

# Churchtown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105342

## 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** Main Street  
Tamlaght O'crilly  
Upperlands  
Maghera  
County Londonderry  
Bt46 5xf  
BT46 5XF

**Phone** 028 2582 0187

## 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
2024-12-31	£162,684	£145,849	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Christopher Rowe		
Mr George Graham		
Mr Harry Armstrong		
Mr Junior Whyte		
Mr Keith Dundas		
Mr Robert John Bloomfield		
Mr Stanley Bolton		
Mr William Lamont		
Mr Willis Armstrong		
Rev Richard Morrison		

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Accounts

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

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

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105342-0)**

## **CHURCHTOWN 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**

Churchtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Tamlaght Rd,  
Tamlaght O Crilly,  
Maghera  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5XW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (105342-0)

### **Charity Trustees**

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

Mr Harry Armstrong	Mr George Graham
Mr Willis Armstrong	Mr William Lamont
Mr Robert John Bloomfield	Rev Richard Morrison
Mr Stanley Bolton	Mr Christopher Rowe
Mr Keith Dundas	Mr Junior Whyte

### **Principal Office Bearers**

Minister	Rev Richard Morrison
Clerk of Session	Mr Christopher Rowe
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Rowe

### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Johnston  
Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants  
22-30 Broadway Ave,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim,  
BT43 7AA.

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank,  
Po Box 183,  
Donegall Square West,  
Belfast,  
BT1 6JS.

### **Solicitors**

Burnside & Logue Solicitors  
43 Main St,  
Maghera,  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5AA.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Structure and Management**

#### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the 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 normally held bi-monthly, or as is deemed necessary.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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. Churchtown 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, 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Description and Purpose**

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

Churchtown 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 statement is as follows *"By God's grace, we as a gospel shaped congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to make and equip disciples of Jesus, through the proclamation of God's word, to the glory of God."*

The congregation aims to live out its mission 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 four 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 and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations which seek to reach and disciple those involved. The organisations include:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Sunday School & Bible Class | - Youth Fellowship   |
| - Children's Church           | - Men's Fellowship   |
| - Creche                      | - Presbyterian Women |
| - Holiday Bible Club          | - Friendship Group   |
| - Boys Brigade                | - Choir              |
| - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides | - Walking Group      |

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:00 Noon (11:00am in July & August) and on the first and third Sunday each month at 7:00pm. A time of prayer is held before each service of worship. During the week there is a midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, providing an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

At 31 December 2024 there were 130 communicant members and 135 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 130, and evening worship on the first and third Sundays was 40. Throughout the year we celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on three occasions, welcoming 4 new children into the congregation.

### **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, the elder for that district or by a member of the congregation. We also provide online livestream and CD ministry where each worship service is recorded and available to those who could not attend or are housebound. Members of the congregation are willing and proactive in supporting the practical needs of others where they arise. Efforts are made to engage with members of our local community who need pastoral support. During the year we saw five members of the congregation pass away and we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

### **Mission and outreach**

Our weekly services of worship are open to everyone in our community and beyond as they are streamed and made available online. During the course of the year certain worship services have a particular theme (e.g. Back to School, Harvest, Christmas and Easter) providing an opportunity to invite members of the community to join with us on these occasions. Events happening within Church life are promoted through leaflet drops, our monthly announcement sheet, church website and social media through our Facebook page.

Our varied range of organisations provided an opportunity to engage with young and old from within the congregation through their carefully planned programmes. They also gave an opportunity to reach out to the local community with many of our youth members having no connection to the congregation. We enjoy excellent relations with our neighbouring churches. We shared some joint midweeks with Drimbolg Reformed Presbyterian and we supported the local Church of Ireland congregations in Tamlaght O Crilly and Innisrush at their special services held during the year.

The annual week of Holiday Bible Club and Youth outreach on the first week in August provided an opportunity to reach large numbers of children and youth from the wider community. This has proved to be a great way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth, as well as making good connections with families in the area.

The church seeks to support local schools and engage with the staff and pupils there. Our minister regularly takes part in assemblies in two Primary Schools and occasionally in a Secondary school, as well as helping out with breakfast club once a week.

In December we had a Christmas tree put up in the village and were able to host a 'lights switch on' event and outreach in the local community. There was singing of carols and a message from our minister, as well as festive refreshments and entertainment. Funding from Mid Ulster Council helped to make this event possible.

The congregation supported the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ensuring that its target is met each year. This 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.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

The congregation supported other Mission groups/people. This included the work of the Belfast City Mission, with particular interest and focus on Andy and Iris Williamson who serve in Ballysillan. The congregation generously supported the BCM Christmas Gift Appeal in December. Churchtown also continued their gospel partnership with a church in Moldova through European Mission Fellowship. We continue to support this work prayerfully and financially, building good relations with their Pastor Mihai. At the end of the year the total given through our midweek weekly offering and evening services was divided among a number of mission agencies/groups.

In order to encourage young people being involved in short, or longer term, missionary work, locally or overseas, provision is made to financially support them.

### **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 congregations and the wider structures of the church. Our minister took on responsibility for convening the Youth and Children's ministry within Presbytery.

### **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 in Belfast in June.

### **Property**

The Congregational committee continue to provide oversight for the upkeep of our church buildings, graveyard and farm land. Having prayerfully considered the need for additional and improved facilities, the congregation agreed to proceed with plans for a new church hall adjacent to the graveyard.

### **Organisations**

**Sunday school & Bible Class** – Throughout 2024, with the exception of the summer months, Sunday school/Bible class met each Sunday morning from 11:00-11:45am. From January to June 2024 the children were taught the word of God in three classes/two Bible classes. Members of Sunday School attended the PCI Kids's Big Day Out held in 1<sup>st</sup> Ahoghill Presbyterian Church. Our annual Children's Day services were held on Sunday 2nd June. Following a summer recess, classes resumed in September 2024, when 25 children and young people enrolled which can be broken down as follows:

- Sunday school (aged 4-11) - 17 children with 3 teachers
- Bible class (aged 12-18) – 8 young people with 2 teachers

During the calendar year, each child received an Easter Egg, end of session prize and Christmas gift. In December 2024, our Sunday School/Bible class pupils enjoyed a Christmas trip to Soft Play and Bowling at the Jet Centre Coleraine followed by food at McDonalds.

Each year Sunday School/Bible Class have a mission project where money is collected by the children in Smartie tubes. Our total contribution at 31 December 2024 to support European Missionary Fellowship through the work of Mihai and Irina Chisari in Moldova was £400.

**Youth Fellowship** - Renew youth fellowship met fortnightly between September and June usually in the Church Hall with approximately 10-17 young people from year 8 up and we have 3 leaders. Our nights usually start with ice breakers followed by a bible-based talk and bible study to help challenge, encourage and equip the young people in their everyday life. Over this year we have had people come in to speak about their involvement in mission work in summer outreach. We also had a trip bowling and a Chinese night to help us focus on the persecuted church.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O' Crilly Boy's Brigade** – meets every Monday night from September to April. Anchor and Junior Sections meet from 6.30pm to 7.40pm and we currently have 6 Anchor Boys and 4 Junior Boys. Each night comprises of a varied programme which typically includes a bible message, craft time, games and snacks. The boys also enjoyed a visit from Kidz Farm. Our Company and Senior sections meet from 7.45pm to 9.15pm and we currently have 7 Company boys and 2 Senior boys. Our 2 Senior boys are currently working towards their President's and King's badges. Each night the Company programme includes a bible study lead by one of the ministers, figure marching, games, box work and other activities, including model aeroplane making. A visit from the Royal British Legion gave the boys an opportunity to learn more about the importance of Remembrance Day. The Company also had the privilege of being asked to represent BBNI at the Royal Festival of Remembrance at the Waterfront, Belfast. The Company section was also able to take part in the Battalion Dodge Ball Competition which the boys won, leading to them also competing at the National competition. To mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battalion, all the boys, officers and parents took part in a leg of the baton journey, walking from Tamlaght O'Crilly to Kilrea.

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** – All girls in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated and engaged in different activities each week, such as; craft, sport, games, cookery and scripture related activities. We ended the 2023/24 year with a tea evening. From September to December 2024 the girls joined with Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys Brigade for enrolment and Harvest services as well as singing carols around the tree and our Christmas party. All units enjoyed the Kidz farm night with the BB and the guides also joined with the BB for a talk on Remembrance. The girls took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade in Kilrea. Each unit is continuing to work towards badges on a variety of different themes. Numbers are continuously changing and we currently have 6 Rainbows, 6 Brownies and 5 Guides.

