

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105386

Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-08-09

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

Contact

Address 5 Ballyblack Road
Newtownards
Newtownards
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Website www.ballyblack-church.org.uk

Activities

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

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£122,296	£117,174	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Alexander Warden		
Mr David Blevings		
Mr David Henry Mccracken		
Mr David Tennis		
Mr James Martin		
Mrs Elizabeth Glenn		
Mrs Elizabeth Warden		
Mrs Valerie Robinson		
Rev Andras Gilicze		

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Accounts

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2025

The Trustees present their Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	70,599	21,970		92,569	69,879
Charitable activities	3	0	10,936		10,936	8,678
Other trading activities	4	0	0		0	0
Investment Income	5	326	5,350		5,676	5,489
Other	6	13,115	0		13,115	10,204
		84,040	38,255	0	122,296	94,250
Sale of Investments		0	0		0	
Sale of fixed assets		0	0		0	
Loans Received		0	0		0	
Total Receipts		84,040	38,255	0	122,296	94,250
Payments						
Raising funds	7	390	0		390	375
Charitable activities	8	63,997	52,692		116,689	78,857
Investment costs		0	0		0	0
Other	9	0	95		95	424
		64,387	52,787		117,174	79,656
Purchase of Investments		0	0		0	
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0		0	
Loan Repayments		0	0		0	
Total Payments		64,387	52,787	0	117,174	79,656
Net receipts / (payments)		19,653	-14,532	0	5,121	14,594
Transfers between funds		-11,874	11,874		0	-239
Net movement in funds		7,779	-2,658	0	5,121	14,355
Funds brought forward		98,439	20,275	3,600	122,314	107,959
Funds carried forward	12	106,218	17,617	3,600	127,435	122,314

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	98,439	20,275	3,600	122,314	107,959
Net movement in funds	7,779	-2,658	0	5,121	14,355
Bank and Cash at end of year	106,218	17,617	3,600	127,435	122,314
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				54,619	48,176
Bank Current Accounts				72,405	72,586
Cash in Hand				411	1,552
				127,435	122,314

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2025

Other Assets

- Fixed Assets – Note 10
 - Church Premises
 - Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment
 - Vehicles

Investments – Note 11	0	0
	0	0

Liabilities

Loans	0	0
	0	0

The above Other Assets and Liabilities are shown for Note purposes only.

Approved by the Kirk Session on and signed on its behalf by

Rev Andras Gillicze

David McCracken

Date

Date

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These accounts include the Church and all its associated organisations.

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 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving:					
Loose collections	998	716	0	1,714	1,553
Donations and gifts	40,676	18,360	0	59,036	57,214
Gift Aid	28,925	2,894	0	31,819	11,112
Legacies and bequest	0	0	0	0	0
	70,599	21,970	0	92,569	69,879

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	1,299	0	1,299	2,805
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	1,836	0	1,836	1,010
Fundraising events	0	3,968	0	3,968	2,011
Membership fees	0	2,633	0	2,633	1,165
Grants	0	1,200	0	1,200	1,687
	0	10,936	0	10,936	8,678

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	326	710	0	1,036	1,049
General Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Rents investment properties	0	4,440	0	4,440	4,440
Other investment income	0	200	0	200	0
	326	5,350	0	5,676	5,489

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Manse Rental	9,704	0	0	9,704	0
Org Funds Returned	2,911	0	0	2,911	0
Bike Show Float Return	500	0	0	500	10,204
	13,115	0	0	13,115	10,204

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	390	0	0	390	375
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	390	0	0	390	375

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	14,923	0	0	14,923	13,521
Presbytery fees	498	0	0	498	481
Ministry and support staff costs	23,659	0	0	23,659	24,581
Congregational running expenses	24,377	44,741	0	69,118	31,353
Donations to Missions and charities	0	7,951	0	7,951	8,441
Governance costs	540	0	0	540	480
	63,997	52,692	0	116,689	78,857

