

**THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106461)

THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Ballymena Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
24 Grasmere, Coleraine BT52 2DJ

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106461)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev William Moody	James Gillan	Henry Lamont
Rev Mark Neilly	Rev Albert Baxter	Tom Heaney
Rev Brian Smyth	Rev Philip Mccullough	Rev John Brogan
Rev Joseph Andrews	Rev Jeffrey Blue	Tommy Simpson
James Lamont	Rev Norman McDowell	Norman Kennedy
Rev Martin McNeely	Very Rev Dr Russell Birney	Henry Magill
Rev Darran McCorriston	Rev William Dickey	Ian Johnston
Rev William Sinclair	Very Rev Dr John Finlay	Dr Paul Hughes
Dennis Hanna	Rev Eddie Kirk	Rev Richard Morrison
Rev Edwin Chestnutt	Rev Desmond Knowles	Noel Connor
Trevor McIlhagga	Rev Kenneth McConnell	Robin Fowler
Rev Norman Cameron	Rev George Preston	Mark Hood
Rev Alistair Bates	Very Rev Dr Harry Uprichard	Hugh Young
Rev Daniel Kane	Rev Ronald Agnew	Rev Trevor Kane
Angela McClintock	Rev Philip Thompson	Gavin Mcfarland
Rev Alistair Beattie	Rev Stephen Kennedy	Junior Whyte
Rev George Johnston	John Wright	David John Galbraith
Rev Brian McManus	Eric McCallum	David Stanley Warwick
David Preston	Rev Alistair McCracken	Brian Mckinstry
Rev Dr David Murphy	Rev Matthew Boyd	Adrian Lowry
Derek Patterson	Rev Linda Keys	James Harris
Samuel McKee	Robert Reid	Samuel Kirkpatrick
Rev Noel Mulholland	Colin Patton	Rev Emerson McDowell
Rev Brian Boyd	William Smyth	Rev David McGaughey
Rev Roland Watt		Brian Alexander

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Moderator
Clerk of Presbytery
Finance Convener / Deputy Clerk

Rev Alistair Bates
Rev Joseph Andrews
Mr David Preston

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr John Finnegan
190 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1HL

BANKERS

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1 6JS

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STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

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. The following congregations of the Presbyterian Church have been assigned to The Ballymena Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Ahoghill - Brookside	Broughshane - First	Eskylane
Ahoghill - First	Broughshane - Second	Glenarm
Ahoghill - Trinity	Buckna	Glenwherry
Ballee	Cairnalbana	Grange with Craigmore
Ballykeel	Carnlough/Cushendall	Kells
Ballyloughan	Churchtown	Killymurriss
First Ballymena	Clough	Newtowncrommelin
Harryville	Cloughwater	Portglenone - First
High Kirk	Connor	Townhill
Wellington	Cuningham Memorial	Rasharkin
West Church		

A Presbytery makes arrangements for the election of ministers in congregation, ordains licentiates and installs or inducts and appoints ministers in the congregations assigned to it. They also ordain or install and appoint elders, commission and appoint deaconesses, senior lecturers, auxiliary ministers, lay agents and missionaries who have been called by an authorised body in the Church. A Presbytery has a role in seeing that ministers preach the Word faithfully to their congregations, regularly visit the families under their charge, visit the sick, promote peace and temperance and see that the duties of the eldership are properly discharged. Presbyteries oversee the resignation and retirements of ministers and elders.

Presbyteries provide advice to Kirk Sessions and Congregational Committees when required and have a role in approving matters in relation to congregational property. They report annually to the General Assembly and have the right to make a nomination for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly.

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

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elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church

Stated meetings of Presbytery are held on the first Tuesday of March, May, October, November, December and February and the second Tuesday of September.

All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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, administration 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.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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

The Ballymena Presbytery is a presbytery 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 her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The presbytery's mission purposes are in line with those 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

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through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit,
and to enable her members to play their part
in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

GOD CALLS US TO A SHARED LIFE

in which we love, honour and are reconciled to one another
whilst respecting our diversity
within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

We are called to encourage
the exercise of the gifts of every member of the Body
for the work of ministry and,
seeking the renewal of the whole Church,
to co-operate with other parts of Christ's Church
without betrayal of our convictions.

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM with our whole lives,
meeting together in groups large and small
and gathering especially on the Lord's Day
for the preaching and study of His Word,
the celebration of the sacraments
and the offering of prayer and praise with reverence and joy,
using language, form and music appropriate
both to Scripture and to our time and culture.

GOD CALLS US TO MISSION as witnesses to Christ
through both evangelism and social witness
challenging the values of the world in which we live
with the values of God's kingdom
and winning men and women to faith and discipleship.
This mission is to be pursued amongst all the people of Ireland
and the peoples of the European Community and the whole world:
those with whom we feel comfortable,
those from whom we feel alienated
and those who are in any way distant from us in culture and faith.

WE OURSELVES ARE CHALLENGED with a biblical discipleship
which is radical in its
self denial, simplicity of lifestyle,

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stewardship of money,
faithful relationships,
prayerfulness,
concern for the world which God has created
and love for its people whom he loves
and for whose salvation He gave his Son.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The Presbytery meets on the first Tuesday of March, May, October, November, December and February and the second Tuesday of September and on other occasions as required. All meeting commence with a time of worship and are opened and closed with prayer.

The presbytery carries out the following activities

- Supports those candidating for the Ministry
- Installs Ordained ministers
- Provides pastoral support for ministers and their families
- Holds a number of events such as Youth, Overseas and Irish Mission Rallies
- PW Link is an initiative of Presbyterian Women intended to improve communications and build relationships between Presbyterian Women. PW links include a representative from each congregations and run events to support the mission and outreach of Presbytery. During the year there were two Link meetings held i.e. Spring Celebration and a ladies breakfast

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

A regular series of stated meetings were held during 2023 carrying out the business of the Presbytery. It was a busy year with considerable work required to deal with matters before it. Much of this work was delegated to various Commissions and Committees.

At the 31 December the following numbers of persons were under the care of Presbytery

	2023	2022
Minister in active service in congregations	27	25
Retired Ministers	19	19
Licentiates	0	0
Students for the Ministry	0	1

During the year credentials were received from another Presbytery in respect of 1 minister who was installed in a congregation assigned to the Presbytery. Credentials were presented to another Presbytery in respect of one licentiates who were assigned to congregations in another Presbytery.

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The presbytery encourages the congregations assigned to it to support the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in 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 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, assist 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.

The presbytery also encourages congregations to contribute to the denominations annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

General Assembly

Presbyteries are represented on the various Councils of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and report on an annual basis to the General Assembly

Property

Presbytery neither holds nor has interest in any property.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on Presbytery, its commissions and panels.

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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 congregational churches and 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 charities beneficiaries are its 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 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 presbytery has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Presbytery's main source of income is an assessment that is levied on the congregations assigned to it and £15,957 was received in the current year (£16,334 in previous year, 2022)

Total expenditure increased from £17,342 to £24,590. This expenditure includes payments made to the Clerk of Presbytery, Deputy Clerk and Finance Convener for the responsibilities of their respective positions.


STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

As the presbytery's 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 presbytery's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the presbytery and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the presbytery at a meeting on 5th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by



(Moderator)
5th March 2024



(Clerk)
5th March 2024