

# Ballyholme Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105128

## Details

Known as	Ballyholme Presbyterian Church
Status	Received
Registered	2016-08-08
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	32 Shandon Drive Bangor BT20 5hr BT20 5HR
Phone	02891473839
Email	<a href="mailto:bpch@btinternet.com">bpch@btinternet.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.ballyholmepresbyterian.co.uk">www.ballyholmepresbyterian.co.uk</a>

## 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	£229,575	£259,636	£0	7

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Howard Bingham		
Mr John Luke		
Mr Mervyn Menown		
Mr Michael White		
Mr Ronald Patton		
Mr Simon Liggett		
Mr Stuart Stevenson		
Mr William James Mccoubrey		
Mrs Audrey Titterington		
Mrs Eileen Pollock		
Mrs Hazel Larmour		
Mrs Joan Rebecca Hunter Bssc, Fca,Fabrp		
Mrs Lesley Reid		
Mrs Muriel Elsa Smyth		
Mrs Rosemary Rutledge		
Mrs Sandra Anderson		
Rev Peter Clarke Lyle Bed.Bd		

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Accounts

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

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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

Year ending 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2	103,756	39,413	0	143,169	229,076
Charitable activities	3	6,080	655	0	6,735	7,934
Other trading activities	4	0	0	0	0	0
Investment income	5	323	1,107	2,679	4,109	5,810
Other	6	4,099	71,463	0	75,562	70,599
		<u>114,258</u>	<u>112,638</u>	<u>2,679</u>	<u>229,575</u>	<u>313,418</u>
Gain on investments		0	0	0	0	0
Gain on sale of fixed assets	9	0	0	0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>114,258</u></b>	<b><u>112,638</u></b>	<b><u>2,679</u></b>	<b><u>229,575</u></b>	<b><u>313,418</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	389	0	0	389	355
Charitable activities	8	151,543	107,704	0	259,247	240,452
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0	0
		<u>151,931</u>	<u>107,704</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>259,636</u>	<u>240,807</u>
Loss on investments		0	0	0	0	0
Loss on sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>151,931</u></b>	<b><u>107,704</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>259,636</u></b>	<b><u>240,807</u></b>
Net receipts/(payments)		<b>-37,673</b>	4,934	2,679	<b>-30,061</b>	72,611
Transfers between funds		<u>30,860</u>	<b>-30,860</b>	0	<b>-0</b>	0
Net movement of funds		<b>-6,814</b>	<b>-25,926</b>	2,679	<b>-30,061</b>	72,611
Funds brought forward		124,430	213,240	101,590	439,259	366,648
Funds carried forward		<u>117,616</u>	<u>187,315</u>	<u>104,269</u>	<u>409,198</u>	<u>439,259</u>

**BALLYHOLME CONGREGATION OF THE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Funds at start of year	124,430	213,240	101,590	439,259	366,648
Net movement in funds	-6,814	-25,926	2,679	-30,061	72,611
Funds at end of year	<u>117,616</u>	<u>187,315</u>	<u>104,269</u>	<u>409,198</u>	<u>439,259</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>					
> Church premises				64,290	68,960
> Fixtures, Fittings, Equipment				0	0
> Vehicles				0	0
				<u>64,290</u>	<u>68,960</u>
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>					
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts				3,983	3,731
Bank Current Accounts				285,215	314,308
Organisations				0	0
Cash in Hand				387	301
				<u>289,584</u>	<u>318,340</u>
Gift aid receivable				7,509	7,866
Other debtors				0	1,000
Prepayments				5,690	5,397
Investments - Note 10				59,331	56,653
				<u>362,114</u>	<u>389,256</u>
<b><u>Creditors - amounts falling due within one year</u></b>					
Loans				0	0
Accruals				17,206	18,957
				<u>17,206</u>	<u>18,957</u>
<b><u>Net Current Assets</u></b>				<u>344,908</u>	<u>370,299</u>
<b><u>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</u></b>				<u>409,198</u>	<u>439,259</u>
<b><u>Creditors - amounts falling due after one year</u></b>					
				<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Total Assets / (Liabilities)</u></b>				<u>409,198</u>	<u>439,259</u>

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 30 March 2025 and signed on it's behalf by: -

Rev Peter Lyle (Minister)

Joan Hunter (Clerk of Session)

**BALLYHOLME CONGREGATION OF THE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

As the total income of the congregation in 2023 was more than £250,000 the congregation had to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis, in line with the provisions in The Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The same basis has been used in the current year.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting of Charities SORP in accordance with FRS102.

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. This includes claims made under Gift Aid.

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and the costs is deemed to be material. They are valued at cost. The property owned, comprising the Church premises and the Manse have been included net of calculated depreciation to date.

**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 2024	Total 2023
Recorded giving:					
Regular direct givings	72,141	29,077	0	101,218.40	103,700
Loose collections	2,014	0	0	2,013.60	1,150
Donations and gifts	12,738	4,727	0	17,465.14	40,653
Gift aid	16,863	4,109	0	20,971.87	21,874
Legacies and bequests	0	1,500	0	1,500.00	61,699
	<u>103,756</u>	<u>39,413</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>143,169.01</u>	<u>229,076</u>

**3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) Income from charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0
b) Fees from weddings and funerals	140	0	0	140	2,890
c) Fundraising events	5,940	655	0	6,595	5,044
d) Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
e) Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>6,080</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,735</u>	<u>7,934</u>

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
b) Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

## 5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) Deposit interest	0	0	0	0	0
b) General Investment Fund	323	1,107	0	1,430	1,108
c) Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
d) Other investment income	0	0	2,679	2,679	4,702
	<u>323</u>	<u>1,107</u>	<u>2,679</u>	<u>4,109</u>	<u>5,810</u>

d) Other investment income represents the gain or loss on the current value of the General Investment Fund.

## 6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) Insurance claims	0	0	0	0	1,375
b) Other income	4,099	450	0	4,549	1,221
c) Organisation income	0	71,013	0	71,013	68,003
	<u>4,099</u>	<u>71,463</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75,562</u>	<u>70,599</u>

## 7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) FWO envelopes	389	0	0	389	355
b) Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>389</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>355</u>

## 8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
a) General Assembly Assessments	9,530	0	0	9,530	12,689
b) Presbytery Fees	1,072	0	0	1,072	1,021
c) Ministry and support staff costs	85,706	69	0	85,775	78,840
d) Congregational running expenses	51,013	35,923	0	86,935	67,432
e) Donations to Missions and charities	1,305	13,100	0	14,405	16,453
f) Governance costs	2,918	100	0	3,018	3,082
g) Organisations	0	58,513	0	58,513	60,935
	<u>151,543</u>	<u>107,704</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>259,247</u>	<u>240,452</u>

## 9. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Ashley Drive, Bangor, BT20 5RD. These have an insurance value of; Church Buildings and Contents £ 3.317M .

The Church manse at 3 Second Avenue, Baylands, Bangor BT20 5JZ has an insurance value of £351K.

	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; fittings</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>					
At the start of year	272,500	0	0	272,500	272,500
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
At the end of year	<u>272,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>272,500</u>	<u>272,500</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At the start of year	203,540	0	0	203,540	198,870
Charged	4,670	0	0	4,670	4,670
Impairment	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
At the end of year	<u>208,210</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>208,210</u>	<u>203,540</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
At the start of year	68,960	0	0	68,960	73,630
At the end of year	<u>64,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>64,290</u>	<u>68,960</u>

## 10. INVESTMENTS

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
General Investment Fund	0	0	59,331	59,331	56,653
Property	0	0	0	0	0
Other investments	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>59,331</u>	<u>59,331</u>	<u>56,653</u>

## 11. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### Fees for examination of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees	£540	£540
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### Staff costs

No employee is paid more than £60,000

## 12. FUND BALANCES

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	83,797	114,258	151,931	-37,673	30,860	76,983
Investment Fund	40,633					40,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,430</b>	<b>114,258</b>	<b>151,931</b>	<b>-37,673</b>	<b>30,860</b>	<b>117,616</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Property Fund	138,772	14,870	33,848	-18,978	0	119,794
7th Bangor BB	407	0	0	0	-407	0
Freezer Ministry	323	0	323	-323	0	0
Holiday Bible Club	148	276	282	-5	0	143
Moderator Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specific Donations	29,187	1,611	2,613	-1,002	-11,135	17,050
Sunday School	1,857	30	30	1	0	1,858
Support Fund	3,874	252	0	252	-143	3,983
United Appeal	0	10,588	10,588	0	0	0
World Development Appeal	0	1,508	1,508	0	0	0
Youth Donations	0	12,490	0	12,490	-12,490	0
Bowling Club	82	120	0	120	-170	32
Flower Guild	601	1,015	918	97	-130	568
Making Mornings	32	1,823	1,006	818	-792	58
New Horizons	243	610	295	315	-150	409
Parents & toddlers	410	1,316	1,196	119	-200	329
Pre-school Group	35,018	61,685	51,286	10,399	-5,450	39,967
Presbyterian Women	91	0	0	0	0	91
Thursday Club	78	180	29	151	-150	80
Youth Council	1,742	2,038	200	1,838	-1,800	1,779
Youth Group	374	2,226	3,582	-1,357	2,157	1,174
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>213,240</b>	<b>112,637.51</b>	<b>107,704</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>-30,860</b>	<b>187,314</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Endowment investments	101,590	2,679	0	2,679	0	104,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,831</b>	<b>115,316</b>	<b>107,704</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>-30,860</b>	<b>291,583</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>439,260</b>	<b>229,574</b>	<b>259,636</b>	<b>-30,061</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>409,199</b>

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Accounts

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

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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

Year ending 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and Legacies	2	116,366	112,709	0	229,076	158,625
Charitable activities	3	6,855	1,079	0	7,934	1,344
Other trading activities	4	0	0	0	0	0
Investment income	5	224	885	4,702	5,810	-3,505
Other	6	1,156	69,443	0	70,599	66,224
		<u>124,601</u>	<u>184,116</u>	<u>4,702</u>	<u>313,418</u>	<u>222,689</u>
Gain on investments		0	0	0	0	0
Gain on sale of fixed assets	9	0	0	0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>124,601</u></b>	<b><u>184,116</u></b>	<b><u>4,702</u></b>	<b><u>313,418</u></b>	<b><u>222,689</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	355	0	0	355	345
Charitable activities	8	146,145	94,307	0	240,452	210,148
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0	0
		<u>146,500</u>	<u>94,307</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>240,807</u>	<u>210,492</u>
Loss on investments		0	0	0	0	0
Loss on sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>146,500</u></b>	<b><u>94,307</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>240,807</u></b>	<b><u>210,492</u></b>
Net receipts/(payments)		-21,899	89,809	4,702	72,611	12,196
Transfers between funds		10,590	-10,590	0	0	0
Net movement of funds		-11,309	79,219	4,702	72,611	12,196
Funds brought forward		135,739	134,020	96,889	366,648	354,452
Funds carried forward		<u>124,430</u>	<u>213,239</u>	<u>101,590</u>	<u>439,259</u>	<u>366,648</u>

**BALLYHOLME CONGREGATION OF THE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Funds at start of year	135,739	134,020	96,889	366,648	354,452
Net movement in funds	-11,309	79,219	4,702	72,611	12,196
Funds at end of year	<u>124,430</u>	<u>213,239</u>	<u>101,590</u>	<u>439,259</u>	<u>366,648</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>					
> Church premises				68,960	73,630
> Fixtures, Fittings, Equipment				0	0
> Vehicles				0	0
				<u>68,960</u>	<u>73,630</u>
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>					
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts				3,731	3,551
Bank Current Accounts				314,308	248,898
Organisations				0	0
Cash in Hand				301	221
				<u>318,340</u>	<u>252,671</u>
Gift aid receivable				7,866	6,793
Other debtors				1,000	0
Prepayments				5,397	4,002
Investments - Note 10				56,653	51,951
				<u>389,256</u>	<u>315,417</u>
<b><u>Creditors - amounts falling due within one year</u></b>					
Loans				0	0
Accruals				18,957	22,399
				<u>18,957</u>	<u>22,399</u>
<b><u>Net Current Assets</u></b>					
				<u>370,299</u>	<u>293,018</u>
<b><u>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</u></b>					
				<u>439,259</u>	<u>366,648</u>
<b><u>Creditors - amounts falling due after one year</u></b>					
				<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Total Assets / (Liabilities)</u></b>					
				<u>439,259</u>	<u>366,648</u>

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 28 April 2024 and signed on it's behalf by: -

Rev Peter Lyle (Minister)

Joan Hunter (Clerk of Session)

**BALLYHOLME CONGREGATION OF THE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

As the total income of the congregation in 2023 was more than £250,000 the congregation had to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis, in line with the provisions in The Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The same basis has been restated in the comparative figures.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting of Charities SORP in accordance with FRS102.

