

**New Row Presbyterian Church**  
**a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Trustees Annual Report**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC105351

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

NEW ROW Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Church Office  
Society Street  
Coleraine  
BT52 1LA

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105351)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Aubrey Beggs	Derek Hunter
Richard Burns	Pat Hunter
Mark Callaghan	Rosemary Lyttle
Adrian Cochrane	Robert McMullan (retired 30/4/2022)
Ruth Cochrane	Mervyn Moore
Timothy Connor	Neil Morrison
Sylvia Gibson	Alan Morrison
John Graham	Chris Murdock
Nigel Hamilton	Evan Reid
Bobby Holmes	Lorraine Simpson
Robin Humphries	

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev. Robert McMullan (retired 30/4/2022)
Clerk of Session	Mr. Adrian Cochrane
Treasurer	Mr. Mark Harvey
Congregational Secretary	Mr. Mervyn Moore

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Campbell Ritchie  
Chartered Accountants  
21 Warnock's Lane  
Coleraine  
BT52 1TH

### **BANKERS**

Ulster Bank  
30 The Diamond  
Coleraine  
BT52 1DP

### **SOLICITORS**

Anderson Gillan Barr Solicitors  
41 New Row  
Coleraine  
BT52 1AE

## **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 monthly in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May and at other such times for other such purposes as deemed appropriate by The Code.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT (cont'd)

#### The Kirk Session (cont'd)

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. New Row Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Coleraine and 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.

#### 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

New Row 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 **Connecting Growing Serving Changing**.

When Jesus said 'I am the true vine', He was teaching His disciples that they could not do anything without being bonded to him; that nothing apart from the vine can bear fruit. In the same way we, as a church family, seek to do the same as the disciples by

**CONNECTING** with God and one another in fellowship,

**GROWING** together in faith,

**SERVING** the living God, the community and each other and in doing so hope to be

**CHANGING** as individuals and as a Church into the likeness of Christ so that we in turn might bring change to the world around us as people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

## **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 Lord's 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 Bible Club and Horizon
- Horizon Youth Fellowship
- Ladies' Friendship Circle
- Thursday Cafe
- Indoor Bowling Club
- Boys' Brigade
- Girls' Brigade
- New Row Men
- Home & Small Groups
- Wednesday with the Word, Bible Study
- Coffee Outreach & Drop In
- Presbyterian Women
- Creche
- Girls Nights

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

- The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am. Evening services of worship and Prayer are held monthly commencing at 6.00 p.m.
- Morning services are live streamed on You Tube to facilitate vulnerable persons, shut in and elderly and infirm members. For members having no internet facility, CD recordings of the services are produced and delivered to homes by members of the Ministry Team
- Since the removal of Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions, United services with neighbouring churches have not yet re-commenced.
- All town congregations unite for a Watchnight Service on New Years' Eve organised by the Coleraine Gospel Partnership.
- Small Groups meeting in the Church Halls and Home Groups provide opportunities for members to meet for fellowship, study of the Scriptures and Prayer.
- A Congregational Prayer Time is held monthly. Those attending are provided with Prayer Topics embracing the work of the congregation, the wider work of PCI and other missionary agencies and personnel.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer (cont'd)**

- As well as our regular services during the year, we acknowledged God's gift of new life at one Sacrament of Baptism. We conducted one marriage service and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.
- No persons were admitted to Full Church Membership this was due to our vacancy occurring in April 2022.
- At 31 December 2022 there were 389 communicant members and 338 families connected with the congregation. The average attendance at morning worship was 160.
- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in April and October. Communion Services were also held in September to mark the beginning of the new church session and in January at the commencement of the New Year.

#### **Pastoral care**

- Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church because of illness, infirmity or age are visited by a member of the Ministry Team which comprises of the Minister, Pastoral Assistant, Church Worker (female). The Team is supported by Elders who visit in their Districts as needs arise.
- Meals are provided and delivered to those who are ill, convalescing from illness and the recently bereaved.
- Christmas Packs/Gifts including a plant, Christmas Tract, Christmas card and Church Calendar are delivered to members who are aged, infirm and in Nursing/Care Homes.
- Various Social media groups helped to keep members updated with church news and information and forthcoming events.

