

Charity number: NIC104849

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers For the year ended 31 December 2023

Trustees	Mr William Cochrane Rev. Jonathan Moxen Mr David Duncan Mr David Gawn Mr Peter Gordon Mr Maurice Fisher Mrs Kay Fisher Mr Martin Hull Mr Mark Irwin Mrs Deborah Johnston Mr Trevor Johnston (resigned 19 September 2023) Mrs Janet Kennedy (resigned 25 April 2023) Mrs Irene Kilpatrick Dr Stephen Luney (resigned 17 June 2023) Mr Keith Marshall Mrs Jennifer Millar Mr Niall McConkey, Clerk of Session Miss Averil McKeown Mr Henry McWilliam (deceased 4 August 2023) Mr Thomas Young Mrs Norma Adams (appointed 12 February 2023) Mrs Sheelagh Dalton (appointed 12 February 2023) Mr Chris Dickey (appointed 12 February 2023) Mr Gareth Harding (appointed 12 February 2023) Mr Iain Holmes (appointed 12 February 2023) Mrs Adele Irwin (appointed 12 February 2023) Mrs Zoe Lutton (appointed 12 February 2023)
Charity registered number	NIC104849
Principal office	Ballyclare Presbyterian Church 2 Foundry Lane Ballyclare County Antrim BT39 9BQ
Secretary	Mr James Foster
Treasurer	Mr R J Johnston
Accountants	ASM (B) Ltd Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 4th Floor Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

**Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Bankers Ulster Bank
 37 High Street
 Carrickfergus
 County Antrim
 BT38 7AN

Danske Bank
18 The Square
Ballyclare
BT39 9B

Solicitors JW McNinch
 37 Main Street
 Ballyclare
 BT39 9AA

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report For the year ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of the 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 for its members, and it seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the community. The Kirk Session has delegated the temporal affairs of the congregation to its Congregational Committee, including the administration of 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 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, has no deliberative votes but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held at least 8 times each year.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership, a person must be a voting member of the congregation and a regular attender on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called as elders can either be by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two thirds of the votes cast by 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 the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Ballyclare Presbyterian Church is part of the Carrickfergus Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists primarily of the active ministers of all its congregations, ministers who have retired from active duty, and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each 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.

The General Assembly is normally constituted, annually, during the first week of June, and meets for worship and business. At the end of business, it is dissolved. The members of the General Assembly consist primarily of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers, and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Ballyclare Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a Reformed Church within the wider Church of Jesus Christ, acknowledging the Word of God, as set forth in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and the supreme standard of the Church.

Ballyclare Presbyterian Church exists to love and honour God through faith in Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to enable its members to grow in faith and play their part in advancing God's kingdom in his world.

The congregation's overall vision is summed up in the phrase, People Matter to God, and its life and activity is expressed in terms of Making Disciples, Making an Impact.

In all its many aspects, the congregation seeks to be Biblical, serving all age groups, creative in all its activities, committed to serving people physically, emotionally and spiritually, outward looking and welcoming to the whole community, and in all of this being committed to our heritage as part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday, and visitors are always welcome. On four Sundays during the year, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, and all who have been baptised and have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord are invited to participate. The Sacrament of Baptism is observed at Sunday morning services, and we also welcome families and their children in a service of Thanksgiving and Reception.

We seek to support and prepare couples for Christian Marriage and attach great importance to supporting those who have been bereaved both through the funeral service itself and in ongoing pastoral care.

In a more general context, we work to provide pastoral care and support for everyone who is connected to our congregation, and especially to those who are ill, unable to attend church through sickness or age, or who are finding life tough and stressful in all sorts of other ways. We do this through the pastoral care of the ministerial staff team, as well as by the Elders and Pastoral Visitors, as well as by members of the congregation.

Members of the congregation meet on a regular basis for Bible Study and Prayer in smaller groups. The congregation also offers a very wide range of organisations and activities during the week, including the following:

Shine, our children's programme; Youth Fellowship; Presbyterian Women; Choir and Praise Band; Youth Club; Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade; Bowling Club; Friendship Group, Parent and Toddler Group; Men's Football, and many other less structured activities.

In all of these activities and organisation, we work to provide Christian support and encouragement to the families connected to our congregation, as well as seeing them as opportunities to serve the wider community, make connections and build relationships with people who have recently come to live in our town, and through all of this to be a positive Christian witness to our community.

We participate in joint activities with other local churches, including Foodbank, Christians against Poverty, WAVE (worship for people with learning difficulties) and Greater Ballyclare Youth for Christ. We are pleased that we are able to make our halls accommodation available for us by a wide range of groups from the community, including Citizens Advice Bureau, local schools, and charities.

The congregation gives priority to Mission and Outreach, supporting the United Appeal for Mission, the central mission fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, which enables congregations to play their part in the wider mission and outreach of the denomination, at home and abroad. The United Appeal is vital for the support of mission personnel working in Ireland and throughout the world, enabling church planting, assisting with the running costs of Union Theological College and training ministry students and pastoral workers, supporting social witness projects - and through all of this enabling congregations to play their part in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, Christian service and caring, leadership development and many other areas.

As a congregation, we are also committed directly to a variety of other mission projects and organizations, with which the congregation has developed links, and which it supports through personal links, prayer and financial giving.

The congregation is represented by the minister and a Representative Elder at the regular meetings of the Carrickfergus Presbytery, and in the same way at the annual meeting of the General Assembly, thus maintaining the essential link between the congregation and the wider structures, decision making and life of our denomination.