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. This includes claims made under Gift Aid.

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Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and the costs is deemed to be material. They are valued at cost. The property owned, comprising the Church premises and the Manse have been included net of calculated depreciation to date.

**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:					
Regular direct givings	82,663	21,037	0	103,700	103,892
Loose collections	1,150	0	0	1,150	1,641
Donations and gifts	14,950	25,703	0	40,653	10,486
Gift aid	17,604	4,270	0	21,874	22,565
Legacies and bequests	0	61,699	0	61,699	20,040
	<b>116,366</b>	<b>112,709</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>229,076</b>	<b>158,625</b>

**3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
a) Income from charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0
b) Fees from weddings and funerals	2,890	0	0	2,890	0
c) Fundraising events	3,965	1,079	0	5,044	1,344
d) Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
e) Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>6,855</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>1,344</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>
a) Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
b) Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
a) Deposit interest	0	0	0	0	0
b) General Investment Fund	224	885	0	1,108	1,148
c) Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
d) Other investment income	0	0	4,702	4,702	-4,653
	<u>224</u>	<u>885</u>	<u>4,702</u>	<u>5,810</u>	<u>-3,505</u>

d) Other investment income represents the gain or loss on the current value of the General Investment Fund.

## 6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
a) Insurance claims	0	1,375	0	1,375	0
b) Other income	1,156	65	0	1,221	1,194
c) Organisation income	0	68,003	0	68,003	65,030
	<u>1,156</u>	<u>69,443</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70,599</u>	<u>66,224</u>

## 7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
a) FWO envelopes	355	0	0	355	345
b) Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>355</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>345</u>

## 8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
a) General Assembly Assessments	12,689	0	0	12,689	9,016
b) Presbytery Fees	1,021	0	0	1,021	923
c) Ministry and support staff costs	78,785	54	0	78,840	78,303
d) Congregational running expenses	49,742	17,690	0	67,432	41,186
e) Donations to Missions and charities	1,422	15,031	0	16,453	23,887
f) Governance costs	2,486	597	0	3,082	3,123
g) Organisations	0	60,935	0	60,935	53,710
	<u>146,145</u>	<u>94,307</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>240,452</u>	<u>210,148</u>

## 9. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Ashley Drive, Bangor, BT20 5RD. These have an insurance value of; Church Buildings and Contents £ 3.317M .

The Church manse at 3 Second Avenue, Baylands, Bangor BT20 5JZ has an insurance value of £351K.

	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; fittings</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>					
At the start of year	272,500	0	0	272,500	272,500
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
At the end of year	<u>272,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>272,500</u>	<u>272,500</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At the start of year	198,870	0	0	198,870	194,200
Charged	4,670	0	0	4,670	4,670
Impairment	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
At the end of year	<u>203,540</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>203,540</u>	<u>198,870</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>					
At the start of year	<u>73,630</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>73,630</u>	<u>78,300</u>
At the end of year	<u>68,960</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>68,960</u>	<u>73,630</u>

## 10. INVESTMENTS

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
General Investment Fund	0	0	56,653	56,653	51,951
Property	0	0	0	0	0
Other investments	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56,653</u>	<u>56,653</u>	<u>51,951</u>

## 11. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### Fees for examination of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees	£540	£100
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### Staff costs

No employee is paid more than £60,000

12. FUND BALANCES

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	95,106	124,601	146,500	-21,899	10,590	83,797
Investment Fund	40,633					40,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,739</b>	<b>124,601</b>	<b>146,500</b>	<b>-21,899</b>	<b>10,590</b>	<b>124,430</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Property Fund	79,978	74,727	15,933	58,795	0	138,772
7th Bangor BB	808	1	403	-402	0	407
Freezer Ministry	323	0	0	0	0	323
Holiday Bible Club	157	147	157	-9	0	148
Moderator Appeal	0	1,518	1,518	0	0	0
Specific Donations	4,814	27,388	3,290	24,098	275	29,187
Sunday School	2,179	30	352	-322	0	1,857
Support Fund	3,694	180	0	180	0	3,874
United Appeal	0	11,024	11,024	0	0	0
World Development Appeal	0	1,099	1,099	0	0	0
Bowling Club	54	180	2	178	-150	82
Flower Guild	332	1,135	891	244	25	601
Making Mornings	21	1,423	721	702	-690	32
New Horizons	43	608	309	300	-100	243
Parents & toddlers	377	1,469	987	483	-450	410
Pre-school Group	39,549	56,469	54,250	2,219	-6,750	35,018
Presbyterian Women	91	0	0	0	0	91
Thursday Club	87	195	54	141	-150	78
Youth Council	1,513	3,029	200	2,829	-2,600	1,742
Youth Group	0	3,493	3,119	374	0	374
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>134,020</b>	<b>184,117</b>	<b>94,307</b>	<b>89,810</b>	<b>-10,590</b>	<b>213,240</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Endowment investments	96,889	4,702	0	4,702	0	101,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>230,909</b>	<b>188,819</b>	<b>94,307</b>	<b>94,511</b>	<b>-10,590</b>	<b>314,831</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,648</b>	<b>313,419</b>	<b>240,807</b>	<b>72,612</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>439,260</b>

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Annual report

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**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**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 (NIC105128)**

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
46, Ashley Drive  
Bangor  
BT20 5RD  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105128)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Peter Lyle	Joan Hunter
David Adgey Resigned 17 October 2023	Susan Adgey Resigned 17 October 2023
Simon Liggett	Steven Hamilton Resigned 17 October 2023
Hazel Larmour	John Luke
Tom McAvoy	William McCoubrey
Mervyn Menown	Ronald Patton
Francis Russell	Lesley Reid
Muriel Smyth	Rosemary Rutledge
Audrey Titterington	Stuart Stevenson
Michael White	

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev. P.C. Lyle
Clerk of Session	Mrs. Joan Hunter
Treasurer	Mr. A. R. S. Stevenson

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Stanley Woods & Co, Alexander House, 49/51 Church Street, Newtownards, BT23 4AN

**BANKERS**

Danske Bank, Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor  
Ulster Bank, Springhill Shopping Centre, Bangor

## **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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month excepting July and August.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member, a contributor to the Free Will Offering and a regular attendant at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Nominated members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote at a special congregational meeting.

### **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. Ballyholme Presbyterian Church congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards 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 from congregations within the Presbytery, an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation and other invited representatives.

### **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

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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, a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation and other invited representatives from various areas of church life.

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

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

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church 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 purposes are by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our 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.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
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## **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations and activities including: -

- Sunday School
- Parent and Toddlers
- New Horizons
- Ladies Group
- Youth Council
- My Church
- Men's Group
- Badminton
- Sunday Crèche
- Youth Fellowship
- Praise Band
- Bowling Club
- Pre-School Group
- After Service Tea/Coffee
- Flower Guild
- Prayer Ministry
- Making Mornings
- Ramblers
- 

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Worship and prayer**

Throughout 2023 we continued to adapt to a post Covid environment. Service attendances settled to a level not far below pre Covid levels. Particular encouragement was the number of children in attendance and participating in the children's section of the service. The music praise has been led by a Praise Group, and Organist and a pianist who work on a rota system. We have continued to meet monthly with the other churches in Ballyholme being a monthly United Service which rotates around the churches involved, weekly evening epilogue services through July and August, and Holy Week services from Palm Sunday to Good Friday followed by an Easter Dawn Service which has seen other churches from the area starting to join with us. In 2023 Ballyholme Parish Church hosted the Holy Week services. It was a deep regret that Ballyholme Methodist church closed in May 2023. We will carry very special memories of our times working alongside them in the community.

Our services continue to be streamed live via YouTube each week and are available for viewing from then on and the evening prayer posts for members of the congregation and anyone else who joins us on social media are posted every day. We continue to host Wedding and funeral services although 2023 saw a marked shift in Weddings being held in 'venues' where the whole day's events are in the one location.

Our post service refreshments continue to be one of the highlights of the week with the majority of attenders choosing to remain afterwards for social engagement. This develops relationships among the congregation and is a much appreciated service particularly by our elderly members who enjoy the company.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
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The year also sees the Church Calendar marked with Easter, Harvest and Christmas Services and we also have the sacramental celebrations of communion and baptisms.

The second half of 2023 saw our minister off for an extended period due to ill health. Worship services were covered each week by a variety of retired ministers who live in the local area and one dealt with pastoral emergencies and funerals.

We have two prayer groups who meet each week - one in person group on a Tuesday morning and another Zoom meeting on a Thursday evening. These are supported by a committed group of church members.

**Pastoral care**

Pastoral care is primarily delivered by the Minister who visits families who request such support, as well as those who are ill, in hospital or bereaved. These often require several follow up visits as well. He also visits around the elderly. A major challenge that has developed in recent years is the lack of notifications from hospitals with many members saying they are never asked about church affiliation on admission to hospital. We have been encouraging families to take on the responsibility to notify us. We have also been trialing a mentorship scheme for our young people.

**Mission and outreach**

The start of 2023 saw the congregation appointing a Youth Worker to oversee and deliver Youth ministry within the congregation and as he does so develop connections with families of young people who come along to our activities. Out of this we have commenced a number of new ventures. An after school drop in for secondary level pupils takes place on a Thursday afternoon and on Wednesdays we have opened our hall for parents, grandparents and carers who have picked up children from Ballyholme Primary School at 2pm and have to wait until 3pm to pick up older siblings. We provide refreshments, conversation and activities for the younger children. Many of those who come along do not attend our congregation so it is a real, and much appreciated, service to the community. The work with young people continues with trips to events such as Summer Madness and Ice Hockey matches. We also host Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers as well as Active Sport NI who work with pre-school and primary age children and a children's drama group.

The church also runs a very successful and busy Parent & Toddlers Group, a crafting group and a badminton group. All these involve church members and members of the community.

We have also become involved in the establishment of a community group called Love Ballyholme. Our Youth Worker represents us on the Committee and we are involved in running community family events.

We continue to support our appeals through the Presbyterian Church, Christian Aid, Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child, Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, The Earl Haig Fund and Storehouse North Down as well as a family working in Senegal with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

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We are involved in work in the local schools namely, Ballyholme and Towerview Primary Schools. Our minister is Chair of the Board of Governors in both schools and along with our Youth Worker conducts school assembly and participates in delivering some RE classes in partnership with Scripture Union.

We are looking at more ways in which we can reach into the community.

We continue to participate in the life of the local Presbytery through our minister and a representative elder. They attend the monthly meetings and serve on various committees and commissions of the Presbytery.

