

# Annalong Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 2024

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Reference and administrative details

**Registered charity name** Annalong Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

**Charity registration number** NI104990

**Principal office** 30 Ballyveaghmore Road  
Ballymartin  
Co Down  
BT34 4UL

**The trustees** Rev David McCullagh  
Keith Hanna  
Brian G McKibbin  
Alan E Hill  
Trevor McConnell  
William McConnell  
Robert J Burden  
Harding R Acheson  
James A Hanna  
Jason Hill  
Charles Martin  
Samuel McConnell

**Independent examiner** Purdy Quinn  
42 Greencastle Street  
KILKEEL  
Co Down  
BT34 4BH

# Annalong Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2024

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### Structure, governance 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 at least five times in each year or more frequent if appropriate.

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 the votes cast.

#### 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. Annalong Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Newry 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.

#### Objectives and activities

Annalong 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 purposes by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. 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.

# Annalong Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

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### Objectives and activities *(continued)*

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision 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 the bounds of our community.
- 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.

The congregation 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 Schools
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Bowling Club
- Presbyterian Woman
- Men's Fellowship
- Girls Brigade
- Boys Brigade
- Tuesday Fellowship
- Youth Fellowship
- Women's Bible Study
- Warm Welcome
- Saturday Night Lights

### Achievements and performance

#### Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11:30am (11:00 am during July and August) and 7:00pm.

During the week the Bible study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular worship services during the year we conducted several marriage services, acknowledged God's gift of new life as 7 people were baptised, 1 infant and 6 on profession of faith. We also gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2024 there were 243 communicant members and 327 families connected with the congregation.

#### Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age were visited on a regular basis by the minister and the elders.

# Annalong Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

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### **Achievements and performance**

At a local level the congregation seeks to be a witness to the community by providing clubs and organisations for young and old to attend and by providing spiritual and emotional support to everyone who seeks help.

Another of our yearly activities is Fit For Life which again ran on Tuesday nights during May for women. It consists of various types of exercise or walks around the village followed by a short epilogue from a guest speaker. As always this was well attended by a wide age range of women from our own congregation and local community.

During the summer we ran two events for young people of the area. During July we had a Bible club for primary school children and during August we held "Connect" for young people of high school age. Also during the summer months we had Sunday night Lights, a chance for young adults to meet after the evening service for food and fellowship in various people's homes. This has continued through the rest of the year, were young adults met one Saturday a month to study the Bible and have fellowship together.

We had a collection of gift boxes for the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal in November these were delivered to their collection centre for distribution by that organisation.

A joint Christmas Bible Club was held with Kilhorne Parish Church for primary school children on 10<sup>th</sup> December to share the true meaning of Christmas.

Also in December a community carol service was held in the meeting house on 10<sup>th</sup> which many members of the local community attended. Carols around the local Christmas Tree was also arranged and well attended on Christmas Eve.

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 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 congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and/or 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.

### **Property**

During the year necessary repair work was carried out in the 'New Hall'. The 'Net Hall' also underwent refurbishment during the year. This accounts for the increase in the annual 'repairs & maintenance' cost.

In addition to this, a congregational meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December to vote on acquisition of land adjacent to congregational property. The purchase of this land was passed unanimously and we will proceed in 2025.

### **Organisations**

Sunday is the busiest day of the week with both Junior and Senior Sunday Schools running before our main worship service.

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## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2024

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### Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Junior Sunday School caters for children of nursery and primary school age and runs from September until June. The Senior Sunday School has four different classes divided into Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Years 11 and 12 combined. Our evening service is held later in the day with Youth Fellowship held after the service for young people of high school age.

During the week various activities and organisation run during September to June catering for all age groups and everyone from the local community is very welcome. These include:

Girls Brigade which met every Monday with Tinies and Explorers (preschool to P4), juniors (P5 - P7), Seniors (Yr 8- Yr10) and Brigadiers (Yr11 upwards) and Boys Brigade which met every week on different nights with Anchor boys (P1 to P4), Junior Section (P5 to P7) and Company Section (age 11 to 18) .

The Bowling club which met on a Tuesday night has a wide range of ages attending providing an informal evening of fellowship and fun.

Tuesday Fellowship which was held every first and third Tuesday of the month. This organises activities for senior citizens providing an opportunity to meet other people and go on trips.

Similarly, The Contact Group called Tots and Toys was held on a Wednesday morning and provided a cross community link between the church and the local community for mothers and their toddlers.

Saturday Night Lights a new organisation tailored for young adults met one Saturday a month to study the Bible and have fellowship together.

Wednesdays see our midweek fellowship meet at night to study more of God's word and pray for the local community and further afield. Everyone is treated to a cup of tea or coffee with some treats to eat on arrival.

Once a month we run a meeting dedicated to women or men. PW known as Women Together and Men's night. Both have guest speakers and provide a warm inviting place where the aims of the church can be nurtured and encouraged.

Each Monday morning between 10:30 and 12:30 Warm Welcome meets in the Fellowship room of our main hall. This provides a warm space for anyone from the local community to meet for refreshments and a listening ear.

Once a month the Ladies Bible Study meet to learn more from the Bible in a friendly and supportive environment.

### **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

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## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

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### Achievements and performance *(continued)*

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.

### Financial review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 270 (2023 - 240) contributors during the year.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £301,781 (2023 - £245,199).

The expenditure for the year was £285,085 (2023 - £254,709).

The Charity reported an overall surplus for the year of £17,473 (2023 – deficit (£8,145)).

The reserves of the Charity at 31 December 2024 totalled £1,035,297 (2023 - £1,017,824).

### 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)".

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### Financial review *(continued)*

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 in the General Fund. At the year-end unrestricted general reserves were £73,750 (2023 - £62,289) which represents a higher level of reserves. The Trustees however, consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent of the ongoing financial support of members.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Rev David McCullagh  
Trustee



Keith Hanna  
Trustee



William McConnell  
Trustee