

**CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD CONGREGATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104501)**

**CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD 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 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Christ Church Dundonald Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Millars Lane  
Dundonald  
Belfast  
BT16 2DA

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104501)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Priscilla Cummings	Kevin Cooper
Ann Osborne	Wilma Gilfillan
Rev Richard McIlhatton	Jill Lemon
David Munster (appointed 19/03/2023)	Heather Coard (appointed 19/03/2023)

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Richard McIlhatton
Clerk of Session	Wilma Gilfillan
Treasurer	Kenneth Allen

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

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

RBCA Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
Linenhall Exchange  
26 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8BG

**BANKERS**

Ulster Bank  
Arches Retail Park  
Connswater  
Belfast  
BT5 4AF

**SOLICITORS**

King & Gowdy  
298 Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3EJ

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD 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 ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregations. 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. Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held monthly with the exception of July & August.

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. Christ Church Dundonald Congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East 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.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD 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.

Christ Church Dundonald 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

*Christ Church Presbyterian Church exists to enable its people, in ever increasing measure, to:*

- (i) Love Christ*
- (ii) Care for one another; and*
- (iii) Share that love and care with others.*

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation typically meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several 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 (known as Lighthouse)
- Girls' Brigade
- Boys' Brigade
- Tots & Co
- Young Life
- Presbyterian Women
- Men's Group
- Bright Hour Seniors Citizens Group
- Flower Arranging

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

Services of Worship are usually held each Sunday at 11am and occasionally at 7pm.

During the week the small groups and prayer meetings provide opportunities for members to meet for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

We gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year. At 31 December 2023 there were 143 communicant members and 188 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 90.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **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, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors. Our morning services are available on YouTube and recorded onto DVD and supplied weekly to a number of members who cannot attend.

### **Organisations**

Around 115 children and young people from throughout the local community attend our organisations each week. In addition to this, around 65 adults attend the range of activities listed above. These numbers are in addition to attendance at Sunday services.

### **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.

### **Property**

Small works of maintenance were completed as required. We are continuing to investigate options for redevelopment of our halls.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation is involved in the wider community in many ways. Members of our staff team assist in local schools and we are represented on the Boards of Governors of two schools. We again hosted the ROC Ballybeen School Uniform Project in the summer, in partnership with local schools and churches. Around 200 children were helped by this project.

We are a member of Dundonald Foodbank and regularly provide donations of food and money. We are a member of Ballybeen Improvement Group, where our Minister serves as the treasurer.

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.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD 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.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNDONALD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 120 contributors during the year [125 in 2022] donating a total of £94,153 (£99,220 in previous year, 2022)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £189,240 compared to £156,184 in the previous year. This increase was down to a larger than normal amount of one off donations to restricted funds, some contributions in relation to our shared ministry project which was then offset by the slight drop in regular giving above.

Total expenditure rose slightly from £119,344 to £126,228. This was a mixture of increased spend in our youth offering paid out in 2023 to cover the 2023/24 year, our share of contributions to the incremental cost of our shared ministry project and the timing of payments to mission partners offset by a rebate from our electricity provider as we aligned our meter reading position.

### **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 congregation's 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 at a meeting on 21 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

R McIlhatton

Minister