

Kells Presbyterian Church
a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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

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KELLS 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 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Kells congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
21 Church Road
Kells
Ballymena
BT42 3JU

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105362)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev William Brian Boyd	Mr Richard Maybin
Mr Ronald David Brown	Mr Alastair McKay
Mr Robert Fowler	Dr Thomas McNeilly
Mr Roderick Frew	Mr Robert Colin Montgomery
Mr Sam Gibson	Mr Kenneth Norman Murphy
Mr John Hughes	Mr Jonathan Reid
Mr Derek John Kernohan	Mr Brian Francis Turtle
Mr James Clarke Irons	Mr Mervyn Edward Foster Williamson
Mr Rodney William Lorimer	Mr Trevor William John Wilson
Mr James Mawhinney	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev William Brian Boyd
Clerk of Session	Mr Brian Turtle
Treasurer	Mr Sam Gibson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

John Finnegan
Potter Finnegan Limited
Unit 25
The Courtyard Business Park
Galgorm Castle,
190 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1HL

BANKERS

Danske Bank
1-2 Broadway Avenue
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT43 7PE

KELLS 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 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 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. Kells Congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Ballymena 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

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Kells 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 congregations mission purposes are as follows:

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Kells Presbyterian Church Mission Plan

Area Profile and Statistics

Kells is a rural village just 6 miles south of Ballymena, standing on the stream known as Kells Water. It is closely associated with Connor village, separated only by an old stone bridge over Kells Water stream. The wider district of Kells contains the ruins of an Augustinian abbey known as Kells Abbey or Temple Moyle. Over the years it has played an important role in the history of Ireland most famously as the site of a fierce battle won by Edward Bruce who was subsequently crowned King of Ireland in 1316.

Due to their close proximity, the villages of Kells and Connor are closely linked having a joint primary school, library, and development association. The villages and surrounding area comprise Kells Ward which is contained within the Ballymena Borough Council area. The demographics of the Kells village highlighted below are taken predominantly from the 2011 census data. (NISRA website)

GENERAL	Kells	Ballymena	NI
Resident Population	3364	64044	1.81 m
0-15 (%)	20.9	20.1	21.0
65+ (%)	15.1	16.6	14.6
Male (%)	49.2	49.0	49.0
Female (%)	50.8	51.0	51.0
Catholic (%)	5.26	22.55	43.5
Protestant and other Christian (%)	88.79	71.36	48.36
Other Religion (%)	0.68	0.85	0.92
No Religion (%)	5.26	5.24	5.59
Births	48	840	25273
Births to unmarried mothers	13	344	10591
Unmarried births % of total births	26.5	41.0	41.9
Deaths	33	629	14968
Non-UK nationals %	2.6	5.6	6.6
CRIME			
Criminal offences (2013-4)	87	3156	102560
Burglary offences	5	254	9062
Criminal Damage Offences	18	571	19849
Violence with injury (total)	35	126	14130
Possession of drugs	1	25	3757
Sexual Offences	5	74	2228
EMPLOYMENT (2010)			
Adults economically active (%)	64.3	62.3	57.6
Adults economically inactive (%)	32.3	33.7	37.4
Adults unemployed (%)	3.5	4.0	5.0
Incapacity benefit	10	100	3570
Housing benefit	170	4610	162760
Income support	40	1160	47210
Children in Low income Families (%)	10.0	16.6	-
HOUSING (2010)			
Number of households (occupied)	1281	25072	719390
Owner occupied (%)	76.1	71.4	66.9
Rented (%)	20.2	25.4	30.0
Lone pensioner households (%)	9.65	11.48	11.1
Lone parent households (%)	11.9	12.5	14.25
Households with car (%)	87.1	82.7	77.3

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Based upon the data the following comments could be made:

1. Kells is fairly average in terms of age profile. If anything, it is slightly more youthful than most.
2. It is almost exclusively protestant.
3. The population has a very small ethnic element although this is growing in number as evidenced in successive censuses.
4. The incidence of unmarried births and lone parent households is considerably below the national average.
5. Recorded criminal activity data would indicate that Kells has a lower than average crime rate
6. Unemployment is well below the national average.
7. Car and house ownership is well above national average figures.

The rural setting of Kells may account for a number of these findings.

This would fit with data from research on deprivation from 2010 by NISRA as laid out in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) report. Within this report all 582 wards in Northern Ireland are ranked from 1 (the most deprived) to 582 (the least deprived).

