

# Groomsport Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105278

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2016-08-09

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

## Contact

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**Address** Groomsport Presbyterian Church  
35-37 Main Street  
Groomsport  
Bangor  
County Down  
BT19 6jr  
BT19 6JR

**Phone** 02891 270268

**Email** [gportpc@googlemail.com](mailto:gportpc@googlemail.com)

**Website** <http://www.groomsportpc.com/>

## Activities

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**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

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£157,734	£223,602	£0	2

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair S. Mcquoid		
Audrey Thomas		
Brenda Boyd		
Christopher		
Dr Michael Steele		
Dr Richard William Mccreedy		
Elaine Nixon		
Fiona Mccreedy		
George Purdy		
Hilary Knight		
Jane Black		
June Kirk		
M. Stewart		
Margaret Mccreedy		
Mr Alan Chestnutt		
Mr Ivan Crawford		
Mr John Todd		
Mr Matthew Lowry Manson		
Mr Samuel Ferguson		
Mr William Mccreedy		
Mrs Sharon Margaret Goldie		
Rev Paul Thomas Dalzell		
Stewart Holland		

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Accounts

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**GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**2025**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2025**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Charitable activities	100,263	37,234	137,497	133,291
Donations				53,202
Income from property	11,672		11,672	9,603
Investment income		51	51	8,784
Investment Capital Growth		8,164	8,164	5,422
Other income	350		350	599
<b><u>Total income</u></b>	<b><u>112,285</u></b>	<b><u>45,449</u></b>	<b><u>157,734</u></b>	<b><u>210,901</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Charitable Activities	134,572	33,599	168,171	416,714
Grants & Donations	12,431	43,000	55,431	187,200
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>147,003</u></b>	<b><u>76,599</u></b>	<b><u>223,602</u></b>	<b><u>603,974</u></b>
<b><u>Net Surplus (Deficit)</u></b>	<b><u>-34,718</u></b>	<b><u>-31,150</u></b>	<b><u>-65,868</u></b>	<b><u>-393,073</u></b>
<b><u>Reconciliation of Funds</u></b>				
Total Funds Brought Forward	104,671	301,036	405,707	798,780
Movement of Funds	-34,718	-31,150	-65,868	-393,073
Funds transfer	463	-463		
<b><u>Total Funds Carried Forward</u></b>	<b><u>70,416</u></b>	<b><u>269,423</u></b>	<b><u>339,839</u></b>	<b><u>405,707</u></b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2025**

<b><u>Current Financial Assets</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
<u>McCaw Trust:</u>		
DanskeBank	23,755	30,035
Rathbones	<u>200,478</u>	<u>215,263</u>
Total McCaw Fund Assets	224,233	<u>245,298</u>
 <u>General Funds:</u>		
Danske Bank	115,418	160,193
Cash	<u>188</u>	<u>216</u>
Total General Funds	<u>115,606</u>	160,409
 <b><u>Total financial assets</u></b>	<b><u>339,839</u></b>	<b><u>405,707</u></b>

<b><u>Reserves</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
General Fund	70,416	104,671
Property Fund	11,840	20,340
Hall Development Fund	0	-2,921
Mission Fund	22,956	29,155
Flower Fund	1,341	1,441
Benevolent Fund	1,699	1,899
Outreach Fund	7,354	5,824
McCaw Trust	<u>224,233</u>	<u>245,298</u>
<b><u>Total Reserves</u></b>	<b><u>339,839</u></b>	<b><u>405,707</u></b>

**At the end of the year there were no known liabilities.**

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Accounts

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**GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**2024**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Charitable activities	95,559	37,732	133,291	147,057
Donations	34,002	19,200	53,202	8,539
Income from property	9,603		9,603	10,580
Investment income		8,784	8,784	13,688
Investment Capital Growth		5,422	5,422	-17,766
Other income	599		599	1,399
<b><u>Total income</u></b>	<b><u>139,763</u></b>	<b><u>71,138</u></b>	<b><u>210,901</u></b>	<b><u>163,497</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Charitable Activities	11,881	404,833	416,714	420,352
Grants & Donations	143,223	44,037	187,260	66,933
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>155,104</u></b>	<b><u>448,870</u></b>	<b><u>603,974</u></b>	<b><u>487,285</u></b>
<b><u>Net Surplus (Deficit)</u></b>	<b><u>-15,341</u></b>	<b><u>-377,732</u></b>	<b><u>-393,073</u></b>	<b><u>-323,788</u></b>
<b><u>Reconciliation of Funds</u></b>				
Total Funds Brought Forward	120,012	678,768	798,780	1,122,568
Movement of Funds	-15,341	-377,732	-393,073	-323,788
<b><u>Total Funds Carried Forward</u></b>	<b><u>104,671</u></b>	<b><u>301,036</u></b>	<b><u>405,707</u></b>	<b><u>798,780</u></b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2024**

