

**Second Limavady Presbyterian Church a
congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.**

**Trustees Annual Report and Receipts and Payments
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023**

Registered with the charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105308

SECOND LIMAVADY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Second Limavady Presbyterian Church a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

56-58 Irish Green Street

Limavady

BT49 9AN

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105308

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev. Geoffrey Jones (Minister)

Mr William Ely

Mrs Heather Hood

Mr Mervyn Hood (Clerk of Session)

Mr Ian Martin

Mrs Elizabeth McLaughlin

Mr Mervyn Quigg

Mr John Wilson

Mrs Hilary Mullan (resigned August 2023)

Mr William Clyde (ordained & Installed June 2023)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Rev. Geoffrey Jones

Clerk of Session

Mr Mervyn Hood

Treasurer

Mr William Clyde

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Austin Montgomery 25 McQuillan Park Limavady BT49 0BQ

BANKERS

Danske Bank 46 Catherine Street Limavady BT49 9DB

Solicitors

W. B. Thompson & Co. 36 Catherine Street Limavady BT49 9DB

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

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.

Standard meetings of the Kirk Session are held in January, March, April, May, September, and November.

To be chosen for 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. Second Limavady Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, has been assigned to the Coleraine & Limavady 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 each congregation.

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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, 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.

Second Limavady 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 purpose is by the grace of God to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

- Is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others
- Is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible
- Is relevant to people of this time and place

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 being faithful 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

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice

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 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 holds regular Bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

Sunday School

Boys Brigade

Girls Brigade

Presbyterian Women

Parent & Toddler Group

Craft Group

Bowling Club

Ladies Bible Study

Open Door Café & Fellowship Lunch

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11.45am. Evening services, normally on the second Sunday of each month (except July and August) at 7.00pm, have not resumed after covid with the exception of a Praise service in December. Opportunities for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the Scriptures and prayer time are normally, Tuesday morning where there is ladies Bible study at 10.30am. We acknowledged God's gift of new life at 0 Sacrament of Baptism, we conducted 0 marriage services and at funeral services sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31st December 2023 there were 324 persons on the Communion Roll and 213 families claiming connection to the congregation.

The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 58.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to ill health or age are normally visited on a regular basis by the minister and the elder who has been allocated to the district where they are in residence.

Mission and Outreach

At a local level the congregation has supported mission outreach by

- Supporting the local food bank with donations of food and toiletries in conjunction with the other Presbyterian churches in Limavady.

- A collection donation to Christian Aid

- A collection for the Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund at the Christmas Praise Service.

- A Christmas day retiring offering was donated to the work of the Presbyterian Childrens' Society

- A retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday donated to the work of the Royal British Legion.

- Facilitating local schools enabling them to hold Christmas services.

- Supporting education with representatives on the board of governors of 2 local schools

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.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of the Presbytery, by our minister and/or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders normally attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

With the major refurbishment of the church completed in 2011 and the manse exterior in 2014, only minor repairs and maintenance were required in 2023. A major refurbishment of the bathroom in the manse has been completed at a cost of £9720 as well as an upgrade of the visual display in the meeting house at a cost of £10030.

Organisations

Sunday School

The Sunday School normally meets during morning worship each Sunday, excluding July and August, and provides instruction and tuition to young people of school age in the scriptures while encouraging them in recognition and love of their Heavenly Father and Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. A Family Sunday Service closes the yearly term on the second Sunday in June. Currently 8 young people are in attendance.

Boys Brigade

The object of the Boys Brigade is the advancement of Christ's kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends toward a true Christian manliness. Through the Boys Brigade churches have opportunities to reach out to families with whom they would otherwise have no contact. The Boys Brigade comprises:

The captain, 7 Officers, 3 Helpers, and 41 boys.

On 8th October a joint BB & GB Enrolment Service was held in the church.

Anchor Section 4 - 8 years old. Meets on a Monday night from 6.45-7.45 PM. 21 boys are in this section, with 3 Officers, and 4 helpers. Each week they take part in Badge work classes, hand craft, games, and Bible stories. The Section finished the BB year with the Coleraine Battalion joint Anchor and Junior Section Carol Service and Christmas Party.

