

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106873

Details

Status Received

Registered 2019-03-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 17 Dairyland Road
Straid
Ballyclare
County Antrim
Northern Ireland
Bt39 9qn
BT39 9QN

Phone 028 93352647

Email secretary@straidchurch.org.uk

Website www.straidchurch.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: The purpose of this church is to glorify God. It seeks to attain this aim through the public worship of God and the preaching of the Scriptures. This purpose is effected through the organisation and support of programmes which promote the presentation of the Christian gospel and Christian discipleship. The scope of this effort is local, national and global.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion, Other charitable purposes

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Counselling/support, Cross-border/cross-community, Education/training, General charitable purposes, Overseas aid/famine relief, Relief of poverty, Religious activities, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse), Adult training, Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Men, Older people, Overseas/developing countries, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Specific areas of deprivation, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£152,997	£119,622	£0	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Strange		
Mr Chris Carson		
Mr John Gowan Haaijer		
Mr John James Ralph Gilmour		
Mr Michael Ewart		
Mr Richard Gilmour		
Mr Thomas William Strange		
Rev Alistair Patterson		

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Accounts

Straid Congregational Church



Financial Report 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

MINISTER	Mr. A Patterson	
SERVICES	Sunday morning	11.30am
	Sunday evening	6.30pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS	Sunday morning	10.15am
STRAID CHRISTIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP	2 nd Monday each month	
MUMS & TOTS	Each Tuesday	10.30am
PRAYER MEETINGS (Including Missionary Prayer times)	Wednesday and Thursday	8.00pm and 10.00am
PATHFINDER GROUPS	Friday evening	7.00pm
STRAID YOUTH	Friday evening	8.15pm
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	1 ST and 3 rd Sunday each month	8.00pm

DEACONS

Mr Thomas Strange

Mr Brian McFall

Mr Chris Carson

Mr John Strange

Mr Ralph Gilmour

Mr John Haaijer

Mr Richard Gilmour

Mr Michael Ewart

Interim Secretary: Mr John Haaijer

Treasurer: Mr Thomas Strange

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Mrs Margaret Bailie

Mr Brian Morton

Mrs Betty Ogilby

Mr Bill Bailie

Mr. Jason Chartres

AUDITOR

Mr Desmond Dunn & Mr Tim Girvan (Book Keeper)

CARETAKERS

Mr & Mrs R Gilmour

Straid Congregational Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2024 £	2023 £
Income		
Offerings (note 1)	108,851	102,192
Gift Aid	25,214	23,966
Rental Income	15,098	12,388
Gifts	3,680	9,140
Other	135	2,229
	<u>152,977</u>	<u>149,915</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries and expenses (note 2)	45,043	14,933
Pulpit supply	2,435	9,085
Missionary Support (note 3)	25,511	48,524
Rates & Water	3,076	2,811
Insurance	5,114	4,596
Electricity & Fuel	10,604	9,908
Security	209	475
Books, Publications & Stationery	2,337	2,515
AV ministry	1,530	1,803
Catering	2,569	4,856
Repairs and Renewals	15,719	11,226
Telephone & Broadband	843	588
Transport	460	3,920
Other (including prof. fees)	4,171	13,751
	<u>119,622</u>	<u>128,991</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>33,355</u>	<u>20,924</u>

Bank Accounts

Current Account	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 January	29,659	108,735
Surplus for the year	33,355	20,924
Transfer – Ulster Bank Investment a/c	<u>-50,000</u>	<u>-100,000</u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>13,014</u>	<u>29,659</u>

Investment Account (Bank of Ireland)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	154,390	154,390
Interest	1,393	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>155,783</u>	<u>154,390</u>

Initial investment matured in March 2024 and rolled over to mature in March 2026.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	100,000	100,000
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in June 2025.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	50,000	-
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in August 2025.

Investment Account (AIB)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	151,553	151,251
Interest	7,872	302
Closing balance 31 December	<u>159,425</u>	<u>151,553</u>

Initial investment matured in Aug 2024 and rolled over to mature in Aug 2025.

Investment Account (Ulster Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	156,522	151,083
Interest	7,455	5,439
Closing balance 31 December	<u>163,977</u>	<u>156,522</u>

Initial investment matured in September 2024 and rolled over to mature in September 2025.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
1	Offerings		
	Freewill loose offering	54,179	49,714
	Standing Orders	54,672	52,478
	Other income	-	-
		108,851	102,192
2	Salaries		
	Minister	36,396	8,199
	Minister's wife	2,000	1,000
	Caretaker	6,647	5,734
		45,043	14,933
3	Missionary Support		
	Support of Church Missionaries	18,606	30,885
	Other missionary gifts	6,905	17,639
		25,511	48,524

Sunday School 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	38.71		
From Church Account	1,000.00	Sunday School Materials	461.00
		Straid Sunday School Outing & Food	108.00
		Carnfunnock	36.75
		Bouncy Castle	80.00
		Christmas Selection Boxes	63.00
		Bank Fees	36.60
		Balance Carried Forward	253.36
	<u>1038.71</u>		<u>1038.71</u>

