

FISHERWICK CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, and too its supplementary public benefit guidance on the advancement of the Christian religion.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

To continue to meet as a community in person or online on Sunday mornings.

To meet as a Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and various sub-groups to plan for the future and to call a new Minister.

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The charity fulfils its objectives by providing benefit to its members and the public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

This year we have had to adapt our programmes and ways of working considerably due to the impact of Covid-19.

d. Public benefit declaration

The direct public benefits which flow from the purposes and activities 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 growth and development. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community through pastoral care (including the poor, sick, disabled, and bereaved). The above benefits are delivered by the church ministers, staff, officers of the church and members through public services and a range of programmes and weekly activities. Public access is made known through the use of notice boards, printed material, websites, social media, and online services.

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.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Objectives and activities (continued)

e. Main activities undertaken to further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit

The charity undertakes many activities to further its purposes. These are open to anyone of appropriate age and/or gender to access, without regard to whether they are part of our congregation.

During 2021 many of our organisations could not meet in person. The organisations listed below have met on an 'on and off' basis or adapted to meet online due to covid restrictions.

Our regular activities at the beginning of 2021 included the following: -

Sunday worship services

Wedding and funeral services;

Prayer meetings;

Children and youth activities;

Church choir;

Praise bands;

Easter Mission and Summer Club for primary school aged children in August;

Badminton clubs;

Indoor bowling;

Babies and toddlers group;

Girls and Boys Brigade youth organisation

Fellowship small groups including a weekly group for older adults including meals on a monthly basis;

Free hot drinks for students and the general public at our 'Daylight' stand during term time and a programme of student activities in partnership with Friends International;

Presbyterian Women's group who organise events including fundraising events for mission and charities; Alpha courses; Prayer Ministry and Deeper prayer ministry.

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charity

Our main achievement was to continue growing our church community in spite of the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

During the year we continued our decision-making process and called a new Minister Rev Andrew Galbraith who was installed on 10th of September 2021. We are very appreciative for the guidance of the Rev David Gray our Convener through the whole process.

Despite losing our youth and children's worker in January to a new job, an enthusiastic team led by Rev David Gray continued the work and we had a very successful Children's Easter Mission and Summer Club in association with the students from Derryvolgie Halls.

Our 'Engage Team' continued the work of looking for ways to reach out into the Community and strengthened the links with the Belfast food bank. The team organised the planning and delivery of 900 Christmas Cards to the local community and we had good positive feedback from some of the recipients.

Our Communication Action Team started to use our new Logo which they had been working on prior to the pandemic.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Review of activities

Our activities were significantly adapted due to the mitigations in place due to the pandemic. However, the church community showed great creativity and versatility in working within the restrictions.

Fisherwick's Vision statement is, 'The whole gospel, for the whole person, within the whole church in the whole world'. It is based on the core belief that as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, the good news of Jesus should impact our relationship with each other, the wider church family, and the wider world.

The Whole Gospel

Through our Sunday services, small groups, and prayer meetings our Ministers and visiting speakers have continued to tell us about the love of God and help us grow into mature disciples.

Our special Christmas and Easter services were attended in person or viewed by many online. Many of our elders helped lead and preach during the year and we have been encouraged and refreshed by their ministry. Neale, the choir and the praise bands enriched our worship throughout the year, but especially at Christmas and Easter.

The Whole Person

Our ministers, pastoral staff and elders provided pastoral care on an ongoing basis in the local area, nursing homes and local hospitals. At times this has been by telephone or through socially distanced doorstep visits. Conducting funerals and weddings with limited numbers and restrictions has been challenging but they have consistently found a way to offer compassion and care to many at the most important times in their lives.

Much care and love has also been expressed through 'Small Groups' and prayer meetings continuing to meet together and the congregation has been encouraged to contact those they miss meeting on a Sunday morning.

The Whole Church

The pandemic has caused considerable hardship on the most vulnerable in our society and as a church we have supported the International Meeting Point and the South Belfast Food bank by facilitating collections of much needed items and giving financially.

We have worked in partnership with Queen's Chaplaincy and Friends International in reaching out to both local and international students who have found this time especially difficult.

We have supported Christians other countries persecuted for their faith through regular prayer and by financial donations.

The Whole World

We have continued to support Armond and Anace who are working in Peru, especially as Peru has been badly hit by the pandemic. We have supported the work there in prayer and financially and with our online services we were able to see them and have them lead prayers and give regular updates. We also continue to support our friend Wilfred Abia who started the 'Integrated Health for all Foundation' which helps the poor in the Cameroon.

Prior to the Pandemic we as a church had been involved in a process to assess the needs of our local community and how we might match our skills and resources to the needs we found. Although much of this work has been on hold, our intention to pursue this has not and we intend to build on what we have started.

Although this has been a challenging year for everyone, we have been aware of many blessings.

