

# Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105078

## Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-08-08

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

## Contact

Address 7 Church Road  
Crossgar  
Downpatrick  
County Down  
BT30 9hr  
BT30 9HR

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Website [www.lissara.com](http://www.lissara.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	£243,709	£137,769	£0	0

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Burke		
Mr George Hutchinson		
Mr Gordon McMullan		
Mr Robert McClurg		
Mr Samuel Matthew Cuffey		
Mr Victor Marcus Mccorrison		
Mrs Elizabeth Patterson		

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**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Accounts

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

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	114850	18869	0	133719	121246
Charitable activities	3	0	950	0	950	1050
Other trading activities	4	285	0	0	285	177
Investment Income	5	400	13894	0	14294	12953
Other	6	252	15480	0	15732	14716
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>		<b>115787</b>	<b>49193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>164980</b>	<b>150142</b>
-----						
Sale of fixed assets (Site at Old Manse)	6	78729	0	0	78729	0
-----						
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>194516</b>	<b>49193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>243709</b>	<b>150142</b>
-----						
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	518	0	0	518	364
Charitable activities	8	94272	24531	0	118803	117243
Investment costs	9	16412	2036	0	18448	36458
-----						
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>111202</b>	<b>26567</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137769</b>	<b>154065</b>
-----						
Net receipts / (payments)		83313	22626	0	105939	-3923
Transfers between funds IN		114954	3488	0	118442	1716
Transfers between funds		-114665	-3777	0	-118442	1716
-----						
Net movement in funds		83602	22337	0	105939	-3923
-----						
Funds brought forward		-54777	122498	0	67721	71644
-----						
Funds carried forward		28825	144835	0	173660	67721
=====						

**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES As at 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endow- ment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	-54776	122497	0	67721	71644
Net movement in funds	83313	22626	0	105939	-3923
Transfer between funds	288	-288	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	28825	144835	0	173660	67721
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Current Accounts	28825	144835	0	173660	67721
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	28825	144835	0	173660	67721
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets					
- Church Premises	0	0	0	0	0
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
- Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	633	16344	0	16977	16209
Townhouses – Rental properties	0	123192	0	123192	123192
Gift Aid receivable on donations	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				140169	139401
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans	0	0	0	0	-115111
Other	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				0	-115111
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 13th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Alan Burke

S Matthew Cuffey

[Name] \_\_\_\_\_

[Name] \_\_\_\_\_

[Date] 13th March 2025

[Date] 13th March 2025

**LISSARA 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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	96655	0	0	96655	85669
Loose collections	173	0	0	173	1972
Gift Aid	17557	0	0	17557	14801
Donations and gifts	50	15660	0	15710	12987
Gift aid on occasional	415	3209	0	3624	2755
Legacy	0	0	0	0	3062
	<b>114850</b>	<b>18869</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>133719</b>	<b>121246</b>

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

**3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	950	0	950	1050
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1050</b>

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Trading income - church magazines	285	0	0	285	177
	<b>285</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>177</b>

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	0	0	0	0	0
Bank & Building Society Interest	400	0	0	400	377
General Investment Fund	0	386	0	386	304
Rents investment properties	0	13490	0	13490	12255
Other investment income	0	18	0	18	17
	<b>400</b>	<b>13894</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14294</b>	<b>12953</b>

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2024**

**6 OTHER INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of site at old manse	78729	0	0	78729	0
Other income – grants		480	0	480	0
Miscellaneous income – from BB, GB, PW	0	15000	0	15000	11325
Miscellaneous income	252	0	0	252	3391
	<b>78981</b>	<b>15480</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94461</b>	<b>14716</b>
<b>Overall Total Incomes</b>	<b>194516</b>	<b>49193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>243709</b>	<b>150142</b>

**7 RAISING FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	518	0	0	518	364
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>518</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>364</b>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	26246	0	0	26246	24613
Presbytery fees	851	0	0	851	826
Ministry and support staff costs	45976	41	0	46017	44363
Congregational running expenses	16309	14842	0	31151	22897
Donations to Missions and charities	0	9215	0	9215	9614
Governance costs	4890	433	0	5323	14931
	<b>94272</b>	<b>24531</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>118803</b>	<b>117244</b>



**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2024**

**9 OTHER EXPENDITURE**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	2036	0	2036	4686
Purchase and upgrade new manse	16412	0	0	16412	31772
	<b>16412</b>	<b>2036</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18448</b>	<b>36458</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>111202</b>	<b>26567</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137769</b>	<b>154064</b>

**10. FIXED ASSETS**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at The Square, Crossgar, a manse for the minister and the associated fixtures, fittings, and equipment.