Pathfinders 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	153.75		
Money for Christmas Gifts	100.00	Movie Night Snacks	21.00
		Senior Group Christmas Gifts	78.36
		Junior Group Christmas Gifts	94.00
		Balance Carried Forward	60.39
	<u>253.75</u>		<u>253.75</u>

Mums & Tots 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	985.76		
Weekly Income	639.02	Weekly Supplies	358.16
Bank Interest	24.20	Outreach/Gifts	410.94
		Balance Carried Forward	879.88
	<u>1648.98</u>		<u>1648.98</u>

Straid Youth 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	103.28		
Tuck Shop	82.55		
		Balance Carried Forward	185.83
	<u>185.83</u>		<u>185.83</u>

Straid Congregational Women 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	177.91		
Collections	217.40	Speakers	80.00
Feb Meeting Acre	77.56	Stationary/Biscuits etc.	93.60
March – Hope for Youth	131.00	Acre Gospel Mission	77.56
Glenarm Castle	560.00	Hope for Youth Ministry	131.00
Coffee Morning	174.20	Glenarm Castle	632.50
Chittys in Spain (Nov)	120.00	Glenarm Castle Ticket Refund	20.00
		Coffee Morning	174.20
		Chittys	120.00
		The Carrie Restaurant balance	35.00
		Balance Carried Forward	94.21
	<u>1458.07</u>		<u>1458.07</u>

Freewill Offerings 2024

No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
2	£1,200	30	£3,180	65	£2,340
3	£2,250	31	£235	66	£5,400
4	£1,020	33	£1,040	68	£10,400
5	£1,120	34	£1,540	71	£675
6	£800	39	£12,200	72	£850
7	£360	40	£1,280	73	£3,540
8	£35	42	£40	77	£1,870
9	£4,080	44	£1,440	79	£3,230
10	£309	46	£1,600	80	£2,080
11	£3,650	48	£160	82	£240
12	£2,400	50	£1,500	86	£1,040
14	£1,530	52	£365	87	£1,450
15	£1,200	53	£370	88	£1,650
20	£1,035	56	£1,590	91	£870
21	£200	60	£960	92	£540
24	£1,295	64	£2,000	95	£170
				96	£2,400

Minister's Report 2024

I've recently been reading through Psalm 118, and in beginning to write this short Minister's Report, I thought I would start and finish as Psalm 118 does; 'O give thanks to the Lord for He is good'.

Sharon and I can truly say that throughout this year, in ministering here in Straid Congregational Church, the Lord has been good to us personally, and to us all as a Fellowship.

We give thanks to the Lord for His help in the preaching of His Word as we have studied the life of Joseph, the Book of Haggai, the Ten Commandments and most recently, 1 Peter.

We give thanks for those who have trusted the Lord as Saviour this year through the witness of the Church, and for the opportunities we each have had to share the Gospel in this Community.

We give thanks for answered prayer and grace given, as we, together, have prayed for individuals and families going through bereavement, sickness and very real difficulties.

Also, we give thanks for answered prayer regarding the granting of Planning permission for the renovation of the church building, and for those in our Fellowship with expertise and experience to help lead us through this Project.

To finish, I want to highlight two things:

First, a word of caution...

It can so easily happen that we have a new church building, but have a Church Fellowship divided with broken relationships, people hurt, the church's testimony damaged, and most of all, the Holy Spirit grieved. Please take this seriously, and think carefully about our words and attitudes 'endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Eph 4:3) Let's take to heart the teaching of 1 Peter 5 regarding the right personal response to 'Authority', 'Humility' and 'Anxiety'. Let us also be aware of the enemy, Satan's existence, and his subtle attacks and inroads; we need to 'be vigilant' and 'resist him steadfast in the faith'.

Secondly, a word of appeal to Members and Adherents ...

Please consider planning to, or rearranging priorities or life schedule, so you can commit to attending the prayer times in the church. A lot of things in life will come and go, but our own spiritual life and walk, the salvation of our family members and our communities, are of eternal consequence. Prayer times are not always easy; this is a spiritual battle, but of real lasting value.

Thank you so much for your prayers, fellowship, support and encouragement to Sharon and myself; we are very grateful!

Together, let us

'Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.

Rev Alistair Patterson

Missionary Report 2024

As we look back into 2024 and have gone into 2025 we praise God for his hand upon our missionary work within the church and for those who answered the call to go to various places to spread the good news of the gospel. At our monthly missionary meeting we always have different speakers who keep us up to date in what is happening in the country they are working in. In January 2024 we had FAITH MISSION, February ASIA LINK, March SGA and also IBI same month. April VISPA, May EMF, June SASRA. Our annual Missionary Weekend began with ASIA LINK on Wed. 28/8/24, SHINING LIGHTS on Friday 30/8/24 and on the Sunday 1/9/24 we had CEF at our am service and GMSA at our pm service, this is always a great weekend. On the Friday evening we always have a 7pm start and we have a special time for the children and we say a big thank you to those who volunteer to help with this. The Sunday morning speaker always takes the Sunday School, which we all love and appreciate so much. In October we had OMS, November REVIVAL MOVEMENT and in December WORLD GOSPEL MISSION. All of the Missionary Society's receive the complete collection plus £200 from the church. Our total missionary giving for 2024 was £9737.63 which included £400.00 .in pennies for Odessa Orphanage which has been collected and counted by Margaret and Hugh Caldwell for many years. A big thank you to them both.

