

Ballynahinch Congregational Church

2023 Report

Minister

Rev Victor Neill

Church Diaconate

Harry Bowles Trevor Crothers
Sammy Graham Richard Payne
George McCoubrey Jimmy McClenaghan

Interim Church Committee

Wilson Hamilton Isobel Hamilton, Trevor Crothers (Chairman)
Barbara Neill, Rev Victor Neill, George McCoubrey Jimmy McClenaghan Betty Mc Kee
Linda Vance David Vance Richard Payne Tom Williamson (Secretary)

Trustees

Richard Payne (Chairman) Jim Magowan (Secretary) George McCoubrey, Jimmy McClenaghan
Samuel Smyth, Albert McKee Trevor Crothers, Samuel Graham Jackie Peacock

Treasurer

David Vance , Jimmy McClenaghan (FWO Secretary)

Ladies Fellowship

President – Barbara Neill Secretary Joyce Bell
Treasurer Elsie Crothers
Committee - Betty McKee , Isobel Hamilton, Lilian Mawhinney, Pauline Johnston

Organists

Emily Douglas Elsie Crothers

Parent and Toddlers

Betty McKee, Barbara Neill, Daisy McCoubrey , Isobel Hamilton, Sally Hamilton, Emily Douglas
Pauline Johnston, Evelyn Spiers, Joyce Bell, Wendy Bell

Missionary Committee

Chairman Rev. Victor Neill, Bookings – Trevor Crothers, Elsie Crothers, Richard Payne, Vera
McKee, Nan Bell

Cemetery Committee

(Convenor) Harry Bowles

Child Protection Officer

Sammy Graham

Health and Safety Officer and GDPR Officer

Tom Williamson
G D P R Number ZA460445

Church Web-site

David McCoubrey

Church Web Address; www.ballynahinchcongregational.com

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100648

Deaths

LILY ENGLISH	DIED 23-2-23
MOLLY KOSCIELNY	DIED 18-3-23
WILLIE BELL	DIED 14-2-23
BILLY BELL B'LONE	DIED 13-4-23
RICHARD PAYNE	DIED 19-5-23
KAY THOMPSON	DIED 2-8-23
SARAH HAMILTON	DIED 19-8-23
NORA BLACK	DIED 18-9-23
GEORGE GILLESPIE	DIED 8-10-23
RACHAEL WALSH	DIED 16-11-23
ICHARD MC CULLY	DIED 26-11-23
JEAN WATSON	DIED 17-12-23

Minister's Report

As we look back and reflect on another year with the Psalmist we say

‘ It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord’ (Ps 92 v 1)

We thank God for so many blessings as individuals and as a fellowship. We are thankful that attendances have kept up well – although there is always room for improvement ! The giving of the Congregation is also a cause for thanksgiving, because not only are we able to meet all our outgoings, but we are also able to help quite a number of Missionary endeavours and also help others who are in need in different parts of our world. We would like to be able to do more in the way of outreach , although our Harvest and

Christmas services were very well attended and brought in folk who would not normally attend and the Gospel was preached .

We are aware of those of our congregation who have not enjoyed the best of health and assure them of our continued prayer . We also share the sense of loss with those who have lost loved ones since our last report .

In closing let me say we cannot be content where we are as a Church, we must endeavor to go forward !

We read in Isaiah ch 54 v 2

‘ Enlarge the place of your tent ‘

Barbara and I thank you and are grateful for your continuing love and support and look forward to greater things in the days that lie ahead.

Yours in Christ

Victor

MIDWEEK AND MISSIONARY REPORT 2023

We praise God for a full year of meetings (Post Covid). Our midweek meeting has a core of very faithful attenders who all enjoy the time of fellowship. The Bible study by our Pastor Victor continues in the book of Psalms. This is a great source of life lessons to help us in our Christian walk.

Our prayer times are very important as we place the many needs of our congregation before the Throne of grace. We thank God for answers to prayer throughout the year.

If I could make one observation it would be that our midweek attendance has halved in numbers since before covid. Please return and support the Midweek. Much prayer - much blessing. No prayer – no blessing!

During the year we had 8 Missionary speakers. Brief reports are listed as follows –

In February, Pastor Keith Lindsay, Acre International brought us up to date with Church planting and outreach in Spain and Brazil. It is encouraging to hear of many nationals in leadership in the local work.

In March, Rev Norman Fox reported on the work in Romania, a very poor county, full of many needy families. The Mission seeks to alleviate their need for better living conditions as well as providing clothing, food and medical help linked to the proclamation of the Gospel. The mission also supports local workers in their ongoing work.