**Ballyholme Presbyterian Church visits Senegal**

In April 2023, 8 members of the congregation took the opportunity to visit our Wycliffe missionaries the Lowrys, in Senegal. The Lyle, Woodgates and Hamilton families set off for just over a week to Thèis. For five days we worked with the children of four families, including Emily and Aoife Lowry, providing childcare and a holiday bible club experience of songs, games, crafts and teaching. This enabled the mums and dads who are all involved in bible translation projects around the vast country, to spend time together in conference, giving and receiving reports of the progress of their projects and spending time in retreat and worship.

Our team bonded so well together and loved working with these precious children. In addition, we all felt we left with a much deeper understanding of the work that the Lowry's are involved in and the very different lifestyle challenges that they face. This has impacted our ability to pray for them in more specific and practical ways.

At the end of the trip, the team had one day off and spent it visiting a local game drive, relaxing, and marvelling at the wonderful birds and animals who roamed there, as well as the spectacular scenery. It was a wonderful experience for everyone, not least the three girls of the party, who came home with new tailor-made African dresses and memories to last a lifetime!

**General Assembly**

We were represented at the General Assembly in June 2023 by your Minister and representative elder.

**Property**

None

**ORGANISATIONS**

**Music Ministry**

The Music Ministry has had another very positive year with all our singers and musicians both in the Praise Band and June on organ and Cherry on piano continuing to generously give their time to lead us, as a congregation, to God's throne in praise and worship.

We are hugely blessed that our young people are willing to be increasingly involved in this ministry with Christopher regularly contributing to our services on the organ and the new Youth Band, formed

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though Youth Fellowship by the young people themselves and ably led by Ellie now having led both a pre-Christmas Youth Service and a fantastic Worship & Prayer service in February.

God has blessed our congregation with musically gifted people and we are always on the lookout for others to join the Music Ministry so if you feel that God is leading you to make use of your talents to play and/or sing in church, come and have a chat with any of us.

**Prayer Ministry**

Prayer Ministry meet on Tuesday morning at 11.00am in the Primary Room. All prayer requests are confidential and we pray one month for each one. There are two prayer request boxes and cards, one in the church reception area and one in the halls reception area.

A warm welcome is extended to all to join us in prayer (the spoken and the unspoken) friendship and fellowship together. We feel it is a great privilege to pray for the needs of our own church family, our missionaries and the wider world.

We have much to thank God for and much to seek His guidance for.

**Zoom Prayer Time**

The Zoom Prayer is one of our congregation's groups that came out of the Covid pandemic. It very quickly established itself as a much looked forward to weekly meeting. Now running for nearly 4 years it has far exceeded expectations. From its earliest days some, as would have been expected, have stepped aside from weekly participation. That being said, the majority of participants have remained and have, from its online nature, found it convenient to join from their own homes. Their regular participation has also helped their practice of prayer to develop significantly.

We continue to have one member who joins us from the United States which has added to the richness of the group. The group meets each Thursday evening beginning at 8.30pm and offers prayers of worship, confession, thanksgiving and intercession for ourselves, others, our church and the wider church, and current events in the world. One great outcome has been the opportunity to see prayers being answered both within our own circles and beyond. The beauty of the online platform is that we can cope with any number joining and we would encourage any others within the congregation to feel free to join us.

**Sunday School**

**Little Acorns**

Little Acorns Sunday School continues to be a hive of play, worship and learning. Each week we welcome our children into Sunday School by sharing our weekly news before taking time to celebrate any birthdays or special achievements.

We then move onto our weekly lesson and this year we are following the 'Click' Bible lessons which are tailored with language suitable for our young children as well as being packed full of lots of different crafts and activities!

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Once we have completed our lesson, the children are then encouraged to partake in an activity or craft to help cement their learning before engaging with the many different play activities set out which are aimed at encouraging their imagination and curiosity skills.

Whilst our numbers attending Little Acorns Sunday School can vary on a weekly basis, we consider it a real blessing to see every young child come through our doors and we love to welcome each child every week to hear about their news and encourage the beginnings of their journey of faith.

This year we have made some changes to our adult helper system with each lesson being planned and delivered by either Eileen or Nikki but supported by several people from the congregation each week. We are very grateful to each helper for their support and enthusiasm each week!

Our aim in Little Acorns Sunday School continues to be to get our young children excited and interested in learning about the Bible and to understand just how much they are loved and valued.

In December 2023 Little Acorns Sunday School took to the stage to perform our Nativity along with some wonderful help from the Oaks Sunday School. This was a fantastic performance and it was lovely to see the confidence of every child grow as they stepped on the stage.

I continue to be very grateful to the church and all the members for recognising this and supporting us in Sunday School. Every prayer, word of encouragement or smile is always greatly received and appreciated. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the parents of our young children for their support and to all leaders for their hard work and enthusiasm.

**Oaks**

Our Sunday School classes are now called Acorns (the seeds of faith being sown) and Oaks, (the word deepening and faith growing stronger). 2023 was marked with the addition of more families returning on a regular basis from the end of lockdown and it has been very encouraging to see the little upstairs room almost full every week with P4-P7 aged children (Oaks). Numbers of little ones however have fluctuated and sadly often there are as many leaders as children in Acorns.

Our Sunday Schools are prayed for every week in our church prayer groups. We ask for blessing in the lives of our children and families, we pray for guidance as we plan and deliver teaching which, in our increasingly secular age, needs to be clear, relevant and robust. Prayers have been answered for leaders and there is now a strong team to help each week and a body of volunteers to fill in when required.

The children are curious and eager to learn and we continue to use an explorative and interactive approach to learning the stories of Jesus and the teachings of His word. The Oaks have enjoyed learning about many different (and less well-known) characters in the Bible this year. These have often been challenging and uncomfortable stories to grapple with. They get the chance to meet them in person each week when the 'character' sits on the 'Hot Seat' to be interviewed. We have continued to help them contextualise their learning by inviting the P4-P7 classes to join the congregation to observe our communion services and using their knowledge of the books of the Bible to find the passages read each Sunday Service.

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We continue to love seeing the children from crèche coming to the front each week for the children's address and then out to crèche. We loved that they took part this year in the Nativity and acted and even spoke so well!

In our Nativity this year, the powerful story of Christmas was told in word, song, instrument and even dance. Even the smallest person had a part to play which was wonderful.

It was fantastic to have Soul Star (Bible class) join us in the music roles, and we thank them for being such good role models for the younger children coming behind them.

Two of our Oaks Sunday School members got the opportunity to travel to Senegal and work alongside their parents who were doing a Holiday Bible Club for the children of SiL and Wycliffe workers in the region - what an experience for them to go and then to 'report back' at church when they got home.

We give thanks to God for each child who comes along and we thank families for supporting us too. Looking ahead, we are excited at the opportunities we have here in Ballyholme as we partner with parents in the task of helping to lead boys and girls to love and serve Christ and his church.

**Soul Star**

Soul Star has a group of 5-6 core members that attend each week. In early January 4 members of Soul Star became communicant members of the church. To allow them to take communion Soul Star doesn't happen during the weeks of communion.

At the start of the year, we finished off the 24/7 prayer course that we started in 2022 which taught the young people different ways to pray to God and allowed time during the sessions to pray. We have also been using the Presbyterian Church in Ireland resource called Bite-size the first booklet in this resource is Identity it gets to the heart of some of life's big questions: Who am I? Who is God? Is God relevant to my daily life?

Each session Enables young people to understand key biblical truths about who they are in light of who God is and what he intends for their lives. The four areas we have looked at are:

- 1: WHO AM I? - We belong to God so our identity lies completely and eternally in Christ.
  - 2: WHO IS GOD? - God is the loving creator and controller of everything – we can trust him.
  - 3: TRINITY - God is a relationship of three persons but one God – we can know him.
  - 4: IMAGE OF GOD - We were created to show God to others and bring glory to him in our lives.
- We hope to continue with the next bit of the resource in 2024.

Each week in Soul Star we always share food and a hot chocolate or apple juice while chatting with everyone and finding out what they have been up to the previous week.

**Youth Fellowship**

At the beginning of the year, Jonny Farrel from Stand By Me visited us to share about the organisation's global work in providing essential needs. Inspired by this, we took turns sleeping on the floor to raise

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funds for beds in Ethiopia, successfully assisting four families. In February, we teamed up with Ballyholme Parish for a fun outing to watch the Belfast Giants at SSE Arena Belfast. March brought another collaboration with the parish for a youth weekend at Kilbroney Centre, where Rebecca from the organisation, Made for More shared about how Jesus is a good gardener. The weekend included a scavenger hunt in Kilbroney forest park and a campfire with toasted marshmallows. Our youth praise band led worship at each session.

We hosted a Cafe Church event with the Stand By Me team to shed light on their impactful global initiatives. Post-Easter, we indulged in Easter baking and craft-making, including an adventurous attempt at tie-dyeing t-shirts. Our celebrations continued with a lively party on May 7th to mark the Coronation, complete with pizza and homemade buns. As Summer approached, we embraced the warmer weather with outdoor activities like walks to Kingsland Park for ice cream, visits to Groomsport for games and hotdogs, and even a refreshing water fight.

Wrapping up the school year, we organized a delightful BBQ for all members and families cooked by Simon Liggett. After a summer break, we kicked off September with an exciting trip to Let's Go Hydro Aqua Park. During the half-term break, we hosted a series of engaging hangout events featuring various activities, worship led by our youth band, and insightful bible teachings by Andrew Watson from Ballyholme Parish.

December brought festive spirit with Youth Fellowship participating in the Ballyholme Christmas light switch-on event and hosting the Ballyholme Primary School P5 choir for a heartwarming Christmas service. To finish off the year, we attended the Carols by Candlelight service followed by a joyous YF Christmas party featuring plenty of pizza and a lively game of Secret Santa. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the dedicated leaders who generously volunteer their Sunday evenings to serve at Youth Fellowship.

Throughout the year, our Youth Fellowship group engaged in a variety of activities that brought us closer together and allowed us to make a positive impact on our community. From raising funds for Stand By Me to enjoying outings and events, we shared many memorable moments.

As the seasons changed, so did our activities - from sleeping on the floor to walking in the park, from tie-dye attempts to water fights, each experience brought us closer as a group. We learned about giving back, having fun, and growing together.

As we reflect on the year gone by, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who contributed their time and energy to make our Youth Fellowship a welcoming and enriching space. The memories we created will stay with us for a long time, reminding us of the joy and camaraderie we shared.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited for more adventures, more learning, and more opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you to all the leaders, members, and supporters who make our Youth Fellowship a special place to belong.

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**Flower Guild**

During this year, we had a great response to our appeal for new donations and strong support to provide flowers for most Sunday Services. This was through donations of both funds and flowers and we thank all those who contributed and also to a small group of dedicated folks who either arranged flowers, delivered flowers or both. We are truly thankful for all the small ways in which this important process works. Its importance is in the pleasure the distribution of flowers gives to members of our church family and the grateful thanks which they express in being remembered and also in the ways in which people who donate remember loved ones and mark special occasions.

This year we have also given beautiful flowers to celebrate birthday and anniversary milestones and these have been a welcome and special surprise.

We had special flowers for services celebrating Baptisms and at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The donations at harvest rather than flowers, fruit and vegetables were generous gifts of food and supplies for Storehouse.

We have received many heartfelt thanks for the gift of the flowers after a church service and we thank all those who have enabled that to continue.

**Events**

2023 has been a very busy and productive year for the Events Team. The Kings Coronation Big Lunch was held after church on Sunday 7 May 2023 raising £800.00 for the People's Kitchen and church funds. The top hall was full to bursting with members of all ages, families and friendship groups enjoying a lovely lunch and fellowship.

On Friday 7 August Fred Lawson, Flo Wilson's grandson, provided us with an evening of beautiful classical and Spanish guitar music in the Church raising £185 for the organ fund.

There was a full house on Sunday 3 September at the Church Barbecue with another opportunity for fellowship and lots of activities for families and friends including a bouncy castle and visits by the Fire Brigade and the Community Police.

