

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 2023

---

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Reference and administrative details

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

**Charity registration number** NIC105176

**Principal office** 18 Newcastle Street  
Kilkeel  
Co Down  
BT34 4AF

**The trustees** Rev. Stephen Johnston  
Mr John Peacock  
Dr David Orr  
Mr Robert Adair  
Mr George McCullough  
Mr Oswald Wallace  
Mr Francis Newell  
Mr James Graham  
Mr Edmund Donaldson  
Mr David McCulla  
Mr Wesley Hanna  
Mr Merwyn Aiken  
Mr Samuel Burns  
Mr Edward Graham  
Mr Robert Graham  
Mr David Parke  
Mr Sydney A Hanna

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

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

---

### 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 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 two or three 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. Kilkeel congregation of the 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 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.

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

---

## Objectives and activities

### Description and Purpose

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

Kilkeel 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.

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 congregational mission is the following...  
This is why Kilkeel Presbyterian Church exists...

### We exist to...

**Know and glorify God, and produce Christ-like disciples committed to witnessing and showing love to all people everywhere.**

## 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 six 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 Fellowship
- Girls' Brigade & Boys' Brigade
- Presbyterian Woman (PW)
- Youth Club
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Life Builders Gym
- Bowling Club

## Activities and Objectives

### Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am 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.

At 31 December 2023 there were 177 communicant members and 303 families connected with the congregations. The average weekly 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 supported by elders.

---

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

---

## Objectives and activities *(continued)*

### Mission and outreach

The congregation seeks to reach into the local community with the Gospel. It is engaged in community outreach across the whole community. The Church also takes an interest in work overseas and has a particular interest in Christian work in Uganda.

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, 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 also contributes to the denomination's Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

### 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 June.

### Property

The property (main Church Building, Church Halls & the Manse) is diligently maintained by the Church Committee.

During 2023 the congregation upgraded the Choir room and created a new entrance from the Choir Room into the main sanctuary which allows for much better less-abled access. They subsequently renamed the Choir Room and it is now known as The Meeting Room and each Sunday morning tea, coffee and refreshments are served before the morning service.

### Organisations

**Sunday School** meets on Sunday morning (excluding July, August and early September). Activities include singing, Bible stories and quizzes.

**Youth Fellowship** meets on Sunday evenings for the youth. Activities include teaching and friendship.

**Girls' Brigade & Boys' Brigade** are uniformed organisations that meet through the week for fun, friendship and the teaching of basic Christian principles.

**Presbyterian Woman (PW)** meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month for Christian fellowship and instruction on basic Christian truths.

**Youth Club** meet on Friday nights for fun, games and social time together with a Christian "centre spot".

**Mums and Toddlers** meet on Tuesday mornings and both parents and children enjoy time for social interaction and refreshments.

**Bowling Club** meet on Tuesday & Friday evenings for social interaction and friendship.

**Life Builders Gym** is open each day, with the exception of Sunday.

---

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

---

### Objectives and activities *(continued)*

#### 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.

#### Financial review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering.

Total income of the congregation during the year was £244,299, compared to £235,229 in the previous year.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £256,786 (2022 - £233,740).

A deficit of £12,487 was reported for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022 - surplus £1,489).

#### Reserves Policy

The trustees consider it appropriate to hold £15,000 as a General Reserve.

This amount had been held during previous years, but due to the deficit reported for the 2023 year and the General Reserve was reduced by £13,571 during the year to 31 December 2023. The General Reserve balance at 31 December 2023 was £3,952 (2022- £17,523).

Restricted Funds are held at levels consider appropriate given the purpose of the fund.

The trustees consider it appropriate to hold a minimum of £9,000 in the Property/Building Reserve. The balance at 31 December 2023 was £3,496 (2022 – £7,185).

#### 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.

---

# Kilkeel Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

---


### 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.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 25.05.2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

  
.....  
Rev. Stephen Johnston  
Trustee

  
.....  
Dr David Orr  
Trustee