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	95	0	95	424
	0	95	0	95	424

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church building, the Church Hall and the Cottage, all situated at 29 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AS, and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1,128,750. £959,437 and £109,442 respectively. The congregation also owns the Manse, situated at 17 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AP. This has an insurance value of £451,500

11. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
					0	0

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	98,439	84,040	64,386	19,654	-11,874	106,219
	98,439	84,040	64,386	19,654	-11,874	106,219
Restricted Funds						
Property & Development Fund	12,514	23,779	35,365	-11,586	10,000	10,928
Missions & Charities Fund	565	5,651	7,051	-1,400	1,874	1,039
Bowling Club	509	290	235	55	0	564
Badminton Club	562	14	576	-562	0	0
Sunday School	1,014	28	1,042	-1,014	0	0
GB	3,036	4,776	4,457	319	0	3,355
Souper Seniors	8	853	784	69	0	77
PW	774	2,864	1,984	880	0	1,653
BB	1,192	1	1,193	-1,192	0	0
Youth Club	101	0	101	-101	0	0
	20,275	38,256	52,788	-14,532	11,874	17,616
Endowment Funds						
Trust Fund	3,600	0	0	0	0	3,600
	3,600	0	0	0	0	3,600
Total	122,314	122,296	117,174	5,122	0	127,435

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Accounts

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2024

The Trustees present their Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	51,032	18,847	0	69,879	66,622
Charitable activities	3	0	8,678	0	8,678	8,890
Other trading activities	4	0	0	0	0	0
Investment Income	5	343	5,146	0	5,489	5,307
Other	6	9,854	350	0	10,204	9,671
		61,229	33,021	0	94,250	90,490
Sale of Investments		0	0		0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	0		0	0
Loans Received		0	0		0	0
Total Receipts		61,229	33,021	0	94,250	90,490
Payments						
Raising funds	7	375	0	0	375	296
Charitable activities	8	42,383	36,474	0	78,857	95,038
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other	9	0	424	0	424	1,480
		42,758	36,898	0	79,656	96,814
Purchase of Investments		0	0		0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0		0	0
Loan Repayments		0	0		0	0
Total Payments		42,758	36,898	0	79,656	96,814
Net receipts / (payments)		18,471	-3,877	0	14,594	-6,324
Transfers between funds		-7,139	6,900		-239	0
Net movement in funds		11,332	3,023	0	14,355	-6,324
Funds brought forward		87,107	17,252	3,600	107,959	114,283
Funds carried forward	12	98,439	20,275	3,600	122,314	107,959

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	87,107	17,252	3,600	107,959	114,283
Net movement in funds	11,332	3,023	0	14,355	-6,324
Bank and Cash at end of year	98,439	20,275	3,600	122,314	-107,959
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				48,176	30,295
Bank Current Accounts				72,586	77,066
Cash in Hand				1,552	598
				122,314	107,959

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2024

Other Assets

Fixed Assets – Note 10

- Church Premises
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment
- Vehicles

Investments – Note 11

0 0

0 0

Liabilities

Loans

0 0

0 0

The above Other Assets and Liabilities are shown for Note purposes only.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These accounts include the Church and all its associated organisations.

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	1,553	0		1,553	735
Donations and gifts	41,202	16,012		57,214	55,760
Gift Aid	8,277	2,835		11,112	10,127
Legacies and bequest	0	0		0	0
	<hr/> 51,032	<hr/> 18,847	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 69,879	<hr/> 66,622 <hr/>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	2,805	0	2,805	1,914
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	1,010	0	1,010	500
Fundraising events	0	2,011	0	2,011	3,516
Membership fees	0	1,165	0	1,165	1,560
Grants	0	1,687	0	1,687	1,400
	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 8,678	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 8,678	<hr/> 8,890 <hr/>

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	343	706	0	1,049	867
General Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Rents investment properties	0	4,440	0	4,440	4,440
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	343	5,146	0	5,489	5,307