MEASURE	RANK
Total Deprivation	436
Income	455
Employment	433
Health	411
Education	315
Proximity to services	190
Living environment	329
Crime	391

These figures must influence the nature of our outreach. Clearly efforts to reach the unemployed or even to provide help with benefits will impact very small numbers of people. Efforts involving childcare and other children's activities will impact great numbers.

Kells Presbyterian Church

	NUMBER
Families	199
Contributors	159
Persons	461
Communicants	197
Elders	19
Sunday School & Bible Class	45

A survey carried out in the community in 2008 of 202 persons yielded the result that 56.9% of the population claim to attend a church on a regular basis.

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

At present in 2022 we have the following organisations and events

NAME	TARGET GROUP	APPROXIMATE NUMBERS
Morning Worship	All	160
Evening Worship	All	60
Midweek Meeting	All	30
SundayZone (Sunday School & Bible Class)	4 – 18	20
ChurchZone (Children's Church)	4 – 7	15 -20
Youth Fellowship	12 plus	10
Campaigners	4 – 11	30
Choir	All	12
Presbyterian Women	All women	40
Kells Tots	Parents with young children	50
Women's Nurture Group	New Christians and enquiring women	6-8
Christian Endeavour	4-18	25
Sunday evening prayer meeting	All believers	6 - 8
Voluntary Labour Group	All	20
Men's Nurture Group	New converts and interested men	6 - 8
Care N Share Meals	All who need help	20 providers 200+ recipients
Ladies Bible Study	All women	14

Of these Campaigners and Kells Tots would have the highest percentage of non-church people.

Future Plans

Ballymena Presbytery Mission Plan is based on Acts 2:42 thus it is appropriate that ours should also follow this pattern.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42 NIV)

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Bible Teaching (Apostle's Teaching)

It is our belief that the word of God should be central in all we do. To that end it is our aim to encourage more of our people to attend events where the word is proclaimed and also to provide them with a means to study the word personally. We also will attempt to get the bible into the hands of those outside our fellowship.

- a. Every member will be encouraged to invite at least one other person to worship services.
- b. Every member will be encouraged to attend the midweek meeting.
- c. Ongoing consideration will be given to the effectiveness of the midweek meeting including the commencement of monthly home study groups.
- d. Bible Study materials made available to all who request them.
- e. Free bibles given to any who show interest in discovering more about the Christian faith.
- f. Encouragement given to more people to attend Adult Bible class.
- g. Sunday School recently revamped to make it more interactive.
- h. Occasional special teaching weekends to be held on relevant and urgent topics.
- i. Kirk Session to set an example in attending and encouraging others to attend bible teaching meetings.

The Fellowship

We believe that the local congregation is the single most important unit in god's plan for reaching the world with the gospel. To that end it is our aim to encourage believers and unbelievers alike to feel so at home in our midst that they will centre their lives on the fellowship.

- a. No one should enter any of our meetings or buildings without being spoken to and made to feel welcome.
- b. Every effort will be made to provide adequate childcare at all events to enable parents to attend.
- c. All our buildings will be "disabled friendly" to enable people of all ages and physical conditions to easily access our events.
- d. Door to door visitation will be carried out at least biannually to make all aware to our interest in them. When special events are planned by any group invitations will be made available to all relevant people. Flyers and other advertising material will be produced and displayed for all relevant events.
- e. Existing organisation members will be encouraged to attend faithfully and to invite others.
- f. Existing leaders should show commitment to the group they are part of, attending faithfully and punctually.
- g. Kirk Session will review the work of organisations regularly and will start such new ventures, as they consider it necessary to promote fellowship even if this means closing existing organisations that have ceased to fulfil their function. The nature of our local area will be taken into consideration to ensure that outreach programmes are targeted effectively. Care will be taken not to overburden people with events at the expense of spiritual and family life. Special consideration will be given to ways of enabling people to make the jump from attending events to attending church. Consideration will be given to ways of involving new converts and new members in the full life of the fellowship.
- h. Every effort will be made to review the involvement of recent communicant members in the life of the congregation.
- i. Members will be encouraged to show love and consideration to each other and the wider community. Individuals should identify needs in their neighbours and seek to meet them. The care and share meals team should be expanded.
- j. Kirk Session will lead by example in caring for their districts.
- k. Forms shall be provided in the pews and the vestibule to enable those attending services to express interest in congregational activities or to request pastoral visitation.

