

## Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity

### Trustees

Trustees as at 31 December 2023 were:

Clarke Abernethy	Graeme Craig	Rick Hill
Christine Adams	Joanne Darrah	Len Johnston
Reginald Andrews	David Dickinson	Peter Kirkwood
William Archbold	William Dyer	Robin Manson
Samuel James Bailie MBE	William Elliott	Stephanie Manson
Gary Bell	Paul Elliott	Kenneth McKinney
Daniel Black	Nigel Farr	Davy McNutt
Wesley Bonar	Eddie Fleming	Dr Alan Preston
Neal Brown	William Fullerton	Michael Ross
Des Campbell	James Gage	Philip Stevenson
David Carnaghan	Brian Givans	Nicola Strain
Thomas Carrick	Brian Hamilton	Harry Swann
Claire Child	John Hanna	Helen Warnock
Elaine Craig	Stuart Hawthorne	Maurice Wilmont

### Principal Office Bearers

Minister	Rev Stuart Hawthorne
Clerk of Session	Paul Elliott
Treasurer	Patricia Scullin
Congregational Secretary	Len Johnston

### Statutory Auditors

FPM Accountants Limited  
Unit 1, Building 10  
Central Park  
Mallusk Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 4FS

### Principal Bankers

Danske Bank  
Abbey Centre  
Longwood Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT37 9UH

### Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin  
50 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7FW

### Church Office

Carnmoney Church  
258 Carnmoney Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 6JZ

## Trustees Annual Report

### 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. Meetings of the Kirk Session were held on 10 occasions in 2023.

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. Carnmoney Presbyterian Church (hereafter referred to as 'Carnmoney 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 each congregation.

## Trustees Annual Report (continued)

### 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

Carnmoney 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 purpose of the Church is the advancement of religion. To shape this purpose, Carnmoney Church has adopted the following Mission Statement:

*"We exist for worship, community and witness as disciples who make disciples of Jesus in our community, the city and the nations."*

In February 2020 the Kirk Session approved its new strategy "ALL IN" for the period to 2025. This is currently being rolled out via 8 teams (including staff and volunteers) covering the whole range of the Church's work.

### ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation normally meets for worship at 11.00 am every Sunday (and monthly on Sunday evenings) and visitors are welcome to participate. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on multiple 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. A wide range of activities are held regularly throughout the year including (but not exclusively):

- Discipleship Communities
- Sunday School
- Youth Organisations including Youth Clubs, Boys' Brigade, Christian Endeavour and Girls' Brigade
- Mothers and Toddlers and Playgroup
- Courses such as – The Alpha Course, The Marriage Preparation Course, The Marriage Course, The Bereavement Course, The Money Course
- Bowling Club, Badminton Club, Five-a-Side Football, Manic Cycling
- Foodbank, Uniform and Clothing Ministries
- Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre and Job Club

## Trustees Annual Report (continued)

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### Worship and Prayer

Experiencing the presence of God when we gather for worship is one of our highest values and for this we plan and prepare and seek to be expectant. If you leave worship without a sense of having met with the Lord, we shall be disappointed. As well as that, we seek to be faithful to the scriptures, submissive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, relevant and accessible, whilst constantly striving to enhance the quality of everything we do to express our devotion to Christ at our Sunday gatherings where above all else we give ourselves to the worship of God. Who we are in worship on a Sunday is who we are as the people of God in Newtownabbey. The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday on the Carnmoney campus and in May Street in Belfast as Central at 11.00 am.

Fortnightly Discipleship Communities provide opportunities for members to meet together for fellowship, prayer and a reflection on the previous week's teachings.

At 31 December 2023 there were 780 communicant members and 917 families connected with the congregation.

The average normal weekly attendance at worship across all services and locations was not less than 800 adults and 150 children.

#### Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the Minister, Pastoral Care Associate, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors. In addition to this, the church offers a number of pastoral care services ranging from professional counselling and bereavement support to practical assistance like transport to hospital for those with regular appointments to hot meals for families under pressure.