As a fellowship we continue to support our own missionaries:

John and Irene Barfoot Immanuel Studios

Stephen and Joan Singleton IBI Dublin

Nigel and Ruth Wilson and Family Faith Mission

Michael and Julie Chitty and Family Spain

Johnny and Kathryn Gault and Family Frontiers in Mozambique

We continue to pray that the Lord will bless their ministry wherever they are and that they will see much fruit for their labours.

Ralph Gilmore

Secretary Report 2024

When I think of 2024 what comes to mind is the Lord's prayer and in particular the phrase, "Your kingdom come, your will be done". This is our prayer as a church and we have seen very evidently in 2024 the Lord doing His will.

There is a lot that we can be thankful for as we look back over 2024. It has been great to have Alistair with us for his first full year and we have already greatly benefitted from his preaching, visiting and other work. We can also be very thankful for how God has worked in all the different church groups that have had meetings and outings over the last year. God has provided safety, guidance and has worked in hearts through these groups that cater for the oldest right through to the youngest. We would like to say a big thank-you to all those that lead and help in these groups as well as those that serve the Lord in other practical ways in the church. It is very much appreciated.

With so many groups in the church it is hard to mention all that went on over the last year and I'm sure each group have a few highlights that they can think of. In June the Friendship club had their special event called "A Journey Back in Time to Straid" and it was great to have people in from the village that don't attend the church here. In August we had our first Holiday Bible Club since COVID in the church buildings and this went very well with a good number of children in each evening. This year things ran a bit differently with our first Sunday morning Holiday Bible club service at the end of the week. It was great to see the church well filled with parents, again, some of whom had never been in the church before. In December we had the Christmas Tree Light's event and it was again great to see the church hall filled with so many from the village. May we continue to pray for all those in the village who don't know the Lord that the Lord would work in hearts and use us as a witness to this community. May the Lord's kingdom come to this community.

Another thing we can praise God for is getting planning permission for the new sanctuary. We had been praying about this for a long time and it was starting to seem that the process was never going to end with more and more delays. I have to say that given the HED had rejected the plans I didn't have a lot of hope that the permission would be granted. But then finally in October we were officially granted planning permission. We may have felt that the planning office was in control of this but ultimately the Lord's will was done.

2024 also had it's challenges and times of sadness. In August Sam McCrory went home to be with the Lord. Sam finished the race well and he will be sorely missed. There were also those in our fellowship who suffered with poor health and other issues. It's in these times of sadness and difficulty we again pray, "Your kingdom come" as we think of a day when there will be no more pain or sadness. May we continue to remember in prayer those in our fellowship that are continuing to suffer in these days.

As we look ahead to 2025 I'm sure it will bring it's joys and it's challenges also. But may our hearts desire and prayer be that "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

John Haaijer

Group Leadership/responsibility for 2024

Sunday School

Patricia McLean	Alison Forsythe	Pat Gilmour
David Weir	Alison Johnston	

Pathfinders

Junior

Lisa Darrah	Jennifer Robinson	Brittany Strange	Grace Herron
Olivia Jenkins	Asha Hilditch	Claire Brown	

Seniors

Chris Carson	Aimee Jenkins	Michael Ewart	John Strange
Cherith Gilmore	Hannah Cahoon	Julie Williams	

Straid Congregational Women

Hannah Cahoon	Asha Hilditch	Barbara Cathcart	Pauline Weatherup
Jill Brown	Amanda McFall	Ruth Cathcart	

Catering Committee

Joan Hutchinson	Cherith Gilmore	Hazel Forsythe	Amanda McFall
Julie Williams	Jill Brown		

Straid Youth Leaders

Claire Brown	Matt Hilditch	Janice Drummond	Aimee Jenkins
Alex Mairs	Aimee Haaijer	Brian McFall	John Haaijer
Andrew Vance	Richard Gilmour		

Missionary Committee

Ralph Gilmour	Roy Greer	Hugh Caldwell	Jennifer Evans
Pat Gilmour	Rosemary Weir	Judy Sempey	

Mums & Tots

Joan Hutchinson	Barbara Cathcart	Jennifer Evans	Grace Herron
Sharon Patterson	Rosemary McAnally	Joanne Vance	Betty Ogilby

Musical Team

Brenda Strange	Andrew Vance	Betty Greer	John Haaijer
Hannah Cahoon	Janine Close	Brittany Strange	Joel Patterson
Sharon Patterson			

Audio Visual Team

Martin Brown	Claire Brown	Richard Gilmour	Peter Lawson
John Haaijer	Wesley Johnston	Alex Mairs	Rachel Lawson
Matt Johnston	Robin Cahoon	Ben Robinson	

