

## **DERVOCK CONGREGATION OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Dervock congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland  
210-212 Castlecat Road, Ballymoney, County Antrim BT53 8AT

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106400)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Samuel Bleakly  
Alan Kerr  
Archie McKeeman

David McKeeman  
David Millar

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurers

Rev Raymond Blair  
Mr Samuel Bleakly  
Mr David McKeeman & Mrs Rosemary Lyons

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

J A S Campbell & Co, 49 Managher Road, Aghadowey, Coleraine, BT51 4DE

**DERVOCK CONGREGATION OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**BANKERS**

Danske Bank, 6 High Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6AD

**SOLICITORS**

Greer Hamilton & Gailey, 27 High Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6AJ

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

### **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **The Session**

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

The Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. 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 Session are held 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 Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

#### **Presbytery**

Under the Reformed Presbyterian Church of 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 Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Dervock Reformed Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Northern Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the Synod, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Session of each congregation.

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

### **The Synod**

The Synod 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 Synod is normally constituted during the second week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the Synod consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Session of each congregation.

### **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

Dervock Reformed Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and believes in the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that its members can enter into a relationship with that God through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. That relationship is expressed through a range of activities.

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

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are always welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed four times 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 a wide range of ministries for all ages, including:

- Sabbath School
- Parents & Toddlers
- Holiday Bible Club
- Youth Club
- Women's Fellowship
- Men's Fellowship
- Friendship Group
- Bowling Club

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.30am. Each Tuesday evening there is also 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 during the year, we celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's Supper twice.

At 31 December 2023 there were 52 communicant members and 28 families connected with the congregation.

The average week attendance at morning worship is 55.

#### **Pastoral care**

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the elders or by other members of the congregation.

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

### **Mission and outreach**

At a local level the congregation served its members and the wider community in numerous ways through its various organizations and ministries (see below).

The congregation supports the Mission Committee which is a central fund of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of 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 Mission Committee provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, enables church planting, and keeps local congregations up to date with developments on the mission field.

### **Presbytery**

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

### **Synod**

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland held in June.

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

### **Organisations**

Sabbath School: The children were taught weekly from the Bible from February to June and from September to November.

The Women's Fellowship (WF) usually meet on the second Monday of the month, January, February, March and April and October, November and December. This year the WF participated in an 8 week bible study from January to March. The WF gave generously to mission at home and overseas.

The Friendship Group meet monthly on a monthly basis.

The Men's Fellowship met on four occasions this year.

Youth Club for local children in the community was held October to March.

Parents and Toddlers ran on Friday mornings.

Several members of the congregation have taken part in voluntary outreach teams.

### **Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organizations and other church activities.

**DERVOCK CONGREGATION OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)  
PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland is to support and advance the Christian Faith according to the Word of God and in accordance with the 'Book of Government and Order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland'.

*1. What are the direct benefits flowing from the organisation's purposes?*

The provision of churches as places of worship

Public access to worship of a devotional nature

Provision of a moral/ethical framework based on Biblical principles

Opportunities for social interaction among members and with the public in general

Encouragement to live and participate in and contribute to community life based on Christian principles

*2. How can the benefits identified be demonstrated?*

The benefits are easily demonstrated in that each Congregation provides a place for meeting and worship. These are open to all. Other benefits will be seen in the lives of people conforming more and more to the highest ethical and moral standards in accordance with Christian faith. There will be further benefit to the public as members interact with the communities in which they live and demonstrate the benefits of living according to Christian principles in consistent Christian Faith.

Benefits can be demonstrated through our missionary and outreach work and through our training of students for the Christian Ministry at the Reformed Theological College.

*3. Is there any harm arising from any of the purposes?*

There will be no harm as a result of the work of the Church

*4. Who are the charity's beneficiaries?*

The weekly worship services and Bible study and prayer groups are open to members and adherents and other members of the public who may wish to attend. Only those who meet the membership requirements of the denomination may participate in the observance of the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).

Outreach work is conducted in the neighbourhoods of the places of worship and in those areas where the denomination is seeking to establish a presence.

Many congregations maintain a website which will include access to audio recordings of services including sermons.

*5. Is there any private benefit flowing from any purposes?*

The only private benefit within the context of the work of the Church will be the deeper understanding and experience gained by those who are involved in promoting the aims of the Church.

The Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions public benefit requirement statutory guidance.



## DERVOCK CONGREGATION OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 30 contributors during the year (30 in 2022) donating a total of £ 57,424 (£ 50,514 in 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £ 90,086 compared to £ 91,582 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased from £ 53,357 in the previous year to £ 58,385 in the current year.

### 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) 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 Session at a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Raymond Blair

26<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Samuel Bleakly

26<sup>th</sup> October 2024