<u>Current Financial Assets</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>McCaw Trust:</u>		
DanskeBank	30,035	
Investec	<u>215,263</u>	
Total McCaw Fund Assets	245,298	425,377
 <u>General Funds:</u>		
Danske Bank	160,193	373,403
Cash	<u>216</u>	0
Total General Funds	<u>160,409</u>	<u>          </u>
 <u>Total financial assets</u>	 <u><b>405,707</b></u>	 <u><b>798,780</b></u>

<u>Reserves</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General Fund	104,671	120,012
Property Fund	20,340	20,613
Hall Development Fund	-2,921	211,392
Mission Fund	29,155	18,068
Flower Fund	1,441	1,441
Benevolent Fund	1,899	1,877
Outreach Fund	5,824	0
McCaw Trust	<u>245,298</u>	<u>425,377</u>
<u>Total Reserves</u>	<u><b>405,707</b></u>	<u><b>798,780</b></u>

**Note**

Although at the end of the year there were no known current financial liabilities, it should be noted that the final contractor payment in respect of the hall development will be payable in May, 2025.

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Annual report

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## **GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

This is the Annual Report for 2024 of Groomsport Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Classification: Religious Designation

Charity Number: NIC105278.

Address: - 35 – 37 Main Street

Groomsport

BT19 6JR

### **Trustees during 2024:-**

Alastair McQuoid	Michael Steele	Lowry Manson
Hilary Knight	Jane Black	Audrey Thomas
June Kirk	John Todd	Brenda Boyd
William McCreedy	Samuel Ferguson	Ivan Crawford
Alan Chestnutt	Elaine Nixon	Margaret McCreedy
Fiona McCreedy	Stewart Holland	George Purdy
Richard McCreedy	Sharon Goldie	Maureen Stewart
Chris Thompson	Paul Dalzell (Minister)	
Graham Wilson (Resigned 31/3/24)		David Purce (Resigned 21/9/24)

### **Our governing body**

Our governing body is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and we are constituted by The Code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

### **The purposes of our charity**

“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.”

## **Appointment of Trustees**

The Kirk Session of Groomsport Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland appoint new Charity Trustees. All Elders on Kirk Session are Trustees for our charity and are appointed at a meeting and asked to fill in the required Registration Form which is then input into our Registered Charity number NIC105278 by Elaine Nixon.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and 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 understand of the 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 congregational churches and members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of notice boards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The benefits are monitored 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, Deaconess, 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 organisation, charities and individual members of the public.

### **Statement of activities**

Hold services of worship and other religious activities. These, and all that follows, are open to anyone of the appropriate age and/or gender to access, without regard to whether they are member of our congregation. Through prayer, support our members, our own Church, other Christian Churches, the community and leaders in society and government. Organise meetings and events that promote our charitable purpose. Participate in the life of the local community. Participate in and support what the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the supervising Presbytery does. Support secular and Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, providing accommodation, financial gifts and prayer.

### **Kirk Session Report 2024**

2024 has been a momentous year for our church. It has been a time of challenge and change for our congregation with completion of a major refurbishment of our church halls and electing a new congregational committee. In all things we are mindful of complete reliance on our Saviour Jesus Christ and his plan for our congregation here in Groomsport Presbyterian Church.

In March last year I was honoured to take over the role of clerk of session. I would like to thank our minister, Rev Dalzell and the Kirk Session for their support and patience as I have felt my way into this new role within the church. I would like to pay tribute once again to my predecessor, Mr Alastair McQuoid, who skillfully and safely navigated our way through some very challenging years.

Over the past year, our Kirk Session has faced significant difficulties with the serious illness of two members who thankfully are now on the road to recovery. Both have expressed their heartfelt thanks for the prayers and practical support of the congregation. Sadly, two elders, Mr Graham Wilson and Mr David Purce, resigned from Kirk Session, both for personal reasons and I would like to thank them for their dedicated service to our church over many years. We now have a team of 23 elders covering 21 districts throughout Groomsport, Bangor and Donaghadee. Our elders have worked harmoniously together to serve this church and provide pastoral care to the

congregation. My report would be long indeed if I listed all the work undertaken by individual elders, often done quietly and unnoticed but for which I am very grateful.