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	9,854	350	0	10,204	9,671
	9,854	350	0	10,204	9,671

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	375	0	0	375	296
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	375	0	0	375	296

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	13,521	0	0	13,521	12,959
Presbytery fees	481	0	0	481	459
Ministry and support staff costs	24,581	0	0	24,581	23,717
Congregational running expenses	3,320	28,033	0	31,353	50,652
Donations to Missions and charities	0	8,441	0	8,441	6,867
Governance costs	480	0	0	480	384
	42,383	36,474	0	78,857	95,038

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	424	0	424	1,480
	0	424	0	424	1,480

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church building, the Church Hall and the Cottage, all situated at 29 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AS, and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1128750....., £959437..... and £109442..... respectively. The congregation also owns the Manse, situated at 17 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AP. This has an insurance value of £451500.....

11. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
					£	£
General Investment Fund	0	0	0		0	0
Property	0	0	0		0	0
Other investments	0	0	0		0	0
					0	0

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	87,107	61,229	42,758	18,471	-7,139	98,439
	87,107	61,229	42,758	18,471	-7,139	98,439
Restricted Funds						
Property & Development Fund	7,851	20,191	20,528	-337	5,000	12,514
Missions & Charities Fund	728	6,148	8,211	-2,063	1,900	565
Bowling Club	648	225	364	-139		509
Badminton Club	562	0	0	0		562
Sunday School	1,014	0	0	0		1,014
GB	4,104	3,895	4,963	-1,068		3,036
Souper Seniors	121	1,000	1,113	-113		8
PW	931	1,563	1,720	-157		774
BB	1,192	0	0	0		1,192
Youth Club	101	0	0	0		101
	17,252	33,022	36,899	-3,877	6,900	20,275
Endowment Funds						
Trust Fund	3,600			0		3,600
	3,600	0	0	0	0	3,600
Total	107,959	94,251	79,657	14,594	-239	122,314

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Annual report

**BALLYBLACK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**



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

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

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



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

Ballyblack congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
c/o 5 Ballyblack Road Newtownards BT23 8SR

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

David Blevings
Betty Glenn
Alex Warden

Robert Bole
David McCracken
Elizabeth Warden
Rev Andras Gilicze

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev Andras Gilicze
David McCracken
Robert Bole

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Neeson Chambers Limited
123/125 Main Street, Bangor BT20 4AE

BANKERS

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

SOLICITORS

Elizabeth A Warden Solicitor
The Stables, Seaview Farm
92 Bowtown Road, Newtownards, County Down, BT23 8SL

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

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least four times 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 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. Ballyblack congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards 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.

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,

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



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.

Ballyblack 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 purpose is as follows:

The congregation of Ballyblack reaches as far back as 1813 and individuals and families from the surrounding area have been gathering for worship in the present building since 1872. Ballyblack Presbyterian Church is set on a hill in a rural area and is somewhat unique in that it is one of the few churches in the Ards Presbytery that is 'truly rural.'

The present situation:

The congregation of Ballyblack PC has, within the past 12/13 years, been able to enjoy updated, extended and refurbished hall accommodation fit for purpose for the 21st Century. These facilities are in regular use by the Church organisations and the wider community, and the debt needed to provide these facilities has been repaid thanks to the generosity and support of the whole congregation.

A committed group of people within the congregation are involved in leading and supporting in various ways within a range of organisations and groups: Sunday School and Creche – Girls Brigade –Presbyterian Women –Community Men's Group –Indoor Bowling Club – Walking Group

Like most congregations, the congregation has had its high points and low points in recent years but have held together and maintained a consistent witness through the challenging times as well as the good times. The leadership of the congregation is aware, of course, that 'maintenance mode' is not an option and there is a work within and without to be done.

