

WATERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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

Waterside congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Clooney Terrace, Londonderry BT47 6AR

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105611)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Mr John Allen
Mr James McCarter
Mr Don McClay
Mr William McIlwaine
Mr David Walker

Mr Mitchell Caldwell
Dr Colin Hamilton
Mr Morris McCarter
Mrs Hilary McClintock

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Convenor

Rev. Richard R Tregaskis, B.Sc., B.D.
(January – June)
Rev Colin W A Jones B.Th.
(July- December)

Clerk of Session

Mr William A McIlwaine, BA., DASE

Treasurer

Mrs Hilary McClintock, B.Sc

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Moore (NI) LLP
21/23 Clarendon Street
Londonderry
BT48 7EP

BANKERS

Danske Bank
27 Glenshane Road
Londonderry
BT47 2LN

Progressive Building Society
3 Millennium Forum
Newmarket Street
Londonderry
BT47 6EB

SOLICITORS

McCay Legal
1 Limavady Road
Londonderry
BT47 6JU

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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 the Moderator and the ministers in active duty in the congregation who have no deliberative but only a casting vote. During the past year the Kirk Session has met on four occasions under the Convenorship of Rev Richard Tregaskis and Rev Colin Jones.

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. Waterside Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Derry & Donegal 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.

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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

Waterside 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.

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ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in January, May and October 2024 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 held midweek Bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including;

- Sunday School
- Presbyterian Women
- Midweek Bible Study
- Choir
- Bowling and Recreation Club
- Boys' Brigade
- Walking Group
- Thursday Club

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

Worship each Sunday allows face to face fellowship and the coming together to worship God.

At 31 December 2024 there were 125 communicant members and 152 families connected with the congregation.

The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 84.

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. Some of these members receive CD's of our morning services.

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Mission and outreach

The number of Ukrainian families continues to grow. The church and individuals within the congregation continue to offer support in a variety of ways including providing accommodation, furniture, heating oil, clothing and arranging schools for their children. By the end of the year the Ukrainian congregation consists of 13 families comprising 32 adults and 19 children and young people. The Ukrainians attend morning worship each week and have fully integrated into the life of the church. The children are attending Sunday School and the boys have joined the Boys Brigade.

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 Convenors and one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The Convenor 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 2024.

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Organisations

The Sunday School meets each week during the morning service with a dual language approach to facilitate our mixed nationalities. We have a team of Ukrainian ladies and teenagers who volunteer on a rota basis to assist with the language issues.

The PW group meets on the first Monday of each month from September to April with a range of guest speakers. Their theme for the year was "Entrusted". There was an average attendance each month of twenty-two.

The Midweek Bible Study met each Wednesday and benefited from an in depth study of various books of the bible as well as praying for the ongoing work of the church at home and abroad.

The Thursday Club catered for the older members of the congregation and met from 10.00 – 12.00noon each week. There was an average attendance of twenty-five and the members enjoyed quizzes, bowls, table tennis, pool, tabletop games, craft activities, good conversation and refreshments.

The Boys' Brigade (6th Londonderry Company) consists of three sections – anchor boys, juniors and company section. They meet in Lisneal College – anchor boys and juniors on a Tuesday evening and the company section on a Friday evening from September to April. By means of a variety of activities they seek to promote their motto of "Advancing Christ's Kingdom among Boys".

The Waterside Walking Group enjoyed several walks and visits during the year to Learmount Forest Park, Inch Lake, Portballintrae, Giant's Causeway, Dunree, Castlerock and the Seige and Tower Museums in Londonderry.

During the year the Youth Committee organised a number of events including a Drum Beat hands-on seminar, a church excursion to Castlerock, an outing to Gracehill Moravian Village and Antrim Castle Gardens.

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.

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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.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 149 contributors during the year (121 during the previous year, 2023) donating a total of £62,581 (£62,734 in previous year, 2023).

Total Income for the year was £281,231 compared to £112,580 in the previous year. This included insurance monies in relation to roof repairs of £17,032 and a bequest of £137,688.

Total expenditure increased from £99,647 to £145,511. This increase was mainly due to the costs incurred to repair the church roof.

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 three months' normal expenditure. At the year end, unrestricted reserves were £877,533 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.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Kirk Session on 14 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by;



Rev Colin W A Jones
Convenor



William A. McIlwaine
Clerk of session