**Holiday Bible Club** – this involved a week of outreach from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August in the 'Big tent' in the manse field. This was preceded by a Worship service in the tent on the evening of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August. From Monday to Friday nightly meetings were held for Primary school age children following the theme 'Train2Win' – over the five nights children were presented with the gospel by considering the following : Monday – Jesus, The Supreme Champion, Tuesday – Joining the Race - Philip and the Ehtiopian, Wednesday – Starting the Race – Saul/Paul, Thursday – Staying in the Race – Peter and Friday – Finishing the Race – Stephen. This meeting was followed each evening by 'Youth Week' from 8.30pm for those of secondary school age+. This event comprised of special activities, including a quiz, games night, Nerf gun activities, water games and also food, praise and an epilogue each night from a variety of visiting speakers. On the Friday evening a family night/barbeque and Barn Dance was enjoyed by children and parents/friends. Various prayer times to commit this work to the Lord were held throughout the week. In total, across both age groups, 124 children/young people enrolled during the week. Our week of outreach concluded with a Holiday Bible Club Family service in church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Presbyterian Women** – Women connected to the above congregation met each month from January to April and September to December 2024. PW provided a varied programme tied into the theme for the year, Entrusted. The ladies enjoyed times of fellowship together and were given the opportunity to hear about, and support, local and global mission. We started off our year with a visit from Mrs Laura Mullan from Curran & Castledawson Presbyterian Church who spoke to us about 'One Godly Woman in an Ungodly Generation'. Gift night was next in February where we invited ladies from our neighbouring churches and interviewed the ministers from each of these churches. In March we welcomed Melanie Bond who spoke to us about her faith and how she incorporates it into her fashion business. April meeting was with Keith from Acre International. In September we held our annual PW service and the guest speakers were Beth and Henry Montgomery and praise was led by the PW choir. Later in September some of the ladies attended Irish Women's Convention where we were inspired and uplifted by Jen Wilkin. Gareth Dalzell from Wycliffe Bible Translators spoke to us at our October meeting. Our annual PW dinner was held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in The Lodge Hotel in Coleraine. For our final meeting of 2024 we welcomed Lauren Speer from Rose and Bumble who spoke to us about her mental health illness and how her faith has helped her through it.

**Men's Fellowship** – Men connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. The varied programme and range of guest speakers provided an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. The men enjoyed their annual joint sports night with Drimbolg Church and half-time epilogue brought by Leslie McClean. The annual dinner in February was held at Toast in Cullybackey with Craig Elliot sharing at it. Some men attended Culnady's Wellbeing Evening in March which proved to be a very helpful and encouraging evening. The visit to Bingham's dairy farm and digester gave a great insight into a large modern farm, with Rev David Morrison sharing

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

from Psalm 23. September saw the men bring out their competitive side again as they went bowling at the Jet Centre followed by a McDonalds. In October some delicious puddings were enjoyed while hearing the life story of Stephen Smyth. In November the men went on a visit to Nesbitt's in Upperlands to explore some of his antique collectables: Andy Williamson brought a message from God's word. Average attendance at each event was 20 men.

**Friendship Group** – This group met monthly from January to March and from September to December. They enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and activities which always ended with chat over a cup of tea. The following details our speakers for the year: Joe and Sadie Law from Miracle Mission; Jean Farlow speaking on her work in Kenya; Linda Taylor spoke about gardening and God's word; Audrey Johnston spoke about her trip to Kenya; Maurice McNicholl shared about his woodworking weaving in a biblical message. The year finished with our Christmas lunch in the manse, with Victor Hutchinson singing and sharing from God's word.

**Walking Group** – This provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon for a casual walk. This provided an opportunity for conversation and deepening of friendships. Some of the locations include: Garvagh Forest, Fisherman's Walk Portglenone, Castlerock beach and Portballintrae Board walk.

### 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.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Financial Review**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 95 contributors during the year (2023: 96) donating a total of £64,838 (2023: £65,010).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £162,684 compared to £138,132 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £145,849 from £120,877.

### **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 congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Name: Rev Richard Morrison

Date: 10/04/2025



Name: Christopher Rowe

Date: 10/04/2025

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts of Churchtown congregation for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts 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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) 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.

Ian Johnston



Stevenson and Wilson

22-30 Broadway Avenue

Chartered Accountants

Ballymena

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

BT43 7AA

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS)  
FOR THE YEAR EDNED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024**


	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	84,647	59,711	-	144,358	113,076
Charitable activities	3	80	829	-	909	784
Grant		1,193	1,589	-	2,782	2,350
Investment income	4	5,136	3,718	468	9,322	3,927
Investments realised		-	-	-	-	11,138
Other income	5	5,230	83	-	5,313	6,857
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>96,286</b>	<b>65,930</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>162,684</b>	<b>138,132</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	6	440	-	-	440	421
Charitable activities	7	72,709	21,506	-	94,215	87,208
Other expenditure	8	15,823	5,394	-	21,217	30,794
Capital expenditure	9	-	29,977	-	29,977	2,454
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>88,972</b>	<b>56,877</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,849</b>	<b>120,877</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		7,314	9,053	468	16,835	17,255
Transfers between funds	10	91,227	1,070	(92,297)	-	-
Net movement in funds		98,541	10,123	(91,829)	16,835	17,255
Funds brought forward		105,098	175,641	101,432	382,171	364,916
Funds carried forward	11	203,639	185,764	9,603	399,006	382,171


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

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank, cash and investments at start of year	105,098	175,641	101,432	382,171	364,916
Net movement in funds	98,541	10,123	(91,829)	16,835	17,255
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank, cash and investments at end of year	<u>203,639</u>	<u>185,764</u>	<u>9,603</u>	<u>399,006</u>	<u>382,171</u>
<b>Bank, Cash and Investment Balances</b>					
Progressive savings accounts				65,997	101,432
Bank current accounts				333,009	280,739
				-----	-----
				<u>399,006</u>	<u>382,171</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets – Note 9					
Church building and contents				1,031,249	1,031,249
- Church hall buildings and contents				159,724	129,747
- Building of manse				365,444	365,444
- Building of open fronted shelter				6,464	6,464
- Land				41,704	41,704
- Gift Aid receivable on donations				17,000	13,500
Investments				39,311	37,264
				-----	-----
				<u>1,660,896</u>	<u>1,625,372</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
				-----	-----
				<u>2,236</u>	<u>2,086</u>

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev Richard Morrison  
Minister

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Christopher Rowe  
Clerk of Session

## CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

##### FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

#### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:					
Loose collections	4,336	-	-	4,336	4,938
Donations and gifts	66,388	56,316	-	122,704	94,342
Gift Aid	13,923	3,395	-	17,318	13,796
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	84,647	59,711	-	144,358	113,076
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities - other	80	135	-	215	300
Charitable activities - publication	-	694	-	694	484
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	80	829	-	909	784
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Deposit interest	5,136	3,718	468	9,322	3,927
	----- 5,136 -----	----- 3,718 -----	----- 468 -----	----- 9,322 -----	----- 3,927 -----

**5. OTHER INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Conacre income	5,127	-	-	5,127	5,127
Donation for use of hall	-	-	-	-	30
Sale of books	45	-	-	45	80
Power NI	-	-	-	-	1,200
National Savings compensation	-	-	-	-	100
McKinley donation	-	-	-	-	80
Donation toward pulpit supply	-	83	-	83	240
NIE Wayleave	58	-	-	58	-
	----- 5,230 -----	----- 83 -----	----- - -----	----- 5,313 -----	----- 6,857 -----

**6. RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FWO envelopes	440	-	-	440	421
	----- 440 -----	----- - -----	----- - -----	----- 440 -----	----- 421 -----

## CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

#### 7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Ministry and support staff costs	53,459	83	-	53,542	51,690
Presbytery fees	350	-	-	350	299
General assessment	8,011	541	-	8,552	7,002
Events and catering expenses	4,050	3,100	-	7,150	3,020
Stationery and teaching materials	2,768	856	-	3,624	3,052
Publications	-	689	-	689	474
Donations to missions and charities	2,497	12,358	-	14,855	15,685
Congregation running costs	1,574	3,879	-	5,453	5,986
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	72,709	21,506	-	94,215	87,208
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 8. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Governance costs	2,162	234	-	2,396	2,367
Repairs and maintenance	4,473	4,353	-	8,826	15,125
Utilities	9,188	-	-	9,188	9,590
Equipment	-	807	-	807	3,712
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	15,823	5,394	-	21,217	30,794
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 9. FIXED ASSETS and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The congregation owns the Church building, Church hall and Church manse situated at Tamlaght Rd, Maghera BT46 5XW and the associated fixtures, fittings and equipment. These have an insurance value of £1,530,450 at the 31st December 2017.

#### 10. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, Progressive balances totalling £92,297 were categorised as Endowment Funds. Upon review by the Trustees, the origins of the funds placed no requirement for the Charity to hold the funds for a specific purpose, and therefore the funds have now been reclassified as unrestricted.

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**11. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	65,708	86,636	84,599	2,037	(1,070)	66,675
Number 2 account	-	-	-	-	40,696	40,696
Number 3 account	39,390	4,857	4,373	484	-	39,874
Progressive 1	-	2,184	-	2,184	42,630	44,814
Progressive 2	-	1,895	-	1,895	(1,895)	-
Progressive 3	-	162	-	162	3,166	3,328
Progressive 4	-	552	-	552	7,700	8,252
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	105,098	96,286	88,972	7,314	91,227	203,639
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	148	12,091	12,016	75	-	223
Number 2 account	153,559	45,368	35,137	10,231	-	163,790
Youth fellowship	415	135	577	(442)	500	473
Men's fellowship	390	-	142	(142)	-	248
Friendship group	971	378	559	(181)	-	790
Sabbath school	15,875	1,749	1,505	244	150	16,269
PW	2,367	3,343	3,339	4	-	2,371
Boys Brigade	1,916	2,866	3,602	(736)	420	1,600
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	175,641	65,930	56,877	9,053	1,070	185,764
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
Progressive 1	42,630	-	-	-	(42,630)	-
Progressive 2	38,801	-	-	-	(38,801)	-
Progressive 3	3,166	-	-	-	(3,166)	-
Progressive 4	7,700	-	-	-	(7,700)	-
Progressive 5	9,135	468	-	468	-	9,603
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	101,432	468	-	468	(92,297)	9,603
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	382,171	162,684	145,849	16,835	-	399,006
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Accounts

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**CHURCHTOWN 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 (NIC 105342-0)**

## **CHURCHTOWN 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**

Churchtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Tamlaght Rd,  
Tamlaght O Crilly,  
Maghera  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5XW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (105342-0)

### **Charity Trustees**

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

Mr Harry Armstrong	Mr George Graham
Mr Willis Armstrong	Mr William Lamont
Mr Robert John Bloomfield	Rev Richard Morrison
Mr Stanley Bolton	Mr Christopher Rowe
Mr Keith Dundas	Mr Junior Whyte

### **Principal Office Bearers**

Minister	Rev Richard Morrison
Clerk of Session	Mr Christopher Rowe
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Rowe

### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)  
Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants  
22-30 Broadway Ave,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim,  
BT43 7AA.

