

**TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104316)

**TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Townsend Street Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
32 Townsend Street
Belfast
BT13 2ES
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104316)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Heather Darragh
Paul Darragh
Jack Lamb
Ruth Pritchard
Colin Skillen

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Retired Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Rev Jack Lamb
Heather Darragh
Colin Skillen

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Liz Crossan
PACEM
Stirling House
Belfast
BT5 6BQ

BANKERS

Northern Bank Limited
T/As Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1 6JS

SOLICITORS

King & Gowdy
298 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3EJ

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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 Sessions 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 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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on 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. Townsend Street congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the South 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.

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally 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.

Townsend Street congregation of the 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 statement is as follows:

"We are here to show Christ and the church are not just memories of the past but are joyful, alive and relevant to everyone here and now."

- 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

When active the congregation met for public worship every Sunday and visitors were welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed on the first Sunday of January, April and October and on the last Sunday in June. All those who had been baptised and who had made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ were admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation continues to hold regular bible study meetings.

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

Following the retirement of Rev Jack Lamb in September 2022, the congregation ceased to meet for worship when the difficult decision was made to dissolve the congregation. The congregation was dissolved in December 2023. A monthly Bible Study carried out by telephone conference call continues to provide an opportunity for past members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As part of these virtual meetings during the year we gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved.

With effect from 31 December 2023 there were no communicant members of the congregation and no families were contributing to the congregation.

Pastoral care

Visitation and pastoral care continued in 2024 under the guidance of Rev Morris Gault, convenor of the South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (NIC106486).

Mission and outreach

The congregation was dissolved in 2023 and at a local level no mission, outreach nor fundraising has been carried out since then.

Presbytery

Visitation and pastoral care continued in 2024 under the guidance of Rev Morris Gault, convenor of the South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (NIC106486).

General Assembly

The congregation were represented by Rev Morris Gault, convenor of the South Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

**TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

Organisations

The Knitting & Crochet Group continues to meet weekly with an attendance of around 6 people. They knit small hats to go to the Premature Baby unit in the Royal Maternity Hospital and provide knitted vests to Presbyterian Friendship House, who in turn send them to Africa for new born babies. They also knit blankets which are donated to the NI Hospice. Knitted scarves and hats were also donated to the Welcome Organisation for homeless people in the city as well as to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child for inclusion in shoe box Christmas gifts for children at Christmas. The knitting has carried on in participants' homes following closure.

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.

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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 noticeboards, 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 purpose does not lead to harm. 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. However, this 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 that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's income this year is from a bequest legacy and returns on investments. The total income from all sources during the year was £341,086 (2023: £332,851). Income from legacies was £314,709 (2023: £300,414), investment income and gains amounted to £26,371 (2023: £20,646). Total expenditure in 2024 was £6,839 (2023: £39,818).

**TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No Trustee received any remuneration as a result of their Trusteeship of the Charity.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The congregation is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Trustees are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the net movement in funds of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; *and*
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.



Paul Darragh
Trustee

27th June 2025



Colin Skillen
Trustee

27th June 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and have requested that an independent examiner's report be prepared.

The charity's gross income does not exceed £500,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; and
- 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. 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income in the year was £341,086 (2023: £332,851).

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 as far as this applies to the charity; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Liz Crossan
Chartered Accountant (CAI)
Chartered Tax Advisor (CIOT)
30th September 2025

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	314,709	0		314,709	300,414
Charitable activities	3	0	0		0	259
Other trading activities	4	0	0		0	8,370
Investment Income	5	21,754	4,341	276	26,371	20,646
Other	6	6	0		6	3,162
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Income		336,469	4,341	276	341,086	332,851
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure						
Raising funds	7	0			0	0
Charitable activities	8	5,934	905		6,839	39,818
Other	9	0	0		0	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Expenditure		5,934	905		6,839	39,818
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure)		330,535	3,436	276	334,247	293,033
Transfers between funds		0	0		0	0
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		330,535	3,436	276	334,247	293,033
Funds brought forward		561,696	63,127	5,836	630,659	337,626
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	12	892,231	66,563	6,112	964,905	630,659
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Funds Reconciliation						
Fund Balances at start of year		561,696	63,127	5,836	630,659	337,626
Net movement in funds		330,535	3,436	276	334,247	293,033
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fund Balances at end of year		892,231	66,563	6,112	964,905	630,659
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 December 2024

