

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

New Mossley Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
2 Ballycraigy Way  
New Mossley  
Newtownabbey  
Co Antrim  
BT36 SXJ

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 104226)

#### CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Name: Howard Keery  
Name: Donald Marks  
Name: Mark Welsh  
Name: Ian Clotworthy  
Name: Robert Cairns  
Name: Henry Child  
Name: Gareth Keaveney

#### PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister; Rev Gareth Keaveney  
Clerk of Session; Howard Keery  
Treasurer; Jean Kelly

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Roy Eakin  
Retired Bank Official  
18 Farm Lodge Road  
Greenisland  
Newtownabbey  
Co. Antrim  
BT38 8XH

#### BANKERS

Danske Bank Ltd  
Mallusk  
Newtownabbey  
Co Antrim

## **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

### The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community.

The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee. The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held ten times each year or as appropriate. To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

### 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. New Mossley congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the North Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. 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.

### 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, administrative and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly normally is constituted during the first week 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 congregation is the advancement of religion. New Mossley Presbyterian Church is a congregation 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 congregation's mission purpose is to share the love of Christ with all in the community by taking an interest in people, playing an active part in community activities and using our resources for the benefit of all. Our desire therefore is to show God's love by building relationships through specific practical activities such as the community cafe and special needs club, by providing help and advice particularly to young people with alcohol and drug abuse problems and generally by providing a haven of love and compassion.

The congregation aims to live out its mission purpose as a family of God's people by:

- Building links with the local community (particularly young people) through funding provided under the "Areas at Risk" initiative funded by the Department for Communities and administered through Antrim and Newtownabbey Council.
- Developing a sense of community involvement through the embracing of projects that target the most marginalised in society and the promotion of cross community projects that explore both religious and cultural issues.
- Providing moral guidance and spiritual support and encouraging the building of links between young and older generations.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

## **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on ten occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School/Bible Class
- Youth Clubs
- Tots Club
- Girls Brigade

- Fellowship Groups
- Special Needs Club
- Community Cafe (still not operational)

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am and 6.30pm (previously 7pm). During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. Over the year we have concentrated on prayer for both the church family and wider community through prayer texts, special weeks of prayer and occasional prayer breakfasts.

At 31 December 2023 there were 62 communicant members (an increase of 5) and 103 families (an increase of 5) connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship has increased from a weekly average of 72 to 78.

### Pastoral care

Under the direction of the Minister, a system of visitations is in place. All members of the congregation, whether suffering from sickness or not, were visited to ensure that there were no underlying issues particularly with increased heating and shopping costs. Financial and practical help was also provided where circumstances dictated.

### Mission and outreach

At a local level we believe as a congregation that the work carried out in all of our organisations is an outreach to our local community. We further believe that by practical acts of help, kindness and provision, create a greater awareness of God's love in the area. We do however have other mission and outreach activities that are supported by the congregation and these include:

- Opening our doors to all in the community by:
  - organising a Summer Community week in August for all ages with the emphasis on helping and explaining mental health (talks being provided each evening by professionals in the field eg Mental Action Health and local GP). The activities organised were Teen Challenge (12-18 year-old), Retro Youth Club (50+ age group), Retro Games Night (All ages), Ladies Pamper Night (!8+ age group), Cars and Ribs Night (all men) culminating in a family fun day.
  - organising a Community Christmas Festival in December and using our premises to provide a Seniors Christmas Dinner to build up a sense of belonging in the community, a Community Quiz Night with a Christmas theme and a Christmas Fun Day which included, Bouncy Castles, Face Painting, Community Choir and Santa.

