special services such as the annual PW Service
- makes the church premises available for use by the local community such as the Lylehill Young Farmers.

The congregation also makes donations to:

- a charity chosen each year to be the recipient from fundraising event (for this year Cancer Focus was the chosen Charity)
- local Charities, & occasional fundraising campaigns elsewhere in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland such as supporting the work of missionaries from the Templepatrick Presbytery.

The congregation also raises awareness of charity fundraising events that members are involved in.

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 congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister 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 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

The church & hall buildings are maintained in a good sound condition inside & out

Organisations

Jesus and Me (JAM) meets on Sunday during the morning service as the Sunday School programme of the congregation to provide an age-appropriate teaching programme for children and young people. Four children and young people were in regular attendance.

Pre Covid, the congregation overseen a Boys Brigade company. Unfortunately post covid and following the captain's retirement after approx. 25years service there were insufficient Officers remaining to meet Child Protection Guidelines so the Company had to be disbanded.

Girl's Brigade (GB) 238th Lylehill Girls' Brigade normally meets each Friday night from September to April with approximately 17 girls and young women aged from 3 years up to 18 years and 6 Leaders in attendance each week. We organise various items of badgework to cover the following elements: Spiritual, Physical, Service, Educational.

Presbyterian Women (P.W) would usually meet twice per month but following Covid restrictions and falling numbers they agreed to disband the Lylehill Branch and some members instead attend other local sister Presbyterian church P. W.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

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

As the church is currently 'Vacant' from a Ministerial aspect we are not paying a Minister's Stipend along with associated costs but a reduced Convenor and Pulpit Supply fee

The Congregation's primary source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were only 39 contributors during the year (40 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £19,207 to the Freewill Offering (£21,122 in previous year, 2022). Other misc. income streams increased our Unrestricted Income to £33,562 (£26,749 in previous year)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £43,688 compared to £37,544 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £29,395 in 2022 to £24,233 in 2023.

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.

LYLEHILL CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND – TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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 at a meeting on 21st Sept 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

[Name]

DENNIS JONES

Signature

D Jones

[Date]

21/5/24

[Name]

Leah Linnell

Signature

[Signature]

[Date]

21/5/24