

**DUNGIVEN CONGREGATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105352)

**DUNGIVEN 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

Dungiven Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
New Street
Dungiven
BT47 4LL

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105352)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev Dr Clive Glass	Mr Graham Semple
Mr David Carmichael	Mr William Semple
Mr Robin Carmichael	Mr Keith Thompson

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Dr Clive Glass
Clerk of Session	Mr Graham Semple
Treasurer	Mrs Emma Semple

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs May Thompson
128 Terrydoo Road
Limavady
Co. Londonderry
BT49 0PF

BANKERS

Danske Bank	Ulster Bank
P.O. Box 183	PO Box 3
Donegall Square West	29 Clooney Terrace
Belfast	Londonderry
BT1 6JS	BT47 6AS

SOLICITORS

R G Connell & Son

13 Main Street

Limavady

BT49 0EP

DUNGIVEN 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 minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are usually held every two months (Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar & May) and on other occasions as required.

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 cast.

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. Dungiven congregation of the Presbyterian Church 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.

DUNGIVEN 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 in the month of 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.

Dungiven 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 purpose is to become more like the church of which we read in Acts 2 following Pentecost i.e.

- *A learning church – where the Bible is foundational;*
- *A caring church – where the Bible is lived out in everyday relationships;*
- *A worshipping church – where the focus is on bringing glory to God;*
- *An evangelising church – where we endeavour to reach out to both congregation and community with the good news of the gospel.*
- *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.*

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

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation normally meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join us. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is usually observed twice a 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 Table. The congregation holds regular Bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations to suit all ages. These include:

- Sunday School
- Crèche
- Children's Church
- Mothers & Toddlers
- Boys' Brigade
- Girls' Brigade
- Meeting Point
- Presbyterian Women
- Midweek Fellowship

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and on a monthly basis at 7.00 p.m. 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.

As well as our regular services we acknowledged God's gift of new life at three baptism services, conducted two funeral services for the bereaved, and had one wedding ceremony during the year.

On 31st December 2023 there were 153 communicant members and 89 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is approximately 75.

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 and elders. A CD ministry is available to those who wish to avail of it.

DUNGIVEN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

Mission and Outreach

At a local level the congregation supports the work of Roe Valley CSSM practically and financially. A wide variety of mission organisations are also supported prayerfully and financially, including Tearfund, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Bible Society NI, CEF, Mission Africa, Belfast City Mission etc. The congregation supports the following missionaries prayerfully and financially: Stephen & Angelina Cowan (Kenya), Gary & Mary Reid (Kenya), Eric & Anne Magowan (Vietnam) and Alan & Dorothy Graham (Zimbabwe). The Sunday School also sponsors a child (Nicaragua).

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. 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 representative elder. This provides an important link between the congregation 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

Much work has been carried out on The Station, the former PSNI Station purchased by the church. We currently host a family of five refugees from Ukraine – they have proved to be a source of great blessing to the congregation.

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

Organisations

The Station hosts Crèche (up to 7 babies & toddlers) and Children's Church (up to 12 young children) each Sunday morning. Sunday School (33 children on rolls) is held in the church and The Station.

Girls' Brigade (30 girls on rolls) is held in the Guild Hall on Monday evenings and Boys' Brigade (35 boys on rolls) on Thursday evenings.

Presbyterian Women (16 women) is held monthly on Tuesday evenings in the Minor Hall.

Midweek Fellowship (12 adults) is held on Wednesday evenings in the Minor Hall.

Mothers & Toddlers (8 babies + carers) is held weekly on Thursday mornings in The Station.

Meeting Point (18 senior citizens) is held monthly on Thursday mornings in the Minor Hall.

The congregation supports Roe Valley CSSM, held during the second week in August – around 120 children and young people were present this year.

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.

DUNGIVEN 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 Presbytery 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, Global Mission Workers, 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.

**DUNGIVEN 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 Freewill Weekly Offering (FWO). There were 76 contributing families during the year (77 in 2022) donating a total of £39,700 (£37,155 – 2022).

The total income of the congregation during the year was £151,550 (£133,601 – 2022). The total expenditure for the year was £139,065 (£117,272 – 2022).

The Church held net cash funds at year end of £68,163 (£55,667 – 2022).

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.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 21st May 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Dr Clive Glass
(Minister)

Mr Graham Semple
(Clerk of Session)



21/5/2024



21/5/2024