Junior Church

Brittany Strange	Chris Carson	Carla Carson	David Cathcart
Joanne Vance	Chloe Robinson	Brian McFall	Ben Vance
Aimee Haaijer	Hannah McAllister	Janice Drummond	Joy Ewart

Church Attendance

Wesley Johnston Colin Forsythe

Flowers

Pat Gilmour Marleen Strange Hannah Cahoon Matt Hilditch
Jennifer Haaijer

Youth Fellowship

Chris Carson Tim Girvan David Cathcart Rachel Lawson
Aimee Haaijer

CHOIR

Brenda Strange	Margaret Caldwell	Chris Haaijer
Jason Chartres	Alison Forsythe	Jennifer Robinson
Hannah Cahoon	Julie Williams	Tim Girvan
Joel Patterson	Andrew Vance	Hugh Caldwell
Brittany Strange	John Strange	

Child Protection Co-ordinator

Robin Cahoon

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Accounts

Straid Congregational Church



Financial Report 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

MINISTER	Mr. A Patterson	
SERVICES	Sunday morning	11.30am
	Sunday evening	6.30pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS	Sunday morning	10.15am
STRAID CHRISTIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP	2 nd Monday each month	
MUMS & TOTS	Each Tuesday	10.30am
PRAYER MEETINGS (Including Missionary Prayer times)	Wednesday and Thursday	8.00pm and 10.00am
PATHFINDER GROUPS	Friday evening	7.00pm
STRAID YOUTH	Friday evening	8.15pm

DEACONS

DEACONS

Mr Thomas Strange
Mr Brian McFall
Mr Chris Carson

Mr John Strange
Mr Ralph Gilmour
Mr John Haaijer

Mr Richard Gilmour
Mr Michael Ewart

Interim Secretary: Mr John Haaijer

Treasurer: Mr Thomas Strange

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Mrs Margaret Bailie Mrs Betty Ogilby Mr Hugh Ogilby Mr. Jason Chartres
Mr Brian Morton Mr Bill Bailie (Bookkeeper)

AUDITOR

Mr Desmond Dunn & Mr Bill Bailie

CARETAKERS

Mr & Mrs R Gilmour

Straid Congregational Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Offerings (note 1)	101,384	89,181
Gift Aid	23,966	23,715
Rental Income	12,388	12,409
Gifts	8,540	4,326
Other	2,229	
	<u>148,507</u>	<u>129,631</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries and expenses (note 2)	17,949	5,506
Pulpit supply	5,005	7,170
Missionary Support (note 3)	36,474	38,895
Rates & Water	2,811	2,724
Insurance	4,596	4,039
Electricity & Fuel	9,908	8,742
Security	485	78
Books, Publications & Stationery	2,470	3,255
AV ministry	1,959	1,094
Catering	3,580	1,459
Repairs and Renewals	11,226	25,063
Telephone & Broadband	638	589
Transport	3,920	200
Other (including prof. fees)	14,061	7,394
	<u>115,082</u>	<u>106,208</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>33,425</u>	<u>23,423</u>

Bank Accounts

Current Account	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 January	108,735	85,312
Surplus for the year	33,425	23,423
Transfer – Ulster Bank Investment a/c	<u>-100,000</u>	<u></u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>42,160</u>	<u>108,735</u>

Investment Account (Bank of Ireland)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance	154,390	154,390
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>154,390</u>	<u>154,390</u>

Initial investment matured in March 2022 and rolled over to mature in March 2024.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	100,000	100,000
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in June 2025.

Investment Account (AIB)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance	151,251	150,947
Interest	302	304
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance 31 December	<u>151,553</u>	<u>151,251</u>

This fixed deposit account due to mature in August 2024.

Investment Account (Ulster Bank)	2022	2021
	£	£
Opening balance	151,083	151,083
Interest	5,439	
Deposit (May 2023)	<u>100,000</u>	<hr/>
Closing balance 31 December	<u>256,522</u>	<u>151,083</u>

*Initial investment matured in Sept. 2021 and rolled over to mature in Sept. 2023.
£100,000 added and rolled over to mature in Sept 2024*

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
1	Offerings		
	Freewill loose offering	49,713	47,057
	Standing Orders	51,670	40,620
	Other income	9,540	1,504
		110,923	89,181
2	Salaries		
	Minister	7,835	-
	Minister's wife	1,000	-
	Caretaker	5,680	5,506
	Income Tax	-	-
		14,515	5,506
3	Missionary Support		
	Support of Church Missionaries	26,548	26,560
	Other missionary gifts	9,927	12,335
		36,475	38,895

Sunday School 2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	269.61		
Re Barbara Kirk	353.50	Sunday School Materials	460.50
Donation	25.00	Carnfunnock and food etc	132.00
Sunday School Collection	174.00	Easter Eggs	33.50
		Christmas Party, gifts and Bouncy Castle	120.00
		Bank Fees	37.40
		Balance Carried Forward	38.71
	<u>822.11</u>		<u>822.11</u>