Looking back over the year, the most significant achievement has been the completion of renovations of the Walter Nelson Hall complex. We now have a marvelous new facility that we can use to further God's kingdom and share Christ's love here in Groomsport and further afield. The renovations were completed in a year and would not have been possible without the unstinting work of our property convener Mr Lowry Manson, our treasurer Mr Chris Thompson and facilities co-ordinator, Mr Ian MacDonald. Our thanks also go to the architects, Mr Brian Knox, Mrs Judith Hamilton and our main contractor, Mr Andrew Wishart. Many others have contributed in different ways. On behalf of our minister Rev. Dalzell and Kirk Session, I would like to thank everyone who brought this project to a successful completion.

We were delighted to have the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Catherine Champion, perform the official opening after a Praise Service and dedication on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. This completed a weekend of activities which included an Open Day on the Saturday and a congregational lunch on the Sunday.

Having a new facility is of course, not an end in itself. The Kirk Session appointed a Steering Committee to ensure that we make full use of these facilities. Much has already been accomplished. The Hub is now open every week for the 'Wednesday Welcome' where members of the congregation and folk from the local community can drop in for a time of fellowship together. Tea/coffee and scones are provided, and new friends have already been made. Saturday coffee mornings take place most of the year now from March to December. In August we hosted around 30 refugees who have been staying in hotels in Bangor. Lunch was provided and it was a time to listen to their stories and understand a little about what they have gone through. We use the Hub for a new Men's Group and Hobby Hub. New activities in the halls include Tai Chi and Pickleball, both twice weekly. Outside community groups such as Discover Groomsport and Groomsport Village Remembrance association have made use of the new facilities as well as other visiting church groups.

Another significant development has been the creation of a new website for our church. This is a bright and user-friendly window into the life of Groomsport Presbyterian

Church. There are regular updates on all that is going on as well as our weekly online service. Our media presence is further enhanced by our Facebook page and we have recently installed a new notice board on the gable end of the Walter Nelson Hall. Thank you to Fiona McCreedy for the tremendous work she has done and for her on-going work to keep this all fresh and up to date.

Over the summer months we undertook the election of a new 20 strong congregational committee. We have welcomed seven new committee members. All continue to dutifully serve in pastoral care and overseeing the temporal affairs of our church. We thank those committee members who have retired from service and contributed much to the life and work of our congregation here in Groomsport. Thank you to Mr George Purdy for continuing in the role of secretary and bringing his expertise and wisdom in overseeing the work of the committee.

Our mission committee continues to inform and encourage our congregation in fulfilling our responsibilities as to how we should engage in the wider mission of our church. In addition to our monthly mission focus we have been blessed to have special Sunday services for Leprosy Mission, United Appeal, World Development Appeal and also a service led by Mr Stephen Cowan, long-standing PCI missionary in Tuum, Kenya. In November, the Donaghadee Community choir along with visiting organist Mr George Hewitt led a special evening worship and praise. The collection of £900 went to the Linda Norgrove Foundation. I would encourage you to read the mission report by Mrs Maureen Stewart which will appear in this annual directory. Thank you to all the members of the mission committee for the important role that they play within our congregation.

The Kirk Session is encouraged to witness the on-going ministry to the younger members of our congregation. We particularly thank Mrs Sharon Goldie and her team of teachers for their dedicated service each Sunday in witnessing Christ's love to our children. The children's day service and gift day service are always special highlights in our church calendar.

We are blessed to have a wonderful church choir who lead our worship each Sunday and put so much work and preparation into our special services at Easter and Christmas. Thank you to all members but in particular our organist and choirmaster, Mr John

McIlwaine, our chairman Mr Alastair McQuoid and also Mrs Isabel Keenan for her able assistance at choir practices and deputising at the organ throughout the year.

The Kirk session would like to thank the trustees of The McCaw Trust for their oversight of this investment on our behalf and ensuring that we continue to use this investment to further Christ's kingdom.

Once again, Kirk Session would like to express their deepest thanks all those who give of their time and energy in leading the many organisations and sub-committees within our congregation. Further information on their work is outlined elsewhere within the annual report.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our minister, Rev Dalzell, for his leadership of our congregation, his teaching during weekly worship and the extensive pastoral care he has provided throughout 2024. We are also grateful for his engagement and co-operation with our neighbouring churches in Groomsport and in leading important community events such as the village remembrance service. We pray for Paul, his wife Catherine and indeed for each other that we may strive to reflect the Love of Christ and further the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour.

