

SECOND BROUGHSHANE 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 a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Second Broughshane Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
5 Raceview Road
Broughshane BT42 4JL

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105379)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

William Smyth	Leonard Fenton
Colin Kennedy	Deirdre Humphreys
Robert Clifford Ross	John Purdy
Rev Jeffrey Blue	W. George Humphreys
John Maurice Ellis	Samuel George Smyth
Robert McCullough Reid	Andrew Brown
Stephen Brian Livingston	Kenneth George McGall
James Turtle	Mark Beattie
Geoffrey Stirling	Colville James George Elliott
Gavin Lowry	Gordon David Rea
Ivor Hutchinson	Ian Logan
John Kernohan	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Ian Johnston A.F.A.
Stevenson and Wilson
Chartered Accountants
22-30 Broadway Avenue
Ballymena
Northern Ireland
BT43 7AA

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Ballymena
1 – 2 Ballymena
Co. Antrim BT43 7PE

SOLICITORS

Samuel Cumming & Son
Solicitors
39 Linenhall Street
Ballymena

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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 4 times per year.

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 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 Broughshane 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 minister of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Second Broughshane 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 plan is outlined below:

Second Broughshane is a congregation of approximately 340 families set in a village of about 1,500 houses, population circa 4,000.

In line with General Assembly guidelines and following the pattern of Mission Plan outlined by Ballymena Presbytery the Kirk Session of Second Broughshane have adopted the following Congregational Mission Plan.

Recognising the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to "Go into the world and preach the Gospel" we would acknowledge our duty and responsibility to comply with that command. Following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples of Jesus were the first to 'GO' preaching the good news about Jesus Christ to Jew and Gentile.

Beginning at Jerusalem, a great many were converted to Jesus Christ and "they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer" (Acts 2:42). Furthermore, we note how "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

The command of Jesus and the pattern of the early church is our Biblical basis for Mission.

Content for Mission

As taught in the Shorter Catechism, "Man's primary purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". In order to glorify God we would desire to demonstrate God as revealed in the scripture; to proclaim His purpose and work as creator, and Sovereign Lord; to preach of His love for souls as is wonderfully announced in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Further to this we commend Jesus Christ, God's Son as Lord of all, the only redeemer of God's elect; the one who came into the world to save sinners by means of His death upon the cross of Calvary. As risen Lord He has taken His place in glory awaiting the consummation of this present age and bringing in the final day of judgement as he ushers in the new heaven and new earth where redeemed souls shall live forever in the presence of their Lord.

Context for Mission

In the days following Christ the apostles went about preaching and establishing the church. We note how the Apostle Paul founded a church in every town and village as he journeyed. Through his letters he has, by the Holy Spirit's wisdom and grace, given to the church the clear principles and patterns for church government, life and witness.

We acknowledge that we are a part of the universal church of Jesus Christ situated in the village of Broughshane with a responsibility to be the light of the world in this area and district; notwithstanding the presence of sister congregations in the neighbourhood with whom we would seek to work in harmony as opportunity allows.

As Christ Jesus came into the world so we believe that we are in the world as His ambassadors and it will be our prayer that we might be 'light and salt' as we live, work and witness here for the glory of God.

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Contact for Mission

As the church of Christ, it is our duty to reach out into the community where we are with the gospel. We must endeavour to make an impact for Christ in this locality. This requires the faithful ministry of the word of God through the various limbs of the congregational body; connecting with the community in projects that minister to it's needs; bringing all to God in consistent prayer.

The early church shows us how to 'do church'. (Acts 2:42-47)

1. Their love for the word of God. (Apostles teaching)
2. Their enjoyment of Christian fellowship.
3. Their observance of the sacraments.
4. Their commitment to prayer.
5. Their concern for one another.
6. Their zeal for evangelism

Our response:

1. We commend, cherish and uphold the preaching and teaching of the Word of God as the primary tool of evangelism and the means for building up the body of Christ.
2. We want to encourage regular attendance at church services and are convinced that the local church is, under God, the ordained means for nurturing believers, training in godliness and equipping for service.
3. Observance of the sacraments and participation in the same is the solemn responsibility of Kirk Session. Those outside of the family of God should be discouraged from participation until they have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through spiritual new birth. Believers will be encouraged to participate in the Lords' Supper and to present children for baptism in keeping with the covenant promise of God. Session will exercise prayerful oversight at all times being gracious and merciful in matters of discipline as may be required.
4. Prayer is an essential part of Christian life both personally and corporately. Every effort will be made to encourage Christian people to meet for prayer. It is a blessing to share in prayer with others, sharing burdens, praying for the lost of our district and upholding the work of God's kingdom at home and overseas.
5. Not only would we want to have a practical concern for all our members, but we consider it a vital part of church responsibility to be concerned for those in our community who have personal needs. We must endeavour to look out and reach out to the stranger at our door, who might even be the person next door, to whom we can bring help both practically and spiritually. We want to recognise the importance of social action and care.
6. Evangelism is a necessary part of the church; indeed, every Christian is an evangelist. We must carry the gospel with us as witnesses for Christ always ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us. Zeal for evangelism is the fruit of our joy of salvation in Christ.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

The basic work of the Christian church is to preach or share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to see people converted, transformed and growing to maturity in that gospel.

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples". We need to be pro-active in this task of making disciples. We are to carry the torch of truth that has been handed down through generations. Sharing the gospel by word and deed is our central task in our homes, neighbourhood and church. Our goal for God is that we would make disciples who are genuine followers of Jesus Christ, and not merely be anxious about numbers attending.