Pathfinders 2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	153.75		
		Balance Carried Forward	153.75
	<u>153.75</u>		<u>153.75</u>

Mums & Tots 2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	1,210.45		
Weekly Income	646.88	Weekly Supplies	427.82
Bank Interest	2.92	New Equipment	22.56
		Outreach/Gifts/Books	424.11
		Balance Carried Forward	985.76
	<u>1860.25</u>		<u>1860.25</u>

Straid Youth 2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	241.45		
Tuck Shop	17.92	Food	63.00
		Tuck	88.09
		Archery	5.00
		Balance Carried Forward	103.28
	<u><u>259.37</u></u>		<u><u>259.37</u></u>

Straid Congregational Women 2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	20.99		
Collections	108.43	Speakers**	80.00
Personal Gifts to Ladies work	120.00	Stationary/Biscuits etc.	38.46
Trip to Crumlin Road Gaol*	730.00	Crumlin Road Gaol	663.00
Ladies Breakfast	286.50	Ladies Breakfast	262.85
Cheque not cashed	27.60	Stand By Me (Mary Farley)	50.00
Gift re Mary Farley	50.00	Christmas Dinner	957.30
Christmas Dinner	886.00	Brian Gault***	400.00
Brian Gault Evening	400.00	Balance Carried Forward	177.91
	<u><u>2629.52</u></u>		<u><u>2629.52</u></u>

*Those ladies who had prepaid and were unable to attend on the new date donated their funds to the ladies work . Thank you.

**Joy Saunderson donated her gift for speaking to the ladies to Misssionary Aviation Fellowship.

***Brian Gault donated his speakers gift to his work with disabled children and provision of Audio Bibles.

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Annual report

Straid Congregational Church

Charity registration number: 106873

Date registered: 06/03/2019

Annual report for 2023

Trustee's report

The trustee's present their report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2023. The trustees confirm that they are aware of and have had regard to the Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

Charitable purposes

The purpose of this church is to glorify God. It seeks to attain this aim through the public worship of God and the preaching of the Scriptures. This purpose is effected through the organisation and support of programmes which promote the presentation of the Christian gospel and Christian discipleship. The scope of this effort is local, national and global.

Summary of activities

Sunday services

Sunday Fellowship

Junior church

Sunday school

Weekly Bible study and prayer times

Men's meetings (Men for Life)

Women's meetings (Straid Congregational Women)

Friday night youth and children's programmes (Pathfinders, Straid Youth)

Youth Fellowship

Mums and Tots

Missionary meetings

Holiday Bible Club

Public benefit reporting

We seek to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as outlined in the scriptures, so that those in the local community will hear the Good News of Salvation. The benefit which flows from our purpose is that through attending Sunday Services and midweek Bible Study Meetings, the regular congregation along with visitors will get to know God in a deeper, fuller and personal way.

In 2023 our year began with our usual schedule of open church meetings taking place as listed above. These activities provided substantial public benefit within the local community and further afield. Beneficiaries include those who are in attendance at the regular meetings and to those for whom aid and assistance is provided across the globe through our missionary support.

Since the COVID pandemic the church services are live streamed, and available on Youtube following. This allows the availability of the church services to many who would otherwise be unable to attend the church services, are widely taken up both locally, and further afield. DVD recordings of the services are provided for those unable to access online services. In many cases this allowed those who ordinarily would not be able to get out to services the opportunity to attend.

The church website is central to sharing with our congregation and community and was substantially developed over recent years. We expect this to be of ongoing benefit as we seek to glorify God in our community and nation.

On the 7th October 2023 we welcomed Rev Alistair Patterson and his wife Sharon to take up the ministry as the new pastor in Straid Congregational. We are delighted to welcome them and look forward to sharing with them in the ministry of the church going forward.

It was our privilege to support the work of the 'Swan Clinic' which provides maternity related essentials to those who have need of this. In addition many other areas of support to those in need were provided during the year, some details of which are supplied in the church annual report.

Results

The results for the year and financial position at the end of year 2023 are in the attached financial report. In summary:

Total income: £148,507

Total expenditure: £115,082

There are no funds held by the Charity which are in deficit and therefore no action is required.

Charitable trustees for the year 2023

Rev Alistair Patterson

Mr Thomas Strange

Mr Richard Gilmore

Mr Brian McFall

Mr Chris Carson

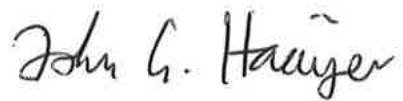
Mr Ralph Gilmour

Mr John Haijjer

Mr Michael Ewart

Dr John Strange

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity and signed by:



Mr John Haijjer

Church Secretary



Mr Thomas Strange

Church treasurer

Appendix

Ministers report, missionary report and secretary's report from church report 2023 below:

Minister's Report 2023

To give this Report some structure, I will use the terms: Past, Present and Future.