**Groomsport Presbyterian Church**  
**March, 2025**

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Annual return

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## GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2024

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records held by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:-

1. That accounts were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with the 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.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1 to 4 listed above and I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed Julie Stirling

Name JULIE STIRLING

Address 49 COVE HOLLOW, GROOMSPORT, BT19 6HT

Date 8/2/25

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Accounts

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**GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**2023**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Charitable activities	107,941	39,116	147,057	136,362
Donations	190	8,349	8,539	169,429
Income from property	10,580		10,580	8,950
Investment income		13,688	13,688	14,298
Investment Capital Growth		-17,766	-17,766	-61,762
Other income	1,399		1,399	768
<b><u>Total income</u></b>	<b><u>120,110</u></b>	<b><u>43,387</u></b>	<b><u>163,497</u></b>	<b><u>268,045</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Charitable Activities	126,069	294,283	420,352	151,398
Grants & Donations	12,319	54,614	66,933	64,271
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>138,388</u></b>	<b><u>348,897</u></b>	<b><u>487,285</u></b>	<b><u>215,669</u></b>
<b><u>Net Surplus (Deficit)</u></b>	<b><u>-18,278</u></b>	<b><u>-305,510</u></b>	<b><u>-323,788</u></b>	<b><u>52,376</u></b>
<b><u>Reconciliation of Funds</u></b>				
Total Funds Brought Forward	138,290	984,278	1,122,568	
Movement of Funds	-18,278	-305,510	-323,788	
<b><u>Total Funds Carried Forward</u></b>	<b><u>120,012</u></b>	<b><u>678,768</u></b>	<b><u>798,780</u></b>	

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2023**

<u>Current Financial Assets</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Mc Caw Fund assets (For detail see McCaw accounts)	425,377	790,842
General accounts:		
Progressive BS	0	75,270
Danske Bank	373,403	256,456
Total	373,403	331,726
<b><u>Total financial assets</u></b>	<b><u>798,780</u></b>	<b><u>1,122,568</u></b>

<b>Note 1 - Reserves</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
General Fund	120,012	138,290
Property Fund	20,613	21,647
Hall Development Fund	211,392	151,832
Mission Fund	18,068	16,439
Flower Fund	1,441	1,441
Benevolent Fund	1,877	2,077
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b><u>373,403</u></b>	<b><u>331,726</u></b>

**Note 2**

There are no known outstanding liabilities at the end of the year

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and accurate view of the state of the affairs of Groomsport Presbyterian Church and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December, 2023

*Chris Thompson*  
*Treasurer*

*Shirley Collins*  
*Independent Examiner*

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Annual report

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## **GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **Annual Report 2023**

This is the Annual Report for 2023 of Groomsport Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Classification: Religious Designation

Charity Number: NIC105278.

Address: - 35 – 37 Main Street

Groomsport

BT19 6JR

### **Trustees during 2023:-**

#### **(Appointed on 29.2.2016)**

Alastair McQuoid	Graham Wilson	Lowry Manson
Hilary Knight	Jane Black	Audrey Thomas
June Kirk	John Todd	Brenda Boyd
William McCreedy	Samuel Ferguson	Ivan Crawford
Alan Chestnutt	Elaine Nixon	Margaret McCreedy
Fiona McCreedy	Stewart Holland	David Purce
Richard McCreedy	Mary Corry (Resigned 22.8.23)	Paul Dalzell (Minister)

#### **(Appointed 22.9.19)**

Sharon Goldie

Roy McWhinney (Resigned 25.9.23)

Michael Steele

#### **(Appointed 27.11.22)**

George Purdy

Maureen Stewart

Chris Thompson

### **Our governing body**

Our governing body is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and we are constituted by The Code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

### **The purposes of our charity**

“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.”

### **Appointment of Trustees**

The Kirk Session of Groomsport Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland appoint new Charity Trustees. All Elders on Kirk Session are Trustees for our charity and are appointed at a meeting and asked to fill in the required Registration Form which is then input into our Registered Charity number NIC105278 by Elaine Nixon.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and 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 understand of the 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 congregational churches and members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of notice boards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The benefits are monitored 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, Deaconess, 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 organisation, charities and individual members of the public.

### **Statement of activities**

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### **Kirk Session Report 2023**

In reporting on the year that is past, we are thankful to God for all His many blessings to us. In particular we continue to have a vibrant, enthusiastic and committed core of members attending worship each Sunday, and for this, as a Kirk Session, we are most grateful.

It is perhaps helpful to remind ourselves of a few of our many duties as a Session:-

The Kirk Session shall - (a) watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation, and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds; (b) ensure a scheme for pastoral care is in place in the congregation, in line with current General Assembly guidelines; (c) seek to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community; (d) authorise such measures of practical co-operation with other Churches as may involve the life and work of the congregation.