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Debtors	0	148
Bank Deposit Accounts	296,199	294,251
Bank Current Accounts	662,593	330,422
	-----	-----
	958,792	624,821
	=====	=====
Other Assets		
Fixed Assets – Note 10	0	0
- Church Premises	0	0
- Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	0	0
- Vehicles	0	0
Investments – Note 11	6,112	5,837
	-----	-----
Net Assets	964,905	630,658
	=====	=====
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted Funds	892,231	561,695
Restricted Funds	66,563	63,127
Endowment Funds	6,112	5,836
	-----	-----
Total Funds	964,905	630,658
	=====	=====

Approved by the Kirk Session and signed on its behalf by



Paul Darragh
Trustee

27th June 2025



Colin Skillen
Trustee

27th June 2025

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1st January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

Townsend Street Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

FUND ACCOUNTING

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Loose plate collections	0	0	0	0	0
Donations and gifts	0	0	0	0	414
In Memoriam	314,709	0	0	314,709	300,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	314,709	0	0	314,709	300,414
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 December 2024

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Presbyterian Children's Society	0	0	0	0	0
World Development Appeals	0	0	0	0	0
Earl Haig Poppy Day Appeal	0	0	0	0	19
Ukraine Appeal	0	0	0	0	240
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	0	0	0	0	259
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Use of Premises	0	0	0	0	8,330
Subscriptions Received	0	0	0	0	40
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	0	0	0	0	8,370
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	8,559			8,559	104
General Investment Fund	145			145	114
Investment Dividends & Interest	13,050	4,341	276	17,667	20,428
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	21,754	4,341	276	26,371	20,646
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
31 December 2024

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
PAYE Refund Interest	6			6	0
TSBPE Grants	0			0	0
LPOW Grant	0			0	3,162
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6			6	3,162
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	0			0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	0			0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
PCI Assessments	0			0	
Presbytery fees	0			0	0
Staff Costs	0			0	14,329
Premises Costs	1,650			1,650	9,174
Travel Costs	0			0	0
Administration Costs	1,440			1,440	0
Charitable Donations	0			0	259
Local Projects	0			0	0
Governance Costs	2,722	905		3,627	16,016
Bank Charges	122			122	40
Realised Investment Losses	0	0		0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5,934	905		6,839	39,818
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TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
31 December 2024

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Other expenses		0		0	0
Re-stated balance General Fund	0	0		0	0
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	0	0		0	0
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10. FIXED ASSETS

The congregation worshipped in the Church premises situated at 32 Townsend Street and had use of the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. Ownership of the premises was taken over in December 2023 by The Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd. The Charity's policy is only to recognise items which meet the definition of a fixed asset per FRS102 if its cost is over £10,000.

11. INVESTMENTS

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation.

		2024	2023
		£	£
General Investment Fund	438 shares @ £13.957	6,112	5,837
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		6,112	5,837
		-----	-----

TOWNSEND STREET CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
31 December 2024

12. FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance at start	Receipts	Paymen t	Surplus / (Deficit)	Transfer	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	352,349	323,419	3,212	320,207		672,556
Development Fund	42,914	3,374	704	2,670		45,584
Contingency Fund	138,565	9,348	1,950	7,398		145,963
Benevolent Fund	3,816	0	0	0		3,816
Bequest Fund	4,868	328	69	259		5,127
Luncheon Club	5,234	0	0	0		5,234
Boys' Brigade	8,690	0	0	0		8,690
Sunday School	5,260	0	0	0		5,260
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	561,696	336,469	5,934	330,529		892,231
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Restricted Funds						
Property & Restoration Fund	0	0	0	0		0
Manse Fund	38,645	2,643	551	2,092		40,737
AH Storey Bequest Fund	2,146	145	30	115		2,261
A McKeown Bequest Fund	2,146	145	30	115		2,261
Organ Fund	9,134	684	143	541		9,675
Window Fund	0	0	0	0		0
McKeown Memorial Fund	10,731	724	151	573		11,304
United Appeal Fund	325	0	0	0		325
Children's Society	0	0	0	0		0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	63,127	4,341	905	3,436		66,563
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Endowment Funds						
General Investment Fund	5,836	276	0	276		6,112
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	630,659	341,081	6,839	334,242		964,905
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