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank,  
Po Box 183,  
Donegall Square West,  
Belfast,  
BT1 6JS.

### **Solicitors**

Burnside & Logue Solicitors  
43 Main St,  
Maghera,  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5AA.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Structure and Management**

#### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the 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 normally held bi-monthly, or as is deemed necessary.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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. Churchtown 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, 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

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

### Description and Purpose

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

Churchtown 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 statement is as follows *"by God's grace, we as a gospel shaped congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to make and equip disciples of Jesus, through the proclamation of God's word, to the glory of God."*

The congregation aims to live out its mission 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 were welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on four 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 and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations which seek to reach and disciple those involved. The organisations include:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Sunday School & Bible Class | - Youth Fellowship   |
| - Children's Church           | - Men's Fellowship   |
| - Creche                      | - Presbyterian Women |
| - Holiday Bible Club          | - Friendship Group   |
| - Boys Brigade                | - Choir              |
| - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides | - Walking Group      |

### Achievements and Performance

#### Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:00 Noon (11:00am in July & August) and on the first and third Sunday each month at 7:00pm. A time of prayer is held before each service of worship. During the week there is a midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, providing an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. During the year we saw five members of the congregation pass away and we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

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

At 31 December 2023 there were 141 communicant members and 136 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 120, and evening worship on the first and third Sundays was 40.

### **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, the elder for that district or by a member of the congregation. We also provide online livestream and CD ministry where each worship service is recorded and available to those who could not attend or are housebound. Members of the congregation are willing and proactive in supporting the practical needs of others where they arise. Efforts are made to engage with members of our local community who need pastoral support.

### **Mission and outreach**

Our weekly services of worship are open to everyone in our community and beyond as they are streamed and made available online. During the course of the year certain worship services have a particular theme (e.g. Back to School, Harvest, Christmas and Easter) providing an opportunity to invite members of the community to join with us on these occasions. Events happening within Church life are promoted through leaflet drops, our monthly announcement sheet, church website and social media through our Facebook page.

Our varied range of organisations provided an opportunity to engage with young and old from within the congregation through their carefully planned programmes. They also gave an opportunity to reach out to the local community with many of our youth members having no connection to the congregation.

We enjoy excellent relations with our neighbouring churches. We shared some joint midweeks with Drimbolg Reformed Presbyterian and we supported the local Church of Ireland congregations in Tamlaght O Crilly and Innisrush at their special services held during the year.

The annual week of Holiday Bible Club and Youth outreach on the first week in August provided an opportunity to reach large numbers of children and youth from the wider community. This has proved to be a great way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth, as well as making good connections with families in the area.

The church seeks to support local schools and engage with the staff and pupils there. Our minister regularly takes part in assemblies in two Primary Schools and occasionally in a Secondary school, as well as helping out with breakfast club once a week.

In December we had a Christmas tree put up in the village and were able to host a 'lights switch on' event and outreach in the local community. There was singing from the community choir, a Christmas message from the Church of Ireland minister, and festive refreshments and entertainment. Funding from Mid Ulster Council helped to make this event possible.

The congregation supported the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ensuring that its target is met each year. This 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.

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

The congregation supported other Mission groups/people. This included the work of the Belfast City Mission, with particular interest and focus on Andy and Iris Williamson who serve in Ballysillan. The congregation generously supported the BCM Christmas Gift Appeal in December. Churchtown also continued their gospel partnership with a church in Moldova through European Mission Fellowship. We welcomed their Director and his wife to lead a Sunday Service in March where we heard about the ongoing needs and work in that region. We committed to support this work prayerfully and financially. At the end of the year the total given through our midweek weekly offering and evening services was divided among a number of mission agencies/groups.

In order to encourage young people being involved in short, or longer term, missionary work, locally or overseas, provision is made to financially support them.

### 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 congregations and the wider structures of the church. Our minister took on responsibility for convening the Youth and Children's ministry within Presbytery.

### 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 in Belfast in June.

### Property

The Congregational committee continue to provide oversight for the upkeep of our church buildings, graveyard and farm land. Having prayerfully considered the need for additional and improved facilities, the congregation agreed to proceed with plans for a new church hall adjacent to the graveyard.

### Organisations

**Sunday school & Bible Class** – Throughout 2023, with the exception of the summer months, Sunday school/Bible class met each Sunday morning from 11:00-11:45am. From January to June 2023 the children were taught the word of God in four classes/one Bible class. Our annual Children's Day services were held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The Sunday School/Bible class concluded in June with a family trip to Castlerock beach. Following a summer recess, classes resumed in September 2023, when 22 children and young people enrolled which can be broken down as follows:

- Sunday school (aged 4-11) - 13 children with 3 teachers
- Bible class (aged 12-18) – 9 young people with 2 teachers

During the calendar year, each child received an Easter Egg, end of session prize and Christmas gift. In December 2023, our Sunday School/Bible class pupils enjoyed a Christmas trip to Soft Play and Bowling at the Jet Centre Coleraine followed by food at McDonalds.

Each year Sunday School/Bible Class have a mission project where money is collected by the children in Smartie tubes. Our total contribution at 31 December 2023 to support European Missionary Fellowship through the work of Mihai and Irina Chisari in Moldova was £500.

**Youth Fellowship** - Renew youth fellowship met fortnightly between September and June usually in the Church Hall with approximately 10-15 young people from year 8 up and we have 3 leaders. Our nights usually start with ice breakers followed by a bible-based talk and bible study to help challenge, encourage and equip the young people in their everyday life. Over this we have had people come in to speak about their involvement in mission work including football and video production. We also had a trip to crazy golf and an end of year water fight and pizza night.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O' Crilly Boy's Brigade** – our Boys' Brigade company is attached to the three local churches. From September to March the boys in all sections met each Monday night. The boys in Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a varied programme including bible study, games and craft. The Company section also participated in bible study, enjoyed sport activities and learnt new skills. The BB year concluded with a parents evening on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Following a summer recess, BB meetings resumed in September for all three sections with a programme as outlined above. On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys' Brigade enrolled 5 Anchor boys, 5 Junior boys and 7 Company section boys. 1 Company Section boy received his Presidents Badge at parents evening.

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** – All girls in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated and engaged in different activities each week, such as; craft, sport, games, cookery and scripture related activities. In January 2023, the BB invited us along to a talk from the PSNI which the girls really enjoyed. We ended the 2022/23 year with a tea evening where the girls surprised their family and friends with a flash mob. From September to December 2023, they enjoyed joining with Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys Brigade for enrolment and Harvest services as well as singing carols around the tree and our Christmas party. Each unit is continuing to work towards badges on a variety of different themes. Numbers are continuously changing and we currently have 8 Rainbows, 4 Brownies and 4 Guides.

**Holiday Bible Club** – this involved a week of outreach from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August in the 'Big tent' in the manse field. This was preceded by a Worship service in the tent on the evening of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July. From Monday to Friday nightly meetings were held for Primary school age children following the theme The Big Rescue – studying how God rescued Jonah and God's salvation plan through Jesus' death and resurrection. This meeting was followed each evening by 'Youth Week' from 8.30pm for those of secondary school age+. This event comprised of special activities - including Beatboxing, water games and Beat the clock and also had food, praise and an epilogue each night. On the Friday evening a family night/barbeque and Barn Dance was enjoyed by children and parents/friends. Various prayer times to commit this work to the Lord were held throughout the week. In total, across both age groups, 149 children/young people enrolled during the week. Our week of outreach concluded with a Holiday Bible Club Family service in church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Presbyterian Women** – Women connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December 2023. PW provided a varied programme tied into the theme for the year, Being Transformed. The ladies enjoyed times of fellowship together and were given the opportunity to hear about, and support, local and global mission. Our program consisted of: Gift night where we heard about the three local ministers' wives, Dr Michael McBride Consultant anaesthetist working on the Mercy Ships, Beth Montgomery from Asia Link, Pamela Forrest who shared her testimony with us, an evening out enjoying tea, cakes and crafts, pudding night, Sandra Anderson sharing how God stood by her in tough times, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Lodge Hotel Coleraine and Judith Hooks – Beauty from Ashes (Fire Lily). Some of our ladies attended the Irish Women's Convention. The PW Service in September was led by Sharon and Melvin Kelly and the praise was led by the PW choir.

