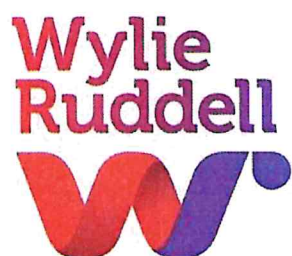


Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

**Trustees' Annual report and Statement of Receipts and Payments
and Assets and Liabilities**

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charities Number – NIC 106258



Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Contents

	Pages
References and administrative details of the Charity	1
Trustees' report	2 - 4
Independent examiner's report to the Trustees	5
Receipts and payments account	6
Statement of assets and liabilities	7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 9

Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 106258

Contact Address: Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church
% Mr Rodney Murphy (Clerk of Session)
20 Clogharevan Road
Bessbrook
Newry
Co Down
BT35 7BH

Trustees

Rev Nigel Agnew
Mr Alex Lyons
Mr Clifford Watt
Dr Noel McCune
Mr Drew Murphy
Mr Rodney Murphy

Independent Examiner

Wylie Ruddell
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Unit 63
Armagh Business Centre
2 Loughgall Road
Armagh
BT61 7NH

Bankers

Danske Bank
Hill Street
Newry

Solicitors

D & E Fisher
Unit A
8 Trevor Hill
BT34 1DN

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Introduction

This document is the annual report for Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church. The principal address of the charity is Basin Walk, Newry, BT35 6HU. The Church was registered with the Charity Commission on 13 February 2017 under Northern Ireland Charity Number 106258. This report relates to the calendar year 2023.

The names of all charity trustees on the date the report was approved and all individuals who served in such capacity during the year is as follows:-

Rev Nigel Agnew
Mr Alex Lyons
Mr Clifford Watt
Dr Noel McCune
Mr Drew Murphy
Mr Rodney Murphy

Purpose

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

Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland exists to honour and worship God and to share the good news of Jesus Christ His Son.

Structure

Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of the Session, which consists of the minister and ruling elders of the congregation. In case of vacancy (where a congregation has no minister), an acting minister from within the Presbytery (Interim Moderator) is a member of the Session, though without being a charity trustee.

Elders and ministers are chosen by a vote of all communicant members of the congregation. Election of elders, calling of ministers and transaction of Session business are carried out in accordance with the 'Code', the Book of Government and Order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Wider Governance

In the Presbyterian form of church government practiced by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, each local congregation belongs to a Presbytery. Riverside congregation belongs to the Southern Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The membership of each Presbytery consists of the active and retired ministers of the Presbytery, along with a representative elder from each member congregation. The Presbytery is responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregations within its care and meets a minimum of four times per year.

The highest court of the Reformed Presbyterian Church is its Synod, which consists of the membership of all of the presbyteries of the church. The Synod meets at least annually to transact the business brought to it by its constituent presbyteries and Synodical committees.

Committee

The committee is responsible for the temporal affairs of the congregation, including matters related to the finances and property of the church. The committee is elected each year at the annual general meeting of the congregation and are accountable to Session for their activities.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Volunteers

The congregation relies on the generosity of volunteers in giving their time to assist with a range of activities in the church, including work with children and young people, provision of hospitality, maintenance of the premises.

Activities

Public Worship

Within the period covered by this report, Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church has provided public worship services for instruction and devotion, held regularly at 11:30AM each Sunday 7:00PM 4th Sunday of month, which are open to all. A midweek meeting for Bible study, discussion, and prayer is also held regularly.

The Lord's Supper has been observed in the past year and participation is open to all who have been baptised and who make a credible profession of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Work

The elders of the congregation provided pastoral visitation to those unable to attend the public worship through age or ill-health.

Denominational Activity

Representatives of the church Session attended Presbytery meetings regularly and the annual denominational Synod.

Contributions were made to central Synodical funds for general expenses (such as training of ministers and youth work).

Outreach and Mission

As noted above, nationwide and overseas mission work was supported financially through contributions to denominational funds (Reformed Presbyterian Missions).

Youth Work

Instruction of children and young people in Sunday School. New Youth a joint youth group with Newry Baptist Church meets every other Saturday night for Bible teaching and fun.

Public Benefit

Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church meets the public benefit requirement by providing a place for worship (through weekly services of worship and other meetings), by increasing awareness and understanding of religious beliefs (through public preaching from the Holy Scriptures, literature distribution, pastoral counselling and youth work), and by engaging in and supporting missionary and outreach work, both in the Newry area and overseas.

The work of the church in fulfillment of its purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit is for Ministers and others who may receive benefit as a result of their employment. Such benefit is incidental to the work and purpose of the congregation.

