

**SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Charitable Trust Registered in Northern Ireland (NIC106486)

SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY 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 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
6 Moyne Road
Conlig
BT23 7PG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106486)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Miss Mary E Angus	Mr William Harkness
Rev Alistair Bill	Rev Norman Harrison
Rev Professor William Gordon Campbell	Mr Brian Henderson
Rev Andrew Galbraith	Rev Dr David Crawford Irwin
Mr Gerry Gault	Rev Jack Lamb
Rev Morris Stephen Gault	Rev Robert Love
Rev John Gilkinson	Mr Norman Mannis
Mr Cecil William Lavery Graham	Mr Philip Mateer
Rev David Gray	Mr Joseph Brian Milligan
Rev R J. Greer	Mr John David McCleery (resigned January 2024)
Denis Guiler	Rev Dr Derek John McKelvey
Rev Barry John McCroskery	Mr Norman McKinley
Mr Jim McIlwaine	Rev Ivan Steen
Dr Joan Cummings McQuoid (resigned October 2024)	Rev Robert Stevenson Stockman
Rev Wilfred John Orr	Rev John McCracken
Rev Margaret Ruth Patterson	Rev Nigel Craig
Miss Ruth Pritchard	Rev Kathryn Viner
Rev Corrina Heron (resigned October 2024)	Rev Ben Walker

Mr David Curry (appointed March 2024)
Mr Colin Houston (appointed March 2024)
Rev Paul Lutton (appointed January 2024)

Mr Cyril Cavan
Mr John Kenny
Miss Alison Mullen

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Moderator	Rev David Gray
Clerk of Presbytery	Rev Morris Gault
Finance Convener	Mr Denis Guiler

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Michael Fitch
UHY Hacker Young Fitch
Chartered Accountants
Suite 2.06, Customs House
Customs House Square
Belfast
BT1 2LG

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Branch Business
P.O. Box 183
Donegal Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

SOLICITORS

King & Gowdy
298 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3EJ

SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

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. The following congregations of the Presbyterian Church have been assigned to The South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

Ballycairn	Malone
Belvoir	McCracken Memorial
Cooke Centenary	Newtownbreda
Dunmurry	Richview
Finaghy – Lowe Memorial	Saintfield Road
Fisherwick	South Kirk
Fitzroy Avenue	Taughmonagh
Kilmakee, Seymour Hill	Townsend Street
Kinghan Church	

A Presbytery makes arrangements for the election of ministers in congregations, ordains licentiates and installs or inducts and appoints ministers in the congregations assigned to it. They also ordain or install and appoint elders, commission and appoint deaconesses, senior lecturers, auxiliary ministers, lay agents and missionaries who have been called by an authorised body in the Church. Presbytery has a role in seeing that ministers preach the Word faithfully to their congregations, regularly visit the families under their charge, visit the sick, promote peace and temperance and see that the duties of the eldership are properly discharged. Presbyteries oversee the resignation and retirements of ministers and elders.

Presbyteries provide advice to Kirk Sessions and Congregational Committees when required and have a role in approving matters in relation to congregational property. They report annually to the General Assembly and have the right to make a nomination for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly.

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 the congregation. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

**SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

Stated meetings of Presbytery are held on the first Tuesday of February, March, May, September, October, November and December.

All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, who is a minister in active duty, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

The South Belfast Presbytery is a Presbytery 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 SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The Presbytery meets on the first Tuesday of February, March, May, September, October, November and December and on other occasions as required. All meetings commence with a time of worship and are opened and closed with prayer.

The Presbytery carries out the following activities

- Supports those who candidate for the Ministry
- Installs Ordained ministers
- Provides pastoral support for ministers and their families
- Holds a number of events such as a social evening for Presbytery, Elders Training Night etc
- PW Link is an initiative of Presbyterian Women intended to improve communications and build relationships between Presbyterian Women. PW links include a representative from each congregation and run events to support the mission and outreach of Presbytery.
- Administers in conjunction with the Council for Mission in Ireland a migrants' project called the International Meeting Point

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2024 the Presbytery:

Ordained and Installed 1 minister to congregational ministry
Organised 1 Griefshare Course
Organised a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" course
Held 7 General Committee meetings
Held 3 Summer Commission Meetings
Visited 7 congregations to conduct Presbytery meetings and to hear of the work of the congregations.
Provided financial support to the International Meeting Point and supplied representatives to serve on the IMP Management Committee
In partnership with Crown Jesus Ministries continued to support the Hope Chapel Lane project
Provided financial support to the Hope Chapel Lane Project based in the Berry Street premises
Provided financial support to Carnmoney Central to continue worshipping in the May Street building
Appointed members of Presbytery to serve on Councils and Committees of the General Assembly.

THE SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Appointed commissions to the oversight and pastoral care of congregations at a time of vacancy

Oversaw the merger of Great Victoria Street and Windsor congregations. The new congregation is called South Kirk

Interviewed 1 prospective student for the ministry

Hosted a week-long visit from the Moderator of The General Assembly

Commissioned & Inducted 1 Deaconess to work in Fisherwick congregation

Appointed a Mission Pioneer Worker to work in the Village Area of the Donegall Road.

At the 31 December 2024 the following numbers of personnel were under the care of Presbytery:

	2024	2023
Ministers in active service in congregations	9	10
Ministers in active service in other ministries	5	6
Retired Ministers	9	7
Licentiates	1	-
Transferring Minister	2	1

Credentials were presented to a Presbytery in respect of 1 deaconess who was appointed to a congregation assigned to that Presbytery.

The Presbytery encourages the congregations assigned to it to support 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 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, assist 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.

The Presbytery also encourages congregations to contribute to the denominations Moderator's Appeal, World Development Appeal and any other special appeals.

General Assembly

Presbyteries are represented on the various Councils of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and report on an annual basis to the General Assembly.

**THE SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give their free time by serving on Presbytery, its commissions and panels.

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 charities beneficiaries are its 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 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 Presbytery has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

**SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's main source of income into the Incidental Fund is Presbytery fees, and donations or other income for the Missions Fund. During the year, £17,000 was received for the Incidental Fund from Presbytery fees and £5,383 of other income was received for the Missions Fund.

Total expenditure for the year from the Incidental Fund was £18,188. Total expenditure for the year from the Missions Fund was £26,548. As at 31st December 2024, the designated funds balance relating to the Missions Fund was £18,334 and the restricted funds balance relating to the Incidental Fund was £5,768.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees at a meeting on *6 May 2025* and signed on its behalf
by



Rev Andrew Galbraith
Trustee