The PAST

Sharon and I were married here in Straid Congregational Church and have had the privilege of calling this our 'Home Church' during our time with The Faith Mission. We often were encouraged and blessed through the fellowship and support received, financially and in prayer over those years.

The PRESENT

Being here in Straid Congregational Church as Minister, humanly speaking, to us seems an unreality, yet in God's plans and purposes we are so at peace and so thankful to God for His providence and guidance. We also feel so blessed by all we have received since coming: the work done in the manse, the welcome, acceptance, and help in settling into the house and church life. Thankyou!

I have enjoyed studying Paul's short prayers for the mid-week and 2 Timothy for Sunday services and trust the Lord to use this as He sees fit.

The FUTURE

Thankfully, that is in the Lord's hands and He knows the plans He has for us as a Church in the ministry of His Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Evangelism through the many different groups/activities, and of course with our Building Project.

In the words of Ephesians 4:1-16 which I plan to read as a Devotion to begin our Members' meeting, may God give us the grace to live and serve Him together in Straid Congregational Church, in humility, unity, taking every opportunity to use our God given gifts and grow toward maturity in likeness to Christ and in love.

Rev Alistair Patterson

Missionary Report 2023

As we look back in 2022 and have stepped in 2023 with all that it holds we praise God for being with us and for his hand on us and for our Missionary Family's across the world in so many different places. At our monthly Missionary Meetings we had Faith Mission in January, Stand by Me in February, Slavic Gospel Association in March, Christian Institute in April Hebrew Scriptures in May, Dublin Family Mission in June and on 31/8/22 our Missionary Weekend began with The Gideon's, and then Missionary Aviation Fellowship on the Friday evening and CEF on Sunday. This was a good weekend and well supported. Alongside the Friday night meeting a children's meeting was held and organised by Lisa Darragh and helpers and we want to say a big thank you to each of them. The children loved it and so did the parents. We had One Mission in October, Tanzanian Farm in November and Revival Movement in December. All of these society's received the complete collection plus £200 from the church. Our total Missionary giving for 2022 was £11,869.00 which included £335.00 in pennies for Odessa Orphanage which is so faithfully collected and sorted by Hugh and Margaret Caldwell. A big thank you to both of them who have done this for so many years. Also included is a special offering of £3600 for Ukraine which included gift aid.

As a fellowship we continue to support our own missionaries:

John and Irene Barfoot Immanuel Studios

Stephen and Joan Singleton IBI Dublin

Nigel and Ruth Wilson and Family Faith Mission

Michael and Julie Chitty and Family Spain

Johnny and Kathryn Gault and Family, Frontiers in Mozambique

We continue to pray that the Lord will bless and keep them wherever they are and that they will see much fruit for their labours.

We really appreciate your prayers and financial support for the missionary work and trust as we pray that all of our folks wherever they labour will see the Lords hand in the work they are involved in.

Romans 10 13-15 says:- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on him who they have not believed and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher. And how shall they preach except they be sent. As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things.

Ralph Gilmore

Secretary Report 2023

As I look back over 2023 a verse comes to mind and that is Psalm 136 verse 1 which says, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever". 2023 has proven this verse to be so true with God showing His goodness and love to us as a fellowship in so many ways and we should remember to give Him the thanks and praise He deserves.

We can praise God for how He has worked through all the different groups and meetings that have gone on in the church over the last year. I'm amazed by all the activity that goes on with over 10 different groups or meetings catering for all the different ages from the youngest in Mums and Tots right through to the oldest in the Friendship Group. The Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

I would just like to say a big thank-you to all those that put their time and effort into all these groups and all those that help in all aspects both up front and behind the scenes in keeping the church running. It is very much appreciated.

With all the activities that go on it's hard to mention just a few highlights from the year and I'm sure each group can think of some highlights where the Lord has really blessed. One such blessing was the Holiday Bible Club in August with the Gospel Truck once again coming and taking residence for a week in the church carpark. It was so encouraging to see the kids each night singing and learning from God's Word with some kids coming who had no connection at all to the church. On the Friday we had a BBQ where the parents could come along and it was great to have conversations with parents who again weren't linked to the church. The Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

In October we had another real blessing. After months and months of praying and seeking the Lord's will, we had our induction service for Alistair and Sharon. It was such a joy to finally have a new shepherd for the flock here in Straid. It was great to be able to welcome them into the church and we have already benefitted

greatly from their ministry. The Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever. I would encourage you to continue to pray that God would use Alistair and Sharon for His glory here in Straid.

It was also great to see the Lord working in hearts over the last year and bringing people to himself. Please pray that this would continue and that the Lord would be pleased to use us in this village and community to glorify Him. In December the Christmas Tree Light event drew a large crowd and it was a fantastic opportunity to share the Gospel with people in the village some of whom would have no interest in church or the Bible. The Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

As well as many blessings 2023 also had it's challenges. We lost some very dear friends from our fellowship. Barbara Kirk and Mrs Hall were called home in April and Mary Farley was called home in September. These were faithful women who fought the fight well and finished the race and they are sorely missed. In 2023 a number of our fellowship also had major health issues and other difficulties. We also continued to wait on a decision on the building project with it now being over a year since the plans were submitted and no indication of when a final decision will be made.