#### **Mission and Outreach**

At a local level the congregation's mission and outreach included the following:

- Our weekly Tuesday morning Coffee Outreach and Drop which is open to passers-by and others who may wish to call in for tea/coffee and have a chat with one of the volunteers. The aim of the Drop In is to attract the lonely, unemployed, and those looking for someone to talk to.
- In response to the Cost of Living Crisis, approx 650 leaflets were delivered to homes in the local community advising of events in the church halls where heat, food and refreshments were available.
- Members of the congregation support the work of the Causeway Foodbank through regular donations of food items. To meet the increased demand on the Foodbank due to the Cost-of-Living Crisis, members of the congregation responded generously to special appeals for food items at Harvest and Christmas.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Mission and Outreach contd.**

- Thursday Café provides a venue for friendship and is open to everyone including visitors and friends of our members.
- New Row is a member of the Coleraine Gospel Partnership comprising nine other churches and Christian Groups in the town. The Partnership aims to equip and mobilise members of the local churches for mission.
- A number of community groups/bodies continue to make use of our halls for events. This helps to introduce non church attenders to the church environment and buildings.
- Our Minister/Church Worker participate in leading assemblies in a local primary school. Prior to retirement, our Minister served on the Board of Governors of a local Primary School.
- We are prayerfully and financially committed to the work of E3 North Coast Schools Worker Andrew Neil, who encourages Scripture Union groups in local schools and facilitates the formation of new groups.
- A number of our young people serve on overseas Summer Mission projects run by Exodus, Child Evangelism Fellowship and United Beach Mission.
- Membership of our Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade comprises significant numbers of young people with no church membership or connection.

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 congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

As well as a local mission involvement, the Congregation supports the work of PCI Council for Mission in Ireland as follows;

#### **PCI Council for Mission in Ireland**

During the year the congregation prayerfully and financially supported the work of;

- Rev. Dr Keith McCrory and the congregation in Maynooth Community Church.

The congregation also supports prayerfully and financially other mission personnel and groups including:

- Majed and Anna Tinawi involved in producing Bible Commentaries and working with Syrian and Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Mission and Outreach (cont'd)**

- Scripture Union Northern Ireland involved in schools work and CSSM's locally and around the Province.
- Presbyterian Children's Society offering financial support to families in need.
- Members of the congregation also supported the annual Christian Aid Week collection.
- The congregation donated to the 2022 Annual PCI World Development Appeal "Rekindling Hope supporting Christian Aid and Tearfund in helping those who have been forced to flee their homes in Lebanon and South Sudan
- During the year members contributed financially to Moderator's Appeals for the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the Ukraine Crisis Appeal providing aid to those fleeing the conflict and others trying to get aid into Ukraine
- Christian Unions Ireland working in Universities and Colleges supporting students to reach fellow students with the good news of Jesus.

#### **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 a nominated Elder attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in June 2022

#### **Property**

No major repairs or refurbishment was carried out in 2022.

#### **Organisations**

**Thursday Cafe** meets twice monthly, serving tea and coffee in an informal cafe style arrangement. Those attending enjoy informal friendship and chat. The cafe which attracts up to 25 persons is open to members, friends and visitors. Soup Lunches, dessert, tea and coffee is served on the fourth Thursday of each month.

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (cont'd)

#### Organisations (cont'd)

**Our Indoor Bowling Club** has a membership of approximately 25 men and ladies and is open to non-Church members. As well as internal competitions, the club participates in local tournaments and leagues hosting regular home fixtures. A new Wednesday afternoon session was introduced in 2022 to allow members and non-members the opportunity to meet together for a friendly game of bowls and a cup of tea.

**Friendship Circle** About 20 ladies meet on the first and third Thursday of each month for friendship, crafts and knitting. Knitted baby hats which had been stored during lockdown were donated to maternity ward at Antrim area hospital. Financial donations were made to PCI Ukraine Crisis Appeal and Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoebox appeal.

**Boys' Brigade Company.** Membership comprises 18 Anchor Boys (5-8 years), 15 Junior Section Boys (8-11 years) and 13 Company Section Boys (11-18 years). The work is overseen by the Company Captain, assisted by 2 Officers and 5 Helpers. During the session boys participate in a varied programme of activities including Bible Class, games, badge work and craft work. Six boys are currently working toward their Queens Badge Award.

**Girls' Brigade Company.** Membership comprises 4 Explorers (age3-P4), 7 Juniors (P5-P7), 2 Seniors (1st Form -3rd Form) and 3 Brigaders (4th Form -6th Form). The work is overseen by the Company Captain assisted by 2 Officers and 5 helpers. One Brigader is working towards her Brigader brooch and is helping in our Explorer section which will contribute towards her Duke of Edinburgh award.

