

**St Columba's Presbyterian Church**

**a Congregation of the Presbyterian  
Church in Ireland**

**Trustees' Annual Report and  
Financial Statements for the year  
ended 31 December 2024**

**Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 105238**

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Reference and administrative details

Address: 10 Killaney Avenue, Lisburn, BT28 1QU

Registered Charity Number NIC 105238

### Charity Trustees

Rev Rodney Cameron

Ellen Hillen

Myrtle Ferguson

Ronnie McAuley

Shirley Harrison

Lexi Burrows

### Principal Office Bearers

Minister Rev Rodney Cameron

Clerk of Session Ellen Hillen

Treasurer Valerie Nettleship

### Independent Examiner

John McCleary FCA  
McCleary & Co Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
Garvey Studios  
14 Longstone Street  
Lisburn  
BT28 1TP

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

### **Bankers**

Ulster Bank Ltd  
Bow Street  
Lisburn  
BT28 1BN

### **Solicitors**

Carson McDowell LLP  
Murray House  
14 Murray Street  
Belfast  
BT1 6DN

## **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 on average 5 times per year – 5 times in 2024.

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 Columba's 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: Mrs Myrtle Ferguson represents our congregation.

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

### **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.

St Columba's 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 purposes is as a congregation we commit ourselves to worship which puts God at the centre, opens us up to His love, faces us with our shortcomings and, making known His forgiveness, frees us to grow through His grace.

We commit ourselves to becoming a fellowship where we care for and encourage one another, using and developing the gifts that God has given us as we respond to His call to the young.

We commit ourselves to loving service to the community in which we are set, and to the world around us, witnessing to Christ, caring for a needy world, working for peace that God intends, and exercising a responsible stewardship for the environment.

### **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 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:

- Presbyterian Women
- Afternoon Club
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Line Dancing Exercise Class
- Kids Club
- Stitch and Enrich
- Drop-in Coffee Morning
- Drop-in Lunch (Monthly)

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

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

Additional regular group prayer time is within weekly bible study/Easter 12 prayer vigil.

At 31 December 2024 there were 40 communicant members and 169 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 45.

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

### **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**

The congregation has been sharing God's word to the local community through:-

Door Step Ministry – The pastoral care team continue to build on the door-step ministry started during lock-down with regular visits to housebound and those in need. Gift packs which include a spiritual message in the form of a "reflection" or a pamphlet or book is given along with the church magazine and a gift of food or flowers.

Annual Harvest Appeal – Donations to the local food bank were provided to help local families in need. This was continued through the year when a specific need was required.

Annual Christmas Gift Appeal – Donations were placed on a Christmas Tree and all proceeds were divided over the Moderators Appeal, and a benevolent fund to support prisoner needs such as personal items for prison visits, and any other needs required in the community.

In conjunction with Salt Factory Sports, a children's outreach programme ran on Thursday evenings with up to 30 children attending each week. This included a Holiday Bible Club for a week during July 2024.

We made financial contributions to:-

Tear Fund  
Earl Haig Fund  
Christian Aid

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 congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care. In 2024, St Columba's donated £3,490.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by Rev Rodney Cameron, our minister and Mrs Myrtle Ferguson. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

The minister and elder, Mrs Myrtle Ferguson attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June 2024.

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

### **Property**

#### **Church Buildings:**

A replacement wooden shed was purchased for the courtyard.

Continued upkeep of gardens and external areas are ongoing.

#### **Manse:**

Day to day upkeep and maintenance.

### **Organisations**

Children's ministry (Sunday School) is delivered on a Thursday evening through the Kids Club initiative which is run in conjunction with Salt Factory Sports.

This allows us to reach children in the community that would not be in attendance on a Sunday.

PW meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month with an average attendance of 15. Guest speakers included the PW President and a retired deaconess from PCI. The group led Sunday morning worship on Mothering Sunday and hosted the annual Christmas Carol service attended by visitors from other PW groups in the Lisburn area.

The Afternoon Club meet alternative Wednesday afternoons with approx. 12 regular attendees. The club is open to anyone in the local community and the ladies enjoy visiting speakers, quizzes and bring & buy sales. The group dine out on 2 occasions during the year.

Stitch and Enrich meet on alternative Wednesday afternoons and membership includes church members and members of the community. The group undertake knitting/crocheting projects that support overseas and home missions work as well as supporting the outreach work within the local community.

The Mid-Week bible study meets on a Wednesday night and gives people the opportunity to study and discuss scripture. At least half an hour is set aside for prayer, where the group bring specific people and situations before God. Throughout the year we hold a series of 6 -8 week bible studies which are open to all.