**Men's Fellowship** – Men connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. The varied programme and range of guest speakers provided an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. The men enjoyed their annual joint sports night in Drimbolg Church hall which was a fun but competitive night. The half time talk was given by Stanley Little. The annual dinner in February was held at Toast in Cullybackey with Rev John Coulter sharing at it. Some men attended Cullnady's Wellbeing Evening in March which proved to be a very helpful and encouraging evening. The visit to Hill's farm Ahoghill gave an insight into the running of a large modern dairy farm. The men enjoyed food together before George Barkley gave a relevant and challenging message from God's word. September saw the men bring out their competitive side again as they took part in a Karting Grand Prix in Kilrea. George Graham brought an epilogue to all present. In October the Churchtown men were joined by a group of men from Ballysillan as they tried air rifle shooting in Cullnady Orange Hall. An interview with one of the men showed how God had been at work in his life. A guest panel and pizza night, which included two of our own members and a former MLA, was an uplifting evening and a time of good fellowship with one another. Average attendance at each event was 20 men

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

**Friendship Group** – This group met monthly from January to March and from September to December. They enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and activities which always ended with chat over a cup of tea. The following details our speakers for the year: January – Michael Saunderson; February – Lorraine McGrath; March – John Porter; September – Norman Worthingham; October – Maud Steele; November – Isaac Thompson and the year finished in December with Phylis Hayes as our speaker at our Christmas lunch in the manse.

**Walking Group** – This provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon for a casual walk. This provided an opportunity for conversation and deepening of friendships. Some of the locations include: Roe Valley Park, Garvagh Forest, Maine Riverside Walk, Portglenone Forest, Castlerock beach and Portballintrae Board walk.

### **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.

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

### Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 96 contributors during the year (2022: 91) donating a total of £65,010 (2022: £60,959).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £138,132 compared to £115,590 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £120,877 from £95,999.

### 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 congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Name: Rev Richard Morrison

Date: 20/03/2024



Name: Christopher Rowe

Date: 20/03/2024

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts of Churchtown congregation for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts 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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) 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.

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)



Stevenson and Wilson

22-30 Broadway Avenue

Chartered Accountants

Ballymena

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

BT43 7AA

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS)  
FOR THE YEAR EDNED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**


	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	83,106	29,970	-	113,076	101,104
Charitable activities	3	300	484	-	784	1,157
Grant		1,150	1,200	-	2,350	4,462
Investment income	4	449	2,708	770	3,927	3,700
Investments realised		-	11,138	-	11,138	-
Other income	5	6,617	240	-	6,857	5,167
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>91,622</b>	<b>45,740</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>138,132</b>	<b>115,590</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	6	421	-	-	421	438
Charitable activities	7	69,559	17,649	-	87,208	83,007
Other expenditure	8	13,054	17,740	-	30,794	12,554
Capital expenditure	9	-	2,454	-	2,454	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>83,034</b>	<b>37,843</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,877</b>	<b>95,999</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		8,588	7,897	770	17,255	19,591
Transfers between funds		-	(9,135)	9,135	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,588	(1,238)	9,905	17,255	19,591
Funds brought forward		96,510	176,879	91,527	364,916	345,325
Funds carried forward	10	105,098	175,641	101,432	382,171	364,916


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

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank, cash and investments at start of year	96,510	176,879	91,527	364,916	345,325
Net movement in funds	8,588	(1,238)	9,905	17,255	19,591
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank, cash and investments at end of year	105,098	175,641	101,432	382,171	364,916
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Bank, Cash and Investment Balances</b>					
Progressive savings accounts				101,432	91,527
Bank current accounts				280,739	273,389
				-----	-----
				382,171	364,916
				=====	=====
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets – Note 9					
Church building and contents				1,031,249	1,031,249
- Church hall buildings and contents				129,747	127,293
- Building of manse				365,444	365,444
- Building of open fronted shelter				6,464	6,464
- Land				41,704	41,704
- Gift Aid receivable on donations				13,500	12,000
Investments				37,264	40,731
				-----	-----
				1,625,372	1,624,885
				=====	=====
<b>Liabilities</b>					
				-----	-----
				2,086	3,271
				=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev Richard Morrison  
Minister

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Christopher Rowe  
Clerk of Session

## CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

##### FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

#### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:					
Loose collections	4,938	-	-	4,938	3,727
Donations and gifts	67,123	27,219	-	94,342	86,243
Gift Aid	11,045	2,751	-	13,796	11,134
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	83,106	29,970	-	113,076	101,104
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities - other	300	-	-	300	780
Charitable activities - publication	-	484	-	484	377
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	300	484	-	784	1,157
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Deposit interest	449	2,708	770	3,927	3,700
	----- 449	----- 2,708	----- 770	----- 3,927	----- 3,700

**5. OTHER INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Conacre income	5,127	-	-	5,127	5,077
Donation for use of hall	30	-	-	30	-
Sale of books	80	-	-	80	-
Power NI	1,200	-	-	1,200	-
National Savings compensation	100	-	-	100	-
McKinley donation	80	-	-	80	-
Donation toward pulpit supply	-	240	-	240	75
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	-	-	-	-	15
	----- 6,617	----- 240	----- -	----- 6,857	----- 5,167

**6. RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
FWO envelopes	421	-	-	421	438
	----- 421	----- -	----- -	----- 421	----- 438

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Ministry and support staff costs	51,450	240	-	51,690	49,185
Presbytery fees	299	-	-	299	295
General assessment	6,197	805	-	7,002	8,030
Events and catering expenses	1,497	1,523	-	3,020	3,951
Stationery and teaching materials	2,717	335	-	3,052	2,535
Publications	(10)	484	-	474	425
Donations to missions and charities	4,738	10,947	-	15,685	15,040
Congregation running costs	2,671	3,315	-	5,986	3,546
	----- 69,559	----- 17,649	----- -	----- 87,208	----- 83,007

**8. OTHER EXPENDITURE**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Governance costs	2,135	232	-	2,367	3,193
Repairs and maintenance	1,479	13,646	-	15,125	2,459
Utilities	9,440	150	-	9,590	6,902
Equipment	-	3,712	-	3,712	-
	----- 13,054	----- 17,740	----- -	----- 30,794	----- 12,554

**9. FIXED ASSETS and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

The congregation owns the Church building, Church hall and Church manse situated at Tamlaght Rd, Maghera BT46 5XW and the associated fixtures, fittings and equipment. These have an insurance value of £1,530,450 at the 31st December 2017.

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**10. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	61,778	86,713	82,783	3,930	-	65,708
Number 3 account	34,732	4,909	251	4,658	-	39,390
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	96,510	91,622	83,034	8,588	-	105,098
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	98	18,650	9,465	9,185	(9,135)	148
Number 2 account	153,204	20,167	19,812	355	-	153,559
Youth fellowship	805	1	391	(390)	-	415
Men's fellowship	553	-	163	(163)	-	390
Friendship group	1,070	336	435	(99)	-	971
Sabbath school	16,430	1,142	1,697	(555)	-	15,875
PW	2,278	3,213	3,124	89	-	2,367
Boys Brigade	2,441	2,231	2,756	(525)	-	1,916
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	176,879	45,740	37,843	7,897	(9,135)	175,641
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
Progressive 1	42,236	394	-	394	-	42,630
Progressive 2	38,454	347	-	347	-	38,801
Progressive 3	3,137	29	-	29	-	3,166
Progressive 4	7,700	-	-	-	-	7,700
Progressive 5	-	-	-	-	9,135	9,135
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	91,527	770	-	770	9,135	101,432
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>364,916</b>	<b>138,132</b>	<b>120,877</b>	<b>17,255</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>382,171</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Annual report

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## **CHURCHTOWN 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**

Churchtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Tamlaght Rd,  
Tamlaght O Crilly,  
Maghera  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5XW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (105342-0)

### **Charity Trustees**

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

Mr Harry Armstrong	Mr George Graham
Mr Willis Armstrong	Mr William Lamont
Mr Robert John Bloomfield	Rev Richard Morrison
Mr Stanley Bolton	Mr Christopher Rowe
Mr Keith Dundas	Mr Junior Whyte

### **Principal Office Bearers**

Minister	Rev Richard Morrison
Clerk of Session	Mr Christopher Rowe
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Rowe

### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)  
Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants  
22-30 Broadway Ave,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim,  
BT43 7AA.

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank,  
Po Box 183,  
Donegall Square West,  
Belfast,  
BT1 6JS.

### **Solicitors**

Burnside & Logue Solicitors  
43 Main St,  
Maghera,  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5AA.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Structure and Management**

#### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the 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 normally held bi-monthly, or as is deemed necessary.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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. Churchtown 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, 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

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

### Description and Purpose

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

Churchtown 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 statement is as follows *"by God's grace, we as a gospel shaped congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to make and equip disciples of Jesus, through the proclamation of God's word, to the glory of God."*

The congregation aims to live out its mission 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 were welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on four 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 and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations which seek to reach and disciple those involved. The organisations include:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Sunday School & Bible Class | - Youth Fellowship   |
| - Children's Church           | - Men's Fellowship   |
| - Creche                      | - Presbyterian Women |
| - Holiday Bible Club          | - Friendship Group   |
| - Boys Brigade                | - Choir              |
| - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides | - Walking Group      |

### Achievements and Performance

#### Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:00 Noon (11:00am in July & August) and on the first and third Sunday each month at 7:00pm. A time of prayer is held before each service of worship. During the week there is a midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, providing an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. During the year we saw five members of the congregation pass away and we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

At 31 December 2023 there were 141 communicant members and 136 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 120, and evening worship on the first and third Sundays was 40.