An Evening of Song organized by Linda Snell, former professional opera singer, was held on Friday 22 September in the Church with supper provided by the Team. Our sincere thanks to Linda who donated the income of £700 to church funds.

Apple Pie and Cream were provided by the Team for Harvest after church on Sunday 8 October raising £273 for United Appeal.

Our first Christmas Craft Fair in many years was held on Saturday 11 November with over thirty stall holders raising an amazing £2,257. We hope to run this again next year. Cinderella and the three ugly sisters arrived in Ballyholme on Saturday 2 December to the delight of young and old. Great fun and laughter were had by all and £770 was raised once the company was paid.

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Theatrics one of the new groups using the upstairs meeting room on Wednesdays put on a performance in the Church on Friday 8 December and donated £150 to church funds.

The year ended with our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 17 December when everyone joined in fellowship to enjoy mince pies and cream and exchange Christmas greetings. Our thanks to the Events Team for all their hard work and contributions over a very busy year and to everyone in the congregation who contributed food, donated, helped us out and supported the various events during 2023.

**Storehouse North Down**

Storehouse North Down continues to provide a vital service to families in need in our community. This is due in no small part to the dedicated team of workers, volunteers, and supporters.

Storehouse North Down has had another busy 12 months. The cost of living crisis and the rise in energy bills continue to leave a lot of people struggling. Government help with cost of living payments has had some impact as the number of hampers given in 2023 was down slightly from our peak of in 2022. This year we gave out 2035 hampers as opposed to 2205 in 2022. The overall cost of the hampers however increased due to the rise in food prices. In 2023 the value of the hampers given out was £159,463.24 this included 608 Christmas Hampers to a value of £34,337.48. This was our busiest Christmas to date. These hampers continue to include enough food, cleaning products and toiletries to last an individual or a family for a whole week so each hamper consists of an average 7 bags of shopping. Therefore, over the year we have given out approximately 14,245 bags of shopping. The number of individuals that we helped during the year was 4116.

This year Sainsburys at Holywood Exchange donated £750.00 of Childrens Toys to include in our Christmas Hampers.

We are still supported with Fresh food from the farmers in Newtownards and we still receive best before food from Marks & Spencer and Mash direct.

We continue to be blessed with very generous support from local Churches, Schools, Businesses and individuals and we are very grateful for everyone's support.

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church continues to support Storehouse through regular weekly donations of food, toiletries and cleaning products and we have many members of the congregation who give generously of their time, money, and prayerful support. Our "Reverse Advent" project was a great way to support Storehouse and boost greatly depleted "stock" after the Christmas rush.

So many thanks for your continuing generous support throughout the past year.

1 John 3:18

'My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action'.

**Thursday Badminton Group**

We play from 10.00am until noon on Thursdays.

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We would welcome new members, male or female, of any age or ability. We get a bit of exercise and a very important cuppa. There's always a lot of laughter, do please think about joining us.

**New Horizons**

New Horizons is pleased to report a very successful year as we all settled back into normality after Covid. We changed the time of our meetings to morning to provide easier parking and most members are happy with that.

During the early part of 2023 we had various speakers including an illustrated talk on Guatemala. This was of special interest as we financially support a young girl from that area.

One of the most popular meetings required audience participation – favourite poems/texts/phrases. We both cried and laughed at some of the many presentations. It was a wonderful meeting as we got to know each other better.

A visit to the Mayor's Parlour in Bangor City Hall was a highlight and we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea. Our outing in May was to Ballycopeland Windmill, a conducted tour was included with a light lunch. We were pleased that Peter and Heather were able to join us on this occasion.

Thank you all for your loyalty and encouragement and thanks are due to our dedicated Committee – Audrey, Rosemary, Eileen and Geraldine.

If you wish to join us you will be made most welcome (men and ladies) we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 10.30am finishing at 12 noon. Lifts can be arranged by speaking to Muriel.

'In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths'.

Proverbs 3 v 6

**Making Mornings**

Making Mornings is an organisation within our church, open to anyone who has an interest in any form of craft work such as knitting, crochet, sewing etc. We meet on Wednesday morning from 10am-12noon in the Primary room, where we enjoy sharing our skills and ideas over a cuppa and snack.

At present we remain a small group of about 10 members.

2023 was a very interesting and exciting year for us as a group, as it saw us taking on some new and exciting challenges and expanding our skills within our local community.

The commitment and generosity of our members is second to none as we continue to effortlessly raise funding for worthwhile charities both local and further afield from the sale of our creations.

A total of £1,443 was made throughout the year of which £845 was made solely from our crafting sales.

All of the proceeds from our sales were gifted to our own church funds, and to local charities such as Women's Aid, NI Pancreatic Fund, NI Kidney Research Fund, Store House and People's Kitchen. We also donate knitted/crochet items to Salvation Army, Samaritans Purse and Tiny Life.

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In May, we all celebrated the King's coronation and our talented ladies enjoyed helping by producing some unique knits to help decorate the hall for our Church Family Coronation Lunch. Our own knitted King Charles and Queen Camilla welcomed everyone at the door!

After the summer break we started on a new project. We had been approached by Santa the previous Christmas to ask us if we could do a topper for our local Postbox at Ballyholme. Needless to say this challenge was met with great excitement and enthusiasm and was effortlessly designed and completed in time for the Christmas light switch on in Ballyholme. We were all completely overwhelmed by the attention and reaction this nativity scene topper received within our own community and we quickly gained quite a large following on social media. We were delighted that our Making Mornings Group had helped to portray the true meaning of Christmas through our talents.

In November we had a table at our church Christmas Craft Sale and we're able to raise £490 towards our church funds. At the end of June we had a lunch outing to Ballycopeland Windmill which we all enjoyed especially as the sun was shining.

In early December we had our annual Christmas dinner at Pier 36 and was a great way to celebrate our achievements throughout the year and look forward to new challenges for the coming year.

**Bowling Club**

The Indoor Bowling Club meets every Tuesday night at 7.30pm. This has always been a very enjoyable night and this year was no exception. We play friendly games and have good fun. We are hopeful that we can attract new members. At the end of the season last year the club members went out for a meal, this was a very successful night.

The club has some spare bowls if anyone would like to come along and try some bowling. You will be made very welcome.

**Parent & Toddlers**

Ballyholme Presbyterian Parent & Toddler group have enjoyed another year of friendships being formed and along with a cuppa and a lot of friendly chat.

Friday mornings continue to be a hub of activity starting at 10.00am and finishing at 11.30am with children and adults singing rhymes, this is a fun, lively time. My thanks to one of our mums for offering to take this activity. The children learn to socialize with each other and are offered a large variety of toys, crafts, jigsaws and physical equipment to help stimulate their development.

At the end of each term the children have a party and at Christmas we have a special visitor, Santa, who gives each child a small gift. At the end of the summer term when we are saying goodbye to some of the parents and children we provide a book for each child.

During the year from the donations we receive each week, we were able to provide flowers for the Communion Table, contribute to heat/light and give a donation to support our Youth Work.

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All this would not be possible except for the small team of volunteers from our church family who come along every Friday and help in so many different ways to make it the success it is. My thanks to all who give sterling service on Friday mornings.

We hope all who come along find Parent & Toddlers a place of welcome and sense the presence of God's love. We pray God will continue to bless this work in our church.

**Ladies Group**

Our Ladies Group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm.

In November we welcomed Lady Sylvia Hermon who told us of her early life and also gave an insight into her political career. Around 50 ladies attended and also enjoyed a question time at the end.

Our Christmas evening in December was definitely a highlight so far. One of our members, Dawn, gave a superb demonstration on how to ice and decorate Christmas cakes. Congratulations to Lynne, Audrey and Karen who each won a beautifully decorated cake to take home. We also had a surprise visit from Santa who distributed presents. Thanks to our friends from Making Mornings who gave a gift to each lady. Resulting from this, a donation was made to The People's Kitchen in Belfast. Our evening was made even more special as Ellie sang and played for us. Thank you to everyone involved for making it a great evening.

One of the most important parts of each evening is the coffee and biscuits at the end. It is lovely to see new faces and people chatting and getting to know each other.

Again, our thanks to Julie for her monthly reflexology sessions which have proved to be very popular.

**Mens Ministry Group**

Our new Mens Ministry Group continued to meet on a monthly basis during 2023. We had several very interesting speakers including David McManus from Air Ambulance NI, David McGinty (Management Consultant and former Royal Marine), Lady Sylvia Hermon, Brian Meharg from RNLI, Stephen Cameron (speaking about the Patricia Curran murder) and Sam Wolfenden (speaking about lessons from history).

We also enjoyed trips to the private cinema in Helen's Bay for a special screening of Hacksaw Ridge and a very informative tour of the Somme Museum. The year was completed with a delicious Christmas Dinner at The Esplanade followed by an entertaining talk from local journalist and author, Ivan Little – who really was phenomenal! Thank you to everyone for attending the meetings and I would extend an invitation to all men in the congregation to come along to enjoy the fellowship and craic.

Special thanks to Graham and his very capable deputies for keeping us well supplied with tea, coffee and treats.

**Preschool**

The children returned from their Christmas holidays, and we went straight into our "Signs of Winter theme." The children made snowmen and we played with Ice. However, it was so cold we stayed

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inside. The admissions for next year intake opened for the whole of January and due to a low birth rate we only filled 21 places, and we were able to take Pre Pre children this year.

The first term was busy, and we covered themes “All about me, Transport, and shapes.” Our themes of play are well thought out, creative and educational. The individual requirements of children with additional needs are carefully integrated into the daily plans.

Preschool has a good structure, with free play in the morning. Children have options including playing in a sectioned off area for physical play, role play, construction, art, craft, sand, dough, and water play. Snacking is a sociable experience for the children.

Before our half term break, we had our annual Social Services inspection; we were inspected on “Quality of Care – Part 2” The inspection went well with no recommendation for improvement.

As the weather improved, we were able to take the children outside to play, we calmly asked the children to get on their coats and we offer praise for completing the task themselves and lining up. The outdoor area is always checked for any potential hazards before use. We have several trikes and scooters, slide, seesaw, balancing beam, wooden kitchen, and musical instruments. We will space ourselves well outside to ensure a good level of supervision.

Children have songs/rhymes and story time before going home.

We held our annual open day in June and the new intake for September came to preschool to meet the preschool staff. We were also able to go on our annual outing to Springvale Farm.

In September the Key workers were assigned to the new children, and we set about our 3-week settling in routine. We got to know our new children and they got to know us. The preparations for the Nativity in December went well and we decided to hold the Nativity in the top hall, using the stage. The children enjoyed singing the songs and the Nativity was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. The staff/children’s interactions are always warm and positive. There is a lot of praise offered by the staff. Staff carry out regular observations of the children during play and we use this information to identify the next steps in learning.

The preschool provides a valuable service to the local community and maintains high numbers of registered children.

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rainbows**

On Friday evenings between 6pm and 7pm, the lower Erskine Hall is filled with a sea of red as the 7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rainbow troop descend for their weekly meeting!

Rainbows continues to be a place where girls aged 4-7 years are welcomed into the world of Girlguiding and take their first steps into what we hope is a lifelong affiliation with such a wonderful organisation.

Rainbows continues to grow in numbers and this year we currently have 25 girls on our register. It is wonderful to be able to see first-hand how the girls grow emotionally (and physically) during their 3 years with us.

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We continue to make great memories on Friday evenings in the lower hall where we have great fun playing games, making crafts and of course making lots of friendships! It is wonderful to see each girl come back week after week with a smile on their face, excited to see their friends and learn something new!

We continue to be ever grateful to Ballyholme Presbyterian Church for the use of their hall and for the support from the congregation. Special thanks also go to all of the dedicated team of leaders who have shown great commitment and enthusiasm, rarely missing a Friday night.

