

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees of Tobermore Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Tobermore Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, 38 Main Street, Tobermore, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry BT45 5PW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105643)

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Trevor Boyd  
Mr Ivan Brown  
Mr Jim Davison

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Trevor Boyd
Interim Clerk of Session	Mr Jackie Hamilton
Treasurer	Mr Andrew Johnston
Secretary	Mr Gareth Campbell

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

David Lytle & Co, Chartered Accountants, 15 Meeting Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6BN

## **BANKERS**

Ulster Bank, 20 Broad Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6JR

## **SOLICITORS**

Burnside & Logue, 43 Main Street, Maghera, BT46 5AA

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

**STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

**The Interim Session**

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Interim Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Interim 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 Interim 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 Interim Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Interim Session consists of the ordained minister and elected elders of other congregations within the Tyrone Presbytery. 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 Interim Session are held each year as required.

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 the votes of 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. Tobermore congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Tyrone 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 each of the Kirk Sessions of the congregations.

**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, administrative 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.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

### **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Tobermore 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 our members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's 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.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The following sections outline the normal activities of the congregation. The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join in. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed 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 an active Christian Endeavour and Sunday School.

### **WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12.15pm and has an evening service as required on special occasions.

During the week the Bible Study and Prayer meeting 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 when permitted during the year, there were no Sacraments of Baptism or marriage services but we gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 46 communicant members and 60 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is 40.

### **Pastoral care**

Members of the congregation are visited by the Minister and elders. Those who are sick, elderly, the bereaved and those facing difficult circumstances are given special attention through regular visits and the provision of support, friendship and prayer.

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

### **Mission and outreach**

Meeting together for Sunday worship is at the centre of the life of our church family and continues to be well supported. We recognise that we learn more and journey better when we journey as an inter-generational community. Above all we seek, in worship to glorify God, to enjoy coming together as a family of all-ages and stages in His presence and to leave challenged to be agents of change in the spheres of work and life to which we return.

The congregation also supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. 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, assists 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 one of the interim session. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

One of the interim session was nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to be held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

### **Property**

There were no exceptional costs associated with the Church Manse or other property during the year.

### **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.

## **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.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering.

The results for the year are set out on page 8, which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.

The reserves of the Congregation are held for the advancement of its charitable purpose, other than restricted reserves which are held for a designated purpose.

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – CONT'D**

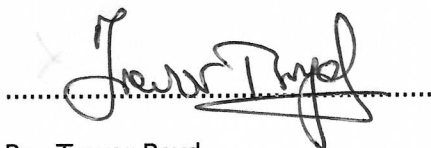
**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

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 congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 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 Interim Session at a meeting on 29 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Trevor Boyd



Mr Jim Davison