

Ballylane Reformed Presbyterian Church Trustee Report 2022

Charities Number: NIC106231

2022 has been an encouraging year for our Church. With Covid regulations being removed, we moved into the new norm gradually, only retaining the use of masks for those who chose to do so. This enabled us to carry out more of the work we as a Church want to. Throughout our work we always endeavour to promote the Purpose of the RPCI in our local church area, in Galway, Spain and Nante in France. This Purpose is to support and advance the Christian Faith according to the Word of God in accordance with the 'Book of Government and Order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

In 2022 we continued to worship jointly with our RP sister church, Ballenon. Our pastor, the Reverend Robert Robb continues faithfully in his delivery of the gospel message. Membership to the church has increased by one but sadly two deaths occurred this year. Services within the church building have continued throughout the year with pleasingly high numbers at both morning and evening services. The average morning attendance was forty-one while the evening was twenty-four.

The Southern Presbytery holds monthly Psalm singing evenings rotating around the churches. These are well attended.

Sunday School ran throughout the year apart from the summer holidays. Numbers are however low due to the age profile of the church members.

The Lord's supper was observed twice this year as is our custom. It involved a pre communion service, the communion service and a thanksgiving service all of which were well attended.

In May we held a week of mission services for our church and local community. This was achieved through outreach work with distribution of invitations to local households in local area.

In continuing our aim of spreading God's Word in our congregation, local community and further afield we use:

Prayer time. This takes place weekly for fifteen minutes at the beginning of our morning and evening services.

Women's Fellowship. Women from our two churches meet faithfully each month. Activities have included a pudding evening followed by a quiz, a talk from a spokesperson from Sports Academy George NI and Dorcas Curam, a DVD night, a walk and chat evening in Glenanne Glen and a meal out together. We support other churches women's groups in our Southern Presbytery and other local churches by attending their speaker nights. Our Women's Fellowship Group provided a financial contribution to Sports Academy George NI and Dorcas Curam this year.

Men's Group. This group meets monthly. It is very well attended by men from both congregations. Activities have included our Pastor leading discussion on portions from the Bible, a meal out together, and a visit to a printing factory to name a few.

Women's Bible Study. This resumed in September. Women from our churches meet one morning per month. Our Pastor's wife leads discussion on different themes throughout the Bible. Friends are encouraged to come along.

Go Relief Work. We continue to give financial help to the RP Relief Fund and our Pastor travelled to Nantes France to help with some of the construction work on their new church premises.

Congregation activities. We have had two social family evenings, took part in a Presbytery deep sea fishing trip, an outing to Cultra Folk Park, contributed to the Blytheswood shoebox appeal, financially contributed to both Ukraine and Pakistan appeals.

Annual Church Business Meeting. To achieve our aim of transparency we held our annual business meeting in February. Reports were presented, passed, and adopted by the congregation as true and accurate accounts.

We facilitate through the use of our church hall and kitchen, the opportunity for fellowship and community involvement:

Glenanne Women's Institute. This group meet monthly in our hall.

Southern Presbytery Youth. This group use our hall for activities and meals.

Financial situation. As can be seen from our Accounts although we are small in number, our congregation are able to fully meet all our expenses, our pastor's salary and building running costs. We fully meet the Targets of Honour set by our Synod for Church Mission work which they distribute where they find the need and for the advancement of the Christian faith, and Synodical payments which help out less well-off congregations support their pastors. Our main income is from Freewill offering by church members and adherents.

The Trustees: Reverend Robert Robb, Mr Ian Douglas and Mr Billy Wilson.

I Douglas 24/2/23
Billy Wilson