

BALLYLOUGHAN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees of Ballyloughan Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Ballyloughan Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, 88 Doury Road, Ballymena, BT43 6JE

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105323)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Darran McCorriston  
Stephen Burns  
Wesley Cummings  
Tony Farquhar  
Desmond Fulton  
Crawford Gillespie  
Nick Greer  
Jim Heatherington  
Tom Kerr  
Stuart McKay  
Thomas McNeill  
James Morrison  
Colin Orr  
Stanley Warwick

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Darran McCorriston
Clerk of Session	Mr Stanley Warwick
Treasurer	Mr Colin Orr
Secretary	Mr Stephen Wilson

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

D T Carson & Co, Chartered Accountants, 51-53 Thomas Street, Ballymena, BT43 6AZ

**BANKERS**

Ulster Bank Ltd, 49 Wellington Street, Ballymena, BT43 6AD

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**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

**SOLICITORS**

Thomas Taggart, 27 Church Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6HS

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

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held several times each year as required.

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 the votes of 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. Ballyloughan congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ballymena 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 each 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, administrative 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.

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**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

Ballyloughan 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 its members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purpose is to grow whole-life followers of Jesus who love God wholeheartedly, each other sacrificially, and God's world generously:

- We aim to love God wholeheartedly because in Jesus He has first loved us.
- We aim to love each other sacrificially as Jesus has loved us, by being committed to each other, encouraging each other, praying for each other, and offering practical help to those in need.
- We aim to love God's world generously, locally and globally, by showing respect to everyone, being committed to doing whatever is good, and by sharing the good news of Jesus.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Sunday Worship**

Sunday worship is at the heart of the life of the church family. Ballyloughan Presbyterian Church aims for its worship to be intergenerational and inclusive, a place where all are welcome. Services take place every Sunday morning at 9.30am and 11.00am as well as a twice monthly programme on Sunday evenings. Our Sunday Services are also livestreamed online. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and baptisms are administered to children of believing parents and adults upon profession of faith. Children are welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. There is a busy Thrive programme for primary children, and a breakfast group and 'SOLID' Bible class for young people. There is also a crèche on Sunday mornings for pre-school children. Prayer is also offered to individuals following each service.

During the year our minister conducted 3 baptisms and we admitted 18 new people into full membership of our church. At 31st December 2023 there were 289 communicant members and 333 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship has grown to an average attendance of around 350 across our two morning Services.

**Pastoral care**

Members of the congregation are visited by the Minister, Pastoral Worker and elders. Those who are sick, elderly, the bereaved and those facing difficult circumstances are given special attention through regular visits, phone calls and the provision of support, friendship and prayer.



## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

### **Mission and outreach**

Meeting together for Sunday worship is at the centre of the life of our church family and continues to be well supported. We recognise that we learn more and journey better when we journey as an inter-generational community. Above all we seek, in worship to glorify God, to enjoy coming together as a family of all-ages and stages in His presence and to leave challenged to be agents of change in the spheres of work and life to which we return.

An Alpha course is run regularly to seek to engage those who are seeking or wanting to explore the Christian faith further. We operate Ballymena North Foodbank under the umbrella of the Trussell Trust. Each Thursday we run an 'Open Door' drop-in, to which people can come for breakfast, help from Foodbank, information about our Job Club or other assistance.

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

The congregation also supports financially, prayerfully and practically the work of Dublin Christian Mission, the work of a Baptist church in Koprivnica, Croatia; AsiaLink which reaches out to. We also operate a monthly envelope scheme administered by our Missions Committee which allocates the proceeds to other charitable causes and mission partners including AsianLink, Hope & Light Ministries which reaches out to children and women enslaved in parts of East Asia, Coaching for Christ, Christians in Sport, Scripture Union, and others.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregation 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 2023 our church carried out some major refurbishment work to both our main church building and other areas on the premises. This necessitated us vacating the majority of the building for 9 months (January to September), and Sunday Services were held in the local primary school during that period. The work was completed by late September and we were able to resume Sunday Services and a full programme of activity in our buildings from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## BALLYLOUGHAN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

#### **Organisations**

Ballyloughan Presbyterian Church runs numerous organisations for the benefit of the community. These include significant provision for children and young people. Our Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade Companies provide a varied programme of activities for children of primary school age, as does our Community Youth Club. On Friday evenings, a youth group is run with a Christian focus called The Mix, led by the church's Youth Worker and other volunteers. Opportunities for deeper discussion and prayer are provided by small groups, a 'Deeper' programme, and our monthly Kingdom Come Worship and Prayer nights. A weekly Parents / Carers and Tots group is held. Alongside these activities, there is a weekly Wednesday cafe for folks to drop in to, including senior citizens, as well as a monthly Thursday Lunch Club for seniors. We also run occasional bi-monthly meetings for women and men.

#### **Volunteers**

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

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 212 contributing families during the year donating a total of £142,665.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £471,499 compared to £315,603 in the previous year. Total expenditure increased from £224,621 to £256,716.

**RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregations and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregations and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statements of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". 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.

**GOING CONCERN**

The activities of the congregation are dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and subject to the continuing support from members to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

**RESERVES POLICY**

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least six month's normal expenditure. At the year end unrestricted net current assets were £84,955 and are sufficient to meet this policy. The Trustees consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent of the ongoing financial support of members.

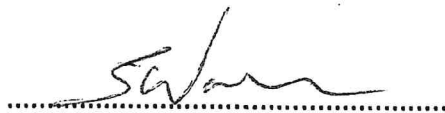
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**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

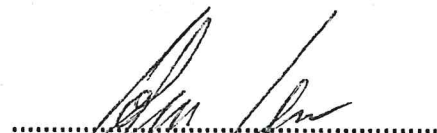
**RISK REVIEW**

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees, and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20th May 2024 and signed on its behalf by



.....  
Mr Stanley Warwick  
(Clerk of Session)



.....  
Mr Colin Orr  
(Treasurer)

Dated : 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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