

Main Street Garvagh Presbyterian Church a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105347

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Main Street Garvagh congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Main Street, Garvagh. Coleraine, BT51 5AA

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105347)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

W J Campbell	B Farlow
WJ Clyde	Alan Farlow
Alex Farlow	H Gilmore
B Moore	G McClure
F Smyth	KS Workman
JI Wright	T Wright
S Dinsmore	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Congregation is vacant
Clerk of Session	Alan Farlow
Treasurer	J Ivan Wright

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Joan Moore
16 Ballyagan Road
Garvagh
Co Londonderry
BT51 5JE

BANKERS

Ulster Bank 30-32 Catharine Street, Limavady BT49 9DB

SOLICITORS

Anderson Gillian Barr, 41, New Row, Coleraine, BT52 1AE

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Kirk Session

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

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

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least twice in each year or as appropriate.

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

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Main Street Garvagh Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Coleraine & Limavady 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 ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

The congregations mission purposes is *"To see unbelieving people become committed members of Christ's Church"*

- *is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;*
- *is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;*
- *is relevant to people of this time and place.*

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- *A Covenant Community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward him and toward one another*
- *An Intergenerational Community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.*
- *An Outward looking Community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.*
- *As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice*

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

During 2022 we have aimed to get our organisations up and running again. The Sunday morning service has continued to be broadcast live while our numbers have been up in people attending.

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

- Sunday School/Bible Class/Children's Church/Crèche
- Junior Bible Club
- Youth Club
- Women Together
- Friendship Group
- Crafters
- Boys Brigade

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am and 7.00pm alternate Sundays. During the week the Bible Study/Small Groups provides 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 if applicable during the year we would acknowledge God's gift of new life at the Sacrament of Baptism, (we had no baptisms this year), we gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year. At 31 December 2022 there were 204 communicant members and 194 families connected with the congregation.

The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 200.

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 (Convenor covering the vacancy), elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

The congregation is supportive of local mission through its involvement in support of the local Mission Hall and input into the local Primary Schools. Through the provision of catering as when required. We host events for Young Farmers Club, Trefoil Guild, Women's Institute and Garvagh Playgroup etc.

The congregation supports the **United Appeal for Mission** which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on 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.

Our **outreach** to the local community is wide and varied including Pampered & Prepared and The Holiday Bible Club which are two well established annual events. Pampered and Prepared has not restarted as yet but The Holiday Bible Club did run for a week in July.

Donations include support of the following:-

Belfast City Mission
Leprosy Mission
Tearfund
UFM
Faith Mission
Scripture Union
Adopt A Child
PCI Missionaries
Various local charities

Presbytery

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

General Assembly

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

Property

We continue to upkeep our church buildings along with the Manse and other small properties.

Organisations

Sunday School / Bible Class

Every Sunday morning from September to June from 9.45 to 10.45am, around 40 children aged 4-16 and 7 adults meet in different areas of the church to participate in varied Bible teaching and learning activities, including songs, games Bible stories, discussions, crafts, quizzes, breakfasts. A special Youth and Children's service was programmed in June, and children also take part in Family Services. This year there was also an interactive Easter Story trail in Garvagh Forest, which was opened to the community.

Junior Bible Club

Junior Bible Club is a youth organisation aimed at children from Primary 1 to Primary 7. It is held in Main Street Church Hall every Monday evening from September to March.

Due to a lack of help coupled with a drop in numbers, Junior Bible Club did not physically meet in the hall this year. Instead, children were supplied with activity packs on a monthly basis and these were given out at church; those who did not attend church had theirs delivered to their home. In total 21 children, from both Main St and Killaig Presbyterian churches, took part.

Pack supplies each month comprised of worksheets, craft resources or a game/fun activity, and snacks and treats. At Christmas the children received a selection box or gift each and also prizes and an egg at Easter. Also additional activities were included in October to provide the children with something to do over half-term. These included extra craft resources, ideas for baking and autumn themed activities, and glow sticks with ideas for fun games to play in the dark.