**11. INVESTMENTS**

The congregation has the following investments. Property is shown at cost, other investments are shown at market valuation.

				2024	2023
				£	£
General Investment Fund				16344	15606
Property (2 townhouses)				123192	123192
Other investments				633	603
				-----	-----
				<b>140169</b>	<b>139401</b>



**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2024**

**12. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Transfer In</b>	<b>Transfer Out</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Income and Expenditure	122,206	115,787	94,790	- 114,377		28,826
Manse Movement Fund	- 176,982	78,729	16,412	-	- 114,665	-
<b>Sub Total Unrestricted</b>	- 54,776	194,516	111,202	- 114,377	- 114,665	28,826
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Boys' Brigade Fund	4,863	8,975	6,683	95	-	7,250
Building Fund/Finlay Memorial	19,872	4,627	150	2,288	-	26,637
Cemetery Capital Account	4,146	-	-	-	-	4,146
Cemetery Fund	15,114	2,050	1,800	-	-	15,364
Choir Fund	510		-	28	-	538
Church Missions and Charities Fund	4,216	8,581	7,815	-	-	4,982
Fundraising Fund	6,182	-	-	-	-	6,182
Girls' Brigade Fund	17,169	3,027	3,073	869	-	17,992
Interest/Dividends Fund	0	404	67	-	337	-
Killinchy Woods Sabbath School Capital	20	-	0	12	32	-
Killinchy Woods Sabbath School Current	310		-	32	-	342
Lowry - Upkeep of Grave	220	-	-	9	-	229
Mcllwraith - Upkeep of Grave	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Ministers Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
POCS	1074	957	1,000	-	-	1,031
PW Fund	532	2,998	3,260	155	-	425
Robinson - Upkeep of Grave	1,434	-	-	-	-	1,434
Shields - Upkeep of Grave	1,346	-	-	-	-	1,346
Suspense Fund	3,189	3,690	283	-	3,407	3,189
Townhouses Development Fund	39,495	13,490	2,036	-	-	50,949
World Development Fund	40	394	400	-	-	34
Youth Club Fund	1,763	-	-	-	-	1,763
<b>Sub total Restricted</b>	122,495	49,193	26,567	3,488	3,776	144,833
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,719</b>	<b>243,709</b>	<b>137,769</b>	<b>- 110,889</b>	<b>- 110,889</b>	<b>173,659</b>

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Accounts

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**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**

(Receipts and Payments Account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	105308	15938	0	121246	110117
Charitable activities	3	0	1050	0	1050	3350
Other trading activities	4	177	0	0	177	165
Investment Income	5	377	12576	0	12953	12223
Other	6	1958	12758	0	14716	10370
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>		<b>107820</b>	<b>42322</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150142</b>	<b>136225</b>
-----						
Sale of fixed assets (Manse)	6	0	0	0	0	274402
-----						
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>107820</b>	<b>42322</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150142</b>	<b>410627</b>
-----						
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	364	0	0	364	494
Charitable activities	8	94691	22552	0	117243	107347
Investment costs	9	31772	4686	0	36458	4044
Purchase of fixed assets - new manse	9	0	0	0	0	419612
-----						
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>126827</b>	<b>27238</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154065</b>	<b>531497</b>
-----						
Net receipts / (payments)		-19007	15084	0	-3923	-120870
Transfers between funds IN		219	1497		1716	
Transfers between funds OUT		0	-1716	0	-1716	5109
-----						
Net movement in funds		-18788	14865	0	-3923	-120870
Funds brought forward		-35989	107633	0	71644	192514
-----						
Funds carried forward		-54777	122498	0	67721	71644
=====						

