

Ballylane Reformed Presbyterian Church Trustee Report 2023

Charities Number: NIC106231

2023 has been an encouraging year for our Church with much going on in our efforts to spread the word of God. 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 year a new outreach has begun in Limerick. 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 2023 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 decreased by one due to death. 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-two while the evening was twenty-six.

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 November we held four evenings of outreach work in Markethill using the premises of 'Christ Within Markethill'. This was to encourage the local community to come along and get involved. Leaflets and flyers had been distributed within the area. All four meetings were well attended.

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 service.

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 SASRA, a DVD night, a walk and chat evening in Gosford 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 Outreach work in Limerick and to the Malawi Projects 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, supporting Clare RP Church Men's Breakfast, and a meal out together.

Women's Bible Study. Running from September to May 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 again this year our Pastor with some church members travelled to Nantes France to help with some of the construction work on their new church premises.

Congregation activities. We contributed/supported the Blytheswood shoebox appeal and financially contributed to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. Church members take part in Southern Presbytery events such as the annual BBQ, youth quiz nights etc. We also had the annual Church outing going to Enniskillen.

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 monthly 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.

