

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105084)**

## **ST ANDREW'S BANGOR 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 2020 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

St Andrews's Bangor Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
111 Clandeboye Road  
Bangor  
BT20 3 JW  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105084)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Mark Johnston	Mr Alan Briggs
Mr Robert Beers	Mr John Little
Mr David Hooks	Mr Stephen Carroll
Mr Raymond Miskelly (Died 16 January 2020)	Mrs Mildred Wylie
Mrs Daphne Campbell	Mr Leslie Dick
Mr Keith Hooks	
Mr Andrew Frazer	

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Mark Johnston
Clerks of Session	Mr Alan Briggs and Mr David Hooks
Treasurer	Mrs Sandi Thompson

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Mr S McCausland  
13, Cleland Park Central  
Bangor  
BT20 3EP

### **BANKERS**

Danske Bank  
Belfast City Office  
Donegall Square West  
BT1 6JS

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR 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 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 10 times in each year (no meetings are held in July and August) and additional meetings are held as and when required.

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. St Andrew's Bangor congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ards Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

## **ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

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.

St Andrew's Bangor 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 her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregations mission statement is

"For God's glory and by His grace, in obedience to His Word, we will become a worshipping, praying, serving, growing family of Jesus' disciples reaching out to our community and to the world in love."

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]

## **ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday morning and on the second and third Sunday evening of each month and visitors are welcome to join. 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 has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Presbyterian Women
- Bowling Club
- Boy's Brigade
- Girl's Brigade
- Ladies Prayer Group
- Sunshine Hour (senior citizens group)
- Early Birds (providing refreshments for those attending adjacent primary school)
- Knit "n" Natter
- Coffee ,Cake and Chat
- Blossom (for ladies in 20's, 30's and 40's)
- Connect (young adults group)

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am. Each Sunday as well as teaching from the Bible and prayer we sing a variety of hymns, and spiritual songs, as we focus our hearts and minds on worshipping the Lord together. During lockdown following the outbreak of Covid all services were on line with in person services held when regulations permitted.

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

Prayer underpins everything that is done in the fellowship, and there are many times and places that we can gather together as a church family to pray. In addition to Sunday Worship, prayer is a vital part of our weekly Home Fellowship Groups and indeed all the ministries connected with the church family. We also have a Prayer Whats App facility, where daily prayer requests and updates can be sent directly to individuals phones.

As well as our regular services during the year we conduct marriage services and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2020 there were 139 communicant members and 221 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 180.

## **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, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

## **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation continues to build relations with our friends in the school next door and staff and pupils were thrilled to receive buns from the church family. We have been asked to help with the running of an SU group in the school and the school held its carol service in the church in December. Our interaction with the football club continues we hosted a thanksgiving service here in the church to celebrate their Centenary Year. One of our fellowship groups has also distributed gifts to local businesses at Christmas and Easter. Our suite of halls continues to be extensively used by the local community and the school now use the Kerr Hall for after school activities on a number of days each week. We continue to interact with the CVCA who use our halls for larger gatherings.

With regard to mission work further afield we continue to support the work at the school in Bilegela, Ethiopia and the ladies prayer group provide financial support for a family in need which was identified by Wondimu our contact in Ethiopia.

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.

The congregation also contributes to the denominations Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

## **ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **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 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 normally held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June, but due to Covid no General Assembly was held in 2020.

### **Property**

The congregation owns the church building and a suite of halls which are used extensively during the week by church organisations and local community groups. The main church roof was in need of replacement and major redevelopment project commenced in 2020 to replace the roof, install new heating and lighting systems and build a Welcome Centre. The congregation also owns a manse which is in a good state of repair.

### **Organisations**

Organisations are listed below but due to the Covid pandemic many were unable to meet from March 2020

#### **Praise and Play (Creche for babies and toddlers)**

Children and young people are a vital part of our church family and we seek to do all we can to love, nurture and care for them, and their families. We provide a Creche facility every Sunday morning from 10:50am through to the end of Morning Worship.

#### **Kids 4 Jesus (for 3 year olds to Primary 7)**

This is our Sunday School ministry that takes place every week at St Andrew's. Young people join with the wider church family at 11am for the first part of Morning Worship and then enjoy a special programme together for the rest of the morning.

#### **Bible Class (for Year 8+)**

The young people join with the wider church family at 11am for the first part of Morning Worship, and then enjoy a special programme in the Kerr Hall for the rest of the morning.

#### **Youth Fellowship (for Year 8+)**

This is a great opportunity for young people to meet every other Sunday evening in the Kerr Hall. There's lots of fun, food, refreshments, and an opportunity to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**Girl's Brigade**

A uniformed organisation meeting on Monday evenings to provides an opportunity for girls aged between 3 and 18 to come together to enjoy a wide range of activities and to learn more about Jesus

**Boy's Brigade**

Meets on a Thursday (3-11 years old) or Friday (secondary school age) evenings to provide boys with an opportunity to learn more about Jesus, to enjoy physical activities and do craftwork.

**Meals Ministry**

This is one of the ways we seek to love and support each other in the church family and local community in a very practical way, is to provide meals for those who are under pressure, for one reason or another.

**Coffee, Cake and Chat**

Every Monday morning tea/coffee and cake is provided to allow members of the congregation and local community to meet informally and share refreshments.

**Early Birds**

Meets every Tuesday morning, 8am-9am, a team of volunteers share tea, coffee, hot chocolate, juice and refreshments from the foyer of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, to parents and children as they arrive at Clandeboye Primary School.

**Mums and Tots**

Meets every Tuesday morning, 9.30am-11.30am in the Minor Hall. All parents, grandparents, childminders and of course babies, toddlers and children get together for fun and refreshments.

**Knit 'n' Knatter**

Meets the first Tuesday of each month between 11am to 12.30pm from September to May, in the Minor Hall. It is an opportunity to swap patterns, ideas, tips as well as encouraging beginners and helping each other with knitting/crochet skills. People of all ages and abilities are very welcome

**Presbyterian Women (PW)**

Organisation for ladies of the congregation which meets every second Tuesday of the month. Each month there's a guest speaker with creative presentations and the opportunity to enjoy supper together.

**Indoor Bowling**

Meets every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Kerr Hall.

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
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**Sunshine Hour**

An opportunity for Senior Citizens across the church family and local community, to hear from visiting speakers, and to enjoy fellowship and friendship with one another. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm-4pm in the Minor Hall.

**Blossom**

An opportunity for girls in their 20's, 30's and 40's to get together socially and to support each other in the midst of the demands of daily life. A number of activities are planned throughout the year.

**Connect**

A group for Young adults aged 18-30 which will meet as arranged throughout the year.

**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.

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**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.

**ST ANDREW'S BANGOR 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 ~~xxxx~~ contributors during the year (161 - 2019] donating a total of £72,998 (£70,451 in previous year, 2019)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £277,547 compared to £215,743 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £130,682 to £252,696 reflecting the redevelopment work being carried out.

**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 congregations 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 <sup>6 October</sup> ~~xxx~~ 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Mark Johnston



Mr David Hooks