

## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

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

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Killymurrisk Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

175 Dunminning Road, Glarryford, Ballymena BT44 9PW.

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105572).

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

- Mr John Beattie Calderwood
- Mr Andrew Gregg
- Mr Andrew Hamill
- Dr Paul Hughes
- Mr Nigel William Kerr
- Mr Samuel Stewart Linton
- Mr Raymond McClean
- Mr Alexander Scott
- Mr Alan James Simpson
- Mr Samuel George Simpson
- Mr Andrew David Strange
- Rev Roland James Watt

### **PRINCIPLE OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister:	Rev Roland James Watt
Clerk of Session:	Mr Samuel George Simpson
Secretary:	Dr Paul Hughes
Treasurers:	Mr Samuel Alexander (until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024) Ms Jean Calderwood (from 1st January 2025) Mr James Gillespie (from 1st January 2025)

### **AUDITOR**

Mr Peter Stevenson F.C.A., Stevenson and Wilson, 22-30 Broadway Avenue, Ballymena BT43 7AA.

### **BANKERS**

Danske Bank, 1 Broadway Avenue, Ballymena BT43 7PE.

### **SOLICITORS**

Boal Anderson & Co, 56 High Street, Ballymena BT43 6UH.

## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **The Kirk Session**

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

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained Minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the 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 throughout the year. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to address urgent or exceptional business.

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. Upon election, the Elders are subject to in-house training pertinent to their role.

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



## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Killymurriss 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 to enable its members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's Mission – 'Living for Christ' – is motivated by a commitment to Jesus Christ and compassion for the lost. We seek to reach out both within our Church fellowship and to the wider district with the Gospel message.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission by:

- Maintaining and supporting the ongoing work;
- Continuing to develop friendship, fellowship and spiritual growth amongst God's people of all ages;
- Promoting vital personal witness through consistent Christian living;
- Encouraging those whose connection with the congregation has become infrequent or indifferent into more regular and sustained attendance; and
- Developing the friendships and connections that have been formed through our organizations and wider Church family events, seeking to encourage children to Sunday School attendance and adults to Sunday worship.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on four 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 a Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer Meeting and has a wide range of organisations including:

- Sunday School & Children's Church
- Bowling Club
- Presbyterian Women
- Friendship Club
- Chipmunks
- Girls Brigade
- 'Livewire'
- Young Adults

In addition, the Church Family Working Group aims to organise an average of three social events each year aimed at bringing all ages within the Church family together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 12 noon and 7pm (except for the months of July and August when the congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11:30am only). Creche is provided for pre-school children during morning worship, while children in the 4 to 8-year age group leave morning worship after the children's address to attend Children's Church.

During the week, the Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 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 four Sacraments of Baptism, we conducted two marriage services, gave thanks for faithful service, and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31st December 2024 there were 214 communicant members, (of whom 140 attended at least one Communion service), and 234 families under the pastoral care of the congregation. The average weekly attendance is 160 at morning worship and 40 at evening worship.

##### **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 the elders, with each elder having particular responsibility for a district comprising approximately 20 families. In addition, each Sunday morning worship service is livestreamed on the church YouTube channel and is available to listen to via telephone following the conclusion of the service. A CD recording of each Sunday morning worship service is also available on request.

##### **Mission and Outreach**

The mission aspect of the congregation is founded on its mission purpose and manifests itself in various ways as compassionate Christianity.

- Organisations under the direct control of the congregation including Sunday School & Children's Church, Chipmunks, Girls Brigade, 'Livewire' and Young Adults cater not only for the young people of the congregation, but also for young people from the local community who have no connection with the congregation. The Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Bowling Club, Presbyterian Women and Friendship Club cater for the congregation members but are also open to the wider community to attend.
- At a local level, the congregation is connected with Clough Primary School, and the school is granted use of the Church Hall for their annual school concert. The Minister is a member of the Board of Governors and regularly attends the school to conduct morning worship as part of school assembly. Glarryford Young Farmers Club hold their annual evening service in the Church every other year and Carnlea Crimson Banner LOL 961 joins annually with the congregation on the third Sunday each June for morning worship.



## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **Mission and Outreach (cont'd)**

- Apart from the Weekly Freewill Offering, Repair Fund and the United Appeal, charitable donations by the congregation and its associated organisations have been made to several groups, including Arab World Ministries, Belfast City Mission, European Mission Fellowship – Poland, Haemophilia NI, Leprosy Mission, Parkinson's UK, Presbyterian Children's Society, Restore Ministry – Romania, Tear Fund and the UDR Benevolent Fund. The congregation also contributes to any other special appeals made by the denomination.
- The congregation has prayerfully and financially supported the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators in delivering the scriptures into their native languages for the people of Ghana, together with the associated literacy programmes which seek to teach the people to read the Bible.
- The congregation has also prayerfully supported the work of other missionary organisations and supports them financially through the voluntary offering taken up at the end of each Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.
- Opportunities to support missionary work in a more practical manner, such as through the provision of second-hand clothing for underprivileged families in Romania, have also been encouraged.

The congregation actively supports the United Appeal for Mission, which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, through a monthly envelope offering. A total of £9,024 was raised against a target of £10,130. 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.