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Brownies**

At the beginning of the year three girls 'moved up' from Rainbows and two new starts joined, making a group of 21 Brownies.

A full and varied schedule of work though the year for the badge programme resulted in the girls gaining the Charities Interest badge, Explore (from Have Adventures section) and Influence (from Take Action section).

For the Friendship theme for the Thinking Day Service on 5<sup>th</sup> March the girls made bracelets and practiced Brownie Bells:

O Lord our God Your children call,  
Grant us Your peace and bless us all.

On the day, they sang this to 'shaker' accompaniment. All who came enjoyed the special guest Milo - a springer spaniel trained to enliven the Bible's message.

The annual sponsored Lorne Walk event, last held in 2018, took place in April. We walked along the coastal path from Crawfordsburn Country park, whilst using a scavenger hunt sheet to keep us going to our destination Lorne Girlguiding Ulster HQ. There we ate our packed lunches and finished off with smores and a campfire singsong. Money raised went to Girlguiding Ulster and our Brownie group.

On the evening of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May the usual meetings of Brownies, Rainbows, Guides and Rangers were repurposed for a King Charles Coronation party. The Girlguiding groups who usually meet in Groomsport joined with us and the leaders provided a variety of activities: crafts, disco, facepainting, temporary tattoos and a buffet of sweet stuff. Everyone left with a themed goodie bag including a specially designed badge.

Two Brownies left at the end of the year and have joined Guides.

In the Autumn five girls moved up from Rainbows and two new girls started and so our group grew to 26. This resulted in a tight squeeze into the room upstairs to learn the dance from the Barbie movie at the start of the new term.

For the first time we met at the cinema in Newtownards on 9<sup>th</sup> December to attend a specially organised screening of Disney's Wish, which, along with drinks and popcorn, was enjoyed by all, and everyone received a badge.

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Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, including a young leader-in-training and the young helper Guides, who lead, prepare, join in, and deliver the programme at each weekly meeting.

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Guides**

Guides continue to meet in the Erskine Hall every Friday from 7.45-9.30 pm. We provide a varied range of activities, including badgework, games, cookery, quizzes as well as outings, camps and indoor residential.

As is our custom, we started the year off by attending the pantomime at Bangor Abbey, which this year was Treasure Island.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers made a colourful addition to the congregation at our Thinking Day Service at the beginning of March. It was lovely to be back in church again after an absence of 2 years due to Covid restrictions. Friendship was the theme and we were joined by David and Amy, who brought their three springer spaniels, Milo, Grace and Hope. These dogs are trained by their owners to bring the gospel message through obedience tasks and tricks. Young and old in the congregation were enthralled and amused by the skills shown and it was interesting to hear and see the truths of the gospel brought in a different way. Also it was a great illustration of friendship, loyalty and trust. Four girls were presented with the Guide Gold Award. Three of these had missed out on receiving certificates, due to lockdowns, so it was lovely to have them at this service. One of the girls had moved on to our Rangers and the other two were helping with Brownies in another church. The other girl had just finished the Gold Award the previous Friday, so she was presented with both certificate and badge. She is now a Young Leader with us. We are always delighted to see our girls achieving. The Nan McKillen Award, the annual Thinking Day Competition for our Guide patrols was presented to Dolphin Patrol.

Mother's Day gifts were made and we continued with Guide programme activities over the next few weeks, concluding with meaningful Easter activities.

In our Church Halls on Friday 5 May 7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers joined with the units from 1<sup>st</sup> Groomsport to hold a King Charles III Coronation Party. This included crafts, food, disco, nail art and face painting.

Also in May, a trip to Dundonald for ten-pin bowling was enjoyed.

On a very warm Saturday 3 June, after an absence of a few years, we once again entered a six-member patrol for our County outdoor competition, the Ewing-Johnston Challenge, which was held at Crawfordsburn Scout Campsite. We weren't placed, but the girls had fun and it was good experience for them. After the Challenge, two more of our girls arrived and we, along with 3<sup>rd</sup> Holywood Guides, slept overnight at the site, lovely and cosy in our tents.

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Our usual, much-enjoyed, final evening at Lorne in June before the summer break, with each girl cooking on her own open fire, was highlighted by four Outdoor Cooking badges being gained. We finished with campfire singing round one of the fires and three girls said their Promise for the first time.

We held a three-night camp at Lorne 10-13 August, which was blessed by mostly good weather, until we were about to take the tents down, when it rained heavily! This meant leaving the tents on site and a trip back to Lorne by one of the leaders a couple of days later when the weather had improved to finally get them taken down, packed up and brought home. Despite this, it was lovely spending a few days living in the outdoors, enjoying meals cooked on an open fire. During this camp we took a trip on the train to Lisburn for water fun at Lagan Valley Leisureplex, which the girls always enjoy.

We were pleased that several new girls joined us in September, some from Brownies and some who brought friends.

The popular Army Skills Builder Day, run by Girlguiding Ulster and the Army, was held in Palace Barracks at the beginning of October and three of our girls attended, along with the two leaders. The girls took part in leadership activities, First Aid, healthy camp skills, fixing activities including basic car maintenance.

During our Harvest Party in October, the girls came dressed as farmers and we all enjoyed an evening of harvest-themed games and activities, finishing with hot chocolate and campfire singing.

In November, we joined many other organisations taking part in the Remembrance Sunday Service in Ward Park and after the service paraded round Bangor. We also provided a flag bearer for our service in church.

Activities involving food are always popular and during the year we made butter, jambons, crispie buns and s'mores. We relaxed on one occasion by blowing bubbles. We completed several fun badges – Butterfly Challenge, Seahorse Challenge and ABC Challenge. We also had two of our Rangers visit our meeting on a couple of occasions to demonstrate First Aid.

It is pleasing to see the girls loyally attending each week. We are always glad to welcome new members. Please continue to hold us in your prayers.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rangers**

This year we had lots of outings, things to celebrate and the unit is continuing to thrive. We kickstarted the year with a winter residential at Lorne where the girls undertook many activities including climbing, abseiling, team building and a pizza party! We also had several new members make their promises around a campfire in the dark of night and we had a campfire singalong to celebrate. This was a great weekend for the girls to let their hair down and relax before exam season started.

During the Spring term we focused on community action and helping the community so we spent a night at Tesco collecting supplies for the Bangor Foodbank and then spent another night visiting the premises of the Bangor Foodbank learning all about how they help the community and where our

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donations would be going. It is such a brilliant facility, and the girls were surprised to see how much the centre does to provides for the community.

In May the Rangers came together with the rest of the sections in Ballyholme and Groomsport for a special coronation party to celebrate our new King. The Rangers helped man all the stations which included face painting, crafts, supervising the tea party and providing a disco and dance for the young sections. They all did a fabulous job at helping and were great role models for the younger sections to look up to. For our last night of term before summer and a new Guiding year, we had our first ever sleepover in the church halls which the girls were really looking forward to! We had pizza, lots of snacks, did some crafts and watched some movies. It was really relaxing and the perfect way to end the term.

We were thrown into September with lots planned including filling Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse, an escape room, a night in Karly's salon in Ballyholme learning how to style hair and a trip to Palace Barracks for an Army Skills day. In October, we had 4 Rangers complete an abseil down the Europa hotel to raise money for both the unit and for charity - they were very, very brave for doing this!

Two great events concluded our 2023 year, the first of which was our annual visit to the Stormont Parliament Buildings as part of 'UK Parliament Week' organised by Girlguiding Ulster, where the girls got a tour of Stormont as well as having a Q&A with several local MLAs. The last event of the year was the long-awaited county trip to the Waterfront pantomime to see 'Rapunzel' with over 150 girls and leaders and included lots of singing, dancing and shouting, the girls had an absolute ball and of course there was even a badge! We are looking forward to the year ahead as our unit continues to grow and flourish.

## **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.

Rev Peter Lyle

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Annual return

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

**Independent Examiners Report**

**For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Charity Number CCNI105128**

## **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Ballyholme Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, which are set out on the Statement of Financial Activities.

### **Respective responsibilities of the charity Trustee 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 s65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under s65(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 Church accounts as required under s65 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 s65(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:

- That accounting records were not kept in accordance with s63 of the Charities Act
- That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 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 listed above and, in connection with the following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that need to be brought to your attention.

*William McAdam FRCV*

Stanley Woods & Company  
Certified Accountants  
Alexander House  
49/51 Church Street  
Newtownards  
BT23 4AN

Date: 28 April 2024

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Accounts

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

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

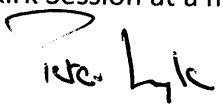
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	111,069.02	47,556.41		158,625.43	147,241.91
Charitable activities	3	1,344.40			1,344.40	868.10
Other trading activities	4					
Investment Income	5	232.47	915.62		1,148.09	942.53
Other	6		66,223.72		66,223.72	62,789.83
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sale of Investments						
Sale of fixed assets						
Loans Received						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Receipts</b>		112,645.89	114,695.75		227,341.64	211,842.37
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	344.71			344.71	301.51
Charitable activities	8	114,119.12	91,083.69		205,202.81	209,160.38
Investment costs						
Other	9					
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchase of Investments						
Purchase of fixed assets						
Loan Repayments						
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Payments</b>		114,463.83	91,083.69		205,547.52	209,461.89
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts / (payments)		-1,817.94	23,612.06		21,794.12	2,380.48
Transfers between funds						
-in		13,077.79	2,050.00		15,127.79	94,482.10
-out			15,127.79		15,127.79	94,482.10
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		11,259.85	10,534.27		21,794.12	2,380.48
Net decrease in GIF investment value				-4,653.14	-4,653.14	
Funds brought forward		47,391.95	123,486.22	101,541.95	272,420.12	288,713.05
Funds carried forward	12	58,651.80	134,020.49	96,888.81	289,561.10	272,420.12
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====


**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As at 31 December 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	47,391.95	123,486.22	44,937.76	215,815.93	288,713.05
Net movement in funds	11,259.85	10,534.27		21,794.12	-72,897.12
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank and Cash at end of year	58,651.80	134,020.49	44,937.76	237,610.05	215,815.93
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Bank Deposit Accounts		3,551.26		3,551.26	3,367.34
Bank Current Accounts	58,430.37	130,469.23	44,937.76	233,837.36	212,157.95
Cash in Hand	221.43			221.43	290.64
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	58,651.80	134,020.49	44,937.76	237,610.05	215,815.93
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets – Note 10					
- Church Premises					
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment					
- Vehicles					
Investments – Note 11			51,951.05		
Gift Aid receivable on donations					
			-----	-----	-----
			96,888.81		
			=====	=====	=====
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans					
Other					
				-----	-----
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 19 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Rev. Peter Lyle 

Joan Hunter 

Date 4/10/23

Date 4/10/23

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**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	81,129.70	22,762.79		103,892.49	99,103.27
Loose collections	1,557.78	83.68		1,641.46	842.13
Donations and gifts		10,486.10		10,486.10	14,967.16
Gift Aid	17,352.53	5,212.85		22,565.38	21,814.35
Legacies and bequest	20,040.00			20,040.00	10,515.00
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	120,080.01	38,545.42		158,625.43	147,241.91
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 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					
Fees from weddings and funerals					540.00
Fundraising events	1,344.40			1,344.40	328.10
Membership fees					
Grants					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1,344.40			1,344.40	868.10
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**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
Trading income					0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**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		0.32		0.32	49.82
General Investment Fund	232.47	915.30		1,147.77	892.71
Rents investment properties					
Other investment income					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	232.47	915.62		1,148.09	942.53
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 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>
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims					
Other income	893.71	300.00		1,193.71	295.00
Organisations Income		65,030.01		65,030.01	62,494.83
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	893.71	65,330.01		66,223.72	62,789.83
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**7. RAISING FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	344.71			344.71	301.51
Fundraising events					
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	344.71			344.71	301.51
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	9,016.00			9,016.00	11,041.00
Presbytery fees	923.00			923.00	923.00
Ministry and support staff costs	78,246.07	56.59		78,302.66	86,194.60
Congregational running expenses	22,053.16	14,188.05		36,241.21	26,099.53
Donations to Missions and charities	1,337.00	22,549.63		23,886.63	15,609.90
Governance costs	2,543.89	579.00		3,122.89	6,235.44
Organisations		53,710.42		53,710.42	63,056.91
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	114,119.12	91,083.69	0	205,202.81	209,160.38
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Annual report

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**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**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 (NIC105128)**

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 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 2022 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
46, Ashley Drive  
Bangor  
BT20 5RD  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105128)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Peter Lyle	Joan Hunter
David Adgey	Susan Adgey
Simon Liggett	Steven Hamilton
Hazel Larmour	John Luke
Tom McAvoy	William McCoubrey
Mervyn Menown	Hilary Millar
Ronald Patton	Lesley Reid
Francis Russell	Rosemary Rutledge
Muriel Smyth	Stuart Stevenson
Audrey Titterington	Michael White

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev. P.C. Lyle
Clerk of Session	Mrs. Joan Hunter
Treasurer	Mr. A. R. S. Stevenson

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mr Dean Coulter  
77 Green Road  
Ballyclare  
BT39 9PH

**BANKERS**

Danske Bank, Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor  
Ulster Bank, Springhill Shopping Centre, Bangor

## **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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month excepting July and August.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member, a contributor to the Free Will Offering and a regular attendant at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Nominated members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote at a special congregational meeting.