What we are doing:

- Youth organisations for all the community: Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Youth Club, Youth Fellowship (SEED)
- Children's work includes Seniors Sunday School, Kid's church, Kids Corner (Sunday evenings) and Summer Holiday Bible club, Junior Christian Endeavour.
- Organisations for adults
- Bible Study Groups
- P.L.A.Y. Mother and Children's group, drawing from the village and district area.
- Young Adults.
- The Cornerstone: 'cafe' style coffee morning is an open door to welcome all an outreach to the neighbourhood.
- A 'Care Team' provides contact with confined elderly members and brings meals to families in times of illness or pressure.
- An annual 'Funday' attracts large numbers from the community, an opportunity to share our Christian friendship and faith, and to invite to church services, organisations and events.
- 'Messy Church' on a Sunday before Christmas contacting families in the area and is very well supported.

Our future plans:

We aim to develop fresh ways of reaching out to the local community through visitations and by means of events intended to invite and attract more people to 'come and see for themselves' that the church is active today and the gospel is both meaningful and relevant for all.

While recognising that our primary work rests within the context of our local church setting, we nonetheless believe wholeheartedly in the work of mission at large. We will seek to encourage support and actively be involved in worldwide mission. Opportunities prevail for short-term mission teams and there is much to commend these. It is however our prayer that God will be pleased to call and use some from our congregation in the greater service of mission overseas as a vocation. It is an honour for a congregation to be the 'sending church' and to be active in support of those who 'go' in God's name to do His work.

To His great name be all praise honour and glory.

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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 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 and activities including:

- Sunday School, Children's Church, Kids Corner (Sunday evenings) and Summer Holiday Bible Club
- Bowling Club
- Girls Brigade
- Boys Brigade
- Young Adults
- Junior Christian Endeavour
- Sunshine Hour (for older people)
- Women Together
- Just Sew (sewing group)
- Bible Study Groups
- P.L.A.Y. – Mother and Children's group.
- The Cornerstone: 'cafe' style coffee morning is an open door to welcome all and is an outreach to the neighbourhood.
- Annual "Messy Church"
- Annual summer "Funday"

More details are shown in the "Organisations" section of this report.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation were very glad that 2023 represented the first full year since Covid when worship and organisations were able to return largely to normal. It also represented the first full year of ministry and service of our new minister, Rev Jeffrey Blue, who had been installed in August of the previous year. Rev Blue has been very faithful and committed in promoting the advancement of the good news of the gospel within our congregational context. Worship services are held both on Sunday mornings and evenings and a mid-week teaching and prayer meeting is held on Wednesday evenings. A highlight of the year was a united teaching week at Easter time when 3 other local congregations joined with us to celebrate and learn from the Easter message. Our special speaker was the Rev Dr Stafford Carson.

1 marriage was conducted during the year and comfort and support was provided to those bereaved.

At 31 December 2023 there were 237 communicant members and 335 families connected with the congregation.

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 or one of the elders and supported by members of the congregation. The congregation also has a pastoral visitor who makes contact through weekly telephone calls to the sick and housebound.

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Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation acknowledge that we are part of the universal church of Jesus Christ situated in the village of Broughshane with a responsibility to be the light of the world in this area and district; notwithstanding the presence of sister congregations in the neighbourhood with whom we would seek to work in harmony as opportunity allows.

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

The congregation made financial contributions towards a number of different missionary organisations and mission personnel throughout the year. The congregation regularly prays for these organisations at Sunday services and the midweek prayer meeting.

Missionaries from the congregation are currently serving with Hamsayeh International. The congregation is informed of their work through regular updates in written form and through updates given in church services.

Young people from the congregation usually serve on mission teams in the summer months both at home and overseas.

Presbytery

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

General Assembly

The minister along with the representative elder attended the General Assembly in Belfast in June.

Property

The church building is in reasonable repair; the hall is in good repair.

Organisations

- Youth Organisations for all the community:
- BB for boys from 5 – 18 years; approximately 80 boys attend weekly
- GB for girls from 4 – 18 years; approximately 100 girls attend weekly
- Youth Fellowship for young people aged 11 upwards; approximately 15 attend fortnightly
- Children's work includes Children's Church; Senior Sunday School and Bible Class. Also, Kids Corner (Sunday evenings); Summer Holiday Bible Club and Junior Christian Endeavour.
- Organisations for adults including Bowling Club, Women Together, Young Adults and Just Sew.
- Bible Study Groups

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- P.L.A.Y. – Mother and Children’s group, drawing from the village and district area. Approximately 30 children with parent/guardian attend.
- A ‘Care Team’ provides contact with confined elderly members and brings meals to families in times of illness or pressure.
- An annual ‘Funday’ attracts large numbers from the community, an opportunity to share our Christian friendship and faith, and to invite to church services, organisations and events.
- ‘Messy Church” on a Sunday before Christmas contacting families in the area which is very well supported.

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.

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.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 231 contributors during the year [221 in previous year, 2022] donating a total of £135,090 (£116,121 in previous year, 2022).

Total income of the congregation during the year was £286,164 compared to £231,703 in the previous year.

Total expenditure was £277,539 compared to £270,081 in 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. 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; and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- 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 congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1st 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 on-going 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 on-going basis, the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

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 aim of the Trustees to hold unrestricted reserves equating to at least three months normal expenditure. At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £89,807 which is well in keeping with this policy. The Trustees

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consider it prudent to hold reserves at this level as the funding of its current activities is dependent on the ongoing financial support of its 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 on-going 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 18th June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Name: Rev Jeffrey Blue

Name: Ivor Hutchinson (Clerk of Session)

Date: 18th June 2024

Date: 18th June 2024

Signature: 

Signature: 