

MOVILLA 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 (NIC105049)

MOVILLA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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MOVILLA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND (PCI) TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Movilla Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
87 Movilla Road
Newtownards
BT23 8RQ
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105049)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev. Robert Hamilton (Moderator/Chairman)

Miss Margaret Garrett

Mrs. Ena Stanfield

Mrs. June Kelly

Mrs. Alison Moore

Mrs. Denise Turtle

Mr. Raymond Mayes

Mr. Robert W Wilson (Clerk of Session)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Secretary

Clerk of Session

The Rev. Robert S. Hamilton

Mrs. Joan Gordon

Miss Chloe McMurrin

Mr. Robert McMurrin

Mr. Robert W Wilson

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr. Graeme Allen
8 Crossnamuckley Road, Newtownards

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Business Banking PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1 6JS

SOLICITORS

None retained

MOVILLA 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 PCI, 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 vote but only a casting vote. Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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, subject to quorum.

Presbytery

Under the PCI 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. Movilla congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards Presbytery of the PCI. 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.

MOVILLA 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 AND OBJECTIVES

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

Movilla 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 vision statement is: "Movilla Presbyterian Church seeks to be an effective worshipping and witnessing fellowship so that salvation in Jesus Christ may be proclaimed in the local community and the wider world."

This vision statement manifests itself in the following practical applications:
God's Call to us

- a) Prayer - We will seek God's will and power so that we can enhance our church's impact on the area in which He has placed us.
- b) We have been blessed by effective teaching from our ministers. However, Christ's call is to **us all** to be His "light" and "salt". When we hold evangelical events, they are often well attended by Christian members, but we need to do more to attract neighbours or friends who need to hear God's claims on their lives. If we are to be more effective then more of our members need to understand and be motivated to practice ways to share our faith, at home, at work, and where we spend our leisure time. This is being achieved in part through the ongoing development of "home/small groups" within the congregation. We will also continue to develop a theme of discipleship focussed on deepening the individual's Christian experience and witness. In 2022 we added to our ministerial team through the appointment of an assistant minister who joined our leadership team and worked with us throughout the period of this report until he took up a full-time ministerial appointment elsewhere in the Presbyterian church family in January 2025.

MOVILLA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

- c) Our Christian community already cares and provides prayer and practical support for members who are challenged by what life throws at them. We have plans to review our pastoral care model early in 2025 and will enhance our current arrangements to help ensure individuals are not missed. We also need to give thanks more for this supporting environment so that others will be drawn into experience Christ's love through how we care.
- d) We keep our use of the local news media, social media and technology under review to make sure we are utilising these communication tools to reach and inform those within our community.
- e) Throughout the year we have involved more of our young people and newer or marginal members in our Sunday worship services through activities such as sound/video projection and welcome teams.
- f) In December 2023, we partnered with the local Methodist and Church of Ireland churches in the planning and implementation of a "Christmas Star" outreach event. This outreach through the performance based telling of the Christmas story provided a non-threatening celebration of our Lord's birth with craft, games, snacks and goody-bags focusing on God's love. It is our plan to repeat this during 2025.
- g) We implemented a new member's induction process which seeks to deepen their understanding of their faith and help them get to know each other and key individuals in our congregation. These new member courses are arranged on an ongoing basis as they are needed.
- h) We need to implement a range of initiatives to engage more with unchurched families who or whose children attend organisations. Similarly, we need to act to reach out to individuals and families who have no current contact with us. The initiatives could include discussions based on topical moral/social issues, debt/financial management support, prayer walks and engagement with community "gatekeepers". We have made some progress in these areas by using our premises to facilitate Covid vaccinations. We have also started a new initiative where we open the church car park to allow parents of the local primary school to park their cars safely when leaving and collecting their children from school. We have carried out leaflet drops in the new Rivenwood development in the recent past. We will continue to engage with the Bowtown Community Development Association to improve our relationship with and access to this area. We have joined in with their annual carol service in the last few years and this has helped to build relationships with community representatives, community police officers and other individuals in the community. We would seek to build on this work.
- i) A Youth Outreach member of staff took up post in January 2023. She has been instrumental in developing an early Primary kids club and has augmented this with additional provision for 8-11 year olds from January 2024. She has also been developing leaders and helpers to help run Kids Club, Holiday Bible Club and Messy Church.
- j) This youth ministry, led by our youth worker, is thriving with the numbers of young people we are supporting increasing significantly throughout the period of this report. We will keep it under

review to ensure it remains fit for purpose and to encourage our organisation leaders to communicate well and work together to ensure that young people dropping out of one organisation are picked up by others. We need to succession plan, so as to ensure the continued leadership of these important organisations. The Gospel Project which is our children's church that takes place on a Sunday morning seeks to sustain and build these elements of our children's ministry.