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

The Sacraments (Breaking of Bread)

We believe that Christ instituted 2 sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). These are signs and seals of the Covenant of Grace and as such play an important part in our life as a Congregation. To that end:

- a. Careful instruction will be given to all parents seeking baptism for their children.
- b. Kirk session will exercise their role and will admit to baptism those children of whom at least one parent makes a credible profession of faith and those adults who make a similar profession and who have not been baptised previously.
- c. Baptism will be administered publicly and will be by sprinkling or pouring.
- d. All wishing to come to the Lord's Table through membership will attend a series of instruction classes after which they will meet with the Kirk Session to share how they came to faith and how they are walking with the Lord.
- e. Kirk session will admit to membership those who make a credible profession of faith and who commit to making Kells their spiritual home.
- f. All communicants will be encouraged to meet around the Lord's Table

Prayer

Prayer is the life blood of any congregation to that end:

- a. Attendance at all prayer meetings will be encouraged and our elders will set the example.
- b. Special seasons of prayer will be arranged as the Kirk Session sees fit.
- c. Private prayer by every believer will be encouraged.
- d. All organisation leaders will be encouraged to arrange special times of prayer for activities within their organisation.
- e. At our prayer meetings we will not simply list our wants. Care will be taken to praise God, to confess our sins and pray for the wider community.

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 Zone / School
- Youth Fellowship
- Mums & Tots
- Campaigners Youth & Children's Ministry.
- Presbyterian Women
- After Schools Club
- Man Friday

The impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic is now finally behind us. Services are now all conducted in person although we continue to live stream the morning service. The Midweek Meeting continues to be a joint meeting with our sister congregation of Eskylane. The first Wednesday of each month it is held in Eskylane and the others in Kells. We now operate a twice a month evening service of praise and thanksgiving one of which involves members of the congregation in leadership of the worship.

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12 Noon and at 6.30 PM monthly. 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. Prayer meetings continued to be held before each service and at 8.30am on the first Sunday of each month.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at Sacraments of Baptism for both Infants and adults, during 2023 there were three Infant Baptisms conducted. There were a number of funeral services during the year, and we gave thanks for the life and faithful service of the bereaved. We sought to comfort those families who had been bereaved and to bring practical and prayerful support to many as we shared in their grief in their times of need following the bereavement.

At 31 December 2023 there were 197 communicant members and 199 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 160 and numbers continued to view on live stream.

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, the Congregation Ladies and Family Worker, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation supports the work of the organisations described below from its Mission Budget with many volunteers giving of their time and service. As well as the weekly / monthly activities there are numerous single events organised for Congregation and Community such as Holiday Bible Club week, Senior Citizen Outings. The Congregation also supports the United Appeal, the Presbyterian Children's Appeal, Remembrance Day, and any Moderators Special Appeals.

Many local and overseas Missions are supported by Financial Gifts and Special Collections. The Congregation also encourages Members to be involved in local and overseas Mission and seeks to practically and prayerfully support those involved.

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 denominations 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 our elders. This provides an important link between the congregations 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.

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Property

During 2023 quite a number of minor repairs, painting and general maintenance were carried out on a number of the Congregation properties and the grounds. Following on from the demolition of the old manse, the new manse is now structurally complete and weather tight, with internal fit-out remaining to be completed. Our Minister continued to serve the congregation from his new home in Templepatrick, which will function as the Manse until his retirement.

Organisations

These functioned as outlined above.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with the various 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 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 Combined Weekly Offering. There were 158 contributors during the year (2022: 159) donating a total of £199,593 (2022: £181,364).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £311,853, compared to £387,285 in the previous year (albeit the previous year exceptionally benefitted from a number of significant donations and bequests). Our main source of income is Sunday morning offerings from our members. We are deeply thankful for the faithfulness of our members.

Total expenditure changed from £250,061 in 2022 to £259,875 in 2023.

KELLS CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

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 congregations 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 judgements 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 congregations 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 activities of the congregation are 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.

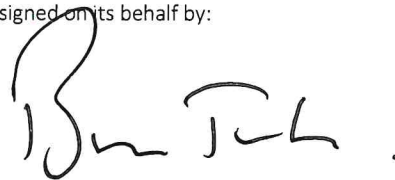
RISK REVIEW

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 in their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev WB Boyd



Mr Brian Turtle