

# **DRUMLOUGH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105187)**

## **DRUMLOUGH 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**

Drumlough congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
5 Rafferty's Hill  
Hillsborough  
Co Down  
BT26 6QB

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105187)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Mr Robert Cairns	Mr Samuel Kerr
Mr Andrew Catherwood	Rev László Orbán
Mr David Gibson	Mr Robert Spence
Mr Reginald Jess	Mr Ferris Sudlow
Mr Samuel Jordan	Mr William Young
Mr Thomas Jordan	
Mr William Jordan	

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev László Orbán
Clerk of Session	Mr David Gibson
Treasurer	Mr Nigel Murdock

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

**Mrs Sarah Curran**  
**63 Drumlough Road**  
**Hillsborough**  
**Co Down**  
**BT26 6PU**

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

**BANKERS**

**Danske Bank  
62-66 Bow Street  
Lisburn  
Co Antrim  
BT26 1YS**

**SOLICITORS**

**Mc Farland Graham and McCombe  
41-43 Bachelors Walk  
Lisburn  
Co Antrim  
BT28 1XN**

## **DRUMLOUGH 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 congregation. 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 twice in 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 the votes 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. Drumlough congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Dromore 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.

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

### 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.

Drumlough 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 congregation's mission statement is to bring glory to God and to enjoy Him through meaningful *worship*, caring *fellowship* and relevant *evangelism*. Because eternity matters...

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Worship    | We worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit by: keeping the teaching of His word central and endeavouring to apply God's truth to our everyday lives; honouring Him in thoughtful and meaningful praise; uniting as a fellowship to pray diligently - adoring Him, thanking Him for His grace and praying for the people and work of Drumlough Church, for the work of mission both at home and overseas, for the needs of our community, the leaders of our country and for the world in which we live. |
| Fellowship | We promote fellowship by: providing opportunities for all ages to meet together; always being attentive to spiritual and material needs; learning more about God; encouraging one another to grow in our faith so that caring and loving friendships may develop.  |
| Evangelism | We evangelise as a fellowship by: both prayerfully and practically being involved in the work of mission; reaching out to others through our own personal witness and our witness as a church whose desire is to see people turn to God through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus.  |

## **DRUMLOUGH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **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 three Sundays 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, worship and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Bowling Club
- Sunday School
- Choir
- PW
- Table Tennis Club
- VIP Club
- Women's Fellowship
- Youth Fellowship

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12 noon and the first Sunday in the month at 6.30pm. A prayer meeting has an attendance on average of 8 at 6pm, before the evening service. Prayer meeting also takes place every other Tuesday of the month at 8pm in the church manse. On average 8 people attend. During the week the Midweek Bible Study (Wednesday 8pm, shared with Anahilt) provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. Mission Partners also visit regularly at our Midweek.

As well as our regular services during the year we conduct marriage services, sacraments of baptism and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year. However, there were no marriages or baptisms throughout 2023.

At 31 December 2023 there were 111 communicant members and 124 families connected with the congregation. The average week attendance at morning worship is 70.

#### **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. CD and DVD recordings of our services are delivered to members of our congregation who are unable to attend due to health or age.

## **DRUMLOUGH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation serves the over 50s in our community with the VIP Club. We reach out to children of our membership and the wider community through an annual Holiday Bible Club. At our midweek mission evenings we supported those guest speakers who spoke of the work they are doing around the world. We also supported global mission with other special offerings.

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 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 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 nominated elders would normally attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

### **Property**

During 2023 work continued on the construction of a replacement church hall.

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

### Organisations

#### Bowling Club

We met each Tuesday from 7:30pm in our church hall from January to April 2023 and September to December 2023. Average attendance was 20. Friendly matches, both Home and Away, were arranged and started in November 2023.

#### Sunday School

We meet during Sunday morning worship. Children are in church for 15 minutes and then leave for Sunday School. We open with prayer, then have singing, depending on numbers, before dividing into two young groups: Nursery to P3 and P4-P7.

