

**BROOKSIDE 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 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Brookside Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
17 Brook Street  
Ahoghill  
Ballymena  
BT42 1LD

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105382)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev William Moody	Mr Liam McFetridge
Mr Michael Arnold	Mr Joseph Millar
Mr Jackie Craig (retired 7 February 2023)	Mr Richard Petrie
Mr Richard Cromie	Mr James Thompson
Mr Colin Hayburn	Mr Norman Wallace (retired 7 February 2023)
Mr Stanley Kyle	Mr Geoffrey Young
Mr Jonathan McCartney	Mr Hugh Young
Mr Kenneth McDowell	

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev William Moody
Clerk of Session	Mr Liam McFetridge
Treasurer	Mr John Barkley

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

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

**BANKERS**

Danske Bank  
1-2 Broadway  
Ballymena  
BT43 7PE

**SOLICITORS**

Samuel Cumming & Son  
39 Linenhall Street  
Ballymena  
BT43 5AJ

**BROOKSIDE 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 congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak, and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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. Brookside 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 met in 2023 for four days 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.

Brookside 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 purpose is to fulfil its great responsibility to be involved in the great commission in bringing the Gospel to all nations. Biblical preaching means we believe that at the centre of seeing the Gospel advance has to be the teaching of God's word and prayer. We seek for this to take place in public worship, church organisations and personal contacts by members.

**BROOKSIDE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)  
DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE (cont'd)**

The congregation aims to live out its Mission as a family of God's people by being:

- A Covenant Community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward him and toward one another
- An Intergenerational Community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage, and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.
- An Outward looking Community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.
- As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on three 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 prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings and has a wide range of organisations including:

- Sunday School
- Bible Class
- Good News Club
- Youth Fellowship
- Youth Club
- Parents and Toddlers
- Girls' Brigade (Explorers, Junior, Company, and Brigadier Sections)
- Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys, Junior, and Company Section)
- Presbyterian Women
- Women's Prayer Meeting
- Men's Prayer Meeting
- Choir
- Praise Group
- Brook Café
- Holiday Bible Club

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Worship and prayer**

The congregation meets for services of worship at 11:30am and 6:15pm each Sunday. The Evening Service at 6:15pm is united with First Ahoghill and Trinity and rotates around the three church buildings.

During the week the Midweek Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer. Once a month the Midweek took the form of Grow Groups which were small groups that met in people's homes. Once a month the Midweek took the form of a Men's Midweek on a Wednesday and a Women's Midweek on a Thursday. Once a month the Midweek took the form of a Missionary Midweek with a missionary speaker.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in January, May and September. There were two baptisms during the year. One marriage service was conducted, and 11 funeral services were conducted.

At 31 December 2023 there were 194 communicant members and 254 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was approximately 174. The average evening service attendance was 170.

**BROOKSIDE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (cont'd)**

**Pastoral care**

Each elder is assigned a district to visit the members of the congregation within it to supplement the visits by the minister. CDs of services are also delivered, and services Livestreamed for those not able to attend.

**Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation continues to seek to reach out into the community through special services and the church organisations. The summer Holiday Bible Club and Family Fun Night in August were means of reaching into the community.

Through our support of mission organisations Brookside Congregation has worked for the public benefit of people across the world by making donations to the following external missions and agencies which exist to support people's spiritual, educational, and physical needs:

Acre Gospel Mission, Arab World Ministries, Asha, International Mission to the Jewish People, Coaching4Christ, European Missionary Fellowship, Latin Link, Mission Africa, OMF International, Friends of VisPa, The Christian Institute, Tear Fund, Belfast City Mission, Release International and Open Doors.

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

**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 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**

During the year the church sold the manse field for £1,400,000. The church also replaced the manse fence with a new boundary wall at a cost of £28,200. The church is having on going considerations regarding the redevelopment of the church and church hall site.

**Organisations**

Sunday School - met on Sunday mornings at 10:15am for praise and Bible teaching in small groups. There were 16 children on the roll in 2023 with an average attendance of 14.

Bible Class – met on Sunday at 10:15am for teaching for young people aged 13 and over with an average attendance of 15.

Good News Club – children left during services for inter-active teaching. There are 8 children on the roll with an average attendance in 2023 of 4.

Youth Fellowship - meets on Sunday evenings after the evening service for young people of secondary school age and older. They meet for praise, Bible Studies, listen to speakers and chat. Average attendance in 2023 was approximately 30 young people.

Youth Club – met on Saturday nights from 7:00 – 9:00pm for young people of secondary school age. There were 25 young people on the roll in 2023 with an average attendance of 12.

**BROOKSIDE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**  
**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (cont'd)**

Parents and Toddlers – met on Friday mornings from 10:00am to 11:30am. There were on average of 65 adults and children.

Girls' Brigade – meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. GB is for girls aged 3-18 and is divided into four sections depending on age called Explorers, , Company and Brigader Sections. In 2023 there were 85 girls on the roll with an average attendance of 75. The majority of these girls do not belong to Brookside church.

Boys' Brigade - is for boys aged 4-18 and has three sections Anchor Boys, Junior, and Company Section. The Anchor Boys meet on Monday nights and the Junior and Company Sections on Friday nights. The number of boys on the roll were 5 Anchor Boys, 9 Juniors and 17 in the Company Section.

Presbyterian Women – met once a month to allow women to meet together, for social engagement and to listen to speakers. The average attendance in 2023 was 50.

Women's Prayer Meeting – took place once a month on Thursday nights from January to June and gave an opportunity for women to teach God's word to other women and to pray for the needs of the congregation, community, and missionaries. Since September the Women's Prayer has been incorporated into the monthly Women's Midweek.

Men's Prayer Meeting – took place once a month on Wednesday evenings from January to June and once a month on Fridays throughout the year. The elders share God's word before a time of prayer focusing particularly on the needs of men in our congregation and community. The average attendance in was 18. Since September the Wednesday Men's Prayer has been incorporated into the monthly Men's Midweek.

Choir – met to lead the praise on Sundays and provide anthems at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Praise Group – consists of musicians and singers who help lead the praise once a month with a focus on particularly contemporary praise.

Brook Café – met on the first Thursday of the month to serve food, have a time of conversation and Bible teaching. Average attendance was 8.

**Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of the many volunteers 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.

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

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT (cont'd)**

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.

Brookside benefits the public through the loving and godly influence of its members in society and the fact that many who attend its events and organisations do not belong to the church.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 174 contributors during the year (2022: 186) donating a total of £88,769 (2022: £90,330).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £234,782 compared to £223,822 in the previous year. This excludes the proceeds of £1,400,000 from the sale of the manse field.

Total expenditure in 2023 was £273,271 compared to £228,633 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.

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.

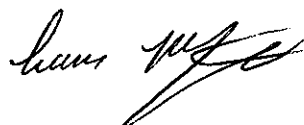
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 19 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev William Moody

Trustee



Mr Liam McFetridge

Trustee