

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Cuningham Memorial Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Main Street
Cullybackey
Ballymena
BT42 1BN

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland NIC 105553

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Noel Mulholland	Mark Allen
Brian Anderson	William Bamber
Robin Brown	John Calderwood (died 28 October 2024)
Ernest Douglas	Robert Edwards
John Evans	John Finnegan Jnr
Edwin Hook	Raymond Holmes
John McCord	Colin Hutchinson
Edward McKendry	Thomas McCullough
Geoffrey McWilliams	Brian McMillan
Gareth Reaney	Derek Patterson
Richard Torrie	William Tweed
David Warwick	Samuel Warwick

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Noel Mulholland
Clerk of Session	Mr Colin Hutchinson
Treasurer	Mr Gareth Reaney
Secretary	Mr David Murray

Independent Examiner

James Wallace
D. T. Carson & Co.
51-53 Thomas Street
Ballymena
BT43 6AZ

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Broadway
Ballymena
BT43 7PE

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SOLICITORS

McKervill Neilly
1 Broadway Avenue
Ballymena
BT43 7AA

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 Sessions 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. Cuningham Memorial Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ballymena Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted 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.

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DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Cuningham Memorial 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 purposes is by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

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
- Parents and Toddlers
- Bowling Club
- Presbyterian Women
- Connect Youth Fellowship
- Midweek Fellowship
- Men's Fellowship Choir
- Friendship Hour
- 180 Men

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am and 6pm. Each Wednesday evening the midweek 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 acknowledge God's gift of new life at 2 sacraments of baptism, we conducted 3 marriage services and sought to comfort those who have been bereaved during the year.

During the year there were 6 new communicant members and approximately 525 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 275.

Ministerial team

In June 2024, Stuart McKimm commenced as our full-time assistant minister. Stuart should be with us for around 2 years. In September 2024 Rev William Sinclair left his role as our pastoral assistant and we wish him well as he continues to serve with another PCI congregation. In December 2024 Alastair Chambers joined our ministerial team as a part-time pastoral and family worker.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by members of the ministerial team or church elders. CD's and DVDs are available and distributed to members of the congregation who are unable to attend. Church services continue to be live streamed and are available on the church's YouTube channel.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation supports: - a couple who are working in Waterford as Church Planters, a young man who is volunteering with Coaching for Christ and a deaconess who visited our church from the Ukraine. The church has also supported a number of other charitable organisation throughout the year from our harvest collection and other donations.

In June 2024 we ran a football day organised by Coaching for Christ. This was well attended with around 50 children taking part. Other annual outreach events that took place included Ladies Fit 4 Life and a summer Holiday Bible Club. 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.

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, in June.

Property

During the year there was no major work carried out on our premises.

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Organisations

Bowling Club

Our bowling club meets each Tuesday. We approximately 25 members and played in the churches league. At the end of the year, we play a tournament with our own members. We finish the year with a dinner and prize giving and our AGM.

Presbyterian Women

Cuningham Memorial PW meet in the Cuninghame Suite on the second Wednesday of each month from September to April. Approximately 70 ladies attend each month, and a variety of speakers attended our meeting during the year. We usually end with tea and biscuits. In May each year we have our annual dinner, we also have a PW Service each year and at Christmas some of the members deliver parcels to the more senior in our congregation who are in Nursing/Residential homes or in their own homes and no longer able to attend church.

Connect Youth Fellowship

Connect Youth Fellowship is a church organisation for teenagers and meets every other Sunday evening between September and April with an average of 12 young people attending regular. Our Sunday evening consists of Bible study, topical presentations, praise and fellowship.

Sunday School

The Sunday School meets on a Sunday Morning from 10:15 to 11:15 and there are 38 children who attend regularly. Our normal Sunday includes singing, memory verses and lessons from Go Teach study books. In June we led the church service on children's day and had our end of year outing to Rose Park Farm followed by a barbeque where parents, grandparents and friends were welcome to attend.

Midweek Fellowship.

The above Fellowship meets weekly on a Wednesday evening (excluding the 2nd Wednesday of the month) for a time of Bible Study, Praise and Prayer. The average attendance each night is around 50 and the meeting lasts for approximately one hour. The last Wednesday night of each month is usually more focused on prayer. During the year we completed a course called Six Steps to Talking about Jesus.

Cuningham Men's Fellowship Choir

The men's fellowship choir met throughout the year with an average attendance of 15 men plus two ladies who train the choir. Our aim is to provide fellowship as we practise and sing together. We regularly lead the services at Sunday worship and we offer our services to go and sing in various churches, mission halls and nursing homes.

Friendship Hour (previously called Young at Heart)

The friendship hour meets on the 4th Thursday of the month from September to May, with approximately 40 in attendance. We meet for about 1 hour starting with a visiting speaker and ending with tea and light refreshments. At the end of the year the members look forward to their annual outing.

Parents and toddlers

This is a crèche group for parents and young children. Parents and toddlers meet each Thursday morning from 10.00am to midday. It gives the parents an opportunity to meet with other parents who have children of a similar age. There are toys for the children to play with while the parents can compare notes and meet together in a relaxed setting. There is juice, sandwiches and biscuits for the children and tea and scones for the parents. The morning ends with a bible story.

180 Men

180 Men meets on the second Thursday of each month with approximately 40 men attending on each evening. Our programme includes games, testimonies, fellowship and a short epilogue or a visiting speaker. In April 2024 we had a day out where we had breakfast before a tour of the Crumlin Road Gaol. We have plans to develop this work in ministry with the intention to engage with more men connected to our church.

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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, summer outreach activities, sound, PowerPoint, live stream, DVD ministry and many other church activities that have taken place throughout the year.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion. The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm.

The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public. The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 322 contributors during the year (318 in 2023), donating a total of £148,051 (£139,440 the previous year, 2023). Total Income of the congregation during the year was £299,222, compared to £284,035 in the previous year. Total expenditure decreased from £289,439 to £245,867.

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.

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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.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least 2 months' normal expenditure. At the yearend unrestricted reserves were £755,554 which represents a higher level of reserves. The Trustees, however, consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent of the ongoing financial support of members.

RISK REVIEW

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

This report was approved by the Session (trustees) on 07 April 2025



Name: Rev Noel Mullholland

Date: 1/4/25



Name: Mr Colin Hutchinson

Date: 7.4.25