### **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, the elder for that district or by a member of the congregation. We also provide online livestream and CD ministry where each worship service is recorded and available to those who could not attend or are housebound. Members of the congregation are willing and proactive in supporting the practical needs of others where they arise. Efforts are made to engage with members of our local community who need pastoral support.

### **Mission and outreach**

Our weekly services of worship are open to everyone in our community and beyond as they are streamed and made available online. During the course of the year certain worship services have a particular theme (e.g. Back to School, Harvest, Christmas and Easter) providing an opportunity to invite members of the community to join with us on these occasions. Events happening within Church life are promoted through leaflet drops, our monthly announcement sheet, church website and social media through our Facebook page.

Our varied range of organisations provided an opportunity to engage with young and old from within the congregation through their carefully planned programmes. They also gave an opportunity to reach out to the local community with many of our youth members having no connection to the congregation.

We enjoy excellent relations with our neighbouring churches. We shared some joint midweeks with Drimbolg Reformed Presbyterian and we supported the local Church of Ireland congregations in Tamlaght O Crilly and Innisrush at their special services held during the year.

The annual week of Holiday Bible Club and Youth outreach on the first week in August provided an opportunity to reach large numbers of children and youth from the wider community. This has proved to be a great way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth, as well as making good connections with families in the area.

The church seeks to support local schools and engage with the staff and pupils there. Our minister regularly takes part in assemblies in two Primary Schools and occasionally in a Secondary school, as well as helping out with breakfast club once a week.

In December we had a Christmas tree put up in the village and were able to host a 'lights switch on' event and outreach in the local community. There was singing from the community choir, a Christmas message from the Church of Ireland minister, and festive refreshments and entertainment. Funding from Mid Ulster Council helped to make this event possible.

The congregation supported the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ensuring that its target is met each year. This 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.

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

The congregation supported other Mission groups/people. This included the work of the Belfast City Mission, with particular interest and focus on Andy and Iris Williamson who serve in Ballysillan. The congregation generously supported the BCM Christmas Gift Appeal in December. Churchtown also continued their gospel partnership with a church in Moldova through European Mission Fellowship. We welcomed their Director and his wife to lead a Sunday Service in March where we heard about the ongoing needs and work in that region. We committed to support this work prayerfully and financially. At the end of the year the total given through our midweek weekly offering and evening services was divided among a number of mission agencies/groups.

In order to encourage young people being involved in short, or longer term, missionary work, locally or overseas, provision is made to financially support them.

### 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 congregations and the wider structures of the church. Our minister took on responsibility for convening the Youth and Children's ministry within Presbytery.

### 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 in Belfast in June.

### Property

The Congregational committee continue to provide oversight for the upkeep of our church buildings, graveyard and farm land. Having prayerfully considered the need for additional and improved facilities, the congregation agreed to proceed with plans for a new church hall adjacent to the graveyard.

### Organisations

**Sunday school & Bible Class** – Throughout 2023, with the exception of the summer months, Sunday school/Bible class met each Sunday morning from 11:00-11:45am. From January to June 2023 the children were taught the word of God in four classes/one Bible class. Our annual Children's Day services were held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The Sunday School/Bible class concluded in June with a family trip to Castlerock beach. Following a summer recess, classes resumed in September 2023, when 22 children and young people enrolled which can be broken down as follows:

- Sunday school (aged 4-11) - 13 children with 3 teachers
- Bible class (aged 12-18) – 9 young people with 2 teachers

During the calendar year, each child received an Easter Egg, end of session prize and Christmas gift. In December 2023, our Sunday School/Bible class pupils enjoyed a Christmas trip to Soft Play and Bowling at the Jet Centre Coleraine followed by food at McDonalds.

Each year Sunday School/Bible Class have a mission project where money is collected by the children in Smartie tubes. Our total contribution at 31 December 2023 to support European Missionary Fellowship through the work of Mihai and Irina Chisari in Moldova was £500.

**Youth Fellowship** - Renew youth fellowship met fortnightly between September and June usually in the Church Hall with approximately 10-15 young people from year 8 up and we have 3 leaders. Our nights usually start with ice breakers followed by a bible-based talk and bible study to help challenge, encourage and equip the young people in their everyday life. Over this we have had people come in to speak about their involvement in mission work including football and video production. We also had a trip to crazy golf and an end of year water fight and pizza night.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O' Crilly Boy's Brigade** – our Boys' Brigade company is attached to the three local churches. From September to March the boys in all sections met each Monday night. The boys in Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a varied programme including bible study, games and craft. The Company section also participated in bible study, enjoyed sport activities and learnt new skills. The BB year concluded with a parents evening on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Following a summer recess, BB meetings resumed in September for all three sections with a programme as outlined above. On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys' Brigade enrolled 5 Anchor boys, 5 Junior boys and 7 Company section boys. 1 Company Section boy received his Presidents Badge at parents evening.

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** – All girls in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated and engaged in different activities each week, such as; craft, sport, games, cookery and scripture related activities. In January 2023, the BB invited us along to a talk from the PSNI which the girls really enjoyed. We ended the 2022/23 year with a tea evening where the girls surprised their family and friends with a flash mob. From September to December 2023, they enjoyed joining with Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys Brigade for enrolment and Harvest services as well as singing carols around the tree and our Christmas party. Each unit is continuing to work towards badges on a variety of different themes. Numbers are continuously changing and we currently have 8 Rainbows, 4 Brownies and 4 Guides.

**Holiday Bible Club** – this involved a week of outreach from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August in the 'Big tent' in the manse field. This was preceded by a Worship service in the tent on the evening of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July. From Monday to Friday nightly meetings were held for Primary school age children following the theme The Big Rescue – studying how God rescued Jonah and God's salvation plan through Jesus' death and resurrection. This meeting was followed each evening by 'Youth Week' from 8.30pm for those of secondary school age+. This event comprised of special activities - including Beatboxing, water games and Beat the clock and also had food, praise and an epilogue each night. On the Friday evening a family night/barbeque and Barn Dance was enjoyed by children and parents/friends. Various prayer times to commit this work to the Lord were held throughout the week. In total, across both age groups, 149 children/young people enrolled during the week. Our week of outreach concluded with a Holiday Bible Club Family service in church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Presbyterian Women** – Women connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December 2023. PW provided a varied programme tied into the theme for the year, Being Transformed. The ladies enjoyed times of fellowship together and were given the opportunity to hear about, and support, local and global mission. Our program consisted of: Gift night where we heard about the three local ministers' wives, Dr Michael McBride Consultant anaesthetist working on the Mercy Ships, Beth Montgomery from Asia Link, Pamela Forrest who shared her testimony with us, an evening out enjoying tea, cakes and crafts, pudding night, Sandra Anderson sharing how God stood by her in tough times, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Lodge Hotel Coleraine and Judith Hooks – Beauty from Ashes (Fire Lily). Some of our ladies attended the Irish Women's Convention. The PW Service in September was led by Sharon and Melvin Kelly and the praise was led by the PW choir.

**Men's Fellowship** – Men connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. The varied programme and range of guest speakers provided an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. The men enjoyed their annual joint sports night in Drimbolg Church hall which was a fun but competitive night. The half time talk was given by Stanley Little. The annual dinner in February was held at Toast in Cullybackey with Rev John Coulter sharing at it. Some men attended Cunnady's Wellbeing Evening in March which proved to be a very helpful and encouraging evening. The visit to Hill's farm Ahoghill gave an insight into the running of a large modern dairy farm. The men enjoyed food together before George Barkley gave a relevant and challenging message from God's word. September saw the men bring out their competitive side again as they took part in a Karting Grand Prix in Kilrea. George Graham brought an epilogue to all present. In October the Churchtown men were joined by a group of men from Ballysillan as they tried air rifle shooting in Cunnady Orange Hall. An interview with one of the men showed how God had been at work in his life. A guest panel and pizza night, which included two of our own members and a former MLA, was an uplifting evening and a time of good fellowship with one another. Average attendance at each event was 20 men

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

**Friendship Group** – This group met monthly from January to March and from September to December. They enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and activities which always ended with chat over a cup of tea. The following details our speakers for the year: January – Michael Saunderson; February – Lorraine McGrath; March – John Porter; September – Norman Worthingham; October – Maud Steele; November – Isaac Thompson and the year finished in December with Phylis Hayes as our speaker at our Christmas lunch in the manse.

**Walking Group** – This provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon for a casual walk. This provided an opportunity for conversation and deepening of friendships. Some of the locations include: Roe Valley Park, Garvagh Forest, Maine Riverside Walk, Portglenone Forest, Castlerock beach and Portballintrae Board walk.

### 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.

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

### Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 96 contributors during the year (2022: 91) donating a total of £65,010 (2022: £60,959).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £138,132 compared to £115,590 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £120,877 from £95,999.

### 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 congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Name: Rev Richard Morrison

Name: Christopher Rowe

Date: 20/03/2024

Date: 20/03/2024

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts of Churchtown congregation for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts 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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) 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.