**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES As at 31 December 2023**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endow- ment Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	-35988	107632	0	71644	192514
Net movement in funds	-19007	15084	0	-3923	-120870
Transfer between funds	219	-219	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	-54776	122497	0	67721	71644
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Current Accounts	-54776	122497	0	67721	71644
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-54776	122497	0	67721	71644
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets					
- Church Premises	0	0	0	0	0
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
- Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	603	15606	0	16209	14901
Townhouses – Rental properties	0	123192	0	123192	123192
Gift Aid receivable on donations	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				139401	138093
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans	-115111	0	0	-115111	-119137
Other	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				-115111	-119137
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 12th February 2024 and signed on its behalf by

[Name] Rev A Burke

[Name] S Matthew Cuffey

[Date] 12th February 2024

[Date] 12th February 2024

**LISSARA 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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	85669	0	0	85669	72422
Loose collections	1675	297	0	1972	430
Gift Aid	14801	0	0	14801	13885
Donations and gifts	0	12987	0	12987	19917
Gift aid on occasional gifts	101	2654	0	2755	3463
Legacy	3062	0	0	3062	0
	<b>105308</b>	<b>15938</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121246</b>	<b>110117</b>

**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31 December 2023**

**3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	1050	0	1050	3350
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>3350</b>

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Trading income - church magazines	177	0	0	177	165
	<b>177</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>165</b>

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	0	0	0	0	0
Bank & Building Society Interest	377	0	0	377	423
General Investment Fund	0	304	0	304	316
Rents investment properties	0	12255	0	12255	11466
Other investment income	0	17	0	17	18
	<b>377</b>	<b>12576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12953</b>	<b>12223</b>

**LISSARA 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
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of manse	0	0	0	0	274402
Other income – grants	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous income – from BB, GB, PW	0	11325	0	11325	9181
Miscellaneous income	1958	1433	0	3391	1189
	<b>1958</b>	<b>12758</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14716</b>	<b>284772</b>
<b>Overall Total Incomes</b>	<b>107820</b>	<b>42322</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150142</b>	<b>410627</b>

**7 RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	364	0	0	364	494
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>494</b>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	24613	0	0	24613	23031
Presbytery fees	826	0	0	826	721
Ministry and support staff costs	44319	44	0	44363	42614
Congregational running expenses	12935	9962	0	22897	17673
Donations to Missions and charities	0	9614	0	9614	10223
Governance costs	11998	2933	0	14931	13085
	<b>94691</b>	<b>22553</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>117244</b>	<b>107347</b>

**LISSARA 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
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	4686	0	4686	4044
Purchase and upgrade new manse	31772	0	0	31772	419612
	<b>31772</b>	<b>4686</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36458</b>	<b>423656</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>126826</u></b>	<b><u>27238</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154064</b>	<b>531497</b>

**10. FIXED ASSETS**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at The Square, Crossgar, a manse for the minister and the associated fixtures, fittings, and equipment.

**11. INVESTMENTS**

The congregation has the following investments. Property is shown at cost, other investments are shown at market valuation.

				2023	2022
				£	£
General Investment Fund				15606	14311
Property (2 townhouses)				123192	123192
Other investments				603	590
				-----	-----
				<b>139401</b>	<b>138093</b>

## 12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Income and Expenditure	109222	107299	94534	219	0	122206
Manse Movement Fund	-145210	521	32293	0	0	-176982
<b>Sub Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>-35988</b>	<b>107820</b>	<b>126827</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-54776</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Boys' Brigade Fund	3316	5285	3739	0	0	4862
Building Fund/Finlay Memorial	14572	3979	138	1459	0	19872
Cemetery Capital Account	4146	0	0	0	0	4146
Cemetery Fund	16116	1050	2052	0	0	15114
Choir Fund	488	0	0	22	0	510
Church Missions & Charities Fund	3706	8724	8214	0	0	4216
Fundraising Fund	6182	0	0	0	0	6182
Girls' Brigade Fund	17075	3890	3796	0	0	17169
Interest/Dividends Fund	0	322	64	0	-258	0
Killinchy Woods SS Capital Fund	10	0	0	10	0	20
Killinchy Woods SS Current Fund	311	0	0	0	0	311
Lowry - Upkeep of Grave Fund	213	0	0	7	0	220
Mcllwraith - Upkeep of Grave Fund	1000	0	0	0	0	1000
Ministers Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Presbyterian Children's Society	1185	889	1000	0	0	1074
PW Fund	810	2149	2427	0	0	532
Robinson - Upkeep of Grave	1434	0	0	0	0	1434
Shields - Upkeep of Grave	1346	0	0	0	0	1346
Suspense Fund	3259	3012	1623	0	-1459	3189
Townhouses Development Fund	31026	12255	3786	0	0	39495
World Development Fund	-327	767	400	0	0	40
Youth Club Fund	1763	0	0	0	0	1763
<b>Sub total Restricted</b>	<b>107632</b>	<b>42322</b>	<b>27239</b>	<b>1498</b>	<b>-1717</b>	<b>122496</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>71644</b>	<b>150143</b>	<b>154065</b>	<b>1717</b>	<b>-1717</b>	<b>67720</b>