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Junior Section 8-12 years old. Meets on a Tuesday night from 7.00-8.00PM. 8 boys are in this section with 1 Officers and a helper. Each week they take part in Scripture classes, Badge work classes, hand craft, games. During May the section and officers participated in ten pin bowling at the Jet Centre in Coleraine

Company Section 11-13 year old & Senior Section 14-18 year old. Meets on a Tuesday night from 7.00-9.00 PM. 3 boys are in the company section with 7 boys in the Senior section with 2 Officers and 1 helper. Each week they take part in N.I.D. Scripture reading to prepare for a scripture exam at the end of the year, Badge work classes, drama, and physical exercise. The sections participated in five a side football 10 pin bowling and dodge ball.

During the BB display in March 6 boys were presented with their President Badge awards and 1 Queens Award was presented. At the end of the display long service of 3 officers was marked.

On Sunday 26th March 2nd Limavady Boys Brigade hosted the Coleraine and district Battalion church parade with over 200 boys and officers attending.

Girls Brigade

The Girls Brigade is recognised as a dynamic, relevant, Christ centred organisation effectively reaching out to all girls to value, nurture and equip them for life. The Girls Brigade comprises :

Explorers 3-7 years old

Juniors 8-10 years old

Seniors 11-13 years old

Brigaders 14+ years old

In addition to the Captain are 12 Officers, 3 Sub Officers, and 60 girls making a total of 76 members in the Company.

The Girls Brigade meets on a Friday night in the church hall throughout the school year. GBNI requirements cover 4 badgework sections each year, Spiritual, Physical, Educational, and Service.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

This is achieved by dance, games, district competitions, district fun nights and annual scripture course. The company is working toward a 50 year anniversary in 2024.

At the annual display 1 Queens Awards and 3 Brigader Brooches were awarded.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women is an organisation for women within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. PW Groups are envisaged as women's fellowships in which women are encouraged to become Christians and to become Christ-like. In addition to supporting mission at home and overseas, each group is to seek ways of actively reaching women in its own area for Christ. The PW meets in the church hall on the second Wednesday night each month from September to March with a guest speaker at each meeting. The annual outing in May went to Lissan House in Cookstown followed by afternoon tea in Dungiven Presbyterian. During December the ladies went to a local hotel for Christmas dinner. Currently approximately 35 ladies are on the roll.

Parent & Toddler Group

The parent and toddler group meets in the church hall on a Friday morning throughout the school year. Average attendance is fifty-five toddlers plus their parents and as well as fun activities light refreshment is provided. Supervision is by volunteer ladies from the congregation. Highlights are the Christmas, Easter and end of term parties where small gifts and religious children's' books are gifted. No activities took place throughout the year but are due to recommence in 2024.

Craft Group

The craft group meets on a Thursday night in the church hall throughout the year except for July and August. The ladies engage in embroidery and quilting with donations from sales of works being given to charitable causes. Current attendance is 9. Meetings resumed in the middle of October on a fortnightly basis.

Bowling Club

The bowling club comprises 20 members and is a member of the Limavady and District Indoor Bowling League. It meets in the church hall on a Monday night for practice. Home games are on a Thursday night and are usually every second week with an away game in between. A summer fun bowls tournament was held every Thursday during July and August. In the season commencing September 2023 the club is playing in the B section in the Limavady league. The club also participates in a Charity Cup and Charity Plate competition.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Open Door Café and Fellowship Lunch

Commencing in January 2023 a fellowship lunch is held on the second Tuesday of each month attended by congregation members and friends. On the first Friday of each month the open door café provides light refreshment to all in the community.

Both have proved extremely popular and have been well attended. No charge is made with voluntary donation to cover costs.

Charitable Organisations supported include:

RNLI

Air Ambulance

Rotary

Guide Dogs for the Blind

McCombe Trust

Hope & Light

Operation Child (shoebox appeal)

N.I. Hospice

A total of £4555 has been donated to these charities

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

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, the 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 advertisements, 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 the Minister, organist, and caretaker 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 or 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.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is our members contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 97 families contributing during the year (97 in the previous year, 2022) donating a total of £66498 (£69993 in the previous year, 2022).

Total income of the congregation during the year was £121260, compared to £106581 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £101520 in 2022 to £132111.

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 £250000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payments 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
by

and signed on its behalf

NAME *J. Jeffrey Jones*

NAME *James COS*

DATE *15/10/24*

DATE *15/10/24*