

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE 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 (NIC105378)

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE 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

Grange with Craigmore congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Grange Corner, Taylorstown Road, Toomebridge, BT41 3RW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105378)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Ronald Agnew
Mr Jamie Harris
Mr John Wright

Mr Peter Brown
Mr David Montgomery

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev Ronald Agnew
Jamie Harris
Trevor McNeilly

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Elizabeth Blake FCA
17 Whinlands Close
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 9AP

BANKERS

Danske Bank
1-2 Broadway
Ballymena
BT43 7PE

SOLICITORS

Boal Anderson
56 High Street
Ballymena
BT43 6UH

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE 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 congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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

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

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Grange with Craigmore 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 the congregation.

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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.

Grange with Craigmere 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 purpose is, *Helping People Follow Jesus*. We exist because of the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord. So our mission is, to order Congregational Life in line with the universal Lordship of Christ and His mission plan to advance the Gospel of His kingdom to all people in all the world. Our vision is, to grow in fruitfulness as a Community of Christ where He trains, empowers & uses us to Make, Mature & Multiply followers as we:

- Depend on the power of Christ: We acknowledge our utter dependence on Christ's grace and seek to experience His promised power and presence through His Holy Spirit by prayer.
- Declare the truth of Christ: We aim to see faith in Christ created and matured through the hearing of God's word of grace and truth in Scripture.
- Disciple in living for the glory of Christ: We seek to follow Jesus' plan of making whole-life, missional, disciple-making disciples.
- Demonstrate the love of Christ: We seek to reflect the reality of our faith relationship with God through Christ in our relationships with those inside and outside our Church family.

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular prayer and bible study meetings. The following organisations met during the 2023 year:

- Sunday School
- Bible Class
- Youth Club
- Presbyterian Women (PW)
- Knit and Natter

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12noon (11am during July & August) and alternate Sunday evenings at 7pm. Fortnightly Prayer Time provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship by hearing the scriptures and praying for the church, community and world.

As well as our regular services during the year we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 83 communicant members and 119 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 63. Since the Covid-19 pandemic services are livestreamed and a number of people watch the service online.

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, elders or others in the congregation.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation serves the community through Youth Club, Holiday Bible Club, and through partnerships with our local Community Association, Primary School and Community Playgroup. At a global level the congregation supports a number of worldwide missions through donations and prayer.

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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 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 congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to the denominations other special appeals.

Presbytery

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

General Assembly

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

Property

During the year the church property was maintained in good order.

Organisations

Approximately 15 – 20 meet on a Sunday morning for Sunday School and Bible Class with Youth Club running on alternate Saturday evenings.

Once a month, Presbyterian Women's Group enjoy a variety of speakers with an average attendance of 30 women.

Our Knit and Natter Women's Fellowship meets monthly on Thursday mornings to knit and enjoy friendship with an average attendance of twenty. The ladies enjoy an outing for their June meeting.

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.

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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.

GRANGE WITH CRAIGMORE 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 83 contributors during the year donating a total of £51, 668. In 2022, there were 83 contributors during the year donating a total of £50, 678.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £96, 962 compared to £90, 394 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £60, 507 (2022) to £111, 035 (2023). £76, 035 was general expenditure and £35, 000 of this was the purchase of investments.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 15th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Ronald Agnew

Jamie Harris

Date: 15th October 2024

Date: 15th October 2024