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)

Stevenson and Wilson

22-30 Broadway Avenue

Chartered Accountants

Ballymena

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

BT43 7AA

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Accounts

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**CHURCHTOWN 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 (NIC 105342-0)**

## **CHURCHTOWN 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**

Churchtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Tamlaght Rd,  
Tamlaght O Crilly,  
Maghera  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5XW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (105342-0)

### **Charity Trustees**

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

Mr Harry Armstrong	Mr George Graham
Mr Willis Armstrong	Mr William Lamont
Mr Robert John Bloomfield	Rev Richard Morrison
Mr Stanley Bolton	Mr Christopher Rowe
Mr Keith Dundas	Mr Junior Whyte

### **Principal Office Bearers**

Minister	Rev Richard Morrison
Clerk of Session	Mr Christopher Rowe
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Rowe

### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)  
Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants  
22-30 Broadway Ave,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim,  
BT43 7AA.

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank,  
Po Box 183,  
Donegall Square West,  
Belfast,  
BT1 6JS.

### **Solicitors**

Burnside & Logue Solicitors  
43 Main St,  
Maghera,  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5AA.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Structure and Management**

#### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister/vacancy convenor 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 normally held bi-monthly, or as is deemed necessary.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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. Churchtown 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, 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Description and Purpose**

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

Churchtown 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 statement is as follows *"by God's grace, we as a gospel shaped congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to make and equip disciples of Jesus, through the proclamation of God's word, to the glory of God."*

The congregation aims to live out its mission 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 were welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on four 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 and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations which seek to reach and disciple those involved. The organisations include:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Sunday School & Bible Class | - Youth Fellowship   |
| - Children's Church           | - Men's Fellowship   |
| - Creche                      | - Presbyterian Women |
| - Holiday Bible Club          | - Friendship Group   |
| - Boys Brigade                | - Choir              |
| - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides | - Walking Group      |

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:00 Noon (11:00am in July & August) and on the first and third Sunday each month at 7:00pm. A time of prayer is held before each service of worship. During the week there is a midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, providing an opportunity for members to meet together 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 gracious gift of new life at three Sacraments of Baptism. During the year we saw five members of the congregation pass away and we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

At 31 December 2022 there were 149 communicant members and 135 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 100.

### **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, the elder for that district or by a member of the congregation. We also provide online livestream and CD ministry where each worship service is recorded and available to those who could not attend or are housebound. Members of the congregation are willing and proactive in supporting the practical needs of others where they arise. Efforts are made to engage with members of our local community who need pastoral support.

### **Mission and outreach**

Our weekly services of worship are open to everyone in our community and beyond as they are streamed and made available online. During the course of the year certain worship services have a particular theme (e.g. Back to School, Harvest, Christmas and Easter) providing an opportunity to invite members of the community to join with us on these occasions. Events happening within Church life are promoted through leaflet drops, our monthly announcement sheet, recently launched website and social media through our Facebook page.

Our varied range of organisations provided an opportunity to engage with young and old from within the congregation through their carefully planned programmes. They also gave an opportunity to reach out to the local community with many of our youth members having no connection to the congregation.

We enjoy excellent relations with our neighbouring churches. We shared some joint midweeks with Drimbolg Reformed Presbyterian and we supported the local Church of Ireland congregations in Tamlaght O Crilly and Innisrush at their special services held during the year.

The annual week of Holiday Bible Club and Youth outreach on the first week in August provided an opportunity to reach large numbers of children and youth from the wider community. This has proved to be a great way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth, as well as making good connections with families in the area.

The church seeks to support local schools and engage with the staff and pupils there. Our minister regularly takes part in assemblies in two Primary Schools and occasionally in a Secondary school.

In November we held a Harvest Mission over six consecutive nights. The speaker for the week was the Rev Eddie Kirk, who brought a clear message and challenge from God's word. There were special items of praise and testimony throughout the week and the Mission was well supported by the local community. It was an encouraging week in the life of congregation.

In December we had a Christmas tree put up in the village and were able to host a 'lights switch on' event and outreach in the local community. There was singing from the community choir, a Christmas message from our minister, and festive refreshments and entertainment. Funding from Mid Ulster Council helped to make this event possible.

The congregation supported the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ensuring that its target is met each year. This 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.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

The congregation supported other Mission groups/people. This included the work of the Belfast City Mission, with particular interest and focus on Andy and Iris Williamson who serve in Ballysillan. The congregation generously supported the BCM Christmas Gift Appeal in December. Churchtown also established a gospel partnership with a church in Moldova through European Mission Fellowship. We welcomed their pastor to lead a Sunday Service in October where we heard about the ongoing needs and work in that region. We committed to support this work prayerfully and financially. At the end of the year the total given through our midweek weekly offering and evening services was divided among a number of mission agencies/groups.

In order to encourage young people being involved in short, or longer term, missionary work, locally or overseas, provision is made to financially support them. One young person was supported in her participation on a Scripture Union team at New Horizon in August.

### **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 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 in Belfast in June.

### **Property**

The Congregational committee continue to provide oversight for the upkeep of our church buildings, graveyard and farm land. A new committee was elected in October.

### **Organisations**

**Sunday school & Bible Class** – From January to June 2022 Sunday school/Bible class met each Sunday morning from 11:00-11:45am where children were taught the word of God in four classes/one Bible class. Our annual Children's Day services were held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – our evening service was followed by a Jubilee supper to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Sunday School/Bible class concluded in June with a family trip to the Ark Farm and Bangor. Following a summer recess, classes resumed in September 2022, when 24 children and young people enrolled which can be broken down as follows:

- Sunday school (aged 4-11) - 14 children with 4 teachers
- Bible class (aged 12-18) – 10 young people with 1 teacher.

During the calendar year, each child received an Easter Egg, end of session prize and Christmas gift. In December 2022, our Sunday School/Bible class pupils enjoyed a Christmas trip to Soft Play and Bowling at the Jet Centre Coleraine followed by food at McDonalds.

Each year Sunday School/Bible Class have a mission project where money is collected by the children in Smartie tubes. Our total contribution at 31 December 2022 in support of the work of Coram Deo Ministries was £515. Their work involves translating 'The Jesus Story book Bible' into Italian and Bible teaching sessions.

**Youth Fellowship** - Renew youth fellowship met fortnightly between September and June usually in the Church Hall with approximately 10-15 young people from year 8 up. We have 3 leaders who run the programme. Our nights usually start with ice breakers followed by a bible-based talk or bible study to help challenge, encourage and equip the young people in their everyday life. Over the year we also had a trip for a BBQ and games at the beach, a BBQ and inflatables night at the Manse Shed and a movie night.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O' Crilly Boy's Brigade** – our Boys' Brigade company is attached to the three local churches. From January to April the boys in all sections met each Monday night. The boys in Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a varied programme including bible study, games and craft. The Company section also participated in bible study, enjoyed sport activities and learnt new skills. The BB year concluded with a 'Prizes and Puddings' parents evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Following a summer recess, BB meetings resumed in September for all three sections with a programme as outlined above. On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys' Brigade enrolled 4 Anchor boys, 7 Junior boys and 10 Company section boys.

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** – All girls in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated and engaged in different activities each week, such as; craft, sport, games, cookery and scripture related activities. The guides painted rocks for the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and these were displayed for the community in both Tamlaght O'Crilly and Innisrush. On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, all units came together for a 'Mother and Daughter Tea Evening' to conclude the guiding year. During this, the unit leaders recapped the years events and activities. After the summer holidays, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides resumed their programme in September. On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Tamlaght O'Crilly Girl Guides enrolled 6 Rainbows, 10 Brownies and 13 Guides.

**Holiday Bible Club** – this involved a week of outreach from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August in the 'Big tent' in the manse field. This was preceded by a Worship service in the tent on the evening of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. From Monday to Friday nightly meetings were held for Primary school age children following the theme Under Construction – looking at God's salvation plan from creation to Jesus' death and resurrection. This meeting was followed each evening by 'Summer Youth' from 8.30pm for those of secondary school age+. This event comprised of special activities -including BOMB (Believers on mountain bikes), Fun with drums and also had food, praise and an epilogue each night. On the Friday evening a family night/barbeque was enjoyed by children and parents/friends. In total, across both age groups, 149 children/young people enrolled during the week. Our week of outreach concluded with a Holiday Bible Club Family service in church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Presbyterian Women** – Women connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. PW provided a varied programme tied into the theme for the year, side by side. The ladies enjoyed times of fellowship together and were given the opportunity to hear about, and support, local and global mission. Our program consisted of: Side by Side with the Kellys, working with One Mission Society in Mozambique; Gift night hearing from PW members; Praise and Pudding Evening; Julie Philpot sharing about Jessica's journey; Christmas dinner at the Imperial, Garvagh; and a Christmas themed evening with Julie-Anne Richmond. Some ladies attended Irish Women's Convention. The PW Service in September welcomed Keith Preston to share about the work of The International Meeting Point in Belfast. PW had up to 45 women in attendance.

**Men's Fellowship** – Men connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. The varied programme and range of guest speakers provided an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. The men enjoyed their annual dinner in February at TBF Thompson Ministries Garvagh with Alan Simpson sharing on how God is using him in the prison service. A Joint games night in Drimbolg RP Church Hall proved fun but competitive as Derek Livingston from Ambassadors football shared. The visit to Turtle's farm outside Ahoghill gave an insight into the challenges facing a large modern dairy farm. Victor shared aspects of his Christian faith throughout the tour. The Clay Pigeon shooting at Thatch Gun Club in Broughshane was well attended and the epilogue by George Graham was well received. The men were thankful to Hutchinson Engineering for opening up their premises for a guided tour of their facilities and processes. We were joined by a number of men from other congregations with our minister giving an epilogue at this. In November the men focused on remembrance as Former RUC officer Jarvis Traynor shared his testimony of life through the troubles. Average attendance at each event was 20 men.

