

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105125

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2016-08-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	3 Ardmeen Green Downpatrick Bt30 6jj BT30 6JJ
Phone	02844614747
Website	http://downpatrickpresbyterian.org/

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	£165,825	£90,481	£0	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anthony Barry Redhead		
Elsie Storey		
Miss Margaret Ann Chestnutt		
Rev Owen Patterson		
Robert John Shields		
Robert Martin		

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Accounts

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


	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	76336	89489		165825	130749
Charitable activities	3					
Other trading activities	4					
Investment Income	5					
Other	6					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		76336	89489		165825	130749
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	361			361	361
Charitable activities	8	72137	17983		90120	86080
Investment costs						
Other	9					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		72498	17983		90481	86441
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)						44308
Transfers between funds						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds						
Funds brought forward						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	12					91627
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====


**DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	40615	51013		91628	91337
Net movement in funds	4200	20703		24903	(287)
Bank and Cash at end of year	=====	=====	=====	116531	91627
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				116531	91337
Bank Current Accounts					
Cash in Hand				-----	-----
				116531	91337
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 10					
- Church Premises					3,331,289
- ?Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment					
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				-----	-----
					3,331,289
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on [25/9/25] and signed on its behalf by

[Name] 
[Date] 25-09-25

[Name] 
[Date] 25/9/25

**DOWNPATRICK 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

	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	56440	24192		80632	64127
Loose collections	1988			1988	6308
Donations and gifts	8496	60442		68938	47353
Gift Aid	9412	3855		13267	12961
Legacies and bequest		1000		1000	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	76336	89489		165825	130749
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from charitable activities	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fees from weddings and funerals	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fundraising events					
Membership fees					
Grants					

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Letting of premises	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Trading income					

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Deposit interest	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Other investment income					

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

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Insurance claims	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other income	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FWO envelopes	-----	-----	-----	361	361
Fundraising events	-----	-----	-----	361	361

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General Assembly Assessments	46995			46995	44232
Presbytery fees	586			586	573
Ministry and support staff costs	3522			3522	4776
Congregational running expenses	21034	10416		31450	30669
Donations to Missions and charities		7567		7567	5830
Governance costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	72137	17983	-----	90120	86080

DOWNPATRICK 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	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Fountain Street Downpatrick BT30 6AW, 18 Strangford Road Downpatrick BT30 6LS, and the associated fixtures. These have an insurance value of £ 3,331,289

11. INVESTMENTS

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

	2024 £	2023 £
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments	-----	-----
	-----	-----

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

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
No1 General Running Account [Name of Fund]	40615	76336	72136	4200		44815
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	40615	76336	72136	4200		44815
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
No 5 Property	14537	25777	10416	15361		29898
PW	615	770	833	(63)		552
Fountain Foodbank	16069	43588	34087	9501		25570
Mission and Outreach	17244	8637	10925	(2288)		14956
Fountain Friends	328	1196	1028	168		496
Graveyard	2071	1400	3420	(2020)		51
Sunday School	149	554	510	44		193
Mission and Charities	0	7567	7567	0		0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	91628	165825	140922	20703		116531
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	91337	137989	137699	290		91627
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Accounts

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	77077	53672		130749	132287
Charitable activities	3					
Other trading activities	4					
Investment Income	5					
Other	6					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts		77077	53672		130749	132287
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7	361			361	383
Charitable activities	8	86080			86080	104489
Investment costs						
Other	9					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		86441			86441	104872
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)					44308	27415
Transfers between funds						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds						
Funds brought forward						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	12				91627	59292
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**DOWNPARICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	32045	59292		91337	104523
Net movement in funds	8570	(8280)		290	(13186)
Bank and Cash at end of year	40615	51012		91627	91337
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				91627	91337
Bank Current Accounts					
Cash in Hand					
				-----	-----
				91627	104524
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 10					
- Church Premises				2614669	2,614669
- ?Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment					
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations					
				-----	-----
				2706296	2,706006
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other					
				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on [] and signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Name] *M. Ann Chestnut*

