

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 2023.

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 at 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 congregation of First Donegore 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.

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 in person every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. In addition, the congregation shares its services both via live stream and on demand via the congregation's YouTube channel, to support those unable to attend in person.

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.

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

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

In addition, the congregation has commenced some other activities on a less regular monthly or quarterly basis, aimed at developing fellowship within the congregation, such as Games & Craft evenings and in supporting Outreach to the wider community such as Youth Alive.

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 and Kids4school.

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, was suspended during COVID however it is hoped to restart these services in the coming year.

A Men 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 morning and Wednesday evening. These prayer times provide opportunities for members to meet to pray for the world, district, church and for individuals as requested.

At 31 December 2023 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.

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

Mission and outreach

First Donegore 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 also contributes to the denominations annual World Development Appeal, the Presbyterian Children's Society and during 2023 organised a coffee morning to support the work of the International Meeting Point.

At a local level First Donegore has continued during the year to develop its missional partnerships with Kids4School, Christian Aid and JAM Randalstown as well as supporting the charitable volunteering amongst its members more generally. During 2023 the congregation raised an incredible £16,600 to support Kids4School's housebuilding activity in Tanzania by running a spectacular quilting event and by making a specific appeal for funds.

The congregation decided to nominate collections taken at Harvest this year to support its various mission and outreach activities, both at home and overseas

In the past year, the congregation has used such funds to organise various community events both independently and in partnership with the local community association to celebrate events such the coronation of King Charles and the annual Christmas Tree Switch on and to support our senior citizens through a special dinner at Christmas.

The congregation also serves the local community through the activities undertaken by its various organisations and through the gifting of the use of its premises 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 to the local community association and indoor bowling league to facilitate regular meetings.

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

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings 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, electrical and mechanical equipment during the year the congregation undertook some more significant maintenance projects to repair and enhance church buildings, most notably further work in refurbishing the church sanctuary, replacement windows in its halls, and necessary maintenance work within its grounds. The congregational committee, appointed to organize such works is currently undertaking a more strategic review of church buildings in light of current and expected future needs of the congregation.

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. Around 70 children attend Boys Brigade & Girls Brigade on a regular basis and enjoy a full programme of events.

The girls organised a range of activities during the year in support of badgework ending the year with the return of its highly successful Christmas Craft Fair which had to be curtailed during Covid. Whilst the boys organised a full range of activities linked to the demands of its his own badgework programme and has planned a camp in early 2024.

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

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

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

Presbyterian Women ('PW') meet monthly on a Tuesday providing a forum for the women in the congregation to meet for fellowship and also to support of the wider missional aspects of our Church, donating £750 to such work during the year.

The Community Friendship Club which creates an environment for the slightly older members of the church and local community to come together in a relaxed social environment, reconvened its activities once again in the latter part of 2023, having had to cease them during Covid.

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.

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.

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 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.

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

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 because of 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Offering. There were 125 families recorded as contributing during the year (128 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £75,801 (£78,580 in previous year, 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £166,467 compared to £138,463 in the previous year, with donations benefitting from a significant fundraising initiative for others (most notably Kids4school) during the year.

Total expenditure increased to £182,850 in 2023 compared to £155,329 in 2022, with outgoings to others, most notably kids4school (as highlighted above), inflationary pressures on costs particularly energy costs, greater levels of activity, both at a congregational within the local community, and an increase in development and maintenance work on church property contributing to the rise in costs during 2023.

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 £54,567 to cover unforeseen situations that may arise from time to time. Considering the main risks facing the Charity the trustees consider the current level of reserves £459,410 and their use (as required) is above this target. The trustees continue to monitor their reserves levels on a periodic basis.

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

FUTURE PLANS

With the congregation now returned to normal levels of activity during 2023, costs have been impacted accordingly. The church committee have also been able 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, both operating and capital, is currently being considered by the church session and committee to determine a potential way ahead in forthcoming year.

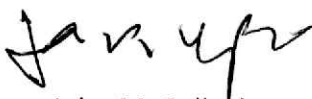
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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 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 23rd May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Name: John McCullagh

Date: 23rd May 2024



Name: Michael McKinstry

Date: 23rd May 2024

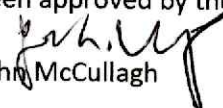
FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
for the year ended 31 December 2023


	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	93,588	60,773	-	154,361	132,231
Charitable activities	3	-	5,155	-	5,155	4,064
Other trading activities	4	394	2,154	-	2,548	1,025
Investment Income	5	2,098	1,986	-	4,084	428
Other	6	319	-	-	319	715
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Income		96,399	70,068	-	166,467	138,463
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	(544)	-	-	(544)	(544)
Charitable activities	8	(100,391)	(73,717)	-	(174,108)	(146,587)
Other	9	(8,198)	-	-	(8,198)	(8,198)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Expenditure		(109,133)	(73,717)	-	(182,850)	(155,329)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(12,734)	(3,649)	-	(16,383)	(16,886)
Transfers between funds		116	(116)	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		(12,618)	(3,765)	-	(16,383)	(16,886)
Funds brought forward		472,028	164,854	8,339	645,221	662,087
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funds carried forward	16	459,410	161,089	8,339	628,838	645,221
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

FIRST DONEGORE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	12	249,248	257,446
Total fixed assets		<u>249,248</u>	<u>257,446</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	13	43,543	36,952
Cash and cash equivalents	14	339,197	352,348
Total current assets		<u>382,741</u>	<u>389,300</u>
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals	15	3,150	1,525
Total creditors		<u>3,150</u>	<u>1,525</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>379,591</u>	<u>387,775</u>
Total net Assets		<u>628,839</u>	<u>645,221</u>
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	16		
General funds		459,408	472,028
Total unrestricted funds		<u>459,408</u>	<u>472,028</u>
Restricted Funds	16	161,092	164,854
Endowment Funds	16	8,339	8,339
Total charity funds		<u>628,839</u>	<u>645,221</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They have been approved by the Kirk Session on (enter date) and signed on its behalf by;


John McCullagh


Michael McKinstry

23rd May 2024

23rd May 2024