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**Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh): 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 (NIC104921)**

**Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh)  
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**

Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh) congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
70 Moss Bank Road, Portadown, CRAIGAVON, BT63 5NP  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104921)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Mr Andrew Philip Beattie  
Mr Stephen Joseph Beattie  
Rev Gordon Edwin Best  
Mr Albert Boyle  
Mr Gordon Brown  
Mr Stuart James Campbell  
Mr Trevor James Campbell  
Mr Neville Mervyn Doake  
Mr Winston Frederick Guiney  
Mr Hugh Gordon Forsythe  
Mr Jim Freeburn  
Mr Peter William Martin  
Mr Ezekiel McCleary  
Mr Ian Irwin McConaghy  
Mr William Francis David McCullough  
Mr Malcolm Samuel Joseph McKeown  
Mr Dale Nesbitt  
Dr Stephen William Sharpe  
Mr John Turkington  
Mr William Henry Webb  
Mr Albert George Wilson

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**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer

Rev. Gordon Edwin Best  
Dr Stephen William Sharpe  
Mr Ian McConaghy

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER** MTS Chartered Accountants, 1 Lanyon Quay, Belfast BT1 3LG

**BANKERS**

Danske Bank, 45-48 High Street, Portadown, Craigavon BT62 1LB

**SOLICITORS**

**Thompson Mitchell Solicitors**, 12-14 Mandeville St, Portadown, Craigavon BT62 3NZ

## **Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh) 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 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 congregations. 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.

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

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 at least one-third 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. Newmills (Iveagh) congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Iveagh 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.

#### **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.

Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh) 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,

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

- is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;
- is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;
- is relevant to people of this time and place.

The congregation's purposes are five-fold:

- Enjoy worshipping God
- Encourage fellowship amongst its members
- Enable its members to be effective followers of Christ through Bible teaching and prayer
- Enhance member's gifts and skills in ministry
- Engage relevantly in mission locally and beyond.

The congregation aims to live out its vision and purposes as a family of God's people by being:

- A covenant community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward him and toward one another

- An intergenerational community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.
- An outward looking community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond our bounds.

## ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday during the year, and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on four 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 in accordance with the teachings and standards of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The congregation holds a regular Midweek Meeting for Bible study and prayer on Wednesday evenings and has a wide range of organisations including:

- Sunday School (Kids Zone)
- Creche
- Children's Church
- Youth Fellowship
- Youth Club (NYPD)
- Campaigners NI
- Friendship Hour (Senior Citizens)
- Connect (Ladies Ministry)
- Men's Fellowship
- Bowling Club
- Click n Mix (20's & 30's)

Under the supervision of Kirk Session, 3 Task Teams oversee important aspects of congregational life. They are:

- The Prayer Action Team
- The Church Family Team
- The Mission Team

A number of rota teams operate throughout the year, including:

- Car park security,
- Welcome and door duty,
- Musicians,
- Sound and screen operators,
- Creche Rota,
- Flower Rota

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am and 6.30pm. During the week, the Midweek Gathering provides an opportunity for members to meet together for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Informal prayer groups meet on an ad hoc basis at various times throughout each month. There is a prayer time before each Sunday service and prayer ministry is made available after each service to anyone who requests it.

As well as our regular services during the year we, in 2023 we have celebrated 6 Infant Baptisms and 2 Adult Baptisms. We conducted 1 marriage service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023, there were 228 communicant members, and 304 families connected with the congregation. The average week attendance at morning worship is 260.

### Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited (or telephoned) on a regular basis by the minister, assistant minister, elders, and/or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors. The Church Family Task Team fulfils a role in ensuring that all pastoral care needs are met.

### Mission and outreach

Through the Mission Task Team, the congregation in 2023 supported 16 Mission agencies and personnel, with whom we have had a long-standing association, both prayerfully and financially. Some members participated in locally based outreach events. In addition, retiring or loose offerings were taken up for 11 mission appeals outside the Church, during the course of the year at special services.

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.