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Annual report

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**LISSARA 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 (NIC105078)**

## **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**

Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
The Square, Crossgar, Downpatrick, BT30 9EE

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105078)

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Alan Burke	R McClurg
S G Clements	V M McCorrison
S M Cuffey	G McMullan
G Hutchinson	Mrs E Patterson
Mrs R Niblock	

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Alan Burke
Clerk of Session	Matthew Cuffey
Treasurer	John J Patterson

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Brian Rice, Saintfield Road, Crossgar

## **BANKERS**

Danske Bank, PO Box 183, Donegal Square West, Belfast BT1 6SJ

## **SOLICITORS**

Murlands Solicitors, 15 English Street, Downpatrick BT30 6AP

## **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 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.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least twice in each year as required.

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. Lissara congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Down 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.

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 - *By the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Its vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:*

- *is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;*
- *is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;*
- *is relevant to people of this time and place.*

*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 Lord's 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 range of organisations including

- Knitting Group
- Girls' Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Boys' Brigade
- Lissara Tots

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30 am and at 6.30 pm on certain evenings. During the week the Bible Study/Prayer Time provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

During the coronavirus restrictions a number of our services were online and the pastoral care by telephone or letter. These methods are continued, and services are still available over the telephone for those without internet access. We welcomed one adult to the Lord's Table for the first time. We also gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 80 communicant members and 123 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 83.

#### **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 and/or elders or contacted by letter or telephone.

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

### **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation supports prayerfully and financially two missionaries to Muslim people in London. Children in third world countries are supported by the knitting group's activities, and those at home through the Presbyterian Children's Society (PCS) envelopes.

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.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's 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 attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. Although normally held for a week at the beginning of June, this year the General Assembly was held over 4 days in the last full week in June.

### **Property**

Permission was granted by PCI and the congregation for the purchase of a property on the Derryboye Road to be used as a manse and for the sale of the existing property and approved site adjoining. This has happened with the exception of the sale of the site which is currently sale agreed.

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### Organisations

The following is a brief outline of the past year in each organisation as they aimed to develop activities again following the lockdown situation -

**The Boys Brigade (BB)** - The BB meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from September to April. There are 3 age group sections covering an age range from 4 to 18, with approximately 52 boys and 12 leaders. Recreational activities include age-appropriate games and crafts, and a Christian Education programme is followed by all sections. Visits by outside groups and trips to activities are organised throughout the year. These are mostly of an educational or sporting nature. An away weekend is held each April/May for older boys.

**The Girls' Brigade (GB)** – The GB meets in the Church hall every Wednesday night from 6.45 to 8.15 pm during September to April. It has girls aged from 3 to 18 years old with an average attendance of 30 girls and 7 leaders. It follows a Christian programme with girls completing activities in the areas of spiritual, educational, service and physical. Additional activities are arranged of a recreational or educational nature at the end of the session.

**Presbyterian Women (PW)** – The PW normally meets monthly from September until May with an average attendance of approx. 25 ladies. Since the Coronavirus Restrictions, we have moved from the traditional Monday evening to more flexible arrangements including morning meetings, and mission evenings that are open to all – men, women, and children.

**Knitting Group** – The Knitting Group meets fortnightly on a Monday morning with normally 8-10 in attendance. Ladies are continuing to work knitted and crocheted items both for personal use and for mission outreach organizations. New patterns and stitches add to the enjoyment, as does the welcome tea/coffee and biscuits. Fellowship is good.