[Date] *505-24*

[Date] *5/5/24*

DOWNPARICK 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

	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	50420	13707		64127	54620
Loose collections	6308			6308	8726
Donations and gifts	9658	37695		47353	55279
Gift Aid	10691	2270		12961	13662
Legacies and bequest					
	----- 77077 -----	----- 53672 -----	----- -----	----- 130749 -----	----- 132287 -----

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 December 2022

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals					
Fundraising events					
Membership fees					
Grants					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises					
Trading income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest					
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Other investment income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2022

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance claims	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other income	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
FWO envelopes	-----	-----	-----	361	383
Fundraising events	-----	-----	-----	361	383

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General Assembly Assessments	44232			44232	42014
Presbytery fees	573			573	496
Ministry and support staff costs	4776			4776	4654
Congregational running expenses	19287	11382		30669	47961
Donations to Missions and charities		5830		5830	8981
Governance costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	68868	17212	86080	86080	104489
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DOWNPATRICK 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 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Investment properties expenses	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Fountain Street Downpatrick BT30 6AW, 18 Strangford Road Downpatrick BT30 6LS, and the associated fixtures These have an insurance value of £ 2,745,403

11. INVESTMENTS

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

	2023 £	2022 £
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments		
	-----	-----
	-----	-----

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2022

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
No1 General Running Account [Name of Fund]	32045	77078	68508	8570		40615
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	32045	77078	68508	8570		40615
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
No 5 Property	19973	5946	11382	(5436)		14537
PW	791	634	810	(176)		615
Fountain Foodbank	23282	33424	40637	(7213)		16069
Mission and Outreach	14090	11761	8608	3153		17243
Fountain Friends	308	1445	1425	20		328
Graveyard	671	1400	0	1400		2071
Sunday School	177	472	500	(28)		149
Mission and Charities	0	5829	5829	0		0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	59292	60911	69191	(8280)		51012
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	91337	137989	137699	290		91627
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Annual report

**DOWNPATRICK 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(NIC105125)

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

DOWNPATRICK congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Fountain Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105125)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev. O. Patterson
Mr R. Shields
Mrs E. Storey

Miss A. Chestnutt
Mr R. Martin
Mr. B. Redhead

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev. O. Patterson
Clerk of Session	Miss A. Chestnutt
Treasurer	Miss B. Reid

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**Mr Norman Elliott FCA, Norman Elliott Chartered Accountants, 13, English Street,
Downpatrick, BT30 6 AB**

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd., 2/8 Market St., Downpatrick. BT30 6BU

SOLICITORS

J. Murland and Co., 15, English St., Downpatrick BT30 6AP

DOWNPATRICK 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 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 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 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. Downpatrick 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.

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

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

Downpatrick 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.

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, sets out what we understand the Bible to teach on matters of Christian faith and practice.

The Congregation's mission is: - by the grace of God, to see Christ's kingdom grow in the lives of men, women and children. It is our desire to fulfil Christ's great commission of Matthew 28:19 to see people of all ages and backgrounds becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

1. We desire that people will clearly understand Jesus' message of salvation.
2. We desire that those who grasp that message will grow in their love, devotion and service to Jesus.

The Congregation aims to live out its mission and vision as a family of God's people by being:-

- a Bible centred community, living lives that are based on God's Word and seeking to please Him in all we do.
- an outward looking community that seeks to reach out and welcome people from every background and that seeks to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by our words, welcome and actions.

**DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)**

- at the centre of our local community by being part of it and being relevant in the issues and problems that we seek to help change

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 five occasions during the year and all those who know the Lord and are walking in fellowship with Him are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular Bible study meetings and has a range of organisations including:-

- Sunday School
- Creche
- Junior and Senior Youth Clubs
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Presbyterian Women
- Men's Fellowship

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30 am. At regular intervals there is a Bible Study which provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship and to study the Scriptures. There is a weekly prayer time where members meet together to pray for the needs of the congregation and the wider world.

While livestreaming of Sunday services was a product of the Covid Pandemic, we continue to do this. It is watched by many people each week, most of whom are non-members. It has been through this that several people have joined us for worship on a Sunday.