**Youth Fellowship.** Meets on Sunday evenings and caters for young people of secondary school age. Approximately 20 young people participate in Bible Teaching, games, refreshments and social activities. Members enjoyed a weekend Residential in Ballycastle which included outdoor activities and Bible teaching and talks by special speaker. An outreach event involved the young people inviting friends to a Christmas Dinner served in the church hall.

**Horizon Bible Class** for secondary school ages meets during the morning service on alternate Sunday mornings for refreshments, Bible teaching and fellowship.

**Sunday Bible Club & Horizon** (preschool to P7) meets during the morning service with up to 10 children of primary school age leaving the service after their talk. SBC Session commenced in September with a cooked breakfast for parents and children.

During the summer months a number of events were organised for parents and children including

- Picnic in the Park after children's Day service
- Football fun evening at a local primary school
- A Holiday Bible Club incorporating Mums and Tots
- Christmas party

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (cont'd)**

#### **Organisations (cont'd)**

**Horizon** meets during the morning service on alternate Sundays. Up to 12 young people of secondary school age participate in Bible Study/Teaching

**Creche** facilities are available for parents with young children who may become restless during a church service.

The aim of **New Row Men** is to encourage and build friendships among men of all ages through a varied weekly programme of Bible Study and social activities. During spring and early summer, the men enjoyed a number of outdoor events including Karting, fishing, visit to Rathlin island, overnight stay at Portmoon Bothy on the North Coast.

**Home/Small Groups.** Approximately 53 members attend seven Home/Small Groups which include; four Ladies' Bible Study Groups, one mixed group and a Men's Group. A young adults group commenced in September and caters for those in year 13+ age range. Group membership varies between 4 and 10 persons. The groups meet weekly throughout the autumn, winter and spring months for Bible study, discussion, fellowship and supper.

**Wednesday with the Word** is a morning Bible study attended by approximately 30 senior/retired members and friends. The meetings attract a significant attendance of members from other neighbouring churches. Guest speakers conduct monthly series of Bible studies from September to Easter. The mornings commence with a cup of tea and a time for welcoming and greeting

**Our "Drop In"**, overseen by a team of volunteers from the Congregation, takes place on Tuesday mornings. Its purpose is to provide a meeting place for those in need, lonely and seeking company. Passers-by are also welcomed.

Those who "drop in" enjoy conversation over light refreshments with "Bacon butties" provided at Christmas. Christian literature is available and some who attend have received encouragement and practical help.

**Presbyterian Women** meets monthly from September to March. It is the largest of our ladies' organisations with membership around 35. The ladies provide financial and prayer support for PCI missionaries and deaconesses. The varied monthly magazine type programme includes a regular "Missionary Spot" providing members on missionary activity in PCI.

**Ladies' Nights Out** take place during the summer evenings when ladies and invited friends enjoy outdoor activities which included, walks, visit to the cinema, golf, and a nature walk around Fair Head. Other activities included a Christmas Wreath making workshop and an evening coffee get together at a local café. The purpose of the evenings is to build friendships among ladies and to encourage others who remain on the fringe of church membership.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (cont'd)**

#### **Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping out with our 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.

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 Facebook 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 Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total income of the congregation during the year was £244,145 compared to £237,767 in the previous year. Total expenditure of the congregation during the year was £214,777 compared to £219,318 in the previous year. Retained net income for the year was £19,961 compared to £22,428 in 2021. Net reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were £1,065,566 compared to £1,045,605 in 2021.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregation and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds' transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". 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.

### **GOING CONCERN**

The funding of the activities of the congregation is dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and, subject to the continuing support from members, to fund, on an ongoing basis, the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments. To a certain extent we have more control over what we spend and we therefore keep under constant review our expenditure to ensure that, as far as possible, it is commensurate with what our members contribute to church funds.

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least one month's normal expenditure. At the year-end unrestricted reserves amounted to £46,971 which sustains them at a higher level than this policy. The Trustees, however, consider it prudent to continue to keep reserves at this level as the funding of its present activities is dependent on the ongoing financial support of members.

### RISK REVIEW

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees, and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members to maintain or increase their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

( Rev. Jonny McKane)



( Adrian Cochrane)



