

**MIDDLETOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2018**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105074)

MIDDLETOWN 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 2018**, including a statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Middletown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland,
Church Street Middletown Co Armagh BT60 4JR.

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105074).

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who were trustees during 2018 were;

Rev David Hagan

Mr Samuel Cargill

Mr David Mc Elnea

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister Rev David Hagan

Treasurer Mr Samuel Cargill

BANKERS

First Trust 18-20 Scotch St, Dungannon BT70

MIDDLETOWN 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.

The Kirk Session met 3 times in 2018 and also before 2 Communion Services.

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.

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. Middletown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Monaghan 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.

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

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Middletown Congregation 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 statement reads: *"To know God better; to make God better known"*

Our Vision is to be an inclusive, welcoming and all-age community of Christ's people 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 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

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on two 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 and Prayer meetings.

We have a wide range of activities and organisations including:

- Sunday School,
- Crèche on Sundays mornings
- Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
- Presbyterian Women – a missionary organisation for women of all ages
- Church Choir and Praise Band
- Bowling Club
- Summer Out Reach Programme Fit For Life

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

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The Congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join.

The fortnightly Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship and to study the scriptures

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledge God's gift of new life at Sacraments of Baptism. There were 0 adult and 1 infant baptisms.

Funeral services were conducted throughout the year giving thanks for the lives of our members who have passed on and giving comfort to those who have been bereaved. Marriages have also taken place in the church during 2018.

At 31 December 2017 there were 56 communicant members and 25 families connected with the congregation. The average week attendance at morning worship is 35.

Pastoral care

Members of the Congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister and assistant minister. Our twenty elders visited approximately eighteen homes each in their pastoral district and the Pastoral Care Team each visit a small number of people who have agreed to have regular visits from the team.

Mission and Outreach

At a local level the Congregation seeks to engage in outreach within our community with the Summer Out Reach Programme Fit For Life.

Over sixteen of our young people helped run summer missions and camps locally and overseas.

The Congregation supports the United Appeal for Missions which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church. 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 congregations in areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The Congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School Project, Children's Society and other special appeals made by the Presbyterian Church.

Presbytery

The congregation is represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and a nominated elder. This provides an important link between the Congregation and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The minister and a nominated elder attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

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

Organisation Age Range Frequency of meeting Average attendance

Sunday School 3 – 18 Sunday mornings (Sept – June) 5

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study 5-10

Presbyterian Women (PW) Adult women Monthly (Sept March) 12

Bowling Club Men and Women Weekly (Sept May) 15

Summer Out Reach Programme Fit For Life 50

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and leading 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 notice boards, 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.

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is member's contributions through the Weekly Freewill

Offering. There were 50 contributors during the year (50 in 2017) donating a total of £13942, compared to £12040.00.

Total income of the congregation during the year was £23195, compared to £26601 in the previous year.

Total expenditure of the congregation increased from £22580 to £23281.

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 the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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 30 October 2019 and signed on its behalf by;

Signed:  Date: 30 October 2019 (Minister)

Signed:  Date: 30 October 2019
(TREASURER)