At 31st December, 2023, there were 83 Communicant members and 97 families connected with the congregation. The average attendance at Sunday worship was 78 people. There were no baptisms or marriages and 2 deaths.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are normally visited on a regular basis by the minister and elders. Those who have been bereaved are also provided with support and prayer

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

Mission and outreach

Outreach is very important to us as a congregation and the Lord has provided many opportunities for us to reach out into the community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

At a local level the congregation organises and provides the base for the community foodbank. While this is staffed by members from all churches, the co-ordinator is a member of the church committee and the trustees are the elders. The use of this has increased with an average of 30 parcels distributed per week. A special effort is made at Christmas to distribute a large number of food hampers.

A major form of outreach is the annual Holiday Bible Club which was able to take place for the first time since the Covid Pandemic. An average of 40 children attended each day. They learned about God and his love for us through Bible stories, games, drama and craft. Children of all faiths and none came to this and it is a vital outreach into the local community with the good news of the gospel. It was widely publicised through notice boards, social media, Church website and invitations to local housing estates.

The church was full for the annual Carol service and was once again attended by all sides of the Community.

The congregation's Facebook page continued to grow, reaching out to many in the local community and there were many encouraging messages from people around the world who have been helped by the teaching on the congregation's website.

The congregation seeks to support the local community through allowing use of its facilities and resources. The hall is used on a regular basis by such groups as Surestart, a Drama group for young people with special needs, Women's Institute, Barnardos, an Art society, a flower arranger's group and Men's Club.

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

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

Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented by our minister and one of the elders. It 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 in June.

Property

Repairs were carried out on the church halls' chimney and the guttering on the halls replaced. Other minor works were carried out in order to maintain the fabric of the church, halls and manse.

Organisations

Sunday School, known as GLU is held every Sunday during the second half of morning worship. There is a small but enthusiastic group of 18 children. A Children's Day service took place in June and was followed by a picnic for all church members at Delamont Country Park.

Junior Youth Club meets every Saturday night and is for children of primary school age.

Senior Youth Club is attended by a small number of keen members and it is hoped to build on this.

Mothers and toddlers [Fountain Friends] continued to meet weekly and due to its popularity, numbers had to be limited to 40 children for safety reasons. This has always been a great opportunity to chat to people and to reach out into the community.

PW Connect meets monthly from September to April and provides an opportunity for fellowship for the ladies of the congregation by means of a varied programme. An average of 15 ladies attended. The annual PW service was held in April.

The congregation packed 186 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal.

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

The Men's Fellowship attended the annual Men's Convention in Belfast.

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.

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.

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 67 contributors during the year 65 in previous year, donating a total of £ 50,420 compared to £ 51,380 in previous year, 2022

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £ 130,749, compared to £ 132,287 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased to £ 86,080 from £ 104,489, this year we had no major expenses.

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 [] and signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Name] *M Anna Chestnutt*

[Date] *5-05-24*

[Date] *5/5/24*

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Annual return

Norman Elliott
Chartered Accountants

ACCOUNTS | TAX | CONSULTING

13 English Street
Downpatrick
BT30 6AB
Telephone 02844 616413

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DOWNPATRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Downpatrick Presbyterian Church for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out as per attachment.

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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland 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 present with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items of 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 1-4 listed above and, in connection with the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no material matters the require drawing to your attention.

Signed: *Norman Elliott*
Norman Elliott FCA

Date: *9th March 2024*

Norman Elliott Chartered Accountants
Principal: Norman Elliott FCA
13 English Street Downpatrick
BT30 6AB Co Down.
Members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Accounts

Norman Elliott
Chartered Accountants

ACCOUNTS | TAX | AUDIT | CONSULTING

13 English Street
Downpatrick
BT30 6AB
Telephone 02844 616413

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DOWNPATRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Downpatrick Presbyterian Church for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out as per attachment.

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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland 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 present with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items of disclosures present 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 1-4 listed above and, in connection with the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no material matters the require drawing to your attention.