We had a return visit from Ruth Nelson C.E.F. Europe in April. She updated us on her I.T. programming for online resources for children and young people. This is a very effective tool in reaching young people in this Social Media age.

In May, we had John and Pauline Tuff who had just come home on furlough from Tanzania. Their work is expanding and there is always pressure to provide good education facilities for the children under their care in the orphanage at the Tanzanian Christian Farm Development Trust complex.

In June, Trevor Morrow was a new voice as representative for Slavic Gospel Association. He related the need for the provision of good teaching materials in their own language for local Pastors in Eastern Europe, also for the support of widows in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. There is a great need for Russian Bibles for Muslim families in Central Asia.

In October, our own Sarah Douglas and two of her teammates Stephenie and Ruby Carlisle gave us a good report of their trip to Uganda in August with New Beginnings. Apart from flight delays their trip was most successful with many children being reached with humanitarian aid and with the Gospel Message. Many parents also attended showing great interest in the meetings.

At our November meeting we had Sydney and Hazel Johnston United Grace Mission, India. Teaching work amongst the local Pastors continues and there is always pressure at the Childrens home. Because of Indian government restrictions it is becoming more difficult to send financial support to the Pastors. Please pray for an easing of these restrictions.

To round off the year, in our December meeting Tommy Anderson, World Gospel Mission, updated us on his very recent trip with his wife Leverne and a team of ladies to the orphanage in Kenya. The latest project is a new building for mentally challenged young people where they will have appropriate accommodation to suit their needs. Tommy is very appreciative of the donations of knit wear and towels from our ladies.

All our missionaries need continued prayer and support for their work. A very big thankyou to our midweek supporters and Missionary Envelope contributors for their more than generous support for our missionaries throughout another year.

A large amount of money has again been donated this year to Missionary Causes from our church.

(See Financial Report)

Trevor Crothers.

Ladies Fellowship

As I review our Ladies Fellowship over the past year, may I express my appreciation to those ladies who have faithfully supported the meetings each month. This encourages me not only personally, but also those guest speakers who come along either to share ministry , testimony or a practical demonstration with us.

Our Guests were : Dr. Nigel Campbell in January, who shared about his visit to Uganda to work with orphans/ disadvantaged children etc. One of our dear members Sally, was able to pass on blankets and garments which she had knitted , which were able to wing their way to Uganda within a few months and were greatly appreciated.

Catherine Millar gave a Floral Demonstration in February, based on ' The Greatest Love Story ' Marion Reid ministered and shared her testimony at our March meeting , she also brought along a selection of books which she has written and many were purchased. Carolyn Bennett gave a card making demonstration or rather she supervised us as we ladies tried our hand at this craft ! She also shared her testimony with us at our October meeting . In November Isabella Purdy shared her experience of serving the Lord as a missionary in South Korea for 13 years .

We all enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner in the Mulberry Tree Restaurant , I organised a quiz and gave a short epilogue on the Christmas message.

Sadly , two of our faithful members have been ' called home ' over the past year . We thank God for every remembrance of our sisters Lily English and Rachel Walsh. The respective families appreciated all the assistance of our Ladies in providing and serving the Funeral Teas.

May I invite any Ladies who do not as yet come to the meetings to join with us on the 2nd Mon of each month October to March .

Yours in Christ

Barbara Neill

Choir Report 2023

It is good to be able to report that 2023 brought us to more normal times after 2 years of Covid 19 restrictions. We have a very faithful group who meet twice a month for practices and are more than willing to do their best and add new pieces to our repertoire.

Easter, Harvest and Christmas pieces always bring a challenge, and I appreciate their commitment during these busy times of preparation.

In December we were invited to do a Carol Service in Redburn Nursing Home. It was lovely to see so many of the residents participating and we would like to thank Victor for joining us and sharing a short Christmas message. We spent some time chatting with the folk and there may be an opportunity to return in the new year to share some hymn singing.

I would like to thank Emily and Myrtle for their willingness in helping, as and when required.

In May after a long period of illness, we lost Richard Payne, a very committed and faithful Tenor member of the Choir and Men's Group. Richard never lost his interest in the Choir and often asked "How are things going in the Choir?" We express our sympathy to Audrey and although she is unable to join us in the Choir it is good to see her Sunday by Sunday in our Church Services.

In November, Maisie lost her husband Richard. Although Richard was not a Choir member, he was a very loyal supporter and encouraged us in all our efforts. It is good to have Maisie back in her place as Alto.

