

**LOUGHBRICKLAND 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 (NIC105067)**

# **LOUGHBRICKLAND 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**

Loughbrickland Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
80 Ballynanny Road, Loughbrickland, Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 4LQ

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105067)

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Frank Boggs	Fred Cairns
John Cowan	Robert Cupples
Trevor Martin	Olive Hutchinson
Alison Moorhead	Ronnie Mayne
Alan Rogers	James Small
Robert Baird	Caroline Ledlie
Edgar Patterson	Rev. Patricia McBride (retired 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023)

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev. Patricia McBride (retired 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023)
Clerk of Session	Mr. Fred Cairns
Treasurer	Mrs. Caroline Ledlie

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mr. Colin Adamson – 26 Birch Grove, Gilford, Co. Armagh, BT63 6HW

## **BANKERS**

Ulsterbank (Banbridge Branch) 22 Bridge Street, Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 3JT

## **LOUGHBRICKLAND 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 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 four times in each year or as appropriate.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

##### **Presbytery**

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Loughbrickland 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.

##### **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.

## **LOUGHBRICKLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

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

Loughbrickland 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 purpose is

- *To worship God, Father and Holy Spirit*
- *To build an open and caring Christian community, growing in knowledge and love of God.*
- *To equip our congregation to witness in word and deed to God's love in our daily lives, home and abroad.*

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 towards him and towards 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 other 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 holds bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Boys' Brigade
- Girls' Brigade
- Youth Fellowship
- Badminton Club
- Bowling Club
- Parent & Toddlers

## **LOUGHBRICKLAND 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 12.00 noon.

As well as our regular services during we conducted 1 marriage service and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 212 communicant members and 123 families connected with the congregations. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 75

#### **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 plays an integral part in the community, through visitations as noted above, together with the organisation of social events and holding a Friendship Dinner in December for elder members of the community. The Church Hall is used for local events – 60+ Luncheon Club and British Legion Association.

As a key element in outreach activities, the Church is committed to raising money and providing donations to external missions and agencies.

During the year, donations were made to the following missions and agencies:

- The Presbyterian United Appeal
- The Presbyterian World Development Appeal
- Christian Aid
- Moderators Appeal
- The Presbyterian Children Society

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. Our Presbyterian Women Group is also very supportive of charitable missions and during the year contributed to both PW Missions and Tear Fund.

## **LOUGHBRICKLAND 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 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.

#### **Organisations**

Monday night – All sections of our Boys Brigade meet from September until May with 50+ members enrolled in 2023. The boys follow a bagdework programme throughout the year which includes sport, bible study various competitions which other Boys Brigade companies in the Down Battalion. The year concludes with an Annual Display and Presentation of Awards.

Tuesday morning - during school term time, our hall is used by our parent and toddlers' group. On average 15-20 children along with carers were regular attenders.

Wednesday night - All sections of our Girls Brigade meet from September until May with 140 members enrolled in 2023. The girls follow a bagdework programme throughout the year which includes sport, bible study, crafts and various competitions which other Girls' Brigade companies in the Bann District and GBNI. The year concludes with an Annual Display and Presentation of Awards.

Thursday night - The Bowling Club meets from September until April in our Hall, with average attendance of twenty members. As well as practice nights, the club has had a few matches against other local churches.

Friday night – The Badminton Club meet from September until April in our Hall with good attendance of both Junior and Senior members.

Sunday morning – Sunday school and Bible Class meet each Sunday during Sunday Worship and have 40 children and young adults normally in attendance.

Our Presbyterian Women Group meet monthly during the winter months and is comprised of both our own members and those from Scarva Presbyterian Church. The Group is heavily involved in charitable work, and as noted above, during the year contributed to PW Missions.

#### **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.

## **LOUGHBRICKLAND 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 134 contributors during the year donating a total of £ 47,185 (£36,577 in previous year, 2022)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £151,219 with total expenditure £128,815.

**LOUGHBRICKLAND 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) 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 on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Fred Cairns

24<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Trevor Martin

24<sup>th</sup> March 2024