The Charity trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Charity's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Financial Situation

The primary source of income is mostly member's weekly contributions. Gift Aid is sought for the relevant funds. In 2023 unrestricted donations amounted to £38,506 (2022: £33,507). The congregation has drawn on some capital which had been invested in previous years to meet the cost of charitable activities and incidental costs.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

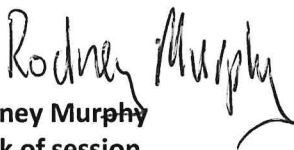
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

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.

As the congregation's 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 payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Church constitution is a historical document and had contained a clause that the annual accounts should be audited. A motion was passed at the June 2019 Synod that the wording of this clause would be changed at the June 2020 Synod which did not take place due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The change was approved at the Synod of June 2021 to state that the accounts should be 'independently examined by a competent person'.

Approved by the Session at a meeting on 27 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rodney Murphy
Clerk of session



Rev Nigel Agnew
Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the Charity Trustees

We report on the accounts of Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are appended.

Respective responsibilities of Charity Trustees and examiner

As the Charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act.
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



D Ruddell
For and on behalf of Wylie Ruddell
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Unit 63
Armagh Business Centre
2 Loughgall Road
Armagh
BT61 7NH

Date: 27 October 2024

Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

Charity number: NIC 106258

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Endowment Funds 2022	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts									
Donations	2	38,506	980	-	39,486	33,507	1,275	-	34,782
Gift Aid		7,798	-	-	7,798	8,346	-	-	8,346
Bank deposit interest		85	-	-	85	121	-	-	121
Other receipts		-	10,700	-	10,700	42,240	-	-	42,240
Manse rental income		7,200	-	-	7,200	7,200	-	-	7,200
Total Receipts		53,589	11,680	-	65,269	91,414	1,275	-	92,689
Payments									
Charitable activities	3	52,763	-	-	52,763	56,560	-	-	56,560
Grants and donations		-	8,894	-	8,894	3,528	3,932	-	7,460
Other costs		2,047	2,109	-	4,156	1,738	-	-	1,738
Manse rental expenses		12,681	-	-	12,681	12,656	-	-	12,656
Total Payments		67,491	11,003	-	78,494	74,482	3,932	-	78,414
Net (payments)/receipts		(13,902)	677	-	(13,225)	16,932	(2,657)	-	14,275
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(13,902)	677	-	(13,225)	16,932	(2,657)	-	14,275

Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church

Charity number: NIC 106258

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank and cash balances		
General Bank Account	19,921	10,151
Women's Mission Account	909	1,125
Trustees Account	19,296	30,075
Total cash at bank	40,126	41,351
Investment Assets		
Opening balance	489,599	558,054
Transfer from trustees account	-	-
Transfer to current account	(12,000)	(12,000)
Gain/(Loss) on investment fund	5,270	(56,455)
Total Investment Assets	482,869	489,599
Fixed Assets		
Assets retained for the church's own use comprise the following properties and are stated at insured values –		
Manse	245,976	217,962
Church Buildings and Contents and Graveyard	1,862,419	1,844,920
Total Fixed Assets	2,108,395	2,062,882

Approved by Session at its meeting of 27 October 2024



Chair – Rev Nigel Agnew



Trustee – Rodney Murphy

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Set out below are principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

(b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(i) Assets retained for the Church's own use

The congregation own the church building and adjoining church hall and contents at Basin Walk, Newry, and a Graveyard at Church Road, Newry. These premises and contents have an insurance valuation of £1,862,419.

The congregation own the manse and contents at 26 Castleowen, Newry. These premises and contents have an insurance valuation of £245,976.

Valuation of Tilney Investments: £496,329.

(c) Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for a specific use in the future.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Freewill offering	38,506	-	38,506	31,716	-	31,716
Missions and synodicals	-	560	560	-	1,275	1,275
Building and repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special collections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other collections	-	420	420	1,791	-	1,791
Total	38,506	980	39,486	33,507	1,275	34,782

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Ministerial expenses	38,260	-	38,260	34,844	-	34,844
Premises expenses	12,045	-	12,045	15,668	-	15,668
Mission and synod expenses	2,458	-	2,458	4,000	-	4,000
Other expenses	-	-	-	2,048	-	2,048
Total	52,763	-	52,763	56,560	-	56,560

4 Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at Beginning of the year	41,351
Receipts for the year	65,269
Payments for the year	(78,494)
Transfer from Investment Assets	12,000
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	40,126

5 Trustee/Related Party Transactions

Included within “Ministerial expenses” at note 3 is the annual salary paid to Rev Nigel Agnew who is also a church trustee.