

**BALLEE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Ballee Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Old Antrim Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 2HG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105384)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev. Philip McCullough  
Mr. James Lamont  
Mr. Roy Penny

Mr. John Quigley  
Mr. Alexander Rankin  
Mr. James Warwick

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer

(Vacant)  
Mr John Quigley  
Mr John Richardson

**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

**BALLEE 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 Sessions 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.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held five times 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. Ballee 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 the 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.

Ballee 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.

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

The congregation's vision is;

- To see our church grow spiritually
- To love, serve and encourage one another so that we grow together in Christian fellowship
- To educate both young and old in the Christian faith
- To give practical and prayerful support to mission
- To share the gospel to all
- To serve God in any way we can
- To welcome newcomers warmly into our midst

### **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 / prayer meetings and has a range of organisations including

- Ladies Fellowship
- Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship
- Girls Brigade

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11:30am and once a month at 6:30pm. The mid-week meetings, Thursday at 10:00am & 7:00pm, provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

At 31 December 2023 there were 83 communicant members, and 115 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 50.

#### **Care & Share (Pastoral care)**

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited regularly by the minister, elders and/or by one of our Care & Share group. Care & Share is a pastoral support service offered by members of the congregation. Everyone involved is a volunteer who is willing to help individuals at a time when they need a little extra help and support. Care & Share aim to help in whatever way they can in whatever circumstances they can. Work done by Care & Share includes;

- Arranging transport to Church
- Arranging transport to hospital appointments
- Sitting with a dependant relative allowing an individual the opportunity to attend Church
- Dropping in for a chat when an individual needs someone to talk to
- Doing a minor repair or redecoration job when an individual cannot do it themselves
- Being a friend when a friend is needed
- Organising prayer when an individual needs someone to pray for or with them.

#### **Mission and outreach**

The congregation of Ballee actively supports, both prayerfully and financially, the work of evangelistic outreach or mission.

During 2023 the congregation financially supported a number of groups/individuals including 'Operation Christmas Child' and Tearfund.

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

At a local level, the congregation seeks to reach out to and to be involved in the lives of the wider community. We seek to do this by encouraging every member of the congregation to live out their lives in obedience to Christ as they interact with people on a daily basis.

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When opportunity presents, we work closely with Ballee Community Association as a way of promoting our work with the wider community.

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.

The congregation also contributes to special appeals made by our denomination.

### **Presbytery**

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

### **General Assembly**

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**

Our property remains in a good state of repair.

### **Organisations**

#### **Girls' Brigade**

The aim of Girls' Brigade is to "help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through reverence, self-control and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment in life".

Our Company seeks to provide girls and young ladies with an opportunity to meet every Tuesday (Sept – March) to enjoy fun and fellowship together.

#### **Ladies Fellowship**

The Ladies Fellowship is open to all ladies over the age of 18. It exists to tell every woman that they are cherished by God, by providing a varied and interesting programme with something for everyone.

#### **Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship**

This group meets monthly and is open to members and non-members of all ages. It provides a varied programme of activities and the opportunity to enjoy fellowship and a chat over a cup of tea.

### **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.

**BALLEE CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
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**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 Trustees have taken regard of the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 94 contributors during the year (2022: 110) donating a total of £36,270 (2022: £38,927)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £55,736 compared to £58,253 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £45,709 in 2022 to £38,462 in 2023.

**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 10 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

  
Mr. John Quigley

Trustee

  
Mr. James Lamont

Trustee