

**BANNSIDE 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 (NIC105121)

BANNSIDE 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

Bannside congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
21 Castlewellan Road, Banbridge BT32 4AX

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105121)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Frank Arnold	Sandra Bickerstaff
Ivan Christie	Jim Dale
George Derby	Helen Derby
David Dodds	Alan Dowd
Billy Ferguson	Mark Gray
Gavin Henry	Mary Hewitson
Norman Houston	James Hudson
Barbara Huey	Jeremy Kyle
Jim Mallon	Ben Matson
Kim McAnespie	Sally McCahon
Dennis McLeod	Elizabeth McLeod
Dereck McMaster	Gillian McNaugher
George Nesbitt	Robert Nesbitt
Bobby Niblock	Robert Patterson

Henry Plester

Colleen Rimmer

John Robinson

Anne Scott

Brian Topping

Leslie White

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Rev Dr Mark Gray

Clerk of Session

David Dodds

Treasurer

Leslie White

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Philip Pollock

BANKERS

Danske Bank
37-39 Bridge Street
Banbridge
BT32 3JL

SOLICITORS

Gillen & Co
3 Old Kenlis Street
Banbridge
BT32 3BD

BANNSIDE 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 six times 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 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. Bannside 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 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.

Bannside 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.

Our key objective is to put Jesus Christ at the centre of our Church and to witness to the values He gives us. We seek to create a Christian Community of faith and worship, and a fellowship which is open and caring. We want to have a strong sense of mission at home and further afield.

We seek to relate constructively to other Christian denominations and so be part of Christ's ongoing work of reconciliation.

Both male and female are accepted and respected in leadership roles. We aim to have a non-judgemental approach in welcoming people.

We encourage each person to explore an authentic spirituality, but to be aware of the diversity of spiritual experiences people have in their journey of faith.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords 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. The congregation holds regular Bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Club
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Bowling Club

- Girls' Brigade
- Bereavement Support Group
- PW
- Pastoral Support Group
- Ladies' Prayer Group
- Friendship Group
- Widows' Group
- Men's Club
- Craft Group
- Ladies' Badminton

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am. 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 acknowledged God's gift of new life at two Sacraments of Baptism, we conducted two marriage services and gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 376 communicant members and 380 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 160, with up to 200 viewing the streamed service either live or later.

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

Bannside Tots provides a welcome on a weekly basis to those parents and grandparents who are caring for pre-school children. The inter-church Lenten Bible study in which Bannside is involved helps develop our relationships within and across the community divide.

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 denomination's Presbyterian Children's Society, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

In 2023 Bannside contributed £11,670 to the PCI United Appeal, £4,574 to the PCI World Development Appeal, £3007 to the Presbyterian Children's Society, £1,870 to Tearfund, £1,870 to Christian Aid and £1,000 to the PW Missions Fund.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and 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, in October.

Property

In 2023 the total expenditure on church property projects, excluding maintenance and running costs, was £5,876. This was comprised of new fire doors in the Minor Hall (£3,575), new thermostatic radiator valves in the Minor Hall (£1,296) and new blinds in the Minor Hall and Anderson Room (£1,005).

Organisations

During the course of the year the following organisations met:-

- Sunday School
Approx 10 children attend on a weekly basis, following the Scripture Union programme
- Youth Fellowship
Approx 10 teens attend on a monthly basis. They have a varied programme of Bible reflections, life application and refreshments.
- Mothers and Toddlers
There are 52 Mums, Grannies and childminders on the register, with 25-30 on average attending each week between 10.00 and 11.45am. Two major events in the calendar are the Christmas Party and the annual trip to Scallywags.
- Bowling Club
The Club meets weekly, holding monthly tournaments as well as playing home and away fixtures against other local clubs.
- Girls' Brigade
There are over 60 girls registered in our Girls' Brigade Company, which meets on Friday

nights from September to March. Badge work includes crafts, cooking, sports and educational items and the girls complete a scripture course.

- PW
The thirty members of PW meet every month to listen to speakers or do an activity. They gave £1,000 to the central PW Mission Fund.
- Craft Group
This Group of about 12-16 ladies meets every Wednesday to use their skills to create a variety of goods using a range of knitting, sewing and other talents.
- Ladies' Badminton
A small but regular group of ladies meet every Wednesday for some light exercise and friendship.
- Widows' Group
This Group was set up four years ago to provide support to those who had been bereaved over the previous five years. It meets monthly and up to five members avail of the support offered.
- Men's Club
The Men's Club meets monthly from January to March and from September to December when up to 20 members, from both Bannside and other congregations, hear from speakers on a range of topics.
- Ladies' Prayer Group
The Prayer Group meets for an hour every Monday morning to bring to God our thanks for all He has done for us, our concerns for those people and situations known to us, local, national and global, and our hopes for the future.
- Bereavement Support Group
The Bereavement Support Group offers prayerful and practical support for families at a stressful and emotional time.
- Pastoral Support Group
This Group provides practical support to those members affected by loss of a family member or those recovering after hospital treatment or other trauma
- Friendship Group
This Group, which targets social isolation, meets once a month and is open to all age groups but particularly the over 50s. It provides a warm welcoming space for people to socialise, have a nourishing light meal and build friendships.

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.

BANNSIDE 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 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.

**BANNSIDE 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 235 families who recorded contributions during the year (239 in 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £210,362, compared to £207,893 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £178,885 to £195,374.

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 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 8th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

[Name] Mark Gray

[Date] 8th April 2024

[Name] David Dodds

[Date] 8th April 2024