Signed: *Norman Elliott*
Norman Elliott FCA

Date: *2nd March 2023*

Norman Elliott Chartered Accountants
Principal: Norman Elliott FCA
13 English Street Downpatrick
BT30 6AB Co Down.
Members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Annual report

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	77461	54826		132287	111948
Charitable activities	3					
Other trading activities	4					
Investment Income	5					
Other	6					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts					132287	111948
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments						
Raising funds	7				383	383
Charitable activities	8				104489	124927
Investment costs						
Other	9					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments					104872	125310
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)					27415	(13362)
Transfers between funds						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds						
Funds brought forward						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	12				59292	82073
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**DOWNPARICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

As at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	22451	82072		104523	146159
Net movement in funds	9594	(22780)		(13186)	(41635)
Bank and Cash at end of year	32045	59292		91337	104524
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts					104524
Bank Current Accounts					
Cash in Hand				-----	-----
					104524
				=====	=====
Other Assets					
Fixed Assets – Note 10					
- Church Premises					2,745,403
- ?Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment					
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				-----	-----
					2,745,403
				=====	=====
Liabilities					
Loans					
Other				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on [27/9/23] and signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Name] 

[Date] 27-09-23

[Date] 27/9/23

DOWNPARICK 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

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:	51380	3240		54620	62081
Loose collections	8726			8726	1174
Donations and gifts	5219	50060		55279	36576
Gift Aid	12136	1526		13662	12117
Legacies and bequest					
	----- 77461 -----	----- 54826 -----	-----	----- 132287 -----	----- 111948 -----

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
31 December 2022

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals					
Fundraising events					
Membership fees					
Grants					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises					
Trading income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest					
General Investment Fund					
Rents investment properties					
Other investment income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

31 December 2022

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Insurance claims	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other income	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FWO envelopes	-----	-----	-----	383	383
Fundraising events	-----	-----	-----	383	383

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
General Assembly Assessments	42014			42014	41418
Presbytery fees	496			496	374
Ministry and support staff costs	4654			4654	4525
Congregational running expenses	20317	27644		47961	63582
Donations to Missions and charities		8981		8981	14645
Governance costs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	67864	36625		104489	124927

DOWNPATRICK 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	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Fountain Street Downpatrick BT30 6AW, 18 Strangford Road Downpatrick BT30 6LS, and the associated fixtures These have an insurance value of £ 2,745,403

11. INVESTMENTS

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

	2022 £	2021 £
General Investment Fund		
Property		
Other investments	-----	-----
	-----	-----

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

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
No1 General Running Account [Name of Fund]	22451	77460	67866	9594		32045
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	22451	77460	67866	9594		32045
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted Funds						
No 5 Property	40932	6685	27644	(20959)		19973
PW	608	1387	1204	183		791
Fountain Foodbank	25774	37533	40025	(2492)		23282
Mission and Outreach	11002	9032	4944	3088		14090
Fountain Friends	308	0	0	0		308
Graveyard	3221	740	3290	(2550)		671
Sunday School	227	450	500	(50)		177
Mission and Charities		8481	8481	0		0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	82072	63308	86088	(22780)		59292
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
[Name of Fund]						
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	104523	140768	153954	(13186)		91337
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Downpatrick Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105125

Annual return

**DOWNPATRICK 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(NIC105125)

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

DOWNPATRICK congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Fountain Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105125)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev. O. Patterson
Mr R. Shields
Mrs E. Storey

Miss A. Chestnutt
Mr R. Martin
Mr. B. Redhead

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev. O. Patterson
Clerk of Session	Miss A. Chestnutt
Treasurer	Miss B. Reid

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**Mr Norman Elliott FCA, Norman Elliott Chartered Accountants, 13, English Street,
Downpatrick, BT30 6 AB**

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd., 2/8 Market St., Downpatrick. BT30 6BU

SOLICITORS

J. Murland and Co., 15, English St., Downpatrick BT30 6AP

DOWNPATRICK 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 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 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 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. Downpatrick 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.

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

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

Downpatrick 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.

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, sets out what we understand the Bible to teach on matters of Christian faith and practice.

The Congregation's mission is: - by the grace of God, to see Christ's kingdom grow in the lives of men, women and children. It is our desire to fulfil Christ's great commission of Matthew 28:19 to see people of all ages and backgrounds becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

1. We desire that people will clearly understand Jesus' message of salvation.
2. We desire that those who grasp that message will grow in their love, devotion and service to Jesus.

