

**DERVOCK 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**

Dervock Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
47 Carncullagh Road  
Dervock  
BT53 8BT

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105392)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Campbell Mulvenny  
Mr Trevor Richmond  
Mr John Surgenor  
Mr Ivan McBride  
Mr Harold Irwin

Mr William Chestnutt  
Mr Peter Patrick (retired June 2023)  
Mr Harold White  
Mr Roy Irwin

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Rev Campbell Mulvenny  
Mr John Surgenor  
Mr Dave McQuilkin  
Mrs Lesley Irwin

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

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

**BANKERS**

Ulster Bank  
30 The Diamond  
Coleraine  
BT52 1DP

**SOLICITORS**

Greer Hamilton & Gailey  
27 High Street  
Ballymoney  
BT53 6AJ

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

**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 at least four times in each year or as appropriate.

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 one-third 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. Dervock congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the ROUTE 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.

Dervock 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 by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

- is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others;
- is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible;
- is relevant to people of this time and place.

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

*The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision 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.*
- *Our Mission statement is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.*

**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 at least 3 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 School
- Youth Fellowship (Strive)
- Mothers and Toddlers (Shine)
- Midweek Bible study and prayer meeting
- Wednesday Fellowship
- Presbyterian Women
- Missions Focus
- Crafts and Chats
- Friday Night Youth club

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am. 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 during the year we conducted 2 baptismal service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 154 communicant members and 136 families connected with the congregation. The average week attendance at morning worship is 80.

**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, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors. The Church elders seek to visit the congregation at least twice a year.

**Mission and outreach**

All foods given at harvest time were donated to Ballymoney Food Bank. Annual Carol service collection went to C.E.F, Andrew McCaw who is training to be a youth leader and church expenses. Two Ugandan children are supported each month by the Sunday school children. We also support Tear Fund each year through a collection and Tear Fund lunch. A special service and barbeque was held for the King's Coronation.

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

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

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 Mr Roy Irwin, the representative elder. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

**Property**

The manse was occupied by our current minister.

**Organisations**

Sunday school meets during our morning service and caters for primary school aged children. This year we had a number of members who taught in the Sunday school. It meets at 11:30 am from September –June. We currently have 27 children registered.

Our Youth Fellowship meets every fortnight and attended joined events with other local churches.

Our Youth club (Blast) meets every Friday night with 80 children registered mostly from the village of Dervock.

Our church continues to be involved in providing for the needs of our congregation and its surrounding community. We have done this through the following activities: -

Shine for mums and tots was run on a Wednesday morning from 10am-12noon. Children enjoy an age-appropriate programme. This activity is attended by people from our congregation, our community and outside our community. This shows that we aim to provide activities for the community from a Christian perspective.

Our Midweek Fellowship meets every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from September-May. Led by the minister, members of the congregation have a time of bible study and prayer.

Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday of every month (September- May) and is attended by a good number of people from our congregation and community. The programme is normally quite eclectic, covering local history, music, missionaries but we were unable to have a trip at the end of the year. There is a small committee of members who are responsible for putting together the programme for this.

Also on Thursday evenings, once a month our Presbyterian Women (PW) group meets from 7.30-9:00pm. From October-March the ladies follow a programme that is compiled by the central PW committee. As well as this, the ladies normally enjoy a Christmas dinner locally. Mainly members of our own congregation attend this meeting. The ladies have a PW service once a year, which anyone is welcome to attend.

Our Crafts and Chat met each third Thursday of the month. Led by a church member, a time of craft, conversation and a short epilogue led by a visiting speaker. A cup of tea followed.

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month we have a mission's café at 6:30 pm. Representatives from local missionary organisations join us and share about their work; organisations have included Asia-link, the Belfast City Mission, EMF, Bible Society and others. Members enjoy hearing about the work of their organisations and asking questions of those that come. Members also give a contribution towards the work of the organisations.

**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.

**DERVOCK 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 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.

Online services are live streamed each week and are available on 'You tube'.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 109 contributors during the year (111 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £55,386 (£54,893 in previous year, 2022)

Total income of the congregation during the year was £114,629, compared to £113,839 in the previous year.

Total expenses of the congregation during the year were £102,199, compared to £104,082 in the previous year.

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**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 on behalf of the Kirk Session on 1 May 2024 and signed by

John Surgenor

Trustee



Rev Campbell Mulvenny

Trustee