**Lissara Tots** - Lissara Tots was formed at the end of September 2022 running on a Friday morning from 10.30 am to 12 pm. This is open to the community and is aimed to provide friendship and fellowship for parents, carers, friends and pre-school children within a Christian environment. Generally well attended with carers and children coming from a wide range of backgrounds.

**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.

## **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.

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

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 158 contributors during the year [168 in 2022] donating a total of £85,670 (£72,367 in previous year, 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £150,142, compared to £410,627 in the previous year. This shows a steady financial support for the congregation. The much bigger figure in the previous year includes the income from the sale of the manse.

Total expenditure for the year was £154,065 compared to £531,497 in 2022. The main reason for the bigger expenditure in the previous year was the purchase and upgrade of a new property as a manse for the congregation.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and signed on its behalf by

[Name]      Rev Alan Burke                      [Name] S Matthew Cuffey

[Date] 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

[Date] 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LISSARA 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.



Brian Rice  
Chartered Accountant  
20 Saintfield Road, Crossgar, Downpatrick, BT30 9HY  
1 May 2024

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Accounts

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

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>	<b>TOTAL 2021</b>
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	92311	17806	0	110117	97309
Charitable activities	3	0	3350	0	3350	3850
Other trading activities	4	165	0	0	165	0
Investment Income	5	423	11800	0	12223	760
Other	6	1189	9181	0	10370	17368
<b>SUB TOTALS</b>		<b>94088</b>	<b>42137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136225</b>	<b>119287</b>
-----						
Sale of fixed assets (Manse)	6	274402	0	0	274402	0
-----						
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>368490</b>	<b>42137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410627</b>	<b>119287</b>
-----						
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	494	0	0	494	465
Charitable activities	8	83797	23550	0	107347	93846
Investment costs	9	0	4044	0	4044	4044
Purchase of fixed assets - new manse	9	419612	0	0	419612	
-----						
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>503903</b>	<b>27594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>531497</b>	<b>96710</b>
-----						
Net receipts / (payments)		-135413	14543	0	-120870	22577
Transfers between funds		-494	494	0	0	0
-----						
Net movement in funds		-135907	15037	0	-120870	22577
-----						
Funds brought forward		99918	92596	0	192514	169936
-----						
Funds carried forward		-35989	107633	0	71644	192514
=====						

**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES As at 31 December 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endow- ment Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	99918	92569	0	192514	169936
Net movement in funds	-135907	15037	0	-120870	22577
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	0	0	0	0	192514
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Current Accounts	-35989	107633	0	71644	192514
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-35989	107633	0	71644	192514
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets					
- Church Premises	0	0	0	0	0
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
- Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	0	14901	0	14901	15484
Townhouses – Rental properties	0	123192	0	123192	123192
Gift Aid receivable on donations	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				138093	138678
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans	-119137	0	0	-119137	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
				-----	-----
				-119137	0
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 6th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

[Name] Rev Alan Burke

[Name] S Matthew Cuffey

[Date] 6th March 2023

[Date] 6th March 2023

**LISSARA 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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	72422	0	0	72422	75613
Loose collections	430	0	0	430	760
Gift Aid	13885	0	0	13885	15891
Donations and gifts	5200	14717	0	19917	5045
Gift aid on occasional	374	3089		3463	
Donations from organisations – PW	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>92311</b>	<b>17806</b>		<b>110117</b>	<b>97309</b>

LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31 December 2022

**3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	3350	0	3350	3550
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	300
	<b>0</b>	<b>3350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3350</b>	<b>3850</b>

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Trading income - church magazines	165	0	0	165	0
	<b>165</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0</b>

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	0	0	0	0	0
Bank & Building Society Interest	423	0	0	423	438
General Investment Fund	0	316	0	316	304
Rents investment properties	0	11466	0	11466	0
Other investment income	0	18	0	18	18
	<b>423</b>	<b>11800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12223</b>	<b>760</b>

**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2022**

**6 OTHER INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sale of manse	274402	0	0	274402	0
Other income – grants	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous income – from BB, GB, PW	0	9181	0	9181	6110
Miscellaneous income	1189	0	0	1189	11258
	<b>275591</b>	<b>9181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>284772</b>	<b>17368</b>
<b>Overall Total Incomes</b>	<b>368490</b>	<b>42137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410627</b>	<b>119287</b>