In each group a Bible lesson is taught and children have work books to complete, to help them remember the lesson. We use the Go Teach material. There are two teams of three people helping on a monthly rota. There are 14 children on the roll. Average attendance is 6. Secondary school age young people have their own group – Bible Class. 10 meet on selected Sundays, and have two leaders who rotate to teach them. Average attendance is 6.

We have special Family services throughout the year when all children and young people stay in church. Children take part in singing, reading, praying etc. in these services.

Dates of these Family services were:

19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Mother's Day

9<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Easter Sunday

7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Youth Service

4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Children's Day

18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Father's Day

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Nativity

Our special week for our children and young people was Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 7pm – 9pm. All children in the local area were welcome to attend Holiday Bible Club.

#### Choir

We have a mixed choir of around 13 members attending. On Sunday 09/04/23 am we held our Easter Service. Approximately 3 weeks beforehand 13 people met in the church on Thursday evenings to practice 2 pieces for the service. The annual Orange Service took place on 07/05/2023 and again the Choir provided special music for this. Our Harvest Services on 08/10/2023 gave the Choir another opportunity to sing 2 pieces. We met end of September/early October on Thursday evenings in the church to practice special music, accompanied by organ/piano. We did not meet in December as the Carol Service was held in our sister congregation on 14/12/2023. We enjoy serving God through music.

#### PW

PW met on the first Monday of January – April and October – December at 8pm with an average of 20 ladies in attendance. We had a varied program at the start of 2023 with visiting speakers taking part and

## **DRUMLOUGH CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

sharing their experiences. We had our Visitors Night in March when Melanie Bond shared her testimony and sang and neighbouring PW groups attended, approximately 45 in total. Our outing took us to Hollymount Nursery where we also had afternoon tea and glorious weather. In October, we had a joint meeting with the ladies in our sister congregation, Annahilt. At Christmas, we had a Christmas programme and we all enjoyed a pie and salad tea provided by the committee members.

### **Table Tennis Club**

Each Monday between January and May, and September and December, our hall is used by the Table Tennis Club. Eleven members were regular attendees. The club played in the East Down Churches Table Tennis League, where Home and Away matches were played each week. Members also travelled to Newcastle for the 'Knockout Tournament.'

### **VIP Club**

We are a group for the over 50's ladies and gentlemen who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 2:30 – 4:00pm. We meet January to April 2023 and October to December 2023. We have a variety of speakers from Charities, Health profession and Local businesses. We had a garden visit and afternoon tea in April. Average attendance was 20.

### **Women's Fellowship**

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month between January and May, and September and December, our Women's Fellowship meet in the hall from 10am – 11:30am approximately. Our average attendance is 7, occasionally 11. We have deep, enlightening, and enjoyable bible study and discussion which takes up approx. half our time with the remainder spent in prayer.

### **Youth Fellowship**

We met the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January to April and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of September to December 2023. An average of 7 members a night from 12 – 18 years old from Drumlough and Annahilt. There are two leaders, one from each church. We held a fun day in September to encourage new members to come along. Laszlo made goulash and the ladies of both congregations provided desserts. We played a number of icebreaker games and got to know each other.

### **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.

**DRUMLOUGH 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.

## DRUMLOUGH 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 108 contributors during the year [104 in previous year, 2022] donating a total of £43,349 (£39,111 in previous year, 2022)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £113,981, compared to £108,234 in the previous year. The Total Receipts are shown as £141,981 for 2023, but this includes £28,000 in Member Interest-free Loans, which, under CCNI reporting rules confirmed by Church House, DO NOT qualify as part of Gross Annual Total Income - therefore, £28k has been deducted to get this figure. (See note 11 in SOFA's Notes to Accounts). Therefore, the change in income is minimal.

Total expenditure increased from £77,117 to £255,126 due to the huge increase in Total expenditure in relation to the final phase of construction of the new hall.

(Increase in income was as expected – increase in number of members, and increased expenditure as expected due to the increase of work in the final phase of construction on the new hall.)



#### 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 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and signed on its behalf by

[Name]		[Name]	
[Date]	25-1-2024	[Date]	25/1/2024