A work within:

Sometimes busyness is interpreted as 'growth in the faith' which can mean that the 'building up' of the fellowship doesn't always have the focus it should have. This is something we have been working towards in recent times and with some further support/help from Congregational Life and Witness resources/courses and through related future ministry would wish to see developed further. We believe that a growing confidence in God's Word and in prayer amongst God's people will increase our effectiveness as individuals and as a congregation...by way of serving each other and serving the community of which we are a part.

A work without:

We have in mind here, firstly, that we need to re-establish contact with several individuals and families that claim a connection with us but have no active involvement in the congregation. Attempts have been made in the past to try and re-engage lapsed and fringe members by calling with newsletters, by visiting in times of illness and bereavement and by way of invitations to special Services. While this has not been fruitless, we do need to be a bit more concerned, creative and active in our future efforts to engage with those who claim connections to the congregation.

Secondly, we are conscious that we have several girls within our [GB](#) who have no connection with us or any congregation. This is a potential area for outreach we could prayerfully engage in; perhaps in low-key ways to begin with...with a view to more focused engagement.

Past and present attempts at local and wider outreach include:

- The ongoing work of our youth organisations.
- Involvement with our local Integrated Primary School.
- The establishment of a Community Men's Group which meets monthly.
- The ongoing work of the Presbyterian Women's Group which provides a varied programme for the ladies in the congregation and their friends and supports prayerfully and financially the work of PCI worldwide.
- An annual Seedtime and Ploughmen's Service which is a Service of Thanksgiving for the entire farming community.
- Harvest Services.
- A Christmas Eve Service which attracts many people from the local community.
- A joint service on Easter Sunday morning with Carrowdore & Ballyfrenis and Milisle Church of Ireland
- A very well-established Walking Group.
- A Souper seniors lunch club.

The congregation of Ballyblack has always seen itself as part of the community and as bearing a Christian witness in the community. The open-door ministry of the church has resulted in the congregation often being looked to by the 'non-connected' in times of need. We have always seen this as an opportunity for outreach.

Since the appointment of our minister Rev Andras Gilicze in November 2020 and onwards we agree that the challenges before us were real and seen...but not at all overwhelming. The congregation is in good heart; we are a warm and welcoming people; we have lots to offer within the life of the congregation and the wider community and we have a work to do within and without for the Glory of God and for the advancement of His Kingdom within our area. We also continue to grow together with our neighbours in Carrowdore and Ballyfrenis since we became a linked congregation in 2020.

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



With God's help and effective leadership, we can be in a good place in 3/5 years' time by building on our strengths and working through our weaknesses together. Therein we can continue to be a light on the hill from which we, as a Christian community, can reflect the love of Jesus and reach out to others. We were delighted at the end of 2024 to elect 3 new elders to our church, and they will be ordained at a service early in 2025.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

Normally 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 has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School (now known as Kidzone) and Creche
- Girls' Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Bowling Club
- Walking Group
- Souper Seniors.

Non-members of the congregation are very welcome to attend any of these and many, in fact, do so.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 10.00am.

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

On 31 December 2024 there were 117 communicant members, and 125 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 55

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 and elders. Pastoral care is done by telephone when visiting is restricted.

Mission and outreach

The congregation's local mission and outreach is described above under the congregation's mission purpose.

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

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



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, assists 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 denomination's annual World Development Appeal and any 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 congregation and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

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

Property

During the year we carried out planned maintenance and repairs to our property. We did not undertake any major infrastructure projects this year. We have plans for next year to install new boiler in hall, replace hall front doors and replace rear window in church. We recognise that we have significant future costs due to the age of both our church and church halls but are confident that we have the funds to do this. We also recognise the previous and ongoing generosity of the contributions financially made by our congregation.

Organisations

Sunday School and Creche meet every Sunday morning in the hall September to June. We have approximately 12 children aged 1 month to 16 years who attend regularly. Our children's ministry this year has been running under the name of Kidzone, and our weekly lessons are interactive with the children learning their bible lessons through games and craft activities. We also held our usual joint Christmas party with GB catering for approx. 40 children and took part in the community afternoon tea and sale in the hall where we sold plants to raise funds for local charities.