### **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. Ballyholme Presbyterian Church congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards 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 from congregations within the Presbytery, an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation and other invited representatives.

### **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

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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, a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation and other invited representatives from various areas of church life.

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

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

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church 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 purposes are by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our 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.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

## **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations and activities including: -

- Sunday School
- Parents and Toddlers
- New Horizons
- Presbyterian Women
- Youth Council
- My Church
- Men's Group
- Badminton
- Sunday Crèche
- Youth Fellowship
- Praise Band
- Bowling Club
- Pre-School Group
- After Service Tea/Coffee
- Flower Guild
- Prayer Ministry
- Making Mornings
- Ramblers
- Soul Star

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Worship and prayer**

2022 saw a return to full in person, non restricted services of worship. This was a huge relief and joy following the Covid years. Through the year we saw our numbers growing back towards pre-pandemic levels. The musical elements of the services were led primarily by a worship band who had brought us through all of the online lock down services. They were also supported by an organist who came to play on average once per month and also for any Weddings and funerals which the church hosted. In spite of the in person return we maintained a weekly streaming of the service on our YouTube channel which allowed for others to view during the week. This decision was taken in consideration of older members who did not feel confident enough to come into such a large crowd and also the possibility that there may be those watching who for whatever reason would not feel comfortable entering a church building. We also maintained our nightly evening prayer posts on Facebook, allowing participants to be led through a short act of worship. This was also emailed to the whole congregation on Monday morning.

The after service refreshments saw a significant increase in numbers with a majority of the congregation staying on each week for tea/coffee and chat and for increasingly longer periods. This time seemed to really provide people with much needed conversation and company.

During Easter Holy Week it was great to meet in person once again with the other churches in Ballyholme as we shared Holy Week Services in Ballyholme Methodist Church and our traditional

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

Dawn Service on Ballyholme where we were joined by other churches from outside the Ballyholme area.

In the spring we commenced an Alpha Course which ran very successfully through until early May. This comprised of weekly meetings during which we watched the video presentation and then had discussion based around the issues raised. About 2/3 through the course we had a full day event focusing on teaching around the subject of the Holy Spirit. Such was the success that participants requested follow up which was facilitated through the Life Explored Course.

By the end of the year Communion, baptisms, Harvest and our Christmas services had all returned to their pre-pandemic practice.

**Pastoral care**

Pastoral care also saw a return to pre-pandemic practices through the year as Home visits were permitted by the Church authorities and hospitals and Care Homes began to facilitate pastoral visits once again. Some lock down practices such as recording a funeral service and making it available on YouTube have continued as families embraced it to allow family in other parts of the world or who were unable to attend to watch. The major challenge has been to encourage the congregation to inform us of illness as during Covid this had fallen away significantly. By the end of the year we were starting to see improvement in us being notified.

Our prayer Ministry continued with the recommencement of the in person Prayer Group which is on Tuesday mornings. This worked hand in hand with an online Prayer Time using the Zoom platform. Members of the congregation can request prayer for themselves, family members or friends. They also pray for the work of the congregation as a whole.

**Mission and outreach**

As with many things the limits of mission and outreach were curtailed due to Covid regulations. However, in another sense, our outreach stretched much further through the online platforms of YouTube and Facebook streaming our services each week. Most of our groups and organisations who use our facilities during the year were unable to meet until we reached the autumn when some started to recommence their activities.

Our Youth work saw significant growth as young people enjoyed the chance to meet together again. Our team has been very creative in their approach and this has paid off as those coming along started to bring along their friends. In the autumn they also started to attend The Gathering, an inter church event based in First Bangor Presbyterian. They also had some trips to other events such as Summer Madness, Ice Hockey matches and other such fun events. Such has been the encouragements from this part of the work that at the end of the year we appointed a Youth Worker to take up post at the start of 2023. This we look forward to with a great sense of anticipation.

We have continued to be part of new community group that has developed in the area called Love Ballyholme. One of our young men sits on the Committee. The group ran a number of community based events through the year culminating in a much larger Christmas Tree switch on event in

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

December. At this choirs from Ballyholme Primary and St Columbanus College performed. We are very encouraged to be a part of something that is so community based.

Prior to Christmas we sent out Christmas Cards to the surrounding neighbours with an invitation to our Christmas services and we did see visitors joining with us over the period. We also joined with the neighbouring churches in singing Carols in the village the week before Christmas.

Our support of emergency appeals, Christian Aid, Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child and Water Aid , Salvation Army Christmas Appeal and Storehouse North Down have all been supported by the congregation.

We also are the home Church for a family serving in Senegal with Wycliffe Bible Translators. They visited home and church in the summer of 2022.

**Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Ards Presbytery at which we are represented by our minister and one of the elders who also served on the Business Committee of the Presbytery. As Presbytery oversees the work of the congregations it is good to participate in the wider work of the church and hear about the local work of Presbyterian Churches.

**General Assembly**

The General Assembly met in June 2022 in Assembly Building in Belfast. The congregation was represented by our Minister and Clerk of Session.

**Property**

None

**ORGANISATIONS**

**Music Ministry**

The Praise Group has been going from strength to strength this year and we are delighted that we have had some new recruits join us. Cherry is regularly leading praise on piano while Ellie has moved from being an occasional to a regular member of the Praise Band. We were delighted that Ellie performed her own composition 'I can see' on a number of Sundays during this year.

God has blessed our congregation with musically gifted people and we are always on the lookout for others to join the Praise Group so if you feel that God is leading you to make use of your talents to play and/or sing in church, come and have a chat with any of us.

The Praise Group is supported in the Music Ministry by June and Christopher on the organ playing on Sundays when the Praise Group is not available and we are appreciative of the support June can provide at funeral services during the week.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
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**Prayer Ministry**

Prayer Ministry meet every Tuesday morning at 11.00am. There are two prayer request boxes, one in the Church Reception area and one in the Halls Receptions area.

All requests are strictly confidential and we pray at least one month for each one. There is spoken prayer and silent prayer and we know our Heavenly Father hears and answers each one according to His will.

We have much to thank God for and much to seek His love and guidance for.

A very warm welcome is extended to all to come and join us, we would love to have you.

**Zoom Prayer Time**

The Zoom Prayer Group continues to meet, as the name suggests, on the Zoom platform every Thursday night at 8.10pm. We continue to have one member who joins us from Texas in the United States. It is an additional prayer time to the Tuesday morning group.

We pray for the congregation in all it's needs - the ministry of the congregation, the bereaved and ill, the work of the Elders, the finances of the church and the various groups and organisations who meet regularly through our Church. We also pray for the wider Presbyterian Church and world affairs.

We see this to be a vital part of our church as we believe God's Spirit moves us to pray and responds to the prayers that we bring to Him. We have been inspired by some very clear answers to prayer during the year and many blessings have flown from this committed time.

Prayer is the engine room of the church, without it, we run on empty. We encourage all our members of our congregation to see this vital role and consider joining with us.

**Sunday School**

**Little Acorns**

Ballyholme's younger Sunday School has undergone some big changes over the past year, the first of which is the change in name to 'Little Acorns'. We are also extremely grateful to have two new leaders join our team both Eileen and Sue have been wonderful assets to the team.

Our numbers have continued to grow each week and it has been a real blessing to see more and more young children come through our doors and we love to welcome each child every week to hear about their news and encourage the beginnings of their journey of faith.

We have continued to induct a play-based curriculum which allows our young children to explore the stories in the Bible through accessing a range of different play activities aimed at encouraging their imagination and curiosity skills.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

Our aim in Little Acorns Sunday School continues to be to get our young children excited and interested in learning about the Bible and to understand just how much they are loved and valued. December 2022 also saw us back on the stage for the first time post Covid in our Nativity performance which was a joint debut with the older Sunday School and Soul Star – we all had great fun and again a big thanks to all the leaders for helping us bring it all together as well as some special help from Rachel and Jillian.

I continue to be very grateful to the church and all the members for recognising this and supporting us in Sunday School. Every prayer, word of encouragement or smile is always greatly received and appreciated. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the parents of our young children for their support and to all leaders for their hard work and enthusiasm.

**Junior**

Our Sunday Schools are prayed for every week in our church prayer groups. We ask for blessing in the lives of our children and families, we pray for guidance as we plan and deliver teaching which, in our increasingly secular age, needs to be clear, relevant and robust. Therefore, we have been rejoicing this year, not only at the growing numbers returning after covid-19 restrictions, but in the attention and engagement of our children to the curriculum we deliver. Our Sunday School classes are full of interested, curious and questioning children, keen to listen and to be challenged in their faith as we have explored amongst other things, stories from the Minor Prophets, Paul's missionary journeys and learning the books of the Bible by heart. Our sessions are explorative and interactive and as the children get older we try to make the teaching contextual too - our P4-P7 classes have been joining the congregation to observe our communion services and using their knowledge of the books of the Bible to find the passages read each Sunday Service.

We have loved introducing some of crèche children into Sunday School and must highlight the joy it has been to welcome our beautiful new Hong Kong members each Sunday, it is wonderful to have them as part of our church family now.

Another matter for prayer this year has been to grow our teams of teachers. We are so thankful that many have volunteered to help and be called upon, when necessary, to support the regular team. All of these volunteers bring valuable skills and an ability to get alongside the children in a meaningful way.

It was great to be able to hold our annual Nativity in person again this year and to have some very skilful acting and singing to help us celebrate Christ's coming into our world. How wonderful to have the problem that we couldn't fit all of our children on to the stage at the one time - blessing indeed! It was fantastic to have Soul Star (Bible class) join us in the narration and music roles, and we thank them for being such good role models for the younger children coming behind them.

Several of our families took up the challenge to take "Blaze" the bee on holiday with them, and it was lovely to see the pictures of where he got to. We hope that this very valuable way to explore what God is doing in churches in other parts of the world will continue this year.

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
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We give thanks to God for each child who comes along and we thank families for supporting us too. Looking ahead, we are excited at the opportunities we have here in Ballyholme as we partner with parents in the task of helping to lead boys and girls to love and serve Christ and his church.

