

FIRST RATHFRILAND PRESBYTERIAN 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 (NIC105054)

FIRST RATHFRILAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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 Sessions 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 congregations. 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 five times 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. First Rathfriland 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 the congregation.

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.

First Rathfriland 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 congregations mission purposes is – Committed to the weekly worship of the Lord. Dedicated to learning and obeying the Word of God. Motivated to witness to our community by word and action that Jesus is the only way to Salvation. Encouraging support and prayer for mission in our world. *Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages.*

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]*

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the 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
- Young Fellowship
- Boys Brigade
- Girls Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Men's Fellowship
- Thursday Fellowship

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am and 7.00pm. 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.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at 2 Sacrament of Baptism's, we conducted 2 marriage services and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 202 communicant members and 235 families connected with the congregations. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 125.

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 by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation gave £9,029 to United Appeal and approx. £4,000 to local charities.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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 denominations annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other 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

During our vacancy the Congregation sold the manse (£265,000) and purchased a new one at 6 Finnard Road, Rathfriland (£394,500).

Volunteers

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

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.

**First Rathfriland 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 170 contributors during the year [168 in previous year, 2022] donating a total of £71,021. (£70,596 in previous year, 2022)

Total income of the congregation during the year was £154,041 compared to £146,277 in the previous year.

Total expenditure during the year was £130,580 compared to £128,418 in the previous year.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

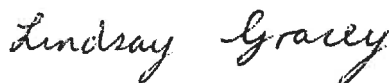
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 19th February 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Minister



Treasurer



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

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of 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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- 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.



B. Magennis FCCA FCA
For and behalf of S.M. Vint & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors
8 Newry Road
Banbridge
BT32 3HN

27th March 2024

FIRST RATHFRILAND 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	89,723	39,293	0	129,016	122,540
Charitable activities	3	100	20,469	0	20,569	20,715
Other trading activities	4	1,390	0	0	1,390	1,120
Investment Income	5	611	1,427	0	2,038	1,222
Other	6	0	1,028	0	1,028	680
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		91,824	62,217	0	154,041	146,277
Sale of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	265,000	0	265,000	0
Loans Received		0	30,000	0	30,000	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		91,824	357,217	0	449,041	146,277
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	8	79,905	50,675	0	130,580	128,418
Investment costs						
Other	9	0	0	0	0	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		79,905	50,675	0	130,580	128,418
Purchase of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	394,500	0	394,500	0
Loan Repayments		0	0	0	0	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		79,905	445,175	0	525,080	128,418
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)		11919	(87,958)	0	(76,039)	17,859
Transfers between funds		(70,000)	70,000	0	0	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		(58,081)	(17,958)	0	(76,039)	17,859
Funds brought forward		65,912	41,731	0	107,643	89,784
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	12	7,831	23,773	0	31,604	107,643
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

FIRST RATHFRILAND 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	65,912	41,731	0	107,643	89,784
Net movement in funds	(58,081)	(17,958)	0	(76,039)	17,859
	<u>7,831</u>	<u>23,773</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,604</u>	<u>107,643</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				0	0
Bank Current Accounts				31,604	107,643
Cash in Hand				0	0
				<u>31,604</u>	<u>107,643</u>
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 10					
- Buildings – value insured				3,432,800	3,303,300
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment				0	0
- Vehicles				0	0
Investments – Note 11				31,132	18,513
Gift Aid receivable on donations				0	0
				<u>3,463,932</u>	<u>3,321,813</u>
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans				(30,000)	0
No other known liabilities				0	0
				<u>3,465,536</u>	<u>3,321,813</u>
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 27th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rodney Moody (minister)

Lindsay Gracey (Treasurer)

FIRST RATHFRILAND 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:					
Loose collections	567	0	0	567	649
Donations and gifts	71,744	36,836	0	108,580	104,429
Gift Aid	17,412	2,457	0	19,869	17,462
Legacies and bequest	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	89,723	39,293	0	129,016	122,540
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FIRST RATHFRILAND 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	0	950	0	950	0
Fundraising events	100	1,456	0	1,556	1,367
Membership fees	0	5,963	0	5,963	4,461
Grants	0	12,100	0	12,100	14,887
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	100	20,469	0	20,569	20,715
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4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	1,390	0	0	1,390	1,120
Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1,390	0	0	1,390	1,120
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	4	106	0	110	18
General Investment Fund	607	1,321	0	1,928	1,204
Wayleave	0	0	0	0	0
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	611	1,427	0	2,038	1,222
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FIRST RATHFRILAND 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	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	0	1,028	0	1,028	680
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	0	1,028	0	1,028	680
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	0	0	0	0	0
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	11,698	0	0	11,698	8,616
Presbytery fees	916	0	0	916	654
Ministry and support staff costs	34,161	8,500	0	42,661	30,223
Congregational running expenses	27,963	22,454	0	50,417	66,287
Donations to Missions and charities	3,664	19,721	0	23,385	21,116
Governance costs	1,503	0	0	1,503	1,522
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	79,905	50,675	0	130,580	128,418
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FIRST RATHFRILAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2023

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Other	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0
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10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the church premises with adjacent graveyard situated at Newry St, the hall at Newry Street and the manse at 6 Finnard Road, together with the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have a value of £3,432,800.

11. INVESTMENTS

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
General Investment Fund	31,132	18,513
Property	0	0
Other investments	0	0
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	31,132	18,513
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FIRST RATHFRILAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2023

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start £	Receipts £	Payment £	Surplus / (Deficit) £	Transfer £	Balance at end £
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	65,912	91,824	79,905	11,919	(70,000)	7,831
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	65,912	91,824	79,905	11,919	0	7,831
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Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	24,275	312,033	399,228	(87,195)	70,000	7,080
Cong. Organisational Funds	17,320	19,851	20,478	(627)	0	16,693
Mission and Charities Fund	136	25,333	25,469	(136)	0	0
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	41,731	357,217	445,175	(87,958)	70,000	23,773
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Endowment Funds						
[Name of Fund]						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	107,643	449,041	525,080	(76,039)	0	31,604
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