The walking group meet every Monday in the church carpark at 9.30 and walk for about 1 hour 30 minutes taking the same route along local quiet country roads. We have about 10 members with an average of 6 walking each week.

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



Ballyblack Girls Brigade - 2024

We have had a great year in GB. Our numbers continue to increase each year, and we are so blessed to be able to share friendship and fellowship together. This year our programme included line dancing, life skills which included car maintenance, household budgeting, baking. We continued this year with our very successful residential, this year in Crawfordsburn Scout Centre. Our annual display was again a parents evening which attracted a very large audience with great parental involvement

The Bowling Club meets in the Hall on Wednesday evenings from September to March. There was a total of 13 members in 2024, with an average attendance of around 10.

Ballyblack Presbyterian Women 2023-2024 met on the 3rd Thursday of every month with an average attendance of 15 members. Our programme started in September with Praise and Pudding with the Peninsula Choir and guests In October Sid and Jean Garland talked about their life mission work in Africa. In November NDABC gave us advice on recycling. December was time for our annual Christmas dinner which this year was in the Stables Groomsport. The new year started in January with Quilts 4 care leavers showing us how they provide "hugs" for those leaving care. February continued with a trip to the Regent cinema and the film One life. March was our members evening where various group members shared their skills and gifts. Prior to our AGM we had a talk from Connect Counselling We had our annual PW church service led by Rev Lesley Ann Wilson. We plan a vintage tea party in June to celebrate 85 years of women's ministry in Ballyblack.

On the first Thursday of each month, we have a Souper Seniors group who meet in the church hall. Lunch is provided and the group enjoy the fellowship. There would be around 25 people attending this event.

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 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

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



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 using 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 because of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary 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 65 groups 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 £41,037 T/Y vs £40820 L/Y, Property fund £5260 T/Y vs £5830 L/Y and collections through various special services and events £9357 T/Y vs £8579 L/Y

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £ 94,250, compared to £90,490 in the previous year. Total expenditure as planned, due to less property refurbishment fell from £96,814 in the previous year to £79,656 this year.

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.

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



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.

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



Approved by the Kirk Session on ___19/6/25_____ and signed on its behalf by

Rev Andras Gilicze

David McCracken

Date 19/6/25

Date 19/6/25

Signed Ink Copy retained on paper file.

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Annual return

**BALLYBLACK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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

Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

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

I report on the accounts of Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 available 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.

**BALLYBLACK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

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. I have not carried out an audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Chambers', with a horizontal line under the 's'.

Michael Chambers FCA
Neeson Chambers Limited
123/125 Main Street
Bangor
BT20 4AE

Date:

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Accounts

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2023

The Trustees present their Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
Donations and legacies		49,642	16,980	0	66,622	62,332
Charitable activities	3	0	8,890	0	8,890	5,852
Other trading activities	4	0	0	0	0	0
Investment Income	5	353	4,954	0	5,307	4,782
Other	6	9,131	540	0	9,671	9,203
		59,126	31,364	0	90,490	82,169
Sale of Investments		0	0		0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	0		0	0
Loans Received		0	0		0	0
Total Receipts		59,126	31,364	0	90,490	82,169
Payments						
Raising funds	7	296	0	0	296	296
Charitable activities	8	40,461	54,577	0	95,038	91,994
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other	9	0	1,480	0	1,480	2,358
		40,757	56,057		96,814	94,648
Purchase of Investments		0	0		0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0		0	0
Loan Repayments		0	0		0	0
Total Payments		40,757	56,057	0	96,814	94,648
Net receipts / (payments)		18,369	-24,693	0	-6,324	-12,479
Transfers between funds		-27,641	27,641		0	0
Net movement in funds		-9,272	2,948	0	-6,324	-12,479
Funds brought forward		96,379	14,304	3,600	114,283	126,762
Funds carried forward	12	87,107	17,252	3,600	107,959	114,283