- Making contact with all in the community by delivering Christmas and Easter cards which give information on Church activities
- Organising a Coronation Street Party on 6 May which attracted over 150 people from the local area
- Working in collaboration with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to carry out a series of litter picks in New Mossley Estate
- Supporting and participating in Antrim Newtownabbey Street Pastors. We are signed up and serve on the management committee of this work and have two active members from the congregation who serve on the teams one of whom also serves on the PCSP sub-committee for anti-social behaviour
- Organising a series of craft days (eg Christmas Wreath making) and coffee mornings, the proceeds of which were donated to local charities
- Involved in SPARK which was a week of community outreach organised by churches in the Newtownabbey area and this year was based in New Mossley. This included sporting activities for young people of all ages, carrying out gardening, painting and decorating for senior citizens and those less able to carry out such activities and running a Holiday Bible School
- Running a Council funded project delivering programmes to a large number of young people in the New Mossley estate. This year it included the creation of a large mosaic depicting all the important landmarks in the New Mossley estate
- Two trustees (Mark Welsh and Rev Gareth Keaveney) actively participating on Earlview Primary School board of governors with Rev Gareth Keaveney regularly contributing to school assemblies

We also 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 congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

#### Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by two of the trustees. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

#### General Assembly

The minister along with another trustee attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

### Property

General maintenance of both the manse at Dorchester Drive and the church building was ongoing during the year. In particular, the interior of the church was re-painted, and the toilet areas totally refurbished. An annual inspection of the manse was also carried out with all necessary remedial work carried out. Both are in good order.

### Organisations

The following represents the activities that were undertaken during 2023.

Each Sunday morning a Sunday School and Bible Class takes place during the Sunday morning Service, the purpose of which is to provide the young people with an understanding of Christianity and the difference it can make in their lives and in the community. It was attended by 23 people.

Two Sunday evenings per month the Youth Fellowship meets, consisting of at least 12 young people to discuss contemporary issues such as creation, addiction, sectarianism, gender issues etc from a Biblical perspective.

On one Saturday per month a Special Needs Club meets to cater for young people with various disabilities and their parents. Numbers during the year averaged around 40 (including parents/careers). Activities include board games, physical activity, crafts and a specialist woodworking class. The work done is recognised and appreciated by Mencap.

Our Community Cafe is still presenting difficulties as we are unable yet to identify internally a suitably qualified cook. We will continue to investigate different methods of delivery such as contracting out or working collaboratively with another organisation eg East Belfast Mission.

On the 1st Tuesday afternoon of each month the Tuesday Fellowship meets from 2-3pm and is attended by around 14 women. The programme is wide and varied. The attendees are very engaged in discussing issues that are both personal to them and relevant to the country in general. On occasions special speakers are invited.

Each Tuesday evening the Girls Brigade meets providing 34 young girls with the opportunity to learn practical skills such as sewing, cooking etc, the benefits of physical education and healthy eating. They also learn about civic responsibility through pre agreed bible studies and are developing relationships with Bryans House (a sheltered dwelling facility for the elderly).

Each Wednesday evening a Superkidz club is held for children of Primary school age and has a weekly attendance of 33. It not only provides the usual club activities of games, bouncy castle etc but also special trips (based on good behaviour) such as to Airtastic and Fun Works.

Each Wednesday evening at 8pm a Bible study is held with around 20 people in attendance. Overall around 80 people have been regularly attending bible study/fellowship meetings outside Sunday services.

Each Thursday, Junior and Senior Youth Clubs are held providing a wide variety of activities such as table tennis, indoor football, badminton, table tennis, beauty care for around 60 young people. Attracting secondary school age children has been a challenge post Covid, but we have seen a slight increase this year.

Each Friday morning the Tots club meets for young children and parents. A varied and inter active programme is organised each week with refreshments and parenting advice/help provided. There is a regular attendance of around 16.

### Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

### **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 congregations and their 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 notice boards, 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 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. This, however, is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals with whom the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact, 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 Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice. As the congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 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 the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session and signed on its behalf by

Mr Howard Keery

Signed *H Keery*

Date 19 February 2024

Rev Gareth Keaveney

Signed *Gareth Keaveney*

Date 19 February 2024