

**FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104851)

**FIRST DONEGORE 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 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

First Donegore congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
30 Main Street
Parkgate
Ballyclare

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104851)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Mrs Susan Fletcher	Mr John McCullagh
Mr Ivor Fletcher	Mr Michael McKinstry
Mrs Marianne Howie	Mr Alan McWhirter
Mrs Carolyn Mairs	Mrs Edith Nesbitt
Mr John Mulholland	Mr Sam Pollock
Mr Chris McClenaghan	Rev Stephen Simpson
Mrs Grace McCullagh	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Stephen Simpson
Clerk of Session	Mr John McCullagh
Treasurer	Mr Michael McKinstry

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Simon Hopper FCA
Hopper & Co
6 Doagh Road
Ballyclare
BT39 9BG

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

BANKERS

Danske Bank Limited
18 The Square
Ballyclare
BT39 9BB

SOLICITORS

Boal Anderson
56 High Street
Ballymena
BT43 6UH

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 bi-monthly and are normally held in-person.

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.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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. The First Donegore congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Templepatrick 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.

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.

First Donegore 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 honor 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.

First Donegore exists to replicate the Scripture model of Church to be a people and place that shares Jesus Christ and shows grace.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

This aim, fuels 7 priority areas of Church life, work and witness

- 1. The Worship of First Donegore** exists to enable people to glorify God by meeting Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worship Services of differing type and content bring people of all ages to meet the Living God.
- 2. The Prayer life of First Donegore** exists to create a variety of opportunities for the members of our church family to engage with God for our world, our district and our church.
- 3. The Pastoral Care of First Donegore** exists to provide pastoral care for the whole person (spiritual, physical, mental and emotional). We wish to see this delivered through the work of The Minister, Assistant Minister, Elders, Pastoral Care Group and its members.
- 4. The Ministry of First Donegore** exists to extend the Kingdom of God by making Christ known, and by equipping, enabling and encouraging members to live out the values of God's Kingdom where they live, work, volunteer and worship
- 5. The Discipleship of First Donegore** exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 6. The Evangelism of First Donegore** exists to share the Gospel of Jesus and show His love with the prayer that people will come to and grow in a personal relationship with Him.
- 7. The Service of First Donegore** to the district beyond our gates is expressed through pastoral care; prayer for district, businesses, schools and rural community; friendship - seasonal gifts from church, delivering Community events; and meeting social needs of all ages

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords 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 as well as providing regular opportunities to meet for prayer.

With regard to worship services each Sunday, having established the technology during the pandemic to facilitate sharing services both live stream and on demand via the congregation's YouTube channel, First Donegore intend to continue to make use of such on-line facilities in order to support those unable to attend in person.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

The congregation has a range of organisations which minister to all ages including; Donegore Kids (Sunday School); Donegore Youth (Bible Class); Donegore Tots (Crèche); Parents and Toddlers; Bowling & Badminton Clubs; Community Friendship Club; Community Drop-In, Presbyterian Women; Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade.

Many of the activities of the congregation and its organisations which had to be curtailed during COVID have returned to normal during 2022 with the remainder expected to do so during 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday at 11am.

As part of the weekly schedule of services organised across the year, the congregation dedicates specific services to highlight its support for mission, both home and overseas, and to highlight the work of mission partners such as Christian Aid, Kids4school and the JAM Store.

In addition, First Donegore seeks to bring comfort to families who have been bereaved by holding special services of thanksgiving for loved ones. A bi-monthly Divine Healing Service, normally organised by the Congregation for the district and wider Templepatrick Presbytery, were suspended during COVID and have yet to restart.

A Mens and Ladies Bible Study forms an integral part of a weekly programme of activities within the Church Buildings together with Prayer time on a Tuesday evening and Sunday morning at 10.30am. The Sunday morning prayer time has yet to restart since the pandemic but is expected to do so in the coming year. These prayer times provide opportunities for members to meet to pray for the world, district, church and for individuals as requested.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

At 31 December 2022 there were 106 communicant members and 180 families connected with the congregations. The average weekly attendance at morning worship either in-person or viewing on-line is estimated to be around 150.

Pastoral care

The congregation through the minister, elders and pastoral care team provide support to members and others through personal visitation and prayer. Many church members also provide invaluable informal care and support. When members face particularly testing times, the level of pastoral care is increased further through hospital, nursing home or home visitation.

During recent years, in light of COVID restrictions, greater use of text, telephone and email communication was deployed in order to stay in touch with the congregation together with regular postal deliveries of pastoral and devotional resources. In addition, First Donegore made use of its internet site, facebook and YouTube channels to support its on-line capability and try to keep connected with its members as well as the wider community.

