



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

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**DRUMLEE 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 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Drumlee Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
128 Lackan Road, Ballyward, Castlewellan, County Down, BT31 9RX

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105080)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev George McClelland (Convener of the Vacancy until 31st December 2024)

Rev Liam Rutherford (Convener of the Vacancy from 1st January 2025)

Derek Bingham
Graham Truesdale

Worthing Anderson
Ivan McCready
Victor Weir

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Vacant
Graham Truesdale
Belinda McCaughey

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Kevin Quigley

BANKERS

Danske Bank, 58-60 Market Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6LX

SOLICITORS

Gordon Bell & Son, 9-11 Newry Street, Rathfriland, BT34 5PY

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

DRUMLEE 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 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 currently consists of the convener of the vacancy and the ruling elders of the congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, currently the convener, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held a minimum of three times a year.

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. Drumlee 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.

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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 for a week during 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.

Drumlee congregation of the Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purpose is to minister to the rural community in which we are embedded with the truth of the Gospel of Christ, providing teaching, fellowship and pastoral care.

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 four occasions during the year (one of which is joint with our neighbouring congregation of Ballyroney) 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

- Sunday School
- Youth Club
- Presbyterian Women Group
- Youth Fellowship (joint with Ballyroney)

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 10.30am. 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 gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2024 there were 59 communicant members and 49 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 50

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 elders.

At a local level the congregation organised the following events: -

- Harvest Celebrations

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assist with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

General Assembly

One of our elders was nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

In the last year the church committee has undertaken:

1. upgrade of our current AV system in both the Church meeting house and halls
2. maintenance and improvement work on the property owned by the congregation at 76 Trassey Road, Newcastle. This property is let to tenants as at the date of this report.

Organisations

Bible Study

We have held joint midweek meetings with our neighbouring congregation of Ballyroney, some of which have been conducted by our Convener and some by the elders and another member of the congregations.

Presbyterian Women

The 2024/25 session of Drumlee PW saw the group celebrate 60 years of ladies meeting in the church. Throughout the year around 15 ladies met on a monthly basis. On two occasions we joined with our sister congregation in Ballyroney for the meetings. Most meetings were led by our members using the PW book for direction and some craft sessions. We had a speaker for our joint session and for our annual PW service we had Rev Harry Robinson and Mrs Jenny Robinson speaking. We ended the season with a anniversary meal in our church hall with over 40 ladies both enjoying a cooked meal and a time of fellowship and reflection of God's goodness and sharing memories over the last 60 years.

Sunday School

Drumlee Sunday School meets 38 Sunday mornings each year from September to June, 9.45 – 10.30 am. We cater for children from school years 1-10, and had a total of 22 children enrolled for the year 2024-2025. There are 4 class groups – Beginners (Year 1-3), Primaries (year 2-5), Juniors (year 6-7) and Bible class (year 8+). Attendance was very good this year. Each child is welcome to come along regardless of their abilities or attendance.

The aim of Sunday School is to provide an age appropriate bible based knowledge of Christianity through the use of the 'Go Teach' / 'Come Learn resources'. Children are helped and encouraged to learn a short bible verse each week.

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Notable events in our usual calendar are the Christmas service, Christmas party, Children's day services and tea, and our family outing at the end of the year. All of these events provided a delightful opportunity for the Sunday School, congregation and their families to have fellowship together. The Sunday school outing was to Mountpanther Farm Park. The cost of this outing was covered by Sunday School. Each child received a Christmas present, Easter Egg, small birthday gift and a voucher for attendance.

This year we were entirely funded by donations from the retiring offerings at both services. This allowed Sunday School to run without fundraising and to be able to support our three chosen charities for the year. We have a small income from interest on a bequest.

Youth Club

The Youth Club meets from 7pm to 9pm on alternate Saturday evenings from September to May. It has about 20 children from Primary 1 to Year 8, a number of who are from outside the congregation. Activities include games nights, craft nights, film nights and baking nights.

Youth Fellowship (joint with Ballyroney)

At YF this year, we met every other week in Ballyroney. Each night consisted of games to start the night, food and drink, and then a bible study. These studies were either topical depending on times of the year (Christmas/Easter etc) or they were picked via anonymous suggestions from the youth on things that matter to them. Some of the youth practised for and took part in the Christmas carol service, and we are currently planning a night out for the youth to start the new year of YF.

Online activities

We continue to put services online via YouTube and provide a CD ministry to those who are unable to attend meetings. The church WhatsApp group and Facebook page continue to enable members to keep in contact with each other.

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.

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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.

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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.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. Contributions during the 2024 year totalled £17,978.85 (compared with £17,640.25 in 2023).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £35,989 compared to £37,324 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £31,733 to £36,967

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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 congregations 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.

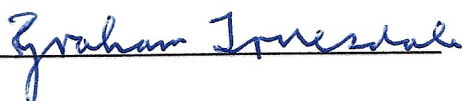
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 30th SEPTEMBER 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Rev. Liam Rutherford (Convener)

Mr. Graham Truesdale (Clerk of Session)





**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DRUMLEE CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

(To be provided by the Independent Examiner)