**7 RAISING FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
FWO envelopes	494	0	0	494	465
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>494</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>465</b>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General Assembly Assessments	23031	0	0	23031	22846
Presbytery fees	0	721	0	721	550
Ministry and support staff costs	42568	46	0	42614	41170
Congregational running expenses	6314	11359	0	17673	17059
Donations to Missions and charities	0	10223	0	10223	8858
Governance costs	11884	1201	0	13085	3366
	<b>83797</b>	<b>23550</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107347</b>	<b>93849</b>



**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2022**

**9 OTHER EXPENDITURE**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	4044	0	4044	2396
Purchase and upgrade new manse	<b>419612</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	419612	
	<b>419612</b>	<b>4044</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>423656</b>	<b>2396</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>531497</b>	<b>96710</b>

**10. FIXED ASSETS**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at The Square, Crossgar, a manse for the minister and the associated fixtures, fittings, and equipment.

**11. INVESTMENTS**

The congregation has the following investments. Property is shown at cost, other investments are shown at market valuation.

				2022	2021
				£	£
General Investment Fund				14311	14870
Property (2 townhouses)				123192	123192
Other investments				590	614
				-----	-----
				<b>138093</b>	<b>138676</b>



**LISSARA CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd) 31 December 2022**

**12. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Income and Expenditure	99,918	94,088	84,290	227	721	109,222
Manse Movement Fund	-	274,402	419,612	-	-	- 145,210
<b>Sub Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>99,918</b>	<b>368,490</b>	<b>503,902</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>- 35,988</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Boys' Brigade Fund	4,801	5,141	6,625	-	-	3,316
Building Fund/Finlay Memorial	8,928	5,050	821	1,865	450	14,572
Cemetery Capital Account	4,146	-	-	-	-	4,146
Cemetery Fund	14,266	3,450	1,600	-	-	16,116
Choir Fund	465	-	-	23	-	488
Church Missions and Charities Fund	2,711	10,368	9,824	450	-	3,706
Fundraising Fund	6,182	-	-	-	-	6,182
Girls' Brigade Fund	17,533	2,824	3,282	-	-	17,075
Interest/Dividends Fund	-	334	67	-	267	-
Killinchy Woods Sabbath School Capita	-	-	-	10	-	10
Killinchy Woods Sabbath School Currer	311	-	-	-	-	311
Lowry - Upkeep of Grave	206	-	-	7	-	213
McIlwrath - Upkeep of Grave	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Ministers Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
POCS	528	658	-	-	-	1,185
PW Fund	811	1,216	1,452	235	-	810
Robinson - Upkeep of Grave	1,434	-	-	-	-	1,434
Shields - Upkeep of Grave	1,346	-	-	-	-	1,346
Suspense Fund	3,359	1,279	-	-	1,379	3,259
Townhouses Development Fund	23,084	11,466	3,524	-	-	31,026
World Development Fund	- 279	351	400	-	-	- 328
Youth Club Fund	1,763	-	-	-	-	1,763
<b>Sub total Restricted</b>	<b>92,596</b>	<b>42,137</b>	<b>27,595</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>107,632</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,514</b>	<b>410,627</b>	<b>531,497</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>71,644</b>

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Annual report

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

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105078)**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
The Square, Crossgar, Downpatrick, BT30 9EE

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105078)

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Alan Burke	R McClurg
S G Clements	V M McCorrison
S M Cuffey	G McMullan
G Hutchinson	Mrs E Patterson
Mrs R Niblock	Miss T Kennedy

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Alan Burke
Clerk of Session	Matthew Cuffey
Treasurer	John J Patterson

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Brian Rice, Saintfield Road, Crossgar

## **BANKERS**

Danske Bank, PO Box 183, Donegal Square West, Belfast BT1 6SJ

## **SOLICITORS**

Murlands Solicitors, 15 English Street, Downpatrick BT30 6AP

## **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 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.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least twice in each year as required.

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. Lissara congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Down 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.