We remember both Audrey and Maisie in our prayers but we rejoice that both Richards are now in the presence of their Lord, whom they loved and served for many years, and we look forward in anticipation to that "Great day coming By and By" "But until then, We'll keep on singing" and praying that the Lord will make us a blessing week by week as we seek to proclaim the message in song to our congregation.

Elsie Crothers

Thursday Fellowship Report 2023

Sadly, meetings have not restarted since the outbreak of Covid 19 in March 2020.

Due to bereavements and many of our former attendees unable now to be out to Church there are no plans to restart the Fellowship at present.

Trevor Crothers

Audrey Anderson

Parents and Toddlers 2023

The Parents and Toddlers Group meet on Wednesdays during the school terms from 10.30am – 12.00. A faithful and dedicated team of helpers ensure the smooth running of the Group and my thanks to all.

On average, there are about 24 toddlers with their parents or childminders who attend. The toddlers play with the toys and enjoy toast and juice while the adults have tea or coffee.

Santa paid us a visit on our last gathering before Christmas and invitations were given out to the parents and childminders for the Church Carol Service. It was encouraging to see a few attended.

Isobell Hamilton

main areas of income and expenditure for the Church Current Account

Total Income £96,625.32
Total Expenditure £96,454.35

Freewill Offering Envelopes in 2023 totaled £52,070.50 showing a decrease from £53,358.40 in 2022. Loose offerings were up in 2023 to £2,252.85 from 2022 figure of £1198.60

Salaries and Employer's/Employee's NIC/PAYE accounted for £28,306.14

Oil and Electricity costs have rocketed to £24,588.00 from £9,678.00 in 2022.
Other expenditure is as outlined elsewhere in this report.

Investments:

There is £53,826.54 in the church bank account that needs to be re-invested.

Missionary/Charitable Giving

Midweek Fellowship	£ 3,025.00
Missionary Account	£12,955.00
Ladies Fellowship	£ 365.00
Poppy Appeal	£ 131.50
Total	£16,476.50

Closing Balance for 2023 is £234,638.88 and is credited as follows

Church	£159,560.43
Mission	£4,653.70
Midweek Fellowship	£9,958.14
Investment	£53,826.54
Ladies Fellowship	£4,718.02
Sunday School	£305.04
Jeremiah Fund	-£247.02
Bowling Club	£298.00
Parent & Toddler	£1,566.03

Only organisations that submitted their accounts for auditing have been included in this report.
The following Organisations failed to produce accounts for this report.

Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Missionary Board, WINGS, YC4U

All other books of accounts and supporting documentation have been subject to external audit by Nelson Accountancy Services on 16/5/24, and a report submitted to the Trustees.

Income

Balance 1/1/23 Church	£149,076.81
Balance 1/1/23 Missionary Acc	£7,180.29
Balance 1/1/23 Midweek Fellowship	£8,806.84
Balance 1/1/23 Ladies Fellowship	£4,718.02
Balance 1/1/23 Parent&Toddlers	£1,398.23
Balance 1/1/23 Thursday Fellowship	£177.70
Balance 1/1/23 Jeremiah Fund	£10,256.37
Balance 1/1/23 Investment	£53,826.54
Balance 1/1/23 Bowling Club	£298.00
Balance 1/1/23 Sunday School	£305.04

Freewill offerings	£52,070.50
Sunday cash collections	£2,252.85
Missionary Envelopes	£3,698.00
Missionary Collections inc Gift Aid	£8,255.61
Midweek Fellowship	£4,276.30
Sundries	£23,931.23
Cemetery Fees	£2,200.00
Parents & Toddlers	£692.75

£333,421.08

Expenditure

Rev Victor Neill	£23,927.66
Mrs Joan Hunter Sexton	£1,289.68
Employer's/Employee's NIC/PAYE	£3,088.80
Rates Church/Manse/Gate Lodge	£1,808.88
Insurance Church/Manse/Gate Lodge	£3,678.24
Printing/Stationary/Publishing	£619.93
Oil	£6,722.00
Electricity	£17,866.00
Property Maintainance	£5,729.11
Speakers/Singers/etc	£1,555.00
Church phones	£1,081.67
Bank Charges	£363.88
Mission	£12,955.00
Sundries	£3,765.31
Wednesday Fellowship	£3,025.00
Solicitors (Jeremiah Fund)	£10,503.39
Parents & Toddlers	£254.97
Balance 31/12/23 Church	£158,035.23
Balance 31/12/23 Missionary Acc	£6,178.90
Balance 31/12/23 Midweek Fellowship	£10,058.14
Balance 31/12/23 Ladies Fellowship	£4,718.02
Balance 31/12/23 Thursday Fellowship	£177.70
Balance 31/12/23 Parent&Toddlers	£1,836.01
Balance 31/12/23 Jeremiah Fund	-£247.02
Balance 31/12/23 Investment	£53,826.54
Balance 31/12/23 Bowling Club	£298.00
Balance 31/12/23 Sunday School	£305.04