A quick look through the Minutes of our stated meetings will hopefully demonstrate our commitment to attending to these duties.

In January, Rev Dalzell reported that with regard to the vacancy of Regent Street PC in Newtownards a call has been made to Rev Anne Tolland and that her installation date is Friday 31st March. This successfully concluded a protracted period of work for Rev Dalzell.

In February one of many reports to Session was made by Sharon Goldie on forthcoming arrangements for our Children's Ministry – Kidszone. Session wishes to pay tribute for all the work in the vital ministry by Sharon and all the leaders throughout the past year.

In March a letter was received from Evelyn Shaw, secretary of World Day of Prayer in which she thanked our congregation for hospitality and help in the holding of the 2023 service in our church. Also at this time Anne Buchanan informed us that she was giving up the post of Freewill Offering Convenor for reasons which are all very understandable. We thanked Anne and made a small presentation.

In April a Thinking Day (Guides service) on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 was much appreciated by all as a very beneficial service of worship.

In June a Congregational Meeting was held in the church to seek the authorisation of the congregation to increase the proposed expenditure on the Refurbishment Project, previously agreed at £600,000 by the additional sum of £50,000. This was agreed.

Also in June, (and also on other occasions during the year) Rev Denis Campbell, our Pastoral Assistant, conducted worship during a period of Rev Dalzell's annual leave. Rev Campbell, who carries out this ministry, including of course congregational visitation, in his gifted and articulate manner is a real blessing to us all for which we are most grateful.

In September we were saddened to receive a letter from Mrs Mary Corry in resignation as an elder; however we were pleased that she would continue to pastorally care for the members in her allocated district. Roy Mawhinney also resigned as an elder and we expressed our gratitude to him for all his energetic involvement in our church life and witness.

Session agreed to form a Task Group to implement a plan to fully utilise the refurbished Halls when completed in Spring 2024.

Kirk Session has been consistently encouraged by the generosity of the congregation which enabled the Mission Committee, under the very able convenorship of Dr Michael Steele to make donations in excess of £50,000 to a range of organizations during the year. Michael's interesting and positive report will be included in the Annual Directory

Session received a Report by trustees of McCaw Trust that ongoing work was taking place for the best use of the funds and thanks were expressed to Chris Thompson for the preparation of a flow chart detailing the necessary provision for stage payments to be made to the Building Contractor during the refurbishment (2 weeks ahead of schedule at that time)

#### October

Jim and Lynn Magee stepped down as agents for Presbyterian Herald after many years of acting in this capacity. Stephen and Janet Dawson agreed to take over this responsibility and we are grateful to them for so willingly doing so.

Hilary Knight informed Session that she and another member of PW had recently attended the Women's Meeting in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in response to an invitation and had been made most welcome.

#### November

Special thanks were conveyed to Rev Dalzell by Groomsport Remembrance Day Committee for his contribution to the planning of the Annual Parade and leading worship.

Session decided to implement changes to the production of Eagle Wing Magazine, meaning it would be printed inhouse in Newsletter form. We are grateful for all the work Amanda Mawhinney has undertaken on our behalf.

A Praise Service took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, a wonderful evening led by Donaghadee Community Choir.

December

The choir, under the musical directorship of John McIlwaine performed at our annual “Carols by Candlelight” service. Session is most grateful to John and the choir for all the leading of praise throughout the year at our Sunday morning worship.

The process for appointing a new Clerk of Session, to replace Alastair McQuoid, was begun. Alastair’s term of office expires at the end of February 2024 and he wishes to pay tribute to all the support he has received during the past five years. Fortunately, Alastair has not been required to call overmuch on the assistance of the Deputy Clerk, Audrey Thomas, but when necessary she had been very willing and gracious in her assistance. Kirk Session expresses deepest thanks to all those taking part in the many organisations of our church, whose activities are detailed elsewhere in our Annual Report

In conclusion, we pay a large tribute Rev Dalzell to whom we are indebted for carrying out the leadership of weekly worship and pastoral work among the congregation in such an exemplary fashion. We thank Paul for another year of ministry (aided of course by his wife, Catherine) in which we have received rich blessings.

**Alastair McQuoid**

**Groomsport Presbyterian Church**

**March, 2024**

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105278

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# Annual return

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GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I have examined the annual accounts including those of the McCaw Trust as Independent Examiner. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Church Treasurer and Treasurer of the McCaw Trust concerning any such matters.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns to draw to your attention.

Shirley Collins

Shirley Collins

Independent Examiner

31st January, 2024