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 - *By the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Its vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:*

- *is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;*
- *is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;*
- *is relevant to people of this time and place.*

*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 Lord's 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 range of organisations including

- Knitting Group
- Presbyterians Women
- Lissara Tots
- Girls' Brigade
- Boys' Brigade

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30 am and at 6.30 pm on certain evenings. During the week the Bible Study/Prayer Time provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

During the coronavirus restrictions a number of our services were online and the pastoral care by telephone or letter. These methods are continued, and services are still available over the telephone for those without internet access. During the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at 3 Sacrament of Baptism. We also gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2022 there were 81 communicant members and 119 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 85.

#### **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 and/or elders or contacted by letter or telephone.

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

### **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation supports prayerfully and financially two missionaries to Muslim people in London. Children in third world countries are supported by the knitting group's activities, and those at home through the Presbyterian Children's Society (PCS) envelopes.

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.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's 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 attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. Although normally held for a week at the beginning of June, this year the General Assembly was held over 4 days in the last full week in June.

### **Property**

Permission was granted by PCI and the congregation for the purchase of a property on the Derryboye Road to be used as a manse and for the sale of the existing property and approved site adjoining.

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### Organisations

The following is a brief outline of the past year in each organisation as they aimed to develop activities again following the lockdown situation -

**The Boys Brigade (BB)** - The BB meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from September to April. There are 3 age group sections covering an age range from 4 to 18, with approximately 52 boys and 12 leaders. Recreational activities include age-appropriate games and crafts, and a Christian Education programme is followed by all sections. Visits by outside groups and trips to activities are organised throughout the year. These are mostly of an educational or sporting nature. An away weekend is held each April/May for older boys.

**The Girls' Brigade (GB)** – The GB meets in the Church hall every Wednesday night from 6.45 to 8.45 pm during September to April. It has girls aged from 3 to 18 years old with an average attendance of 30 girls and 7 leaders. It follows a Christian programme with girls completing activities in the areas of spiritual, educational, service and physical. Additional activities are arranged of a recreational or educational nature at the end of the session.

**Presbyterian Women (PW)** – The PW normally meets monthly from September until May with an average attendance of approx. 25 ladies. Since the Coronavirus Restrictions, we have moved from the traditional Monday evening to more flexible arrangements including morning meetings, and mission evenings that are open to all – men, women, and children.

**Knitting Group** – The Knitting Group meets fortnightly on a Monday morning with normally 10-12 in attendance. Ladies are continuing to work knitted and crocheted items both for personal use and for mission outreach organizations. New patterns and stitches add to the enjoyment, as does the welcome tea/coffee and biscuits. Fellowship is good.

**Lissara Tots** - Lissara Tots was formed at the end of September 2022 running on a Friday morning from 10.30 am to 12 pm. This is open to the community and is aimed to provide friendship and fellowship for parents, carers, friends and pre-school children within a Christian environment. Generally well attended with carers and children coming from a wide range of backgrounds.

**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.

## **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.

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

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 168 contributors during the year [173 in 2021] donating a total of £72,367 (£68,738 in previous year, 2021).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £410,627, compared to £119,287 in the previous year. This shows a steady financial support for the congregation by its members, and includes the income for the sale of the manse.

Total expenditure for the year was £531,497 compared to £96,710 in 2021. The main reason for the rise in expenditure was the purchase and upgrade of a new property as a manse for the congregation.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

[Name] Rev Alan Burke

[Name] S Matthew Cuffey

[Date] 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

[Date] 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Lissara Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105078

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# Annual return

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**Independent Examiner's Statement to the Congregational Committee of Lissara  
Congregation**

I have examined the summarised accounts set out in pages 8-13.

**Respective responsibilities of the Congregational Committee and the Auditor**

You are responsible as the Congregational Committee for the preparation of the summary accounts. I have agreed to report to you my opinion on the summarised accounts and their consistency with the full accounts.

**Basis of Opinion**

I have carried out the procedures I consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts from which they have been prepared.

**Opinion**

In my opinion the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**Honorary Independent Examiner as appointed  
by the Congregational Committee**

Brian Rice  
20 Saintfield Road  
Crossgar  
Downpatrick  
BT30 9HY

Signed ..... *Brian Rice* .....

Brian Rice

Date ..... *8.15/2023* .....