Mission and outreach

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

The congregation decided to nominate collections taken at Harvest once again this year to support of the work of some of its main missional partners, the Presbyterian Children's Society, Kids4School, Christian Aid, Blythswood Care and JAM Randalstown together with United Appeal, this being in addition to any specific collections made by the congregation to such causes and to the general volunteering work undertaken by its members to these and other charitable vehicles.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

The congregation facilitates the hosting of events by Cleopas, a local par-church Christian ministry which provides spiritual support to churches and Christian leaders. Prior to COVID, the congregation would have organized various missional events such as Alpha both within church buildings and in locations within the local community, in order to seek to outreach to wider community.

In addition the church has used its facilities to organise various community events both independently and in partnership with the local community association to celebrate certain events including in 2022 an event to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and the Christmas Tree Switch on in December.

The congregation also serves the local district through the work of its organisations, many of those attending being drawn from beyond the congregation itself. In addition the church gifts the use of its halls to organisations such as the Jon-Jo Bright Foundation to support rehabilitation of people injured through serious accident; to local families to support birthday and other celebrations and also to the local community association and the local indoor bowling league to facilitate regular meetings.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings (both face to face and virtual) of Presbytery through its 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 its elders are nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

Property

Alongside the normal routine annual inspections of fire extinguishers, electrical and mechanical equipment during the year the congregation undertook some more significant maintenance projects to repair and enhance church buildings, its halls and to maintain its grounds. The congregational committee, appointed to organize such works, expect to progress a slightly more extensive programme in the coming year, having had to delay some projects during the pandemic.

Organisations

Church Property is used actively throughout the week by its organisations, with the majority of those attending drawn from the local community and not directly from within the congregation itself.

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Around 70 children attend Boys Brigade & Girls Brigade on a regular basis and enjoy a full programme of events. Both these organisations have re-commenced meeting in-person in 2022, returning as far as possible to a full programme of badgework and other activities.

The congregation also seeks to engage with its young people in support the growth in their faith in Jesus Christ through Donegore Kids, Donegore Youth and Donegore Tots, which run alongside the church service each week.

First Donegore established a new Youth Leaders Forum during 2022 with the aim of coordinating and developing activities across all its Youth organisations. This Forum was responsible for introducing a new quarterly Youth Alive event during the year aimed at young people in year 8 to 14 both from within existing organisations and beyond.

Presbyterian Women ('PW') returned during the latter part of 2022 to meet monthly, thereby providing a forum for the women in the congregation to meet for fellowship and to support of the wider missional aspects of our Church. The PW were able to organise its annual church service once again prior to the end of 2022, thereby enabling it to donate £500 to missional work.

The Community Friendship Club creates an environment for the slightly older members of the church and local community to come together in a relaxed social environment on a monthly basis whilst the Parents & Toddlers group provide a support network for the very young and their careers to meet weekly during term-time. Neither organization re-started during 2022 however it is hoped as activities return to normality in the coming year that both return to provide their normal programme of activities.

The Bowling Club provides a social environment for those with specific sporting interests in the local community. The Bowling club competes regularly in a local league as well cup competitions with these activities re-commencing towards the end of 2022. The Bowling Club have also been the organising force behind an annual charitable bowling tournament with funds being used to support a local nominated charity however in light of covid restrictions in recent years, this activity has ceased.

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.

**FIRST DONEGORE 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, persons with disabilities and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by use of 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.

**FIRST DONEGORE 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 Offering. There were 128 families recorded as contributing during the year (115 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £78,580 (£70,274 in previous year, 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £138,463 compared to £123,628 in the previous year, with donations benefitting from return to in-person activities.

Total expenditure increased to £155,329 in 2022 compared to £127,094 in 2022, predominantly as a result of a return to normal levels of church activity post the pandemic, inflationary pressures on costs particularly energy costs and greater levels of development and maintenance work incurred on church property.

RESERVES POLICY

The policy of the trustees is not to accumulate reserves but to use reserves in the promotion of the Charity's objects, and maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments £51,002 to cover unforeseen situations that may arise from time to time. In light of the main risks facing the Charity the trustees consider the current level of reserves £472,028 and their use (as required) is above this target. The trustees continue to monitor their reserves levels on a periodic basis.

FUTURE PLANS

With COVID restrictions easing during 2022, the church has sought accordingly to return as far as possible to normal in the year. This has enabled the church committee to progress some of the maintenance and enhancement projects on church property which had to be deferred during the height of the pandemic. A wider review of church resources is expected to be undertaken in the year ahead for consideration by the congregation.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

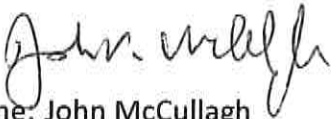
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

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

As a consequence of the income of the congregation exceeding £250,000 during the prior year thereby requiring the 2018 accounts to be prepared on an accruals basis, the trustees have decided to continue to prepare accounts on this basis subsequently.

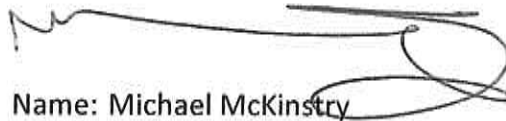
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 15th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Name: John McCullagh

Date: 15th May 2023



Name: Michael McKinstry

Date: 15th May 2023