The Congregation aims to live out its mission and vision as a family of God's people by being:-

- a Bible centred community, living lives that are based on God's Word and seeking to please Him in all we do.
- an outward looking community that seeks to reach out and welcome people from every background and that seeks to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by our words, welcome and actions.

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

- at the centre of our local community by being part of it and being relevant in the issues and problems that we seek to help change

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 five occasions during the year and all those who know the Lord and are walking in fellowship with Him are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular Bible study meetings and has a range of organisations including:-

- Sunday School
- Creche
- Junior and Senior Youth Clubs
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Presbyterian Women
- Men's Fellowship

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30 am. At regular intervals there is a Bible Study which provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship and to study the Scriptures. There is a weekly prayer time where members meet together to pray for the needs of the congregation and the wider world.

While livestreaming of Sunday services was a product of the Covid Pandemic, we continue to do this. It is watched by many people each week, most of whom are non-members. It has been through this that several people have joined us for worship on a Sunday.

At 31st December, 2022, there were 84 Communicant members and 88 families connected with the congregation. The average attendance at Sunday worship was 71 people. There was one baptism and no marriages or deaths.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are normally visited on a regular basis by the minister and elders. Those who have been bereaved are also provided with support and prayer

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

Mission and outreach

Outreach is very important to us as a congregation and the Lord has provided many opportunities for us to reach out into the community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

At a local level the congregation organises and provides the base for the community foodbank. While this is staffed by members from all churches, the co-ordinator is a member of the church committee and the trustees are the elders. The use of this has increased with an average of 30 parcels distributed per week. A special effort is made at Christmas to distribute a large number of food hampers.

A major form of outreach is the annual Holiday Bible Club which was able to take place for the first time since the Covid Pandemic. An average of 40 children attended each day. They learned about God and his love for us through Bible stories, games, drama and craft. Children of all faiths and none came to this and it is a vital outreach into the local community with the good news of the gospel. It was widely publicised through notice boards, social media, Church website and invitations to local housing estates.

The church was full for the annual Carol service and was once again attended by all sides of the Community.

The congregation's Facebook page continued to grow, reaching out to many in the local community and there were many encouraging messages from people around the world who have been helped by the teaching on the congregation's website.

The congregation seeks to support the local community through allowing use of its facilities and resources. The hall is used on a regular basis by such groups as Surestart, a Drama group for young people with special needs, Women's Institute, Barnardos, an Art society, a flower arranger's group and Men's Club.

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

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

Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented by our minister and one of the elders. It 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 in June.

Property

Repairs were carried out to the church roof and the electrics in both the church and the halls were upgraded. Other minor works were carried out in order to maintain the fabric of the church, halls and manse.

Organisations

Sunday School, known as GLU is held every Sunday during the second half of morning worship. There is a small but enthusiastic group of 15 children. A Children's Day service took place in June and was followed by a picnic for all church members at Delamont Country Park.

Junior Youth Club meets every Saturday night and is for children of primary school age.

Senior Youth Club is a new venture which started at the end of the year. It is attended by a small number of keen members and it is hoped to build on this.

Mothers and toddlers [Fountain Friends] recommenced for 6 weeks before Christmas and numbers had to be limited to 40 children for safety reasons. This has always been a great opportunity to chat to people and to reach out into the community.

PW Connect meets monthly from September to April and provides an opportunity for fellowship for the ladies of the congregation by means of a varied programme. An average of 15 ladies attended. The annual PW service was held in April.

The congregation packed over 150 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal.

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

The Men's Fellowship met from time to time to share a meal and fellowship.

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.

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.

DOWNPATRICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont)

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 65 contributors during the year 71 in the previous year, 2021 donating a total of £51,380 compared with £55,101 in previous year, 2021.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £132,287, compared with £111,948 in the previous year. Total expenditure decreased to £104,489 in 2022 compared with £124,927 in 2021 as this year we had no major expenses.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on ^{27/9/23} ~~[enter date]~~ and signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Date] 27-09-23

[Name] 

[Date] 27/9/23