#### **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 the elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **Property**

The congregation owns a Church and Church Hall located at 185 Dunminning Road, and a Manse located at 175 Dunminning Road, Glarryford. The Church was Grade B listed in October 1977 by the Department for Communities (Northern Ireland) for its architectural and historical interest.

A major renovation and adaptation project on our Church building commenced on 22 April 2024 and we incurred the following expenditure on the contract works and professional fees during the year:

- contract works of £317,345
- architect's fees of £23,051
- structural engineer's fees of £10,740
- mechanical & electrical engineer's fees of £6,846
- fire engineer's fees of £3,300
- quantity surveyor's fees of £8,645
- principal designer fees of £1,200

In addition, the following minor projects were completed this year:

- maintenance of the Church grounds at a cost of £1,583
- repairs to the Church Hall roof at a cost of £5,700
- general electrical repairs at a cost of £1,125
- equipment hire for maintenance of the Manse gardens at a cost of £516

There were no other repair or refurbishment projects during the year.

#### **Organisations**

##### **Sunday School & Children's Church (average attendance 65)**

The weekly work within Sunday School continues to remain the primary means of reaching and teaching the children and young people within the congregation. This is also supported by the weekly work in Children's Church.

##### **Bowling Club (average attendance 30)**

The bowling club meets weekly from September to March and has a membership drawn from all age ranges within the congregation and the wider district. The bowling club participates in the Churches League and other charity tournaments and is a valued source of friendship and fellowship.

##### **Presbyterian Women (average attendance 25)**

Each monthly meeting from September to March provides an opportunity for friendship and fellowship amongst the ladies of our congregation. Missionary interest lies at the heart of their evenings.



## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **Organisations (cont'd)**

##### **Friendship Club (average attendance 50)**

This friendship and fellowship initiative is primarily for the benefit of the senior members of the congregation, but also attracts attendees from our neighbouring church fellowships. Members meet in the Church Hall on the first Thursday of each month from October to April to enjoy a guest speaker and lunch. This has been much appreciated and is always eagerly looked forward to by those who attend. They also enjoy an annual outing in May.

##### **Chipmunks (average attendance 15)**

Chipmunks meets weekly each Thursday night from September to March and caters for boys in the 4 to 6-year age group in preparation for transition into the local Scout troop. Some of the boys have little Church connection, but committed Christian leaders present the Gospel message to them through a varied programme of activities, Bible stories and a short epilogue each week.

##### **Girls Brigade (average attendance 60)**

Our congregation is blessed with a large Girls Brigade company, led by committed and dedicated Christian leaders. The girls meet weekly each Friday night from September to March. Some of the girls have little Church connection and the witness and example set each week by their leaders can often be the only spiritual guidance they receive. GBNI scripture material was also used to help present the truths of the Bible each week to the girls.

##### **Livewire' (average attendance 25)**

Attracting young people in the 11 to 16-year age group, including several who are not members of our uniformed organisations, the activities within 'Livewire' are structured to provide an avenue for a deeper level of spiritual teaching amongst the young people. Meetings are held on the first Saturday night of each month from October to April and there is also a focused weekend of events and teaching each September.

##### **Young Adults (average attendance 15)**

The activities within Young Adults are geared towards providing an avenue for friendship and fellowship amongst young people in the 16 to 30-year age group, in a more relaxed and informal social setting. Meetings are held on the last Saturday night of each month from October to April.

#### **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.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The Trustees do not envisage any change in activities in future periods. The Charity is committed to its ongoing Mission as detailed above.



## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved). Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregational churches and 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 Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 233 contributing families during the year donating a total of £100,582 (2023: 205 contributing families donating a total of £97,067).

Total income of the congregation during the year was £586,097 compared to £237,067 in the previous year. The significant increase was due to the donations received and funds raised for the major renovation and adaptation works to our Church building. The success of this fundraising has enabled the Church renovation project to progress in line with the expected timeframe.

Total expenditure during the year increased from £186,424 to £539,650. This was primarily attributable to the expenditure on the contract works and professional fees associated with the major renovation and adaptation works to our Church building.

The Trustees are pleased that the financial position of the Church remains robust as shown on the balance sheet.



## **KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

#### **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 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 congregation 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;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 congregation's transactions, and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position, 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 upon 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, subject to the continuing support from members to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

#### **RESERVES POLICY**

Total reserves of the Church amounted to £4,104,692 at the balance sheet date. This amount is held in unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds in the amounts of £194,684, £3,858,898 and £51,110 respectively.

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 aim of the Trustees to hold unrestricted reserves equating to at least six months normal expenditure. At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £194,684 which is well in keeping with this policy. The Trustees consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its current activities is dependent on the ongoing financial support of its members.

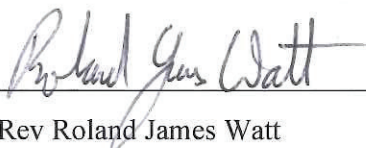
## KILLYMURRIS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

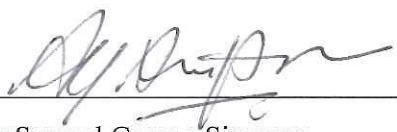
#### RISK REVIEW

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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Rev Roland James Watt

Minister

  
Mr Samuel George Simpson

Clerk of Session