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank and Cash at start of year	96,379	14,304	3,600	114,283	126,764
Net movement in funds	-9,272	2,948	0	-6,324	-12,479
Bank and Cash at end of year	87,107	17,252	3,600	107,959	114,283
Bank & Cash Balances					
Bank Deposit Accounts				30,295	62,333
Bank Current Accounts				77,066	51,354
Cash in Hand				598	596
				107,959	114,283

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Other Assets		
Fixed Assets – Note 10		
- Church Premises		
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		
- Vehicles		
Investments – Note 11	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0	0
Liabilities		
Loans	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0	0

The above Other Assets and Liabilities are shown for Note purposes only.

Approved by the Kirk Session on 17 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Andras Gilicze
Rev Andras Gilicze

Date 17 Sept 2024

David McCracken
David McCracken

Date 17 SEPT. 2024

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These accounts include the Church and all its associated organisations.

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	735	0		735	757
Donations and gifts	41,630	14,130		55,760	52,201
Gift Aid	7,277	2,850		10,127	9,374
Legacies and bequest	0	0		0	0
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	49,642	16,980	0	66,622	62,332

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	0	1,914		1,914	270
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	500		500	0
Fundraising events	0	3,516		3,516	2,054
Membership fees	0	1,560		1,560	2,128
Grants	0	1,400		1,400	1,400
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	0	8,890	0	8,890	5,852

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises				0	0
Trading income				0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	353	514		867	342
General Investment Fund		0		0	0
Rents investment properties	0	4,440		4,440	4,440
Other investment income	0	0		0	0
	353	4,954	0	5,307	4,782

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	0	0		0	0
Other income	9,131	540		9,671	9,203
	9,131	540	0	9,671	9,203

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	296	0		296	296
Fundraising events	0	0		0	0
	296	0	0	296	296

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	12,959	0		12,959	12,400
Presbytery fees	459	0		459	427
Ministry and support staff costs	23,717	0		23,717	22,209
Congregational running expenses	2,942	47,710		50,652	48,241
Donations to Missions and charities	0	6,867		6,867	8,333
Governance costs	384	0		384	384
	40,461	54,577	0	95,038	91,994

BALLYBLACK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	1,480		1,480	2,358
	0	1,480	0	1,480	2,358

10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation owns the Church building, the Church Hall and the Cottage, all situated at 29 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AS, and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £1,075,000, £914,000 and £104,230 respectively. The congregation also owns the Manse, situated at 17 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards BT22 2AP. This has an insurance value of £430,000.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

11. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
					£	£
General Investment Fund	0	0	0		0	0
Property	0	0	0		0	0
Other investments	0	0	0		0	0
					0	0

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	96,379	59,126	40,756	18,370	-27,641	87,107
	96,379	59,126	40,756	18,370	-27,641	87,107
Restricted Funds						
Property & Development Fund	6,066	19,429	42,644	-23,215	25,000	7,851
Missions & Charities Fund	0	5,373	6,868	-1,495	2,223	728
Bowling Club	716	200		#VALUE!		#VALUE!
Badminton Club	562	0	0	0		562
Sunday School	1,014	0	0	0		1,014
GB	4,264	3,931	4,309	-378	218	4,104
Souper Seniors	0	978	857	121		121
PW	389	1,453	1,111	342	200	931
BB	1,192	0	0	0		1,192
Youth Club	101	0	0	0		101
	14,304	31,364	55,789	#VALUE!	27,641	#VALUE!
Endowment Funds						
Trust Fund	3,600			0		3,600
	3,600	0	0	0	0	3,600
Total	114,283	90,490	96,545	#VALUE!	0	#VALUE!

