

**GORTIN 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 2022 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Gortin Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
73 Main Street  
Gortin  
Co. Tyrone  
BT79 8NH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105629)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Jonathan Cowan (appointed 1 November 2022)  
Rev Robert Orr (resigned 1 November 2022)  
Adrian Thomas Adams  
Malcolm McKeown

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Convenor in charge of Vacancy	Rev Robert Orr
Clerk of Session	Adrian Thomas Adams
Treasurer	Adrian Thomas Adams

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

McFarland Arnold & Co  
8 Main Street  
Newtownstewart  
Co Tyrone  
BT78 4AA

**BANKERS**

Ulster Bank  
14 High Street  
Omagh  
BT78 1BJ

**SOLICITORS**

Orr & Rountree  
The Old Library  
41 Dublin Road  
Omagh BT78 1HE

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**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 twice yearly.

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. Gortin congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Omagh 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.

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

### **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.

Gortin 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 congregation's mission statement is as follows:-

We the congregation of the Gortin Presbyterian Church which is part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, seek to worship God in a manner that reflects scripture, is Passionate about people and Centred in Christ. God has revealed Himself to us as our loving Heavenly Father. He has sent his Son to be our Saviour and He has granted us His Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus individually and corporately, and to lead us in His mission to the world. We seek to live out our faith through commitment:

- To God in worship
- To the Bible in obedient discipleship
- To sharing the good news of Jesus in faithful evangelism
- To the world in compassionate mission
- To one another in caring fellowship

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**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is normally 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 normally holds:

- Sunday School – fortnightly during school term
- Annual Holiday Bible Club – June each year
- Presbyterian Women (PW) – Ladies from the congregation meet up for joint PW with Newtownstewart congregation.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12 noon.

One child was baptised as an infant during 2022.

As well as our regular services we sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2022 there were 63 communicant members and 37 families connected with the congregation. The average week attendance at morning worship is 30.

**Pastoral care**

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited by the Stated Supply Minister and by the elders.

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**Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation outreach activities consisted of:

- An Afternoon Tea for members of the local community was held at Glenpark Estate in June 2022. The Afternoon Tea provided an opportunity for members of the local congregation to meet together with neighbours, family and friends post Covid as well as celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Almost 200 attended the event at Glenpark Estate.
- During the month of December 2022, members of the Congregation donated items for the Belfast City Mission Christmas Family Appeal.
- A Connect Event for children, parents and members of the congregation was held post Christmas 2022 at Glenpark Estate, where skating was enjoyed by the young at heart with refreshments being provided for all afterwards.

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 the denominations annual World Development Appeal and any other special appeals.

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During 2022 the congregational donations included the following:

- United Appeal £1,502.36
- World Development Appeal £112
- Moderator's Ukraine Appeal £275
- Earl Haig £75

**Presbytery**

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

**General Assembly**

The convenor 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 2022.

**Property**

Following the receipt of a generous gift, a PA system was installed in the church building.

**Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committee, maintenance of the church grounds /premises and assist with running of the Sunday School.

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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 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 52 contributors during the year [48 in previous year, 2021] donating a total of £17,301 (£14,539 in previous year, 2021)

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £26,159, compared to £20,808 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £9,079 in 2021 to £16,687 in 2022 - mainly attributed to installation of new Public Address System (£1,960), capital expenditure on the church farm (£2,294), costs in running special events and rising input costs.

**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 7 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Adrian T. Adams  
Dated: 7/5/2023

M. McKeown  
Dated: 7-5-23