The Kids Club runs during school term time and meets on Thursday evenings for Primary School age children. Attendance ranges from 15 - 30 children, who participate in games, share in a Bible reading, and complete a related activity sheet.

The Parent and Toddler group in conjunction with Bryson Care was attended by mothers and grandmothers from within the church and from the local community. It operated on Friday mornings and opened up a new opportunity for the church to connect with young families.

Weekly Drop-in and Monthly Lunch is an opportunity to reach out to church members and the wider community. Regular attendance has resulted in new friendships forged and during this period of austerity, has provided a warm space for people to meet.

### **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.

### **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.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

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.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 78 families contributing during the year (73 families in previous year) donating a total of £36,694 (£33,992 in previous year).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £79,699 compared to £66,851 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £72,285 in 2023 to £73,496 in 2024.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES 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 1 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Rodney Cameron

1 May 2025



Ellen Hillen

1 May 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST COLUMBA'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 9 to 13.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection

  
John McCleary FCA  
McCleary & Co Ltd  
Chartered Accountants Ireland  
Chartered Accountants  
Garvey Studios  
14 Longstone Street  
Lisburn  
BT28 1TP

Date: 1 May 2025

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations and Legacies	2	45,992	15,141	61,133	51,922
Charitable Activities	3	990	16,807	17,797	14,317
Investment Income	4	399	370	769	612
		<u>47,381</u>	<u>32,318</u>	<u>79,699</u>	<u>66,851</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Raising Funds	5	271	-	271	295
Charitable Activities	6	52,462	20,763	73,225	71,990
		<u>52,733</u>	<u>20,763</u>	<u>73,496</u>	<u>72,285</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(5,352)	11,555	6,203	(5,434)
Transfer between funds		635	(635)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(4,717)	10,920	6,203	(5,434)
Funds brought forward		<u>30,124</u>	<u>23,424</u>	<u>53,548</u>	<u>58,982</u>
Funds carried forward	8	<u>25,407</u>	<u>34,344</u>	<u>59,751</u>	<u>53,548</u>


**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (Receipts and Payments Account)  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
Bank and Cash at start of year	30,124	23,424	53,548	58,982
Net movement in funds	(4,717)	10,920	6,203	(5,434)
Bank and cash at end of year	25,407	34,344	59,751	53,548
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>				
Bank Current Accounts			59,539	53,300
Cash in Hand			212	248
			59,751	53,548

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 1 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by

  
Rev Rodney Cameron

1 May 2025

  
Ellen Hillen

1 May 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 December 2024

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare it's accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

#### FUND ACCOUNTING

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Recorded giving				
FWO	36,694	4,615	41,309	38,391
Loose collections	143	24	167	239
Donations and gifts	1,919	5,502	7,421	5,933
Gift Aid	7,236	-	7,236	7,359
Legacies and bequest	-	5,000	5,000	-
	45,992	15,141	61,133	51,922

### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities				
Organisation income	-	4,589	4,589	778
Fundraising events	600	8,540	9,140	12,432
Miscellaneous income	390	1,478	1,868	1,107
Grants	-	2,200	2,200	-
	990	16,807	17,797	14,317

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**31 December 2024**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	399	370	769	612
	399	370	769	612

**5. RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	271	-	271	295
	271	-	271	295

**6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	5,024	-	5,024	4,785
Presbytery fees	490	-	490	629
Ministry and support staff costs	33,981	-	33,981	32,139
Congregational running expenses	8,678	11,724	20,402	23,900
Donations to Mission and charities	3,215	9,039	12,254	9,517
Governance costs	1,074	-	1,074	1,020
	52,462	20,763	73,225	71,990

**7. FIXED ASSETS**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Killaney Avenue, Old Warren, Lisburn and the manse situated at Knightsbridge, Lisburn and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have an insurance value of £2,369,778 at last renewal date 31 October 2024.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)**

**31 December 2024**

**8. FUND BALANCES**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	30,124	47,381	(52,733)	24,772	635	25,407
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,124	47,381	(52,733)	24,772	635	25,407
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Building Fund	22,354	18,521	(10,421)	30,454	-	30,454
United Appeal	20	3,554	(3,555)	19	-	19
Presbyterian Women	549	1,558	(1,576)	531	(75)	456
Special Collections	-	1,917	(925)	992	-	992
Youth Council	103	2,006	(1,573)	536	(460)	76
Afternoon Club	193	396	(372)	217	-	217
Stitch and Enrich	205	164	(120)	249	(100)	149
Line Dancing Club	-	2,077	(1,454)	623	-	623
Drop-in & Soup Lunch	-	2,125	(767)	1,358	-	1,358
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,424	32,318	(20,763)	34,979	(635)	34,344
<b>Total</b>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	53,548	79,699	(73,496)	59,751	-	59,751