As we look to the incoming year I'm sure there will be times of blessing as well as challenging times but it's great to rest in the fact that the Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever.

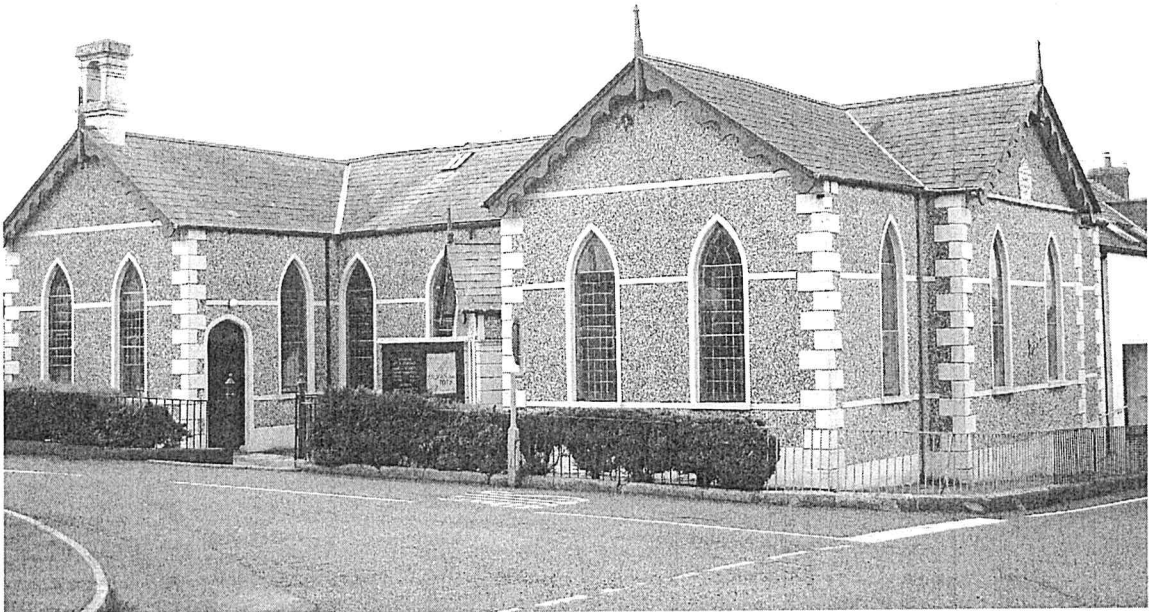
John Haaijer

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Annual return

Straid Congregational Church



Financial Report 2023

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Straid Congregational Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out overleaf.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

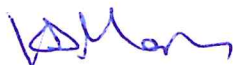
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1 That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:



Address: 11 Point Street, Larne, Co Antrim, BT40 1HY

Date: 24/10/2024

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Straid Congregational Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Offerings (note 1)	102,192	89,181
Gift Aid	23,966	23,715
Rental Income	12,388	12,409
Gifts	9,140	4,326
Other	2,229	
	<u>149,915</u>	<u>129,631</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries and expenses (note 2)	14,933	5,506
Pulpit supply	9,085	7,170
Missionary Support (note 3)	48,524	38,895
Rates & Water	2,811	2,724
Insurance	4,596	4,039
Electricity & Fuel	9,908	8,742
Security	475	78
Books, Publications & Stationery	2,515	3,255
AV ministry	1,803	1,094
Catering	4,856	1,459
Repairs and Renewals	11,226	25,063
Telephone & Broadband	588	589
Transport	3,920	200
Other (including prof. fees)	13,751	7,394
	<u>128,991</u>	<u>106,208</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>20,924</u>	<u>23,423</u>

Bank Accounts

Current Account	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 January	108,735	85,312
Surplus for the year	20,924	23,423
Transfer – Ulster Bank Investment a/c	<u>-100,000</u>	<u> </u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>29,659</u>	<u>108,735</u>

Investment Account (Bank of Ireland)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance	154,390	154,390
Interest	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>154,390</u>	<u>154,390</u>

Initial investment matured in March 2022 and rolled over to mature in March 2024.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	100,000	100,000
Interest	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in June 2025.

Investment Account (AIB)	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balance	151,251	150,947
Interest	302	304
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance 31 December	<u>151,553</u>	<u>151,251</u>

This fixed deposit account due to mature in August 2024.