**Soul Star**

At present Soul Star meets most Sunday mornings during the service. It is for young people from year 8 and above. There are up to ten young people attending, though this varies from week to week. The purpose of Soul Star is to provide an opportunity for the young people to read and study the Bible, discover more about Christianity and develop their relationship with God. It is also a great opportunity for them to ask questions and talk through issues and challenges that they are facing at this stage in their lives.

We have recently started a new course called Origins 24/7 prayer. The content includes short videos to watch, questions and discussion. A relaxed and informal atmosphere is encouraged, aided by hot chocolate and snacks!

It is super to see the young people returning each week and warmly welcome any young person who would like to come along.

**Youth Fellowship**

2022 was a busy year at Youth Fellowship with the group carrying out many different activities throughout the year with plenty of opportunities to encounter God.

Early in the year a few members from YF went on a youth weekend to Moira along with Ballyholme Parish where we stayed in St John's Parish Hall.

In February we were joined by Kings Youth Fellowship and Aisling from Scripture Union who delivered a workshop on how to be a Christian in school, we finished the night playing video games - a lot of competition on Mario Kart!

In March we went on a trip to the Dundonald Ice Bowl along with Kings YF, we had the choice of either ice skating or crazy golf. Over 30 young people enjoyed this outing with minimal injuries sustained.

We had a visit from Love For Life running a programme over 3 weeks called "Game on". The programme is designed to guide young people as they build healthy relationships. They are encouraged to play the leading role in respecting themselves and others in all their relationships. In May they returned to have a night with parents to empower them and address 'growing up' issues. We explored practical methods of communication and how to understand healthy boundaries for relationships.

At YF we really enjoy a night of baking and this year we made cheesecake in an Easter egg and made a range of pastry treats throughout the year.

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At the end of June the church had a family BBQ. Afterwards, YF stayed on for an hour and acted like big kids on the bouncy castle. We shared some of our highlights from the previous school year, this was a really special time together.

At the start of the summer a group of 4 young people went to Summer Madness (a Christian festival) that was held in Portglenone. During the festival Pete Greig was sharing from 24/7 Prayer on how to pray and we enjoyed different activities around the campsite including canoeing and going to different seminars. We would like to give a massive thank you to Bangor Elim for allowing us to join them for meal times and providing our food while we were there.

When YF started again in September we went on a day Trip to Greenhill YMCA (Outdoor activity centre) in Newcastle. We had a great day catching up and getting to do some incredible activities including bouldering up Bloody Bridge, Zip Line and Archery. We even got the leaders into wetsuits and on the zip lines.

In October we took a trip to see Circus Extreme in Belfast and we were all amazed at the many different stunts that were performed and we did lots of laughing at the clown.

In the run up to Christmas, two members of our congregation joined us who had been in Belarus in 2013 handing out shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They showed us pictures from their trip and instructed us on how to pack shoe boxes. As a group we completed a few shoe boxes.

Love Ballyholme (a local community group) were looking for young people to help Santa as his elves for the Christmas light switch on in Ballyholme. A few of our YF members were able to help out and were an incredible help to Santa as they passed out candy canes to children in the crowd.

One of our highlights from the past year is the night when we arrived at the church for YF and it had snowed. We had a snow ball fight for the first half of the night followed by watching a Christmas movie which really got us in the mood for Christmas.

On the last night of YF in December we finished off the year with a pizza party and the members from making mornings kindly made us some knitted gifts.

Throughout the year we continued to attend The Gathering, an event held in First Bangor. This year we made it to four of their events on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

I would like to thank all the leaders who have given up their Sunday nights to invest in our young people and parents who have helped out at various times. If any young people would like to find out about joining in the fun or adults interested in volunteering at YF please contact me.

### **Mens Ministry Group**

Our new Mens Ministry Group commenced in April with an informal gathering for tea, coffee, treats and chat. During the year we had a wide variety of speakers including Paul Blair (Vascular Surgeon), Mark Robson (TV Presenter and Sports Commentator) and our own Stephen Cameron, speaking about the Princess Victoria disaster. We also enjoyed a very informative walking tour of Ballyholme

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led by local Architect and Historian, Ken Best. The year was rounded off with a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner at The Esplanade Restaurant. Thank you to everyone for attending the meetings and I would encourage all the men in the congregation to come along – you will be most welcome. Special thanks to Graham for providing the tea and coffee and to Ruth for a regular supply of treats !

**Flower Guild**

During the year, donations were made to the flower guild and a small number of people arranged the flowers at the front of the church for Sunday Services. The onward gift of the flowers is very much appreciated by the recipients and so these small acts of kindness reflect our fellowship as a church family. These flowers were used to mark a variety of life events, some celebrating a happy occasion-notable birthdays (including 100!), 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries, those recovering from illness or families who have recently been bereaved.

We would like to thank all those who donated funds and flowers throughout the year and especially the small group who are committed to arranging and distributing the flowers in church. Over time we have had reduced contributors to this work and so we welcome new donors.

We had special flowers for services celebrating Baptisms and at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The donations at harvest rather than flowers, fruit and vegetables were generous gifts of food and supplies for Storehouse.

We have received many heartfelt thanks for the gift of the flowers after a church service and we thank all those who have enabled that to continue.

**Events**

Events were re-introduced to the Church calendar in the second half of the year and by the end, half a dozen opportunities to meet, share and enjoy were delivered. Some of the established events remained the same and others changed completely.

The events team supported Youth Fellowship's Family BBQ in June: cooking food, serving drinks, face painting and organising a visit by an ice cream van.

In September the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen was shown in the church hall, and attendees could take the opportunity to watch the TV coverage of this historical occasion on a 'big screen'.

In October, Events reinstated serving slices of apple tart following the Harvest service, and mince pies after Carols by Candlelight on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Instead of the Christmas Fair, the team supported both a sale of handmade work, and a pantomime performance. The Making Mornings Winter Craft Sale in November was the first for a couple of years. The events team sold tea and coffee alongside brisk sales of the hand-crafted decorations, accessories, toys and gifts.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December the church hall was transformed with theatre style seating, stage lighting and film posters on the noticeboards, whilst interval refreshments were prepared. Later on 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin Theatre Company's performance of Aladdin was very well received.

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Thanks must go to the depleted Events team for producing such a successfully regenerated Events schedule, and to all those who donated and supported.

**Storehouse North Down**

Storehouse has seen a big increase in demand over the last 12 months. The cost of living crisis and the rise in energy bills has left a lot of people struggling. In 2022 we gave out 2,205 Hampers to a value of £156,973.95. This included 499 Christmas hampers to a value of £29,963.04. We try to include enough food, cleaning products and toiletries to last an individual or a family for a whole week so each hamper consists of an average 7 bags of shopping. Therefore over the year we have given out approximately 15,435 bags of shopping.

2022 also saw the war in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees arriving in Northern Ireland. North Down YMCA is working closely with the Ukrainians and we have been supplying food parcels to them on a regular basis through referrals from them.

In addition to these hamper values we also give out fresh food as we are still supported by the farmers in Newtownards and still receive best before fresh food from Marks & Spencers. Just recently we have also struck up a relationship with Mash Direct who are now donating their pre pack vegetables to us on a regular basis. So our hampers continue to have a good selection of fresh food as well as non-perishable food.

This year the Post Office and Hendersons donated £10.00 One for All gift cards which we were able to give out with each of our Christmas Hampers.

We have continued to be very generously supported by Churches, Businesses, Schools and individuals and are very grateful for everyone's support.

**Thursday Badminton Group**

Join us on Thursday mornings between 10am-12 noon for a bit of exercise, a lot of fun and a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. All welcome male and female.

**New Horizons**

Since our re-opening in March 2022 after the Covid pandemic, we have been really encouraged. Now a group of enthusiastic members meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Several new members bring our numbers to around 20.

We were greatly saddened recently by the death of one of our foundation members – Helen Gault. Along with Rev Andrew and Philippa Todd, Helen and Jack Gault formed the group in 1986. Helen was always anxious to help and attended meetings until her health prevented that. She will be much missed and pray for her family members at this sad time.

Unfortunately our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to visit the Mayor's Parlour had to be postponed due to the death of our late Queen. It will now take place in March 2023. Other meetings were Consumer Affairs giving very welcome advice on conserving energy. November meeting was very popular – and illustrated talk on Belfast Department Stores of the past.

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In December our Christmas Party had to be cancelled due to Arctic conditions. However we are looking forward to a representative from Adopt-a-Child at our January meeting to speak about conditions in Guatemala. Our Adopt-a-Child Lesbia lives there and we support her every month and get letters from her. The scheme improves conditions for the whole family and I know it is very much appreciated.

It is said: 'If you educate man you educate an individual, if you educate a woman you educate a whole nation.'

It is important for us to pray and support our members and most especially for all our brothers and sisters in all parts of the world who are experiencing hardship.

Thanks are due to our hardworking Committee – Audrey (Treasurer), Rosemary (Deputy Treasurer), Eileen, Geraldine, Barbara and Hilary (tea hostesses).

Come and join us new members are always welcome.

### **Making Mornings**

Making Mornings meets weekly on a Wednesday morning from 10am-12md in Primary Room.

We were delighted to get back to some form of normality following the restrictions that the pandemic had caused over the previous two years.

Making mornings experienced a very busy and exciting 2022 with lots of new ideas and plans for a craft sale sometime in the near future.

Despite no significant increase in our members, we still had a steady attendance each week.

Throughout the year we continued to produce and sell a variety of unique items and build up a good stock for a hoped for church craft sale. We were delighted and more than ready to be able to join forces with the Events team to host a Coffee Afternoon and Craft Sale on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

This turned out to be a fantastic opportunity to raise £863.50 from the sale of our crafts alone and combined with the tea and coffee that the events team provided, a total of £1025.50 was able to be given to our own church funds.

We also like to support other charities both local and overseas and a further donation of £100 went to the Ukraine appeal, £75 to our local Storehouse and £25 to our Youth Fellowship. We also donated crafted items to Salvation Army Christmas appeal and Samaritans purse shoe boxes.

Despite everyone working hard, we still had some good fun and joined in celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a coffee morning at the Heritage Centre and walk round the Walled Garden.

We met weekly from January to June in the upstairs room, but as most of us found the stairs a challenge we requested the use of the Primary room when we returned in September after the summer break. This has been a great success and has allowed us to facilitate all our members.

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We ended our year in early December with our Christmas dinner in Donaghadee where we joined forces with the helpers of Parent and Toddler group and enjoyed a Christmas feast.

Unfortunately the weather and Christmas holidays did not allow for us to meet up again until the New Year.

Although we remain a small group, the commitment and generosity of all our members is truly amazing. Each member brings their unique talent to the group which we pool together to enable us to support our own church but also the local community and charities further afield. In so doing we enjoy a great friendship and fellowship that cements our group and makes it so special and what we create a true labour of love.

Anyone with an interest in crafting please feel free to come and join us for a cuppa and share in this small but productive team.

**Bowling Club**

The Indoor Bowling Club meets on Tuesday nights at 7.30 pm. This has always been a very enjoyable night and this year was no exception. We welcomed three new members and are hopeful there may be more. The club has spare bowls if anyone would like to come along and try some bowling.

**Parent & Toddlers**

In March 2020 Parent & Toddlers came to an abrupt end due to Covid. Two years later in May 2022 we opened our doors for a few weeks before the summer holidays. Our numbers attending quickly grew! Parents, childminders and grandparents were glad to get back, for them it was a sign of normality returning after Covid and their children were able to socialise with their peers once more. We closed again in the middle of June with a party and each child received a gift.

September quickly came around, our doors once again opened and the hall quickly filled with parents and toddlers.

Friday mornings during term time between 10.15 and 11.45am is a hive of activity with toddlers and babies enjoying a good range of toys, crafts, jigsaws and physical equipment while their parents/carers relax and chat. At 10.45am the children sit down to their snack while their parents enjoy a cuppa and their own delicious eats. The morning ends with parents and children joining together singing rhymes. Thanks to those who are so willing to help with this activity.