### Presbytery

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

### General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland met in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

### Property

Renovation and upgrading projects were carried out during the year to lift repairs and to painting the Church Bungalow. Total expenditure amounted to £6935.00.

### Organisations

The following table provides a brief summary of the organisations, their purpose, average attendances, and where appropriate, some additional information.

NAME OF ORGANISATION	MEETINGS	PURPOSE	ATTENDANCE (APPROX NOS.)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Sunday School (Kidzone) & Children's Church	Once a week (Sunday mornings)	To teach primary aged children the Scriptures at an age-appropriate level	45	
Creche	Once a week (Sunday mornings)	To supervise babies and toddlers during the morning service	8	
Youth Fellowship & Young People's Bible Study	Once a week (Sunday evenings)	To disciple young people of secondary school age	10	
Youth Club	Once a week (Friday evenings)	To provide an outreach to young people in the church and local community through recreational/sport activities and epilogue	120	Various outings are held during the year.
Campaigners	Each week (Tuesday evenings)	To cater for the physical, social, educational and spiritual development of children and young people in the church and wider community	35	This meets under the auspices of Campaigners NI, an independent youth organisation for ages 4-18. It is a uniformed organisation. Newmills is 1 of 21 Campaigner groups meeting across NI. There are 2

				<p>subgroups which meet each week: Eagles: 4-6 yrs Junos: 7-11 yrs</p> <p>Each subgroup plans various outings during the year</p>
Friendship Hour	Once a month (Tuesday afternoons)	To provide a forum of fellowship, friendship and encouragement for the elderly in the church and local community	26	An outing is planned for May of each year
Connect	Once a month (Wednesday evenings)	To facilitate women's fellowship, ministry and discipleship	60	An outing is planned each year and occasionally the ladies attend selected women's conferences
Men's Fellowship	Once a month (Wednesday evenings)	To facilitate men's fellowship, ministry and discipleship	40	The men usually attend the annual Irish Men's Convention
Bowling Club	Once a week (Thursday evenings)	To provide fellowship and recreation for those with an interest in the game of Bowls	28	Various away matches are played during the year and the club hosts visiting clubs by arrangement
Click 'n Mix	Once a month (Saturday evenings)	To provide fellowship and friendship for the 20's and 30's age group	15	A few outings/activities are arranged for each year

## Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees, task teams, rota teams 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, 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, 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.

**Newmills Presbyterian (Iveagh) 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 216 contributors during the year (223 in 2022) donating totals as shown below to the main funds to which church members and attendees contribute:

Offering	2023 Amount (£)	2021 Amount (£)	2022 Amount (£)
Freewill Offerings	166,186.00	120,092.00	133,568.00
Loose Offerings	15,765.00	3,555.00	8,791.00
Renovation Fund	6,105.00	6,650.00	5,880.00
Missions Appeal	7,293.00	5,220.00	8,119.00
United Appeal	12,900.00	11,820.00	12,685.00
Harvest Appeal	13,175.00	9,557.00	8,810.00

Overall giving has increased significantly from the previous year. This has been facilitated through the particular generosity of the congregation in establishing regular payments by standing order or delivering payments directly.

Total expenditure increased from **£211,133** in 2022 to **£274,894** in 2023. Total net income increased to **£376,252** compared with **£259,924** in 2022.

## 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 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.*

### GOING CONCERN

*The activities of the congregation are dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. 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.*

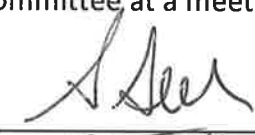
### RESERVES POLICY

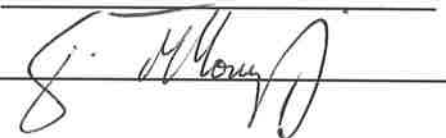
The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least 3 month's normal expenditure. At the year end, unrestricted reserves in the General Account were £260,517.83.

**RISK REVIEW**

*A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees, and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.*

Approved by Kirk Session & Church Committee at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Stephen Sharpe (Clerk of Session) 

Mr Ian McConaghy (Hon Treasurer) 

**QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS OR AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF Newmills  
Presbyterian (Iveagh) CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**