

Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2024

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number: 109390

HMRC Charities Reference Number: XN62157

Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church

References and administrative details

Charity name Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number 109390

HMRC Charities Reference number XN62157

Kirk Session
Mr D Blakely
Mr G Craig
Mr C Hunniford
Mr S Kyle
Rev S McCrea
Mr W J McIlroy

Committee
Mr S Hanna
Mr S Moore
Mr E Seaton

Holding Trustees
Mr R Dunlop
Mr N Gardner
Mr C Hunniford
Mr W J McIlroy

Contact Address
3 Dromore Road
Ballynahinch
Co. Down
BT24 8AY

Independent Examiner
Johnston Kennedy DFK
Chartered Accountants
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Bankers
Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Public Benefit

This congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster meets the public benefit requirement. The Church is established to benefit its members and the general public, both at home and abroad through the advancement of religion. The benefits which flow from its purpose include the holding of public worship and fulfilment of the Great Commission to preach Christ crucified in all the world, the coming of souls to faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from sin and the holding to orthodox Bible religion. Adherence to this framework leads to spiritual development, and moral development and wider society living in accordance with God's moral law. It encourages demonstrable acts in the world such as fervent evangelism, missionary effort, the establishment of new churches, the instruction of students for Christian service, the progress of Christian schooling and the provision of pastoral care, and humanitarian relief. The benefits are further demonstrated through attendance at public worship as well as regular evaluation of services, informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and the general public. The purpose does not lead to harm. The charity's beneficiaries are the Christian Church and the general public within society in Northern Ireland and wherever across the world the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster has an opportunity to minister. The only private benefits flowing from this purpose are to those members who would receive reasonable remuneration paid in respect of employment by the Church; those members who may enter into contracts with the Church and receive reasonable payment for goods and services supplied; where a member may benefit as a student at our Bible Colleges; or where someone from a member's family may benefit as a pupil at a Christian school. These private benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the public benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

Activities

Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster congregations hold weekly services of worship each Lord's day, together with a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting each week. We also conduct Bible Classes, Sunday Schools, Children's Meetings and Youth Fellowship meetings. Periodically we hold evangelistic and teaching meetings, Holiday Bible Clubs and summer camps for different age groups. Some of our congregations also run Christian Schools, Mother and Toddler groups and special meetings for senior citizens. We seek to evangelise people outside of the Christian faith as well as building up and nurturing those who profess saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, through the preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God, as contained in the Holy Scriptures, and through pastoral support and visits. We make use of denominational and congregational websites giving information about our churches and services. Some of our congregations offer webcasts, radio broadcasts and others downloadable sermons from the internet, and recordings of the church services in DVD and CD format. Each congregation supports missionary endeavour at home and abroad, including humanitarian relief where applicable. Our support takes the form of deputation meetings, prayerful and financial assistance. Congregations also from time to time publish and distribute Christian literature in various formats.

Achievements and Performance

Each week we meet to praise and worship our God together and pray with one another. In this way we support and encourage each other to grow in our own personal faith and become more like Christ. The church further provides other activities through which Christian witness can be delivered to benefit the community.

Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Plans for the future

The church elders periodically review ongoing activities and plan to continue the current activities with new initiatives to develop fellowship opportunities within various age demographics. The elders have agreed to hold a mission outreach during September/October 2025 in the Ballynahinch High School. The aim is to reach the surrounding community with the Gospel by inviting locals to attend the meetings which will be held each evening at 7.30pm on weeknights and at 4.00pm each Sunday. No meeting will be held on a Saturday.

The elders have also agreed to arrange a residential weekend at the Ganaway Activity Centre, during September 2025, for the Church Youth Group.

Financial Review

The main source of income is from members donations. The total amount received during the year amounted to £95,405, from which total payments in the amount of £90,553 were made, leaving a net surplus of £4,852 for the year compared with £11,789 in the previous year. Cash funds held at the year end amounted to £263,199 (2023: £258,347).

The church reserves policy is to accumulate sufficient reserves to provide cover for 12 months operating expenses and future capital projects.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the church can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Church is governed in accordance with the Church Constitution as published by The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster.

The charity trustees are the members of the Kirk Session. The Trustees meet regularly to oversee strategic direction and the operational activities of the Church.

Recruitment and Appointment of Church Elders

The church elders are appointed at a meeting of the communicant membership and must receive at least 51% of the vote. They serve for life. They are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the members and attendees and meet bi-monthly.

Organisational Structure

It is the church committee who are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the church facilities and manse. They meet when needed, usually at least 6 times per year, to discuss matters of church business arising. They are appointed at a meeting of the communicant membership and serve for a period of seven years. Committee members are appointed by church members with vacancies filled by those with the highest number of votes.

Pay and Remuneration

The payment of salary and remuneration is determined by the Church Committee.

Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

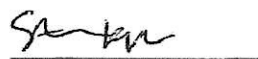
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 permits the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the church's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the church. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


Trustee


Trustee

Date: 28/10/25