Youth

Our programme started in April where we attended a live stream event at First Garvagh Pres. allowing young people across PCI to join together in a new way. We also had a board game night and organised a night of bowling and ice cream for the young adults (age 16-29). May brings the start of exam season for our young ones and we provided a space for study and breakfast two mornings that month.

We had a trip to Belfast to see Rend Collective, a Christian band, in June.

Three nights in July we held an event for the 14+ age group called YOYO involving food, guest speakers and games.

September starts our new term with new young people joining and we kick off with a Dinner Dander.

An eight-week series ran on Sunday nights - each night had an episode from the Nua Origins series followed by discussion and games.

We had two visits to Room 2 Race, a virtual racing centre, in November for the different age groups.

Our Christmas events were Chilled Carols and an outdoor Christmas Movie at the manse.

We could have 10 - 25 young people attending these events throughout the year.

Women Together

From January to March of 2022 Presbyterian Women (PW) continued to meet on the first Tuesday of each month with visiting speakers at each meeting. In January Jill Holmes talked about her work with VISPA, Julie Philpott shared 'Jessica's Journey' with us in February and we finished off the 21/22 session in March where Barbara Bond shared her testimony entitled 'Sewing through Life'. We also held our AGM in March where the new office

bearers for 22/23 were voted in. The committees of both Young Women's Group and Presbyterian Women then met in May and made the decision amalgamate the two groups and operate under the name Women Together.

The annual Sunday service was held in October, where the guest speaker was Jason Nicholson from The Presbyterian children's Society. The monthly meetings recommenced in October with visiting speaker Eileen Miller who gave her testimony and painted at the same time! November's visiting speaker was Brian Gault, author of the book, 'Look No hands. Members from Killaig, Moneydig, First Garvagh and Aghadowey PWs joined us to hear Brian's testimony. The year was finished off in December with a Christmas Social party night which was organised jointly between Main Street Women Together and Killaig PW. A great night's fun was had by all who attended. This was followed the next week with a delicious Christmas Dinner in the church hall.

For the 2023, the committee are excited to announce plans for the return of Pampered and Prepared.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group meet each month Sept-April.

We have a time of singing, an activity such as a games or crafts and a verse for today followed by soup tea & coffee. Each year we have an outing.

Crafters

Cafe link crafters met fortnightly with an attendance of 15-20 each meeting. Members enjoyed a variety of craft projects as well as the essential cup of tea. They supported several charity projects including Trinity Care Home, Tearfund, Handmade with Love for Premmies.

Boys' Brigade

The Boys Brigade's objective is the 'Advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys. Open for boys from ages 5 to 18 and we provide a full program of activities throughout the year from September to April.

The company has currently 49 boys and 11 Leaders.

During the current session we have met regularly and the boys have competed in BB competitions at a local and national level.

We operate a comprehensive badge award system whereby boys can attain badges for various activities throughout their BB journey and this culminates in the highest award of the Queens Badge.

We have awarded 4 Queen's Badges and 2 President's Badges this session to boys within the company section.

We have a further 4 Boys working towards their Queens Badge next year and the boys will be involved with Local Community projects during the summer months.

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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 134 families who contributed during the year donating a total of £75,362.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £170,783 compared to £198,362 in the previous year.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregations and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 December 2022

GOING CONCERN

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

RESERVES POLICY

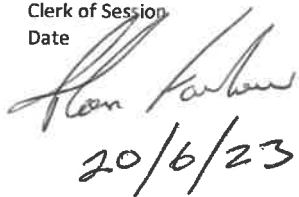
The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least one month's normal expenditure. At the year-end unrestricted reserves were **£86,728** which represents a higher level of reserves. The Trustees, however, consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent on the ongoing financial support of members.

RISK REVIEW

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

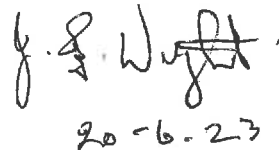
Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on _24th January 2023_ and signed on its behalf
by Signed on behalf by

Mr Alan Farlow
Clerk of Session
Date



20/6/23

Mr Ivan Wright
Treasurer
Date



20-6-23