The congregation has an up-to-date suite of buildings and these are maintained under the direction of the church committee. During the past year, there has been ongoing minor maintenance and improvements.

It is very important to emphasise that the life and work of our congregation is made possible by many people who express their Christian faith through committed, and often sacrificial, service. The trustees wish to record their deep appreciation to all who give of their time and gifts in this way.

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

As we started 2023 we welcomed our new Assistant Minister Matthew Houston and his wife Hannah to our congregation to complete his training for the Ministry. His licensing took place on Sunday 18th June in his home church of Wellington Ballymena. We have been greatly blessed by Matthew's preaching and teaching through preparation of discipleship group material and he has been popular with our congregation as he has visited over the year. We count it a privilege to help Assistant Ministers prepare for a life in Ministry and see God's blessing through this in the time they spend with us.

Special thanks must go to our Minister Rev. Jonathan Moxen who has led us through this year with faithful Biblical teaching and a desire to see people come to a personal living faith and people to grow in their faith. This was fulfilled through well prepared and challenging teaching in morning and evening services and preparing Bible study notes for our discipleship groups. He has guided Session and Committee meetings through this year and we are excited to see what God will do through his ministry in Ballyclare. We welcomed Aaron Anderson our Children and Youth worker to the staff team this year helping to support and build our work with children and young people. With the support of Rev. Tom Pollock and the teamwork from Susan Boyd our Musical Director and Ingrid Orr our Office Administrator we have been greatly blessed by God in Ballyclare.

Rev. Tom Pollock decided to fully retire at the end of 2023 as our Pastoral Associate after a number of years of service, faithfully visiting, supporting and helping many of our senior members in the congregation. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by us all. We welcomed Rev. Peter Douglas as our new Pastoral Associate and he continues to visit our members in this important ministry.

In this year we had 478 families equating to 1135 individuals belonging to our congregation which includes 364 Communicant members. Sadly 23 of our church family passed away over this year and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. One of these was Ray McWilliam who was our longest serving Elder when he passed away, serving our people not just as an Elder from 1973 but also as a BB Officer leading Junior Section, Youth Fellowship leader and leading with Vera and others in our church partnership with Dorsten Germany. Many will remember his faithful work growing up in our congregation and how God has blessed us through this work.

Session continued to work over this year with the 7 new Elders joining the team after their ordination on 12th February. New Elders districts were drawn up and new Session Teams including Committee members and members of the congregation to help oversee the work of the congregation were able to meet and plan following Covid. Janet Kennedy and Trevor Johnston retired from the Eldership and we thank them for their faithful service to Session and their districts and thank God for their work within our congregation. Please continue to pray for our Elders as they lead and make decisions for our congregation, serving a gracious and loving God who has given them this responsibility.

A new church Committee was elected in May and there were 16 new Committee members to help with this important work in our congregation. All serve on different teams on Committee using their gifts and talents and we thank all Committee members for their hard work and service in looking after the fabric and finances of our church.

Our youth organisations were able to run full programmes this year bringing a sense of normality for our children and young people. God has truly blessed this work with big numbers in GB and BB and growing numbers in Junior youth club, Youth Fellowship and Shine. We give thanks for all our youth leaders who have been so faithful in their organisations, building strong relationships with our children and young people and challenging them with the gospel message. We have seen a number of our young people coming to a personal faith and making the decision to become full communicant members in our congregation.

Our adult groups continued to meet with a number of Discipleship groups, PW, Bowls, Friendship Club, Friday Café with Senior Citizens outing and Christmas Dinner. Thank you to all those who lead and organise these programmes and the help and support that is provided through them.

Our Sunday services remain central to our mission with faithful teaching and challenge from our Ministerial team. A large team of people are involved on a Sunday morning from welcoming, playing instruments, leading the praise, operating screens, operating sound desk, AV room, tea and coffee, Creche and taking part in the service. Thank you everyone for using your gifts and talents as we worship and praise God together as a Church family. Session took the decision to continue streaming our Sunday morning services so those unable to join us can still be a part of the service and new people can experience our worship when looking for a church family to join. Our DVD ministry continues helping those who cannot join us online to still join in our worship services.

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

We thank all those who serve our congregation in any way to be salt and light in our local community in Ballyclare. We continue to see new families join us and we are excited to see how God will use us in 2024 to advance His Kingdom in all that we do in Ballyclare.

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 the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved). Generally, these benefits are delivered locally by congregational churches and members or are facilitated through presbyteries, or are organized 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 organizations, charities and individual members of the public.

Financial Review

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. They are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the congregation and the financial activities of that year. In preparing the financial statements, the / trustees are required to:

- Select suitable policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the on-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 transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregation and enable them to ensure that that the financial statements comply with the statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1st January 2015)'. 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.

The activities of the congregation are dependent on the on-going contributions of its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of the approval of these financial statements to meet the commitments which will arise in the year from the signing of this report and subject to the continuing support of members to fund on an on-going basis the congregation's current activities and financial commitments.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to cover three months expenditure.

Ballyclare Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

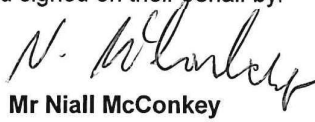
Risk Assessment

The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of on-going financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees and the Congregational Committee, through regular monitoring at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.

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



Rev. Jonathan Moxen



Mr Niall McConkey

Date: 1 June 2024