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Annual report

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

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

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

Ballyblack congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
c/o 23 Grange Road, Millisle, Newtownards BT22 2JB

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

David Blevings
Betty Glenn
Alex Warden

Robert Bole
David McCracken
Elizabeth Warden
Rev Andras Gilicze

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev Andras Gilicze
David McCracken
Robert Bole

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Neeson Chambers Limited
123/125 Main Street, Bangor BT20 4AE

BANKERS

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

SOLICITORS

Elizabeth A Warden Solicitor
The Stables, Seaview Farm
92 Bowtown Road, Newtownards, County Down, BT23 8SL

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

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least four times 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. Ballyblack congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards 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.

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.

Ballyblack 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 purpose is as follows:

The congregation of Ballyblack reaches as far back as 1813 and individuals and families from the surrounding area have been gathering for worship in the present building since 1872. Ballyblack Presbyterian Church is set on a hill in a rural area and is somewhat unique in that it is one of the few churches in the Ards Presbytery that is 'truly rural.'

The present situation:

The congregation of Ballyblack PC has, within the past 10 years, been able to enjoy updated, extended and refurbished hall accommodation fit for purpose for the 21st Century. These facilities are in regular use by the Church organisations and the wider community and the debt needed to provide these facilities has been repaid thanks to the generosity and support of the whole congregation.

A committed group of people within the congregation are involved in leading and supporting in various ways within a range of organisations and groups: Sunday School and Creche – Girls Brigade –Presbyterian Women –Community Men's Group –Indoor Bowling Club – Walking Group – Knit and Natter Group.

Like most congregations, the congregation has had its high points and low points in recent years but have held together and maintained a consistent witness through the challenging times as well as the good times. The leadership of the congregation is aware, of course, that 'maintenance mode' is not an option and there is a work within and without to be done.

A work within:

Sometimes busyness is interpreted as 'growth in the faith' which can mean that the 'building up' of the fellowship doesn't always have the focus it should have. This is something we have been working towards in recent times and with some further support/help from Congregational Life and Witness resources/courses and through related future ministry would wish to see developed further. We believe that a growing confidence in God's Word and in prayer amongst God's people will increase our effectiveness as individuals and as a congregation...by way of serving each other and serving the community of which we are a part.

A work without:

We have in mind here, firstly, that we need to re-establish contact with a number of individuals and families that claim a connection with us but have no active involvement in the congregation. Attempts have been made in the past to try and re-engage lapsed and fringe members by calling with newsletters, by visiting in times of illness and bereavement and by way of invitations to special Services. While this has not been fruitless we do need to be a bit more concerned, creative and active in our future efforts to engage with those who claim connections to the congregation.

Secondly, we are conscious that we have a number of girls within our GB who have no connection with us or any congregation. This is a potential area for outreach we could prayerfully engage in; perhaps in low-key ways to begin with...with a view to more focused engagement.

Past and present attempts at local and wider outreach include:

- The ongoing work of our youth organisations;
- Involvement with our local Integrated Primary School;
- The establishment of a Community Men's Group which meets monthly;
- The ongoing work of the Presbyterian Women's Group which provides a varied programme for the ladies in the congregation and their friends and supports prayerfully and financially the work of PCI worldwide;
- An annual Seedtime and Ploughmen's Service which is a Service of Thanksgiving for the entire farming community;
- Harvest Services;
- A Christmas Eve Service which attracts many people from the local community;
- Involvement with local congregations in the World Day of Prayer Service, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the annual cross community Carol Service; and
- A recently established Walking Group; and
- Also recently established a Knit and Natter Group.

We were unable to operate normally for most of 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 2022 and 2023 were more normal years but attendance has still not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

The church leadership is aware that when we return to normal there is room to create further opportunities to establish work with parents and toddlers and other groups within the congregation.

The congregation of Ballyblack has always seen itself as part of the community and as bearing a Christian witness in the community. The open-door ministry of the church has resulted in the congregation often being looked to by the 'non-connected' in times of need. We have always seen this as an opportunity for outreach.