#### Mission and Outreach

At a local level the congregation operates a number of initiatives including The Alpha Course, Trussell Trust Foodbank, Clothing and Uniform ministries and a CAP debt counselling centre and Job Club.

The congregation supports 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, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

## **Trustees Annual Report (continued)**

### **Presbytery**

The congregation is represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our Minister and Brian Givans, one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

The in-person meetings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland take place annually.

### **Property**

No significant property work was undertaken in the year.

### **Plans for future periods**

We continue to see increases in attendance at weekly worship on both campuses and at all of the Church's activities.

## Trustees Annual Report (continued)

### Organisations

The key organisations which meet regularly are:

Name	Description	Approx. Ave Attendance
Badminton Club	The Badminton club is for anyone aged 14+ passionate about Badminton.	10-15
Bowling Club	A mixed bowling club which meets twice a week.	50
Boys Brigade	Fun, sports and adventure for boys from 5 to 18 years of age. Meets weekly.	280
Chat n Play	A midweek women's social morning with breakfast.	45-55
Christian Endeavour	Weekly fun and fellowship for children and young people from 3 to 18.	50
Discipleship Communities	A key aspect in the life of our church which exist to enable people to get to know Jesus and become like Him. These groups meet in a range of homes and are attended by between 10–30 people in each venue.	25+ groups involving 400+
Duke of Edinburgh	Open to those from 14 years and above the scheme encourages young people to be active, give to the community, learn new skills and how to work as a team.	10
Fusion	Fusion is a space for all teenagers to chat, laugh, discover and grow. Meets weekly after church.	50-70
Girls Brigade	An organisation for girls aged from 3 to 18 years of age. Meets weekly.	220
Manic	Men's ministry running events and gatherings throughout the year.	20-25
Presbyterian Women (PW)	PW exists to unite the women of the Church and meets fortnightly.	50-60
Sunday School	Operates weekly during Church for children from birth to 11 years of age.	135+
Tots n Co	A weekly opportunity for parents and carers to meet as their children play alongside them.	100+
Youth Clubs	Aimed at children aged 8 to 11 including those with special needs in a range of activities.	300

A range of other initiatives are held throughout the year including the Alpha Course (a ten-week course including a weekend away, looking at the key questions in life – usually run twice yearly), Foodbank, Clothing and Uniform ministries, CAP ministries (inc. Job Club) and a range of training initiatives.

### Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of the hundreds of volunteers who give freely of their time by serving in administration, organisations and ministries and other church activities.

## **Trustees Annual Report (continued)**

### **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 using 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 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.

## Trustees Annual Report (continued)

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 587 families who contributed during the year (559 in the previous year, 2022) donating a total regular giving of £721,116 (2022: £649,347), including gift aid.

Total Income of the congregation, including organisations, during the year was £962,059 compared to £832,566 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £809,868 (2022: £731,304), mainly driven by an increase in PCI Assessments.

### RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregations and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregations and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2019)". 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.

### Disclosure of Information to the Auditors:

So far as each person who was a Trustee at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow Trustees and the company's Auditor, each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

## Trustees Annual Report (continued)

### GOING CONCERN

The activities of the congregation are dependent on the ongoing contributions of its members and on grants and gifts from organisations and individuals with whom we partner to deliver some of our ministries. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and subject to the continuing support from members to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

### RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees aim to generate reserves at a level which would cover twelve months of commitments and expenditure. The Trustees consider that the level of reserves will be dictated by future donations and planned expenditure and have processes in place to review both income and expenditure on a regular basis.

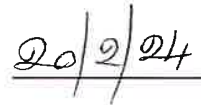
### RISK REVIEW

During 2023 the Trustees completed a Risk Register which is reviewed and revised on a regular basis to prioritise the steps which need to be taken to reduce perceived risks, where possible.

Approved on behalf of the Kirk Session by:



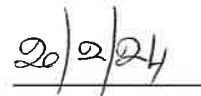
Paul Elliott – Clerk of Session



Date



Len Johnston – Congregational Secretary



Date