

# **Faughan Reformed Presbyterian Church**



## **Trustees Report 2024**

(NI Charity No. 106406)

## **Introduction**

We thank our gracious God for another year in the life of the Faughan congregation, during which we have known His blessings and also His support in trials.

Worship is at the core of the life of the congregation and the preaching of the Word of God is central to that worship. We again acknowledge the evident diligence and care with which our minister prepares his sermons and we pray that the Lord will bless and guide him as he seeks to glorify God and exalt Christ and that, as a result, the Lord's people will be built up in their faith and unbelievers will seek the Lord.

## **The Worship of God**

The congregation met for worship each Lord's Day. The services were recorded and uploaded to the church website shortly after they took place. The average attendance at morning worship was 40. We averaged 23 at evening worship.

Session thanks those who provided pulpit supply at various times through the year when our minister was on holiday or otherwise engaged.

Our Annual Praise Service was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December, with the theme being *"The Biography of Christ in the Psalms."* There was a good attendance, including a number of people from adjacent congregations.

We are grateful to those who led us in praise during the year.

## **Sacraments**

During the year the Lord's Supper was observed in January, May and September.

## **Work of Session**

Session met a total of 14 times during the year. The elders also attended the various meetings of Presbytery and Synod.

## **Congregational Youth**

The Sabbath School met most weeks during term time. We give thanks for the superintendent and teachers, together with those who helped from time to time. We encourage parents in their duty to train up their children in the ways of the Lord. We believe the instruction of our covenant youth is a very important part of our church's work and trust and pray that the diligence of those involved will bear fruit.

## **Church Calendar**

The Church Calendar was produced electronically each month and uploaded to the church Facebook page and the front page of the website, as well as being circulated to the congregation by email.

### **Church Website**

Worship services were uploaded on to the church website and were also made available via the Church's Facebook page. Thanks go to those who provided this means of outreach during the year.

### **Changes to Congregational Roll**

We were greatly saddened by the loss of two of our members through death and pray that the Lord would comfort and sustain those who mourn.

*"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 4: 13,14.

### **Midweek Meetings**

The midweek meetings on Tuesday evenings were held in the church hall. During the year, we mainly concentrated on studying the sermon from the preceding Lord's Day evening service.

We also hosted two meetings with a missionary emphasis, one involving representatives of a Christian child development charity and one highlighting Christian relief work being carried out in Tigray.

### **Fellowship**

We continued to enjoy fellowship over light refreshments after the evening services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sabbaths of the month and are grateful to those who provided and served these.

We held our annual Congregational Weekend in May. The guest speaker gave three talks, based on portions of the Book of Proverbs, on the topic of *"God's Providence"*. These were very encouraging and, we trust, will serve to help us in our walk with, and service for, the Lord. Enjoyable times of fellowship were provided with breakfast, a guided tour of a local historical site and a film night on the Saturday, and a Congregational Lunch after morning worship on the Sabbath.

In October, the Committee organised a very enjoyable and successful "Curry and Quiz" night. As well as our own congregation, we were pleased to welcome members from neighbouring congregations.

Session thanks all those who played a part in arranging these events and who provided catering.

### **Outreach**

The main regular activities - Bowling Club, Ladies' Bible Study and Pop-Up Café – took place and offered good opportunities to make contact with members of the local community. We are very grateful to all those involved in organising these important activities and pray that the Lord would be pleased to draw souls to Himself as a result of these means.

A Men's Breakfast was held on 13<sup>th</sup> April. We are thankful that the event was well attended. After the meal, we had an interesting illustrated talk of local interest. At the conclusion, our minister gave

a challenging epilogue. Session records its thanks to the Committee for organising the event, to those who provided catering, and to the speaker.

In June, there was a North West Go-Team. This was hosted by the Bready congregation, but the young people involved also spent time helping the Gateway congregation and ourselves. We are grateful for the work they did and are glad that they found the experience to be a positive one.

Once again, we held open air services in July, at the Ebrington Square end of the Peace Bridge, with members of the Gateway and Bready congregations, together with a number of visitors, joining us. Several passers-by stopped and listened to part of the services and there were some good conversations. A large number of tracts was also given out. We thank God for favourable weather on all four Sabbaths and we pray that He would work graciously in the hearts of at least some who heard the Gospel.

Door-to door visitation took place during the summer months. As well as covering housing developments in the immediate Drumahoe Area, a new development off the Belt Road was visited. There were some good conversations, which we trust that the Lord might yet use for the eternal good of souls.

In November, we held three nights of evangelistic meetings. The addresses were, "How Can I Be Sure the Bible Is True?", "How Can I Possess Eternal Life?" and "How Can I Know I'm Saved?" Some 2000 leaflets had been distributed in advance of the meetings. Whilst we were pleased that there was a reasonably good attendance, we noted that the great majority of those present were professing Christians. We pray that the Lord would yet awaken many in our community to their need of the Saviour. We are thankful to those who preached, those who gave out flyers and those who provided refreshments after each service.

We were encouraged that The Friday Night Club continued this year. We are thankful for a good attendance with some new faces and are grateful to those leading or helping with the work. We continue to pray that the Lord will bless the seed sown in the hearts of the young people who attended, that they might all be brought to saving faith in the Redeemer.

Some 600 calendars with Scripture texts were distributed in the local area in December. We pray that God would use this form of outreach to extend His Kingdom in our community.

The Session thanks all those involved in making these means of outreach possible.

### **Committee**

The Committee was able to have all its scheduled meetings during the year.

We thank the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and members for their diligent work in overseeing the congregation's properties and finances and in organising various events highlighted elsewhere in this report. We are grateful for all the work the Committee has done in supporting the Lord's work financially, both in terms of our own congregation and denomination and also through donations made to a number of Christian organisations.

## **Conclusion**

We thank God for His love and care for us over the past year and look to Him for His blessing and guidance in the year ahead.

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* Jeremiah 29: 11.

Submitted by the Trustees,

Rev. Steven Robinson (Minister)

James Steele (Clerk of Session)

James Snodgrass