During our vacancy from Sept 2016 onwards we agree that the challenges before us were real and seen...but not at all overwhelming. The congregation is in good heart; we are a warm and welcoming people; we have lots to offer within the life of the congregation and

the wider community and we have a work to do within and without for the Glory of God and for the advancement of His Kingdom within our area. We were not granted Leave to Call a full-time Minister, but rather we were Linked with the congregation of Carrowdore and Ballyfrenis, whose Minister retired at the end of July 2019. We appointed the Rev Andras Gilicze as the shared minister for the two congregations and he was installed as such on 23 November 2020 at a socially distanced service due to the pandemic. With God's help and effective leadership, we can be in a good place in 3/5 years' time by building on our strengths and working through our weaknesses together. Therein we can continue to be a light on the hill from which we, as a Christian community, can reflect the love of Jesus and reach out to others.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

Normally 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 has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School (now known as Kidzone) and Creche
- Girls' Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Bowling Club
- Walking Group

Non-members of the congregation are very welcome to attend any of these and many, in fact, do so.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 10.00am.

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 114 communicant members and 147 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 60.

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 and elders. Pastoral care is done by telephone when visiting is restricted.

Mission and outreach

The congregation's local mission and outreach is described above under the congregation's mission purpose.

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, assists 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 denomination's annual World Development Appeal and any 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 congregation and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

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

Property

During the year we had significant work done on our Church entrance from the road to improve safety, as well as carrying out regular and scheduled maintenance to our properties to maintain their integrity and to comply with all local regulations.

Organisations

Sunday School and Creche meet every Sunday morning in the hall September to June. We have approximately 10 children aged 1 month to 16 years who attend regularly. Our children's ministry this year has been running under the name of Kidzone and our weekly lessons are interactive with the children learning their bible lessons through games and craft activities. Ballyblack walking group meet at 9.30 in the church car park and we walk to the end of the Cunningburn Road and back again.

We have about 10 members with an average of 6 walking each week.

Ballyblack Girls Brigade - 2023

We have had a great year in GB. Our numbers continue to increase each year, and we are so blessed to be able to share friendship and fellowship together. Our activities included Team Games, drill, baking buns and decorating chocolate apples, learning how to make leek and potato soup, making Remembrance Lanterns and bird feeders, plenty of singing, walking

around Ards, and for the first time in over 20 years, we went on a residential camp. We followed the Headquarters Scripture Course and had great fun learning Bible verses, and discussing interesting and challenging topics together. We presented two girls with their Sub Officer Awards, and sisters, Rebecca and Rachel McCormick became Officers this year. We had a visit from The Guide Dogs and The Ards Peninsula First Responders who taught our older girls CPR. We were delighted to give both these charities a donation from our GB. The Bowling Club meets in the Hall on Wednesday evenings from September to March. There were a total of 13 members in 2023, with an average attendance of around 10. This year we visited Ballygrainey for a competition, which unfortunately we lost.

Ballyblack Presbyterian Women 2023-2024 met on the 3rd Thursday of every month with an average attendance of 15 members. Our programme varied from speakers on subjects such as local and international charities to health and wellbeing issues. The Christmas outing was to The web Theatre to see the pantomime Aladin. We had a hospitality event in January which was well attended by 75 members of many other PW groups. A coffee morning is planned for Saturday 25th May as our final event of the year.

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 and the Property & Development Fund. There were 151 contributors during the year [145 in previous year,2021] donating a total of £49,341 (£45,692in previous year,2021).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £82,169, compared to £78,786 in the previous year. Total expenditure rose to £94,648 from £75,545.

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.

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



Approved by the Kirk Session on 17 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Andras Gilicze

Rev Andras Gilicze

Date 17 SEPT 2024

David McCracken

David McCracken

Date 17 Sept 2024

Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105386

Annual return

**BALLYBLACK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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

Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105386)

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

I report on the accounts of Ballyblack Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 available 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.

**BALLYBLACK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

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. I have not carried out an audit.



Michael Chambers FCA
Neeson Chambers Limited
123/125 Main Street
Bangor
BT20 4AE

Date: 14/3/24.