

FIRST PORTGLENONE 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 Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

First Portglenone congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Main Street
Portglenone
Co. Antrim
BT44 8AB

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105407)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Albert Baxter	Mr Andrew Montgomery
Mr Dermot Mulholland	Mr James Bell
Mr William Lowry	Mr Rodney Bell
Mr Hubert Marks	Mr Roy McKeown
Mr Kenneth McKinley	Mr Andrew McLeister
Mr William Bristow	Mr Robert Marks
Mr Robert Bristow	Mr Ronald Caldwell
Mr Courtney McMillan	Mr Nigel Kerr
Mr Thomas McLeister	Mr Kyle Gilmour
Mr Adrian Lowry	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Albert Baxter
Clerk of Session	Mr Andrew Montgomery
Treasurer	Mr John Waugh

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

John Finnegan
Potter Finnegan Limited
Unit 25 The Courtyard Business Park
190 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1HL

BANKERS

Danske Bank
1-2 Broadway
Ballymena
BT43 7AA

SOLICITORS

James Ballentine & Son
Bank Buildings
The Pentagon
Ballymena
BT43 5LL

**FIRST PORTGLENONE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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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 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.

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. 1st Portglenone Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Presbytery of Ballymena 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

1st Portglenone 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 "To glorify God". This is the motive which undergirds everything that we do....

- (a) Because of who HE is – the eternal, sovereign God. As such, He is worthy of all honour and adoration. Not only is He worthy, but it is His absolute right to be worshipped by all His creatures. Furthermore, it is His creatures' highest joy and fulfilment to bring this worship to Him.
- (b) Because of who WE are – created by Him from nothing, given life by His breath and redeemed by His Son's blood. As such we are dependent on Him for everything and indebted to Him for all that we have and enjoy.

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We seek to glorify God through various channels – Our Worship, our Witness, our Work, our War, our Watching, and our Warmth. These areas are not distinct and separate – rather they overlap and inter-relate fully with each other. However, they are useful headings under which to consider our priorities, intentions, and directions.

In all these areas we seek, supremely, to be thoroughly biblical – guided not by the traditions of men, but by the Word of God. God's written Word is our absolute standard – both the undergirding guidance and the final authority in all we do as the Church in this place.

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 bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship
- Boys' Brigade
- Girls' Brigade
- Badminton Club
- Presbyterian Women
- Men's Meeting

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12.00 noon and 7.00 p.m. During the week the Bible Study 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 during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at five Sacraments of Baptism and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 275 communicant members and 320 families connected with the congregation.

The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 300.

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 by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation reaches out into the community through the various church organisations, specific outreach events and the lived-out lives of the members.

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.

**FIRST PORTGLENONE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)**

Presbytery

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

General Assembly

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

Property

There were no major repairs or refurbishment projects during the year.

Organisations

Sunday School normally meets on Sunday mornings. Approximately 70 children attend for Bible teaching and worship.

Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings. Approximately 20 teenagers attend for Bible teaching, fellowship, and worship.

Boys' Brigade meets on Thursday evenings. Approximately 90 children and teenagers attend for sports, activities and Bible teaching.

Girls' Brigade meets on Tuesday evenings. Approximately 90 children and teenagers attend for crafts, activities, and Bible teaching.

Children's Church meets on Sunday mornings. Approximately 20 children attend for Bible teaching.

Presbyterian Women meets monthly on Thursday evenings. Approximately 40 women attend for Bible teaching, fellowship, and worship.

Men's Ministry meets from time to time for outings, activities, etc.

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.

**FIRST PORTGLENONE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)**

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT (Cont'd)

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, who donated a total of £149,264 in 2023 (£135,437: 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £335,009, compared to £309,377 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £262,400 in 2022 to £285,318 in 2023.

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.

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.

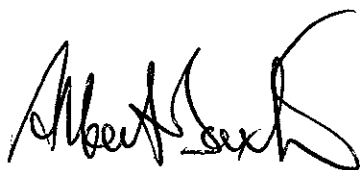
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RISK REVIEW

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 18 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Albert Baxter
Trustee



Andrew Montgomery
Trustee

