



Ballyroney
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Ballyroney Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
3 Tierkelly Hill Road, Ballyroney, Banbridge, BT32 5EW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105210)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev. Liam Rutherford (Vacancy Convenor)

Victor Morrison

David Peters

Colin Murray

Bobby Stanley

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Clerk of Session

Treasurer

Vacant

Victor Morrison

Grace McBurney

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Harry Baxter, 88 Ballyward Road, Castlewellan BT31 9PS

BANKERS

Ulster Bank, Newry (B) Branch, 86 Hill Street, Newry, Co Down, BT34 1BT

SOLICITORS

Fisher & Fisher, 1 Newry Street, Rathfriland, BT34 5PY

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Sessions has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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

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

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Ballyronney congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Iveagh Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation.

The General Assembly

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

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

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

The congregations mission purpose is in total dependence on God, we seek to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and present the message of the gospel to God's people and our community.

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*

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, prayer times and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Club
- Girls' Brigade
- Boys' Brigade
- Female Focus Group (Women's Ministry)
- Men's Mission (Men's Ministry)
- Youth Fellowship

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.50am. During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life with the Sacrament of Baptism and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2024 there were 114 communicant members, and 111 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 98.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister or elders.

Mission and outreach

In 2024 the congregation supported Centre Ministries, Leprosy Mission, Poppy Appeal, Presbyterian Children's Society, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Arab World Ministries, Prison Fellowship and missionaries in Poland (Majed & Anna Tinawi).

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

financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's special appeals.

Presbytery

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

General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

During the year we carried out routine maintenance.

Organisations

Bible Study

We meet each Wednesday night for Bible Study in the church halls. Every other week is a joint meeting with Drumlee.

Prayer Time

We held several prayer times for our congregation. These included Women's Prayer Time, Midweek Prayer Time and weekly prayer time before our morning service.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School met during the morning service. On average 20 children attended. We teach from God's word and use Go teach Material and the Westminster Shorter Catechism. During the year we took part in the church Carol Service and had a Children's Day Service in June.

Youth Club

Ballyroney Youth Club is structured to meet every other Saturday night from September until March. There is a wide range of activities available. The evening closes with an epilogue when the children hear from God's Word.

Girls' Brigade

Our Girls Brigade meet each Tuesday night. There is approximately 90 girls and 18 leaders. The aim of the Girls Brigade is to sow the seed of the gospel in the lives of young girls, to seek serve and follow Christ.

Boys' Brigade

Ballyrone Boy's Brigade exists to point boys to Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's Word and to promote habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, and self-respect and all that tends toward true Christian manliness. There are three groups, Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section.

Female Focus

Our Female Focus is a Women's ministry group who meet regularly for fellowship. The meetings include praise, testimony, guest speakers and ministry from God's Word.

Men's Mission

Men's Mission is targeted to bring men of all ages together, to build relationships and to always have time to speak of God's love for everyone. We meet once a month from October to March. We arrange visits to various venues and try to appeal to all interests so we can reach as many as possible with the gospel message.

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship meets to provide an informal setting for our young people to gather with their peers. We have a programme that is suitable for the age range and always relates to what the Bible says on topics that are relevant to everyday matters. We meet every other Sunday evening for food, fun and fellowship from October to March.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known using noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 108 contributors during the year (112 in previous year, 2023] donating a total of £49,837 (£47,377.60 in previous year, 2023).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £111,480.15 compared to £106,988.69 in the previous year. While expenditure was £93,391.43 compared to £75,599.44.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

Approved by the Kirk Session and signed on its behalf by Rev Liam Rutherford (Vacancy Convenor) and Mr Victor Morrison (Clerk of Session) on 6 May 2025.



Rev Liam Rutherford (Vacancy Convenor)



Mr Victor Morrison (Clerk Session)