

**DRUMGOOLAND 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

Drumgooland congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Drumgooland Road, Ballyward, Castlewellan, BT31 9QG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105079)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Mr. Hubert McGaffin
Mr. Kenneth Johnston

Dr Alastair James Chestnutt
Mr. Joseph Whiteside

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Convenor
Clerk of Session
Treasurer

Vacant
Rev Andy Downey
Dr. Alastair Chesnutt
Vacant

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

S.M. Vint and Company
Chartered Certified Accountants
8 Newry Road, Banbridge, BT32 3HN.

BANKERS

Danske Bank
37-39 Bridge Street, Banbridge, Co Down, BT32 3JL

SOLICITORS

Trevor McBurney & Co Solicitors
11 Downshire Place, Banbridge, Co Down, BT32 3DF

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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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 congregation. 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 twice in each year or as 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 those who vote.

On 31st August 2023 Rev Cleland resigned as minister and consequently the congregation is vacant under the care of the Presbytery of Iveagh. Rev A Downey was appointed convenor of the vacancy on 1st September 2023.

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. Drumgooland congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Iveagh Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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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, administrative 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.

Drumgooland 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, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable its members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purpose is to:

- Worship God and glorify His holy name.
- Proclaim the Good News of the Gospel through word and life so that people of all ages are drawn to a personal saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- Develop discipleship as we grow together as followers of Christ through worship, Bible study, prayer and mutual encouragement and support.
- Experience fellowship as God's people, united in a common faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord and committed to one another in practical love.
- Express our faith through acts of service – using the gifts and abilities God has given each of us to serve His purposes both in the church and in the wider world.

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

- A Gospel centred church - where the Good News of Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection for sinners is proclaimed. We aim to see people of all ages come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and make Him known.
- A family church where everybody, from the youngest to the oldest are welcome and can feel at home.
- A community church. We are part of the community and we seek to reach out to and serve the members of the local community. Everyone is welcome to our services and activities.
- A friendly church. We would like to assure you that you will receive a warm welcome at any of our services and organisations. We would be delighted to see you.

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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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 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:

- Bible Study and Prayer Group
- Bowling Club
- Boys Brigade
- Girls Brigade
- Good Companions
- Mothers and Toddlers (Little Acorns)
- Presbyterian Women
- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship (Ignite)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00 am. 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 services during the year we gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 100 communicant members and 110 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 60 at present.

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 or elders.

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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Mission and outreach

The congregation continues to support a number of missions and charities.

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 congregations in the 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 and any other special appeals.

Presbytery

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 congregation 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, in June.

Property

No major repairs or refurbishments to our property were carried out this year.

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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Organisations

On Sunday mornings the Sunday School and Bible class meet from 10-11.00am.

The Boys' Brigade normally meets in Drumgooland church hall from 6.30 -9.15pm each Monday evening (Sept-March/April). Different age groups are catered for ranging from Anchor Boys (P1-P4), Junior Section (P5-P7) and Company Section (Year 8-14). On average about 30 boys attend the BB.

Normally from September to April the Bowling Club meets each Thursday evening in Drumgooland church hall. The Bowling Club has 15 plus members. They regularly play against other local clubs, with matches taking place at Drumgooland Church Hall and at the premises of the other clubs.

Normally each Wednesday morning our hall is used by our mothers and toddlers' group, "Little Acorns". 15 plus children and their carers would normally attend. The group would usually meet in the Drumgooland church hall from 9.45am until 11.15am.

Once a month on Thursday morning Good Companions meets. 10-15 would normally attend with different speakers each month.

Each Friday evening the Girls' Brigade normally meets in the church from 7.15 -9.00pm (Sept-March/April). Different age groups are catered for ranging from Baby Explorers (3-5 years), Explorers (5-8 years,) Juniors (8-11), Seniors (12- 14 years), Brigaders (14-18 years).

Our Youth Fellowship 'Ignite' meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings 7.00-8.30pm (Sept -June) alternating between Drumgooland church hall and Kilkinamurry.

Presbyterian Women normally meets the first Tuesday evening of every month.

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.

**DRUMGOOLAND CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
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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, 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.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 60 families contributing during the year [60 families in the previous year, 2022] donating a total of £37,446 (£34,520 in previous year, 2022)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £80,637, compared to £89,424 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased to £62,011 from £96,660 in the previous year.

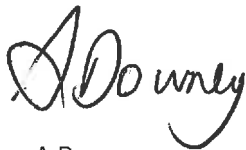
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

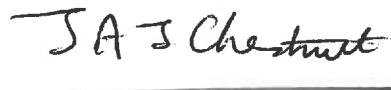
As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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 7th August 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Rev A Downey



Dr A Chestnutt