- k) Our Messy Church programme has proved to be very successful during the period of this report. It has been led by our youth worker and supported by many volunteer helpers. This informal service including craft, games, modern praise, a simple message and snacks has allowed us to invite families to experience God's love and understand our desire to engage with them in an unthreatening / de-jargonised environment. This programme has been introduced on a regular basis as part of our ongoing outreach.
- l) In April 2024 our Church linked up with First Ards Presbyterian Church, to set up an Easter Holiday Bible Club. This event was successful in bringing along many young children and engaging them through games, songs and worship. The club took place in Movilla High School during their Easter Holiday season and provided a wonderful opportunity to work in partnership with our local High School.
- m) In November 2024 a Pumpkin Patch themed event was set up as a Messy Church to encourage adults and children to learn about the light and love that Jesus brings into our life. This was another incredibly successful event as every place available was filled and feedback from all who attended was very positive.
- n) Plans are being drawn up to introduce two new discipleship courses for our congregation, in the form of the Freedom In Christ course and the Grace course. The aim of these courses is to help participants develop and mature in their faith, their life and their walk with God.

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

ACTIVITIES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join with us. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those eligible (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 a weekly mid-week Bible study and prayer meeting. In addition, four small Bible study groups take place on a fortnightly basis.

The congregation also has a wide range of organisations/ activities.

| Event/Organisation | Age range | Frequency | Average attendance * | % not members of this congregation | If joint state other congregation(s) / Other Notes |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Gospel Project | 4-10 | Weekly | 25 | 10% | |
| Sunbeams Parent & Tots Group | 0-3 | Weekly | 40 | 80% | |
| Kids Club | 4-10 | Weekly | 40 | 60% | Thursday Evenings |
| Bowling Club | 16-80 | Weekly | 24 | 50% | |
| Midweek including prayer and Bible Study | 30-80 | Weekly | 25 | 0% | |
| Praise Group | 14-72 | Weekly | 8 | | |
| Knitting & Natter | 55-80 | Weekly | 15 | 20% | |
| Ladies' Fellowship | 40-80 | Monthly | 50 | 5% | |
| Boys' Brigade | 5- 18 | Weekly | 25 | 70% | |
| Men's Fellowship | 50- 80 | Monthly | 25 | 5% | |
| Holiday Bible Club | 4-11 | Annual | 100 | 85% | |
| Movilla Youth 4-12 | 11-18 | Weekly | 30 | 60% | |
| New member Courses | 15-70 | As needed | 10 | 0% | For those considering becoming full members of our church |
| Prayer Cards/email System | 40-80 | Ongoing | 12 | 0% | Requests submitted by members and friends |
| Prayer Text System | 20- 70 | Ongoing | 50 | 30% | Requests submitted by members and friends |
| Small Group study fellowship groups | 20-75 | Fortnightly | 35 | 0% | Currently four groups operating |

*Subject to holiday periods which are variable depending on the organisation

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

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11am and 7pm. During the week the Mid-week meeting and Small Study Groups provide an opportunity for members to meet for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. A Worship Committee meets on an adhoc basis to seek ways to enhance our worship in ways that glorify our God. The committee is chaired by our Moderator and secretariat is provided by one of the Session members/Charity Commission trustees.

As well as our regular morning and evening services, at which God's Word is read and preached and praise offered, during the year we gave thanks for faithful Christian service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year through several funeral services.

At 31 December 2024 there were 140 communicant members and 132 contributing families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is between 80 and 100 and the evening between 28 and 35 with a further 219 subscribers online.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are contacted by telephone or visited on a regular basis by the minister or elders. Care often takes the form of the provision of gifts of food and practical assistance. Infirm members receive the sacrament of Communion at home to provide spiritual encouragement. Our small study groups have further enhanced mutual support within the congregation. For those who cannot attend church in person or able to watch online, CDs /DVDs are made available and delivered when requested.

Mission and outreach

Each Sunday we have two services when God's word is read and expounded, and lively praise is offered. At each service visitors/YouTube subscribers are welcome. The congregation usually contains a mix of communicants, marginal members and visitors/ external viewers. Our move to services by YouTube and Podcast has provided a new vehicle for evangelism allowing easy media- based access to services and members to share service links with friends and acquaintances. During the period of this report we have been very grateful to welcome 10 new individuals who have become communicant members of the church.