Our year ended with a Christmas party and of course Santa's arrival, much to the delight of everyone attending.

During the year we were able to provide flowers for the Communion Table, contribute to Heat and Light and at Christmas in place of our weekly donations we made a collection for charity and were delighted to give £100 to Kidz4School Tanzania.

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Our aim is to provide an atmosphere of caring and friendship. We believe as leaders of the group we can display the love of Jesus in a practical way by caring and commitment to those who attend.

Thanks to everyone who help to make Parent & Toddlers a success, from the dedicated team who turn up every Friday to work with the children and adults, the ladies who help with refreshments, our Treasurer and those who turn up at the end of the session to help clear up the hall. All help is greatly appreciated.

We thank God for the way He has blessed our group and pray for His continued blessings as we endeavour to do His work.

**Preschool**

The children returned from their Christmas Holidays full of news of Santa and Christmas presents.

The staff returned minus our Deputy leader who had moved to England at the end of December 2021. We were very fortunate that Andrea who had previously been an Assistant already held the qualification necessary to fill this post and following an interview process with the Management Committee and by Social Services she commenced in the role.

Our year continued as normal exploring different themes each week and making good use of our outdoor play area.

Our first Welcome Day for 2 years was held in June and the new intake for September were able to visit and meet the staff. We were also able to go on our annual outing to Springvale Farm.

The P1 teachers came to see the children once again to chat to the children who were transferring to Ballyholme Primary School. Our last day of term was 29 June and we said goodbye to not only the children but to our Assistant Jackie who was retiring to look after her grandchildren, she will be greatly missed. A recruitment process took place in June and Adel was appointed as our new Assistant.

We welcomed Adel to the group in late August when new children started. The parents were once again able to come into the building with their child to settle them in. It was great to meet parents face to face informally and hear the buzz of chatter in the reception area as they dropped off and picked the children up instead of the regimented lines in the car park we had during the Covid pandemic.

The children settled and they started to make friends and got to know the Preschool staff. Very quickly we started to prepare the children for the Annual Nativity we were allowed to hold it in the Church and the parents could come and see their child preform for the first time in 2 to 3 years and was enjoyed by all. Ellie came to sing, and everyone was blown away by her voice. Santa came on the last day of term for our Christmas Party.

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We are grateful for the support we receive from Kirk Session and Church Committee, the Management Committee members and the Honorary Church members who voluntarily serve each year.

It was a busy year and we have seen thankfully some type of normality return and we really hope that this continues. There is nothing like face to face contact with parents and long may this continue!

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rainbows**

Rainbows continue to grow in numbers and this year we currently have 27 girls on our register. It is wonderful to be able to see first-hand how the girls grow emotionally (and physically) during their 3 years with us.

We continue to make great memories on Friday evenings in the lower hall where we have great fun playing games, making crafts and of course making lots of friendships! We have continued to focus on badge work this year and to date the Rainbows have gained their Construction badge and will be working towards their Agility badge before the end of the academic year.

We continue to be ever grateful to Ballyholme Presbyterian Church for the use of their hall and for the support from the congregation.

Special thanks also have to go to all of the dedicated team of leaders who have shown great commitment and enthusiasm, rarely missing a Friday night.

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Brownies**

All three leaders were back at the start of 2022, so work on the Skills for the Future badge started in earnest. During the meetings the girls learnt about DIY tools, what makes a good hand scrub (when your hands are oily from making choc chip cookies), how to sew on buttons and how to 'sign' the Brownie Bells using Makaton (a language which uses symbols and speech to help people with a learning disability to communicate).

They also enjoyed designing a badge for 100 years of Girlguiding Ulster, decorating biscuits for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and lots of games.

Thinking Day, Girlguiding's annual celebration, is on 22 February. The Brownies' (along with the other Girlguiding groups) participation in a church service, on a mutually suitable date close to this one, had been well established. Although returning to larger groups meeting was still being discouraged, 2 Brownies joined the morning service on 6<sup>th</sup> March and read:

John 1 Chapter 5 verses 13 to 15:

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him.

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The death of the patron of Girlguiding her Majesty the Queen might have overshadowed the start of a new Brownies year on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Instead it was acknowledged by all the girls working to a high standard on a collage of her image.

The badge work for this term's meetings had the girls working on the Influence and Make Change stages of the Take Action badge.

100 years since the start of Girlguiding in Northern Ireland was acknowledged by the girls working for the badge specifically commissioned for this commemoration. Tasks in each of the sections: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, had the girls playing games from previous decades and making dream catchers, positive message badges and fashion from plastic bags.

Both the visit from the Fire Service and joining with the Rainbows on 14<sup>th</sup> October in the Erskine Hall for a visit by Critters NI were enjoyed by the girls. Meeting the collection of prickly, furry, scaly, feathery creatures and having a go with the huge water hose were activities which won't be forgotten.

This report of another year of Brownies concludes with thanks to the volunteer leaders who plan, prepare, train for and deliver the weekly meetings.

**7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Guides**

Although many organisations were slowly returning to face-to-face meetings, we remained extra cautious and continued on Zoom for several weeks into 2022.

As with 2021, there was no Thinking Day Service in church, as restrictions on large gatherings were still in place. However, I was playing the organ on the Sunday we would have been attending and it was lovely to see two girls from our Brownie Unit doing the Bible readings.

Our Zoom activities included First Aid, art and crafts, quizzes and games. There were plenty of laughs when we got the girls to bring a cuddly toy to one of the meetings so we could hold the Teddy Bear Olympics. Each teddy had to enact various Olympic sports. It started off calmly enough, until one girl decided to use props and from then on everyone's teddy was using props, which got more hilarious as the activity went on.

Anything involving food was, of course, very popular. One evening, the girls made their own tomato sauce and used it as one of the ingredients on a bread roll pizza. On 18 March we held our final Zoom meeting on a St Patrick's Day theme, which included the girls making a soda bread snack after which kitchens were once again returned to parents!

25 March, our first meeting back in the hall, was just a few days over 2 years since our last meeting in 2020 and it was good to see all who had been on Zoom attending. Each girl received an 'I've been a virtual Guide' badge to mark participation in online meetings – a memento to show the grandchildren! It was good to have the freedom to play running-around games and to be able to get into the Guide cupboard again for equipment. Mother's Day gifts were made at this meeting and we

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continued with the Guide programme over the next few weeks, concluding with meaningful Easter activities.

In the summer term we relaxed by blowing bubbles, made jambons, butter and s'mores and completed several fun badges – Butterfly Challenge, Seahorse Challenge and ABC Challenge.

On 2 June, Groomsport Guiding Units invited us to their special night to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which included food, disco, archery, and bouncy castle. It was naturally very sad, when only three months later Her Majesty died and on our first meeting back after the summer break, we held an act of remembrance. The Queen had been a Guide when young and ever since had retained a close relationship with our movement, being our patron up until her death.

One of the last activities we took part in just before lockdown in 2020, was a trip on the train to Lisburn for water fun at Lagan Valley Leisureplex. To celebrate the new-found freedom, we travelled there once again in June 2022. The train journey itself is enjoyable, as most of the girls rarely use this method of transport.

Our customary final evening at Lorne in June before the summer break, with each girl cooking on her own open fire, was highlighted by 4 Outdoor Cooking badges being gained. We finished with Campfire singing round one of the fires and 3 girls said their Promise for the first time.

In conjunction with the Army, Girlguiding Ulster held a Skills Day at Palace Barracks in September. It is a very popular event and is booked up very quickly and in previous years, we have just missed out, so I was especially vigilant this year in watching for the announcement on the Girlguiding Ulster website. We were the first to apply and six of our girls along with the two leaders were able to attend. They took part in Leadership Activities, First Aid, Healthy Camp Skills, and Fixing Activities including Basic Car Mechanics. A tasty lunch in the barracks canteen was also included.

During our Harvest Party in October, we completed Mixology badge, with the girls blending fresh juices, fruit, yoghurt, herbs and spices to produce delicious drinks.

In November, we joined many others taking part in the Remembrance Sunday Service in Ward Park and after the service paraded round Bangor. We also provided a flag bearer for our service in church.

Also in November, we were pleased when one girl was presented with the Guide Gold Award at the North Down County AGM at Lorne.

On the weekend before Christmas, ten girls and three leaders stayed in the Ranger Cottage at Lorne for our first residential since 2019. It was the weekend after a particularly hard frost had descended on North Down and many footpaths were still thick with ice, even after several days. However, we were very cosy in the cottage. We wrapped up warm on the Friday evening for a winter walk to the Camp Chapel, where 4 girls said their Promise. We travelled to Belfast on the train on the Saturday for some Christmas shopping. The girls were given money to put towards purchasing their own lunch and had great fun searching out items to buy in the shops, many returning to Lorne laden with bags.

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Girlguiding Ulster celebrated 100 years in 2022 and several special events were held. On 21 May 'A Time to Remember Tea Party' was held at Lorne and 5 former Assistant Leaders from the noughties (most of whom had also been in the unit as girls), joined me for the occasion. The Lorne Archivists had arranged a very interesting display of old uniforms, badges, books, newspaper cuttings, logbooks from the early days of Guiding to the present day and we spent a happy time reminiscing.

Another really lovely occasion was the Centenary Lunch on 22 October. Two hundred leaders past and present packed into the function room of the Royal Hotel, Cookstown and enjoyed a truly delicious meal. The two present leaders invited a former leader of 7<sup>th</sup> Bangor (my leader when I was a Guide) to come with us, which made it extra special.

Before lockdown our meetings ran for two and a half hours, from 7.30 pm-10.00 pm, but having become used to the shorter Zoom meetings, we decided to reduce our meeting time by three quarters of an hour. We now meet from 7.45 pm-9.30 pm, which is still plenty of time to run the programme.

Our meetings are packed with a variety of activities and it is pleasing to see the girls loyally attending each week. Please continue to hold us in your prayers.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Bangor Rangers**

What a year it has been! We were finally able to properly bounce back from Covid-19 with the easing of restrictions and our numbers ever increasing. In January we took on more new Rangers from local Guide units and this saw the unit grow to nearly 20 girls on the books, a brilliant achievement for us! This has been a crazy busy year for us, getting back into the swing of both indoor and outdoor meetings, as well as public events and activities. The year started slow as we got used to life after Covid-19 restrictions but the girls still covered lots this term including learning how to make and grow 'Kefir' (a gut-healthy, cultured drink) as part of our wellbeing topic, complete the 'women's rights' interest badge, attend Eden Pottery for some relaxing pottery painting and most important of all, in March, we all rallied together for some community action by helping donate essential items for the Ukraine appeal with Girlguiding Ulster. The girls donated many clothes, toiletries, bedding, and anything else they could get their hands on and as a unit we did a great job at contributing to this appeal.

We had two very important events in July before finishing for the summer and these could not come quick enough, but before this, we had a busy few weeks in May and June which included a beach BBQ, learning the craft of pyrography, completing the Period Poverty badge with a guest from The Homeless Period Belfast who ran a great workshop for us, and last but not least, a joint Platinum Jubilee party with 1<sup>st</sup> Groomsport Guides to celebrate our Queen.

The first of our summer events was the much anticipated, (very long-overdue) residential weekend away to Lorne where we stayed in the Marion Greeves Centre and the girls decided that the theme for the weekend was going to be Disney films! We decorated the whole house in Disney decorations and the girls themed their bedrooms too, we had Tangled, Lilo & Stitch, Up and Toy Story rooms. We

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105128

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# Annual return

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**Ballyholme Presbyterian Church**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ballyholme Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(3) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 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 2008 Act
- state whether particular matters come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

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.

The 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent Examiner's Role**

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 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.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

DDJ Coulter B.Sc. ACMA

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

8th Feb 2023