£333,421.08

Missionary Account 2023			
Balance 1/1/23			
Missionary Envelopes	£4,773.29		
Missionary Collections	£2,407.00		
Missionary Envelopes	£3,698.00		
Uganda	£105.00	Tear Fund	£3,050.00
Syrian Earthquake	£3,050.00	Sara Douglas Uganda	£105.00
Henna	£2,905.00	CEF Geof & Karen Wallace	£500.00
CEF	£55.00	CEF Ruth Nelson	£500.00
Chest, Heart & Stroke	£877.15	Cristian Institute	£500.00
Communion	£110.00	Revival Movement	£500.00
Gift Aid	£1,153.46	GMSA	£500.00
		SASRA	£500.00
		Open Doors	£500.00
		SDHS	£500.00
		Tommy Anderson	£600.00
		J.Graham Portadown	
		Temperance	£500.00
		Ballinasloe Christian Fellowship	£500.00
		Henna	£4,200.00
		Missionary Envelopes	£2,671.29
		Missionary Collections	£3,507.61
	<u>£19,133.90</u>		<u>£19,133.90</u>

Wednesday Fellowship 2023			
Balance 1/1/23	£8,806.84		
Missionary Collections	£2,679.50	ACRE	£300.00
Midweek Collections	£1,496.80	Norman Fox	£400.00
		CEF Ruth Nelson	£300.00
		TCFDT	£400.00
		SGA	£400.00
		New Beginnings (Sarah Douglas)	£425.00
		United Grace Mission	£400.00
		Tommy Anderson	£400.00
		Closing Balance 31/12/23	£9,958.14
Total	<u>£12,983.14</u>		<u>£12,983.14</u>

Thursday Fellowship 2023			
Income		Expenditure	
Cash Balance 1-1-23	£177.70		
no meetings		Cash Balance 31-12-23	£177.70
	<u>£177.70</u>		<u>£177.70</u>

Ladies fellowship			
Bank Balance 1/1/23	£4,718.02		
Cash Balance 1/1/23	£98.92		
Collections	£140.00	Dr Nigel Campbell (Uganda)	£140.00
	£48.00	Isobell (Sausage Rolls) Sadie Graham funeral	£40.00
	£74.00	Catherine Millar Flower Demonstration	£30.00
	£74.00	Isobell (Sausage Rolls) Lily English funeral	£40.00
	£105.00	Marion Reid	£30.00
		Caroline Bennett	£60.00
		Isabella Purdy	£105.00
		Isobell (Sausage Rolls) Rachael Walsh funeral	£21.60
		Isobell (Sausage Rolls) Richard McCully funeral	£43.20
		Tip Mulberry Tree staff (Ladies Dinner)	£30.00
		Bank Balance 31/12/23	£4,718.02
		Cash Balance 31/12/23	£0.12
	£5,257.94		£5,257.94

Sunday School 2023			
Income		Expenditure	
Bank Balance 1-1-23	£305.04		
no activity 2022			
		Closing Bank balance 31-12-23	£305.04
	<u>£305.04</u>		<u>£305.04</u>
		NB Bank Balance in Church Account	

Parents and Toddlers 2023			
Income		Expenditure	
Cash Balance 1-1-23	£150.75		
Bank Balance 1-1-23	£1,247.48		
Subscriptions	£177.00	refreshment supplies	£116.97
refreshments	£347.95	gifts	£82.50
		Stationary	£5.50
Cash lodged (Sept 23)	£167.80	Outings	£50.00
		loss adjustment	
		Closing Cash Balance 31-12-23	£269.98
		Closing Bank Balance 31-12-23	£1,556.03
	<u>£2,090.98</u>		<u>£2,090.98</u>

JEREMIAH FUND 2023			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance 1-1-23	£10,255.37		
		Solicitors	£10,503.39
		Balance 31-12-23	-£247.02
	<u>£10,255.37</u>		<u>£10,255.37</u>