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

All members of the congregation were sent Christmas cards containing details of the Christmas services to keep them informed and to encourage them to attend some or all of the services available.

A ladies' Coffee Club continues to meet regularly, supporting ladies in a social environment, particularly those unable to get out in the evening or not engaging in small groups or midweek.

Many of our organisations act as a bridge into the local community.

Members of our congregation have also taken part in province-wide outreach by joining Scripture Union and CSSM teams working in schools, camps, and beach missions.

In recent years individuals have been involved in international mission in Senegal and a further mission team is planned for April 2025 when 2 members of our church family will be involved in this work. We have supported local mission work and welcomed the Abaana Children's choir when many of our church family hosted the children and their chaperones.

Our congregation prayerfully and financially support several Christian Charities such as Open Doors, The Belfast City Mission, Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Love Russia, Project Romania, Christian Aid, the Vine and the Link.

Marketing through professionally produced paper-based materials and electronic media is in place and these are kept under review so that they remain fit for purpose and have the widest possible reach.

Four Small study groups have been formed and are meeting fortnightly.

New member's courses are available on demand for those wishing to become full members of our congregation. Through this those joining will be challenged to Christian service in our church and community.

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

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the PCI. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to provide 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 also contributed to the denominations annual World Development Appeal and other special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church. The church underwent a Consultation process where all levels of our church governance/operation & witness were scrutinised. A very positive report was provided in response and the few recommendations included in the Presbytery report have either been addressed or plans are in place to do so.

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. This year this occurred with the support of media technology.

Property

The main focuses have been on general maintenance and ensuring electrical and fire/ electrical safety compliance. The sound and multimedia systems have been replaced allowing enhanced socially distanced services, podcasts with an overflow in the hall and their live streaming. A restructured Property Sub-committee is being established under the convenorship of one of the Session members/Charity Commission trustees.

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

Organisations

A schedule of organisations, their frequency of meeting, the age group they serve, and average attendance is shown above.

The Gospel Project meets weekly with a programme of on-site activities including bible stories, discussion, kids praise, games and craft. The members play a major part in Children's Day and Nativity services.

The Mid-week, Ladies' and Men's Fellowships play a vital role in the prayer, praise and Bible study life of our congregation and have regular inputs on a wide range of topics from visiting speakers. Our Men's Fellowship has been developed during the period of this report under the leadership of our Assistant Minister. It has included many events to seek to include those on the margins of our church or those who don't have any connection to attend and join in. To help with this, a variety of sporting activities including invitations for congregational members and their friends to come together to watch the World Cup football and Six Nations rugby were organised.

The four Small Study groups continue to provide a vehicle for deepening our members' faith and the additional opportunities for fellowship and pastoral care.

The Sunbeams parent and tots group and our new 4-12 Youth club, provide a significant outreach and opportunity to reach pre-school and primary age children.

We are blessed that our BB company continues to meet. It provides for children from age 4 – 18, and offers a range of activities including drill, music, craft, a bible class, cooking and offsite sponsored walks and visits to the cinema, the fire station, ten-pin bowling, and sporting events such as ice-hockey and cross-country running. Through BB, the boys who attend are encouraged in their faith and also have opportunity to gain vital life skills, including opportunities to undertake Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The praise group contribute considerably to our general Sunday worship and provide musical items for seasonal services such as the Nine Lessons and Carols service at Christmas.

Our bowling club meets weekly and provides outreach and fellowship with a backdrop of competitive bowling.

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

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and acting as leaders and helpers within organisations and other church activities. Their energy and commitment not only allow our wide- ranging programme to be delivered but is also in itself a Christian witness to those adults and children who participate.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The PCI 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 using noticeboards, printed material, door to door visitation, 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 because 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

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

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.

MOVILLA 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 132 FWO contributors during the year 2024 (122 in 2023), donating a total of £105,517 in 2024 (£86,185 in previous year, 2023).

Total Income of the congregation during the 2024 year was £154,824 compared to £127,420 in the previous year.

Total expenditure in 2024 was £150,366 as compared with £133,576 in 2023.

Our borrowings amount to £0.

A copy of the Receipts and Payments accounts and Statement of assets and Liabilities is submitted in a separate file. An audit certificate is also separately attached.

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 at a meeting on Sunday 20th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Rev. Robert Hamilton



Mr. Robert Wilson

