

# **Killinchy Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.**

## **NI Charity Registration No. 101372**

Trustees' Annual Report.

Principle address of the charity: 30 Comber Road, Killinchy, BT23 6PB.

List of our current Charity Trustees: Mr Neil Brown, Mr David Osborne, Mr James Osborne and Mr Richard Stewart.

Throughout the year, our Church services are conducted by our minister, as well as several visiting ministers/ preachers. Our minister continues to organise the church preaching rota for our services, every quarter. Our church membership continues to grow steadily, with new members joining us as we make an impact in the surrounding area: especially with our social gatherings and fundraising events. This increases social inclusion and community cohesion.

Our minister continues to care to all in our community. We are a progressive spiritual voice within our community and surrounding area, with our religious philosophy being one which offers access to all, regardless of personal circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation. Our Church motto is "Here be no man a stranger; no holy cause be banned.'

Our minister maintains a link with the local churches in the area and the Church greatly benefits the people living within the geographical area of Killinchy. The Church structure follows the Presbyterian format of Church governance. The minister is a 'teaching elder', who is part of the Church Session. The Session consists of elders, who are the 'spiritual overseers' of the organisation. Six new elders were added to our current 'Session' this year. Under the Session, is the Congregational Committee. They are proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting, held every March. The Congregational Committee are responsible for the every-day practical running of the Church building. The Committee has a Treasurer, who can report that the Church is presently in sound financial standing at the end of the financial year, a 'Health and Safety' representative, an Hon. Secretary, as well as several other stakeholders. The Church Secretary deals with all administrative duties, alongside the minister. Church correspondence is dealt with by the secretary, as well as the minutes of Session and Committee meetings, notwithstanding the collation of all our annual reports from the various Church groups for printing and distribution at our Annual General Meeting.

Both Session Members and Committee Members carry out duties relating to the Church and the local community: participation in social events and several annual church services. As a church we recognise how very well supported by the local community we are and how these important and essential events help us to grow spiritually and socially as a Christian community. We also have a member of our congregation acting as our representative in the local Primary school 'Board of Governors'.

The Church Hall, known locally as the 'Bishop Hall' continues to be a great asset to the surrounding area.

The Trustees acknowledge the benefit to the public and ensure that the Church work enriches the lives of church members, their families, youth organisations, as well as the wider community. In doing this, the church desires, as is its charity purposes, to promote this, in all that we do.

Killinchy Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church is governed by Trust Deed and by 'The Constitution and Code of Discipline' of the NSPC of Ireland.

Our charities Constitution and Code of Discipline was published by authority of Synod May 1997.

This is the document that we adhere to, the Constitution as framed in 1910.

Our Constitution has 8 Constitutional points.

In summary they are: 1. that the Old and New Testaments are the Rule of Christian Faith and Duty under the teachings of Jesus, 2. it is the inalienable right of every Christian to search the records of divine truth for his/ her own instruction and guidance, to form their own opinions with regard to what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of his/ her own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by their fellow-man, 3. A 'deeds not creeds' philosophy should be acknowledged, 4. emphasis on the Shema teaching and Jesus' instruction to love one another, 5. Our governance is Presbyterian, 6. each congregational member is encouraged to seek out truth and all ministers of other denominations are invited to sit, 7. deliberate with affectionate intercourse at any time, 8. God's blessing is asked on our denomination.

The Trustees of Killinchy NSP Church confirm that they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of this Church. In evaluating public benefit, the Trustees note that membership of the church is open to all who share an interest in a faith community. Whilst we would encourage those with interest to join with us, we also strive to make our services and facilities available to non-members.

Finally, Killinchy NSP Church in being a charity; is at the heart of our community. Many of the 12 descriptors listed online are the purposes of our charity/Church and we know what it means to have charitable purposes which are for public benefit. For example, 'advancement of education', 'advancement of human rights', as well as 'relief of those in need'.

This concludes the trustees Report.

Signed: Neil Brown

PRINT NAME:

NEIL BROWN

Signed: Richard J Stewart

PRINT NAME:

RICHARD J STEWART