Bowling Club 2023			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance 1/1/23	£298.00		
no activity 2022			
		Closing Balance 31/12/23	£298.00
	£298.00		£298.00

Income Sundries 2023	
Donations	£650.00
Funeral Teas	£3,090.00
Bank Interest	£576.42
Poppy Appeal	£131.50
NIE Pole	£5.46
FWO Gift Aid from FWO	£18,477.85
Church Dinner	£1,000.00
Total	<u>£23,931.23</u>

Expenditure 2023	
Mulberry Tree	£1,210.00
CLI	£248.00
BBQ supplies	£153.11
GDPR	£35.00
Nelson Accountancy	£250.00
RBL poppy appeal	£131.50
Choir Gift	£100.00
Church Association Fee	£12.50
Maghera Inn Gift voucher Rosemary	£100.00
Matching Syria Earthquake appeal	£1,525.20
Final Totals	£3,765.31

Property Maintenance 2023

NI Water	£894.31
Property Repair expenses J McC	£293.27
OTIS	£591.22
McKinstry Skips	£264.00
John Hunter grass-cutting	£1,200.00
Pat testing	£140.00
Blaze	£153.60
WH Engineering	£1,093.20
RadioContact	£778.21
Boiler Valve (Jimmy)	£70.42
A1 Boiler Services	£155.00
JB Brown	£95.88
Total	<u>£5,729.11</u>

<u>No</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1	£610.00	£240.00
2	£520.00	
3	£265.00	£45.00
4	£700.00	
5	£195.00	
6	£115.00	
7	£310.00	
8	£270.00	
9	£1,060.00	£200.00
10	£265.00	
11	£500.00	
12	£0.00	
13	£600.00	
14	£0.00	
15	£530.00	£70.00
16	£405.00	
17	£50.00	
18	£400.00	
19	£170.00	
20	£1,590.00	
21	£275.00	
22	£540.00	
23	£130.00	
24	£255.00	
25	£0.00	

<u>No</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Mission</u>
26	£0.00	
27	£20.00	
28	£90.00	
29	£40.00	
30	£1,760.00	£240.00
31	£0.00	
32	£0.00	
33	£265.00	
34	£1,060.00	
35	£570.00	
36	£0.00	
37	£500.00	
38	£200.00	
39	£300.00	
40	£0.00	
41	£0.00	
42	£480.00	
43	£540.00	£120.00
44	£70.00	
45	£525.00	
46	£1,040.00	£240.00
47	£1,300.00	£120.00
48	£1,300.00	£120.00
49	£370.00	
50	£245.00	

<u>No</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Mission</u>
51	£245.00	
52	£1,555.00	
53	£0.00	
54	£120.00	
55	£520.00	
56	£106.00	
57	£0.00	
58	£100.00	
59	£550.00	
60	£265.00	
61	£237.00	
62	£240.00	
63	£150.00	
64	£520.00	
65	£275.00	
66	£5.00	
67	£2.00	
68	£2.00	
69	£530.00	£190.00
70	£265.00	
71	£460.00	
72	£270.00	
73	£500.00	
74	£1,400.00	£754.00
75	£122.00	

<u>No</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Mission</u>
76	£265.00	
77	£255.50	
78	£50.00	£50.00
79	£720.00	£5.00
80	£795.00	£5.00
81	£1,060.00	£120.00
82	£1,600.00	£140.00
83	£1,300.00	
84	£107.00	
85	£0.00	
86	£500.00	
87	£490.00	
88	£120.00	
89	£285.00	£120.00
90	£260.00	
91	£320.00	
92	£275.00	
93	£107.00	
94	£102.00	
95	£1,060.00	£55.00
96	£225.00	
97	£0.00	
98	£1,855.00	£120.00
99	£795.00	£120.00
100	£300.00	

<u>No</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Mission</u>
101	£795.00	
102	£270.00	
103	£230.00	
104	£160.00	
105	£220.00	
106	£20.00	
107	£295.00	
108	£140.00	
109	£760.00	
110	£710.00	
111	£265.00	£120.00
112	£1,580.00	£120.00
113	£260.00	
114	£480.00	£60.00
115	£20.00	
116	£270.00	£60.00
117	£500.00	£100.00
118	£500.00	£20.00
119	£0.00	
120	£40.00	
121	£0.00	
122	£1,154.00	£144.00
123	£731.00	
124	£265.00	
125	£530.00	
126	£160.00	
<u>Totals</u>	<u>£52,070.50</u>	<u>£3,698.00</u>