Investment Account (Ulster Bank)	2022	2021
	£	£
Opening balance	151,083	151,083
Interest	5,439	
Deposit (May 2023)	<u>100,000</u>	<hr/>
Closing balance 31 December	<u>256,522</u>	<u>151,083</u>

*Initial investment matured in Sept. 2021 and rolled over to mature in Sept. 2023.
£100,000 added and rolled over to mature in Sept 2024*

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
1	Offerings		
	Freewill loose offering	49,714	47,057
	Standing Orders	52,478	40,620
	Other income	-	1,504
		102,192	89,181
2	Salaries		
	Minister	8,199	-
	Minister's wife	1,000	-
	Caretaker	5,734	5,506
	Income Tax	-	-
		14,933	5,506
3	Missionary Support		
	Support of Church Missionaries	30,885	26,560
	Other missionary gifts	17,639	12,335
		48,524	38,895

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Accounts

Straid Congregational Church



Financial Report 2020

Straid Congregational Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Income		
Offerings (note 1)	89,346	95,652
Gift Aid	18,718	17,899
Rental Income	12,738	12,843
Other	2,343	5,141
	123,145	131,535
 Expenditure		
Salaries and expenses (note 2)	41,811	40,900
Pulpit supply	520	3,470
Missionary Support (note 3)	27,944	25,387
Rates & Water	2,224	2,613
Insurance	4,059	6,919
Electricity & Fuel	6,602	12,843
Security	539	386
Books, Publications & Stationery	860	565
Congregational Union	-	425
Catering	35	3,161
Repairs and Renewals	4,219	4,154
Telephone & Broadband	1,276	1,289
Transport	485	2,720
Other	7,939	7,275
	90,512	112,108
 Surplus/Deficit for the year	24,633	19,427

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
1	Offerings		
	Freewill loose offering	37,196	68,091
	Standing Orders	38,760	22,790
	Bank transfers	13,390	-
	Other	-	4,771
		89,346	95,652
2	Salaries		
	Minister	25,037	23,886
	Minister's wife	8,732	8,554
	Caretaker	4,884	5,260
	Income Tax	3,158	3,200
		41,811	40,900
3	Missionary Support		
	Support of Church Missionaries	19,965	20,163
	Other missionary gifts	7,979	5,224
		27,944	25,387

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Annual report

Straid Congregational Church

Charity registration number: 106873

Date registered: 06/03/2019

Trustee's report

The trustee's present their report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2020. The trustees confirm that they are aware of and have had regard to the Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

Charitable purposes

The purpose of this church is to glorify God. It seeks to attain this aim through the public worship of God and the preaching of the Scriptures. This purpose is effected through the organisation and support of programmes which promote the presentation of the Christian gospel and Christian discipleship. The scope of this effort is local, national and global.

Summary of activities

Sunday services

Junior church

Sunday school

Weekly Bible study and prayer times

Men's meetings (Men for Life)

Women's meetings (Straid Congregational Women)

Friday night youth and children's programmes (Pathfinders, Open Door)

Youth Fellowship

Mums and Tots

Missionary meetings

Holiday Bible Club

Public benefit reporting

We seek to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as outlined in the scriptures, so that those in the local community will hear the Good News of Salvation. The benefit which flows from our

purpose is that through attending Sunday Services and midweek Bible Study Meetings, the regular congregation along with visitors will get to know God in a deeper, fuller and personal way.

In 2020 our year began with our usual schedule of open church meetings taking place as listed above. These activities provided substantial public benefit within the local community and further afield. Beneficiaries include those who are in attendance at the regular meetings and to those for whom aid and assistance is provided across the globe through our missionary support.

With the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 and the inability to meet in person our Audio-Visual Team rapidly put in place measures to allow those with internet access to live stream our services via Zoom and YouTube. DVD recordings of the services were provided for those unable to access online services. In many cases this allowed those who ordinarily would not be able to get out to services the opportunity to attend. In particular during two lockdowns it has been of substantial public benefit for people to be able to share in fellowship and prayer in this way.

In addition the church website became central to sharing with our congregation and community and was substantially developed over the past year. We expect this to be of ongoing benefit as we seek to glorify God in our community and nation.

It was our privilege to support the work of the Newtownabbey Food Bank with regular donations of food and other essentials which helped many who were struggling in our local communities.

Future plans

We are hopeful with the lifting of lock-down regarding the resumption of normal activities of the church in person, however we are so grateful to God for all his blessings over this difficult time. It is the intention of the trustees to continue and develop the activities of the church to fulfil our charitable purpose.

Results

The results for the year and financial position at the end of year 2020 are in the attached financial report. In summary:

Total income: £123,145

Total expenditure: £90,512

There are no funds held by the Charity which are in deficit and therefore no action is required.

Charitable trustees for the year 2020

Rev Paul Bradley

Mr Thomas Strange

Mr David Cathcart

Mr Chris McIlroy

Mr Ralph Gilmour

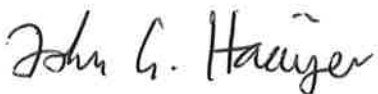
Mr John Haaijer

Mr Brian Morton

Mr Michael Ewart

Dr John Strange

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 7th September 2021 and signed by:

1. 

Mr John Haaijer

Church Secretary

2. 

Mr Thomas Strange

Church treasurer

Straid Congregational Church

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106873

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Straid Congregational Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrual accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act)
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement .

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act 2008 and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008 and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and
- which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Bailie FCA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Accountants Ireland

Address: 25 Forthaven
Ballyrobert
Co Antrim
BT39 9GU

Date: 24 September 2021