**Friendship group** – This group met monthly from January to May and from September to December. They enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and activities which always ended with chat over a cup of tea. The Rev John Martin shared in song and talked about his life in ministry. Rev. Ian McClean shared about the work of MERF (Middle East Reformed Fellowship) which was new to most. Rev. Roland Watt from Killymurrish shared in song and spoke of the Lord as shepherd drawing on his own farming experience. Jill Holmes from Trinity House in Garvagh helpfully gave an overview of her work in the care home and a recent overseas trip. Sam Cowan introduced the group to the work of the Seaman's Christian Friend Society in Belfast docks. May Armstrong was welcomed back to give an update on the work

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

of Bushfire Ministries. The group also enjoyed lunch at the Lodge Coleraine and a Christmas afternoon tea at the Manse, at which Ronnie McKee from TBF Thompson Ministries shared a Christmas message.

**Walking Group** – This provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon for a casual walk. This provided an opportunity for conversation and deepening of friendships. On average 15 people attended. Some of the locations include: Garvagh Forest, Maine Riverside Walk, Portglenone Forest, Castlerock beach and Portballintrae Board walk.

### **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.

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

### Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 91 contributors during the year (2021: 91) donating a total of £60,959 (2021: £54,093 – being £47,348 Weekly Freewill Offering and £6,745 stipend).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £115,590 compared to £96,891 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £95,999 from £87,835.

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

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Name: Rev Richard Morrison

Date: 23/03/23



Name: Christopher Rowe

Date: 23-3-23

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts of Churchtown congregation for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts 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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) 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.

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)



Stevenson and Wilson

22-30 Broadway Avenue

Chartered Accountants

Ballymena

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

BT43 7AA

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS)  
FOR THE YEAR EDNED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**


	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	74,551	26,553	-	101,104	87,817
Charitable activities	3	280	877	-	1,157	520
Grant		2,062	2,400	-	4,462	972
Investment income	4	358	2,696	646	3,700	2,715
Other income	5	5,167	-	-	5,167	4,867
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>82,418</b>	<b>32,526</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>115,590</b>	<b>96,891</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	6	438	-	-	438	410
Charitable activities	7	65,229	17,778	-	83,007	48,929
Other expenditure	8	11,065	1,489	-	12,554	38,496
Capital expenditure	9	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>76,732</b>	<b>19,267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,999</b>	<b>87,835</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		5,686	13,259	646	19,591	9,056
Transfers between funds		(8,500)	800	7,700	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,814)	14,059	8,346	19,591	9,056
Funds brought forward		99,324	162,820	83,181	345,325	336,269
Funds carried forward	10	96,510	176,879	91,527	364,916	345,325

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

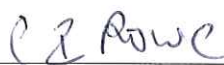
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank, cash and investments at start of year	99,324	162,820	83,181	345,325	336,269
Net movement in funds	(2,814)	14,059	8,346	19,591	9,056
	<u>96,510</u>	<u>176,879</u>	<u>91,527</u>	<u>364,916</u>	<u>345,325</u>
<b>Bank, Cash and Investment Balances</b>					
Progressive savings accounts				91,527	83,181
Bank current accounts				273,389	262,144
				<u>364,916</u>	<u>345,325</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets – Note 9					
Church building and contents				1,031,249	1,031,249
- Church hall buildings and contents				127,293	127,293
- Building of manse				365,444	365,444
- Building of open fronted shelter				6,464	6,464
- Land				41,704	41,704
- Gift Aid receivable on donations				12,000	12,000
Investments				40,731	56,699
				<u>1,624,885</u>	<u>1,640,853</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
				<u>3,271</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Richard Morrison  
Minister



Mr Christopher Rowe  
Clerk of Session

## CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

##### FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

#### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:					
Loose collections	3,727	-	-	3,727	774
Donations and gifts	62,267	23,976	-	86,243	74,913
Gift Aid	8,557	2,577	-	11,134	12,130
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	74,551	26,553	-	101,104	87,817
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities - other	280	500	-	780	520
Charitable activities - publication	-	377	-	377	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	280	877	-	1,157	520
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Deposit interest	358	2,696	646	3,700	2,715
	----- 358	----- 2,696	----- 646	----- 3,700	----- 2,715

**5. OTHER INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Conacre income	5,077	-	-	5,077	4,867
Donation toward pulpit supply	75	-	-	75	-
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	15	-	-	15	-
	----- 5,167	----- -	----- -	----- 5,167	----- 4,867

**6. RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FWO envelopes	438	-	-	438	410
	----- 438	----- -	----- -	----- 438	----- 410

## CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

#### 7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Ministry and support staff costs	49,185	-	-	49,185	25,425
Presbytery fees	295	-	-	295	363
General assessment	6,460	1,570	-	8,030	7,483
Events and catering expenses	2,108	1,843	-	3,951	1,105
Stationery and teaching materials	2,113	422	-	2,535	1,806
Publications	48	377	-	425	-
Donations to missions and charities	3,348	11,692	-	15,040	10,541
Congregation running costs	1,672	1,874	-	3,546	2,206
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	65,229	17,778	-	83,007	48,929
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 8. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Governance costs	2,977	216	-	3,193	3,561
Repairs and maintenance	1,486	973	-	2,459	21,628
Utilities	6,602	300	-	6,902	6,172
Live streaming equipment	-	-	-	-	7,135
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	11,065	1,489	-	12,554	38,496
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 9. FIXED ASSETS and CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The congregation owns the Church building, Church hall and Church manse situated at Tamlaght Rd, Maghera BT46 5XW and the associated fixtures, fittings and equipment. These have an insurance value of £1,530,450 at the 31st December 2017.

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

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**10. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	69,038	77,561	76,321	1,240	(8,500)	61,778
Number 3 account	30,286	4,857	411	4,446	-	34,732
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	99,324	82,418	76,732	5,686	(8,500)	96,510
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Number 1 account	98	9,115	9,115	-	-	98
Number 2 account	139,414	14,763	973	13,790	-	153,204
Youth fellowship	1,129	1	325	(324)	-	805
Men's fellowship	681	415	543	(128)	-	553
Friendship group	1,093	327	350	(23)	-	1,070
Sabbath school	16,896	1,262	2,228	(966)	500	16,430
PW	2,344	3,194	3,260	(66)	-	2,278
Boys Brigade	1,165	3,449	2,473	976	300	2,441
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	162,820	32,526	19,267	13,259	800	176,879
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
Progressive 1	41,922	314	-	314	-	42,236
Progressive 2	38,145	309	-	309	-	38,454
Progressive 3	3,114	23	-	23	-	3,137
Progressive 4	-	-	-	-	7,700	7,700
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	83,181	646	-	646	7,700	91,527
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,325</b>	<b>115,590</b>	<b>95,999</b>	<b>19,591</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>364,916</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Annual report

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## **CHURCHTOWN 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**

Churchtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Tamlaght Rd,  
Tamlaght O Crilly,  
Maghera  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5XW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (105342-0)

### **Charity Trustees**

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

Mr Harry Armstrong	Mr George Graham
Mr Willis Armstrong	Mr William Lamont
Mr Robert John Bloomfield	Rev Richard Morrison
Mr Stanley Bolton	Mr Christopher Rowe
Mr Keith Dundas	Mr Junior Whyte

### **Principal Office Bearers**

Minister	Rev Richard Morrison
Clerk of Session	Mr Christopher Rowe
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Rowe

### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)  
Stevenson & Wilson Chartered Accountants  
22-30 Broadway Ave,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim,  
BT43 7AA.

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank,  
Po Box 183,  
Donegall Square West,  
Belfast,  
BT1 6JS.

### **Solicitors**

Burnside & Logue Solicitors  
43 Main St,  
Maghera,  
Co. Londonderry,  
BT46 5AA.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Structure and Management**

#### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister/vacancy convenor 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 normally held bi-monthly, or as is deemed necessary.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at 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. Churchtown 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, 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Description and Purpose**

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

Churchtown 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 statement is as follows *"by God's grace, we as a gospel shaped congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to make and equip disciples of Jesus, through the proclamation of God's word, to the glory of God."*

The congregation aims to live out its mission 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 were welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on four 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 and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations which seek to reach and disciple those involved. The organisations include:

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Sunday School & Bible Class | - Youth Fellowship   |
| - Children's Church           | - Men's Fellowship   |
| - Creche                      | - Presbyterian Women |
| - Holiday Bible Club          | - Friendship Group   |
| - Boys Brigade                | - Choir              |
| - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides | - Walking Group      |

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12:00 Noon (11:00am in July & August) and on the first and third Sunday each month at 7:00pm. A time of prayer is held before each service of worship. During the week there is a midweek meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, providing an opportunity for members to meet together 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 gracious gift of new life at three Sacraments of Baptism. During the year we saw five members of the congregation pass away and we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

## **CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

At 31 December 2022 there were 149 communicant members and 135 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 100.

### **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, the elder for that district or by a member of the congregation. We also provide online livestream and CD ministry where each worship service is recorded and available to those who could not attend or are housebound. Members of the congregation are willing and proactive in supporting the practical needs of others where they arise. Efforts are made to engage with members of our local community who need pastoral support.