Rev Dave Gray led us with great energy and creativity until Rev Andy Galbraith was installed in September. The Rev Andy Galbraith has made a great start and we look forward to how the Lord will use him as he continues his ministry in Fisherwick. Rev Ken Nelson, our part-time Pastoral Assistant assisted by Sheena McIlwrath and our elders have provided excellent pastoral care and support to many going through difficult times often helped by our Minister Emeritus Rev Derek McKelvey. Our strong staff team staff have continued to serve us unstintingly and have shown adaptability and good grace though the constantly changing circumstances. In January our

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Achievements and performance (continued)

Youth and Children's worker Danny Moore moved to a new position with 'Stand by Me', and Michelle Manwaring who had been covering maternity leave and working as our Office Administrator left us in September. We are thankful for everything they did for us and wish them every blessing in the future.

We are also very thankful for the many church officers and volunteers (too many to name) who help keep the community of Fisherwick working well. We could not do everything we do without the willingness of so many who volunteer their gifts and time so willingly.

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

The charity is principally funded through voluntary donations, bequests and gifts from the congregation and fundraising activities.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The reserves policy of the charity is to develop and maintain unrestricted reserves not designated for a particular purpose at a level equivalent to 6 months incoming resources without prejudicing the ongoing activities of the organisation.

Total reserves held by the charity at the end of the year are £3,412,477 (2020 : £3,409,828) of which £2,835,782 (2020 : £2,871,486) are restricted for a specific purpose, £536,035 (2020 : £501,297) are in unrestricted funds and £40,660 (2020 : £37,045) are endowment funds. £2,268,975 of all reserves at 31st December 2021 are tangible fixed assets held for the ongoing delivery of the Church's charitable activities.

The reserves are needed to meet the operational costs of the Church on an ongoing basis. The primary indicator of the level of reserves are the expenses of the general fund. During the year general fund expenses were £213,040, further additional expenses of £54,525 were incurred in relation to other unrestricted funds and funds designated for a specific purpose.

As at 31st December 2021, the Charity held unencumbered unrestricted reserves which had not been designated for a specific purpose of £104,682. This amount represents approximately 6 months running costs and the Trustees are satisfied that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. It is noted that running costs in 2021 were lower than normal due to the absence of a Minister's salary for the full year and due to Covid-19.

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c. Principal funding and financial performance

The charity is principally funded through voluntary donations, bequests and gifts from its congregation and fundraising activities.

Income from donations and legacies from contributing families and grants totalled £300,102 (£317,777 in 2020). It is noted that incoming resources in previous years have been higher than usual due to the congregation's support for contributing towards the Community Outreach Building Project (COP) noted above. In 2021 we were again in receipt of support from the Government's Job Retention Scheme

Total expenditure increased from £432,250 in 2020 to £472,063 primarily due to a charge for depreciating the COP Project building, our new Minister's salary and the increased costs of running the Church building as Covid-19 restrictions eased. Expenditure on COP is being capitalised into a separate category of leasehold improvements on the balance sheet of the Church and depreciated accordingly. Expenditure on this project will continue through 2022.

The church recorded an overall surplus for the year of £2,649.

The General Fund of the church ended the year with an excess of income over expenditure and transfers of £21,727 and a closing surplus of £55,757.

The main charitable objective of the church is the advancement of the Christian religion and it is considered that all direct charitable costs and support costs are incurred in furtherance of this purpose. Direct charitable expenditure remained consistent from £186,413 in 2020 and £187,392 in 2021, and support costs increased from £245,837 in 2020 to £284,671 during the year. As noted, a depreciation charge of £186,731 relating to the COP project and increased running costs explains this rise in support costs. The COP project depreciation charge should be anticipated at similar levels in future years as COP additions are depreciated. The COP project is considered by the Trustees to be solely for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of the church's charitable objectives.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Fisherwick Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is a registered charity, number NIC104366, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed under the rules and guidance outlined in 'The Code', which is the Constitution and Government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland' published by the authority of the General Assembly in 1980, reprinted with amendments 1992, reprinted with amendments 1997, reprinted with amendments June 2019 and 2020.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Kirk Session has the spiritual oversight of the congregation and, as elders/Trustees, is also responsible for the financial aspects of church life. The Congregational Committee has responsibility for the upkeep of the building, general management, and operational financial planning on behalf of the Kirk Session. The elders are ex officio members of Congregational Committee, so the two bodies work together. Both the Kirk Session and the Congregational Committee have a series of 'Ministry Responsibilities' and 'Subgroups' which look after specific areas covering all spiritual and operational matters. During the past year, these groups and committees have continued to meet in person (when possible) and on zoom. We also have a great team of employed staff with defined delegated roles.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Vision statement - Fisherwick's values

Fisherwick holds fast to the central beliefs of Christianity as stated (and often used at Communion services) in the Apostles' Creed, which states

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

As a member church of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland we hold that 'the Word of God as contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament is the only infallible rule of faith and practice and the supreme standard of the Church'.

We support and adhere to the Presbyterian form of Church Government and we seek to play our part in the wider church.

At the heart of Fisherwick's own distinctive values is a heritage, a passion and vision which can be summed up in the following statement:

"The Whole Gospel, for the Whole Person, within the Whole Church, in the Whole World".

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 22 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



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Linda Little
(Trustee)