### **Mission and outreach**

Our weekly services of worship are open to everyone in our community and beyond as they are streamed and made available online. During the course of the year certain worship services have a particular theme (e.g. Back to School, Harvest, Christmas and Easter) providing an opportunity to invite members of the community to join with us on these occasions. Events happening within Church life are promoted through leaflet drops, our monthly announcement sheet, recently launched website and social media through our Facebook page.

Our varied range of organisations provided an opportunity to engage with young and old from within the congregation through their carefully planned programmes. They also gave an opportunity to reach out to the local community with many of our youth members having no connection to the congregation.

We enjoy excellent relations with our neighbouring churches. We shared some joint midweeks with Drimbolg Reformed Presbyterian and we supported the local Church of Ireland congregations in Tamlaght O Crilly and Innisrush at their special services held during the year.

The annual week of Holiday Bible Club and Youth outreach on the first week in August provided an opportunity to reach large numbers of children and youth from the wider community. This has proved to be a great way of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth, as well as making good connections with families in the area.

The church seeks to support local schools and engage with the staff and pupils there. Our minister regularly takes part in assemblies in two Primary Schools and occasionally in a Secondary school.

In November we held a Harvest Mission over six consecutive nights. The speaker for the week was the Rev Eddie Kirk, who brought a clear message and challenge from God's word. There were special items of praise and testimony throughout the week and the Mission was well supported by the local community. It was an encouraging week in the life of congregation.

In December we had a Christmas tree put up in the village and were able to host a 'lights switch on' event and outreach in the local community. There was singing from the community choir, a Christmas message from our minister, and festive refreshments and entertainment. Funding from Mid Ulster Council helped to make this event possible.

The congregation supported the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ensuring that its target is met each year. This 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.

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

The congregation supported other Mission groups/people. This included the work of the Belfast City Mission, with particular interest and focus on Andy and Iris Williamson who serve in Ballysillan. The congregation generously supported the BCM Christmas Gift Appeal in December. Churchtown also established a gospel partnership with a church in Moldova through European Mission Fellowship. We welcomed their pastor to lead a Sunday Service in October where we heard about the ongoing needs and work in that region. We committed to support this work prayerfully and financially. At the end of the year the total given through our midweek weekly offering and evening services was divided among a number of mission agencies/groups.

In order to encourage young people being involved in short, or longer term, missionary work, locally or overseas, provision is made to financially support them. One young person was supported in her participation on a Scripture Union team at New Horizon in August.

### 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 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 in Belfast in June.

### Property

The Congregational committee continue to provide oversight for the upkeep of our church buildings, graveyard and farm land. A new committee was elected in October.

### Organisations

**Sunday school & Bible Class** – From January to June 2022 Sunday school/Bible class met each Sunday morning from 11:00-11:45am where children were taught the word of God in four classes/one Bible class. Our annual Children's Day services were held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – our evening service was followed by a Jubilee supper to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Sunday School/Bible class concluded in June with a family trip to the Ark Farm and Bangor. Following a summer recess, classes resumed in September 2022, when 24 children and young people enrolled which can be broken down as follows:

- Sunday school (aged 4-11) - 14 children with 4 teachers
- Bible class (aged 12-18) – 10 young people with 1 teacher.

During the calendar year, each child received an Easter Egg, end of session prize and Christmas gift. In December 2022, our Sunday School/Bible class pupils enjoyed a Christmas trip to Soft Play and Bowling at the Jet Centre Coleraine followed by food at McDonalds.

Each year Sunday School/Bible Class have a mission project where money is collected by the children in Smartie tubes. Our total contribution at 31 December 2022 in support of the work of Coram Deo Ministries was £515. Their work involves translating 'The Jesus Story book Bible' into Italian and Bible teaching sessions.

**Youth Fellowship** - Renew youth fellowship met fortnightly between September and June usually in the Church Hall with approximately 10-15 young people from year 8 up. We have 3 leaders who run the programme. Our nights usually start with ice breakers followed by a bible-based talk or bible study to help challenge, encourage and equip the young people in their everyday life. Over the year we also had a trip for a BBQ and games at the beach, a BBQ and inflatables night at the Manse Shed and a movie night.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O' Crilly Boy's Brigade** – our Boys' Brigade company is attached to the three local churches. From January to April the boys in all sections met each Monday night. The boys in Anchors and Juniors enjoyed a varied programme including bible study, games and craft. The Company section also participated in bible study, enjoyed sport activities and learnt new skills. The BB year concluded with a 'Prizes and Puddings' parents evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Following a summer recess, BB meetings resumed in September for all three sections with a programme as outlined above. On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1<sup>st</sup> Tamlaght O'Crilly Boys' Brigade enrolled 4 Anchor boys, 7 Junior boys and 10 Company section boys.

**Tamlaght O'Crilly Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** – All girls in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated and engaged in different activities each week, such as; craft, sport, games, cookery and scripture related activities. The guides painted rocks for the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and these were displayed for the community in both Tamlaght O'Crilly and Innisrush. On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, all units came together for a 'Mother and Daughter Tea Evening' to conclude the guiding year. During this, the unit leaders recapped the years events and activities. After the summer holidays, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides resumed their programme in September. On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Tamlaght O'Crilly Girl Guides enrolled 6 Rainbows, 10 Brownies and 13 Guides.

**Holiday Bible Club** – this involved a week of outreach from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August in the 'Big tent' in the manse field. This was preceded by a Worship service in the tent on the evening of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. From Monday to Friday nightly meetings were held for Primary school age children following the theme Under Construction – looking at God's salvation plan from creation to Jesus' death and resurrection. This meeting was followed each evening by 'Summer Youth' from 8.30pm for those of secondary school age+. This event comprised of special activities -including BOMB (Believers on mountain bikes), Fun with drums and also had food, praise and an epilogue each night. On the Friday evening a family night/barbeque was enjoyed by children and parents/friends. In total, across both age groups, 149 children/young people enrolled during the week. Our week of outreach concluded with a Holiday Bible Club Family service in church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Presbyterian Women** – Women connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. PW provided a varied programme tied into the theme for the year, side by side. The ladies enjoyed times of fellowship together and were given the opportunity to hear about, and support, local and global mission. Our program consisted of: Side by Side with the Kellys, working with One Mission Society in Mozambique; Gift night hearing from PW members; Praise and Pudding Evening; Julie Philpot sharing about Jessica's journey; Christmas dinner at the Imperial, Garvagh; and a Christmas themed evening with Julie-Anne Richmond. Some ladies attended Irish Women's Convention. The PW Service in September welcomed Keith Preston to share about the work of The International Meeting Point in Belfast. PW had up to 45 women in attendance.

**Men's Fellowship** – Men connected to the congregation met each month from January to April and September to December. The varied programme and range of guest speakers provided an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. The men enjoyed their annual dinner in February at TBF Thompson Ministries Garvagh with Alan Simpson sharing on how God is using him in the prison service. A Joint games night in Drimbolg RP Church Hall proved fun but competitive as Derek Livingston from Ambassadors football shared. The visit to Turtle's farm outside Ahoghill gave an insight into the challenges facing a large modern dairy farm. Victor shared aspects of his Christian faith throughout the tour. The Clay Pigeon shooting at Thatch Gun Club in Broughshane was well attended and the epilogue by George Graham was well received. The men were thankful to Hutchinson Engineering for opening up their premises for a guided tour of their facilities and processes. We were joined by a number of men from other congregations with our minister giving an epilogue at this. In November the men focused on remembrance as Former RUC officer Jarvis Traynor shared his testimony of life through the troubles. Average attendance at each event was 20 men.

**Friendship group** – This group met monthly from January to May and from September to December. They enjoyed a varied programme of speakers and activities which always ended with chat over a cup of tea. The Rev John Martin shared in song and talked about his life in ministry. Rev. Ian McClean shared about the work of MERF (Middle East Reformed Fellowship) which was new to most. Rev. Roland Watt from Killymurriss shared in song and spoke of the Lord as shepherd drawing on his own farming experience. Jill Holmes from Trinity House in Garvagh helpfully gave an overview of her work in the care home and a recent overseas trip. Sam Cowan introduced the group to the work of the Seaman's Christian Friend Society in Belfast docks. May Armstrong was welcomed back to give an update on the work

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

of Bushfire Ministries. The group also enjoyed lunch at the Lodge Coleraine and a Christmas afternoon tea at the Manse, at which Ronnie McKee from TBF Thompson Ministries shared a Christmas message.

**Walking Group** – This provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon for a casual walk. This provided an opportunity for conversation and deepening of friendships. On average 15 people attended. Some of the locations include: Garvagh Forest, Maine Riverside Walk, Portglenone Forest, Castlerock beach and Portballintrae Board walk.

### 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.

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

### Financial Review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 91 contributors during the year (2021: 91) donating a total of £60,959 (2021: £54,093 – being £47,348 Weekly Freewill Offering and £6,745 stipend).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £115,590 compared to £96,891 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £95,999 from £87,835.

### 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 congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Name: Rev Richard Morrison

Date: 23/03/23



Name: Christopher Rowe

Date: 23-3-23

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105342

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHURCHTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts of Churchtown congregation for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts 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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) 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.

Ian Johnston (A.F.A.)



Stevenson and Wilson

22-30 Broadway Avenue

Chartered Accountants

Ballymena

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

BT43 7AA