

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

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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 2024 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	Rev Stephen Kennedy	Rev Philip McCullough
Rev Mark Neilly	Eric McCallum	Rev Jeffrey Blue
Rev Joseph Andrews	Rev Alistair McCracken	Rev Norman McDowell
Rev Darran McCorrison	Rev Matthew Boyd	Very Rev Dr Russell Birney
Rev William Sinclair	Rev Linda Keys	Rev William Dickey
Dennis Hanna	Robert Reid	Very Rev Dr John Finlay
Rev Edwin Chestnutt	Colin Patton	Rev Eddie Kirk
Trevor McIlhagga	Tom Heaney (Resigned 31/03/2024)	Rev Desmond Knowles
Rev Norman Cameron	Rev John Brogan	Rev Kenneth McConnell
Rev Alistair Bates	Tommy Simpson	Rev George Preston
Rev Daniel Kane	Albert Magill	Very Rev Dr Harry Uprichard
Angela McClintock	Dr Paul Hughes	Rev Ronald Agnew
Rev Alistair Beattie	Rev Richard Morrison	Rev Philip Thompson
Rev George Johnston	Noel Connor	Rev David McGaughey
Rev Brian McManus	Robin Fowler	Brian Alexander
David Preston	Mark Hood	David Shaw
Rev Dr David Murphy	Hugh Young	Alistair Hamill
Derek Patterson	Rev Trevor Kane	Alexander Rankin
Samuel McKee	Junior Whyte	Nick Greer
Rev Noel Mulholland	David John Galbraith	David Woodburn
Rev Brian Boyd	Brian McKinstry	James McWilliams
Rev Roland Watt	Adrian Lowry	Anne Dines
James Gillan	James Harris	Colville Elliott
Rev Albert Baxter	Rev Emerson McDowell	Mark Rodgers
Adrian Moody		

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Moderator
Clerk of Presbytery
Finance Convener / Deputy Clerk

Rev Philip McCullough
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

THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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	Cuninghame 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

THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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

THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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,

THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

A regular series of stated meetings were held during 2024 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

	2024	2023
Minister in active service in congregations	22	27
Retired Ministers	21	19
Licentiates	1	0
Students for the Ministry	0	0

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 two minister who were called to congregations in another Presbytery.

**THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

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.

**THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

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.

**THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

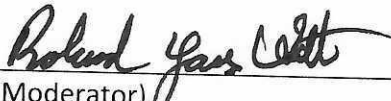
The Presbytery's main source of income is an assessment that is levied on the congregations assigned to it and £16,649 was received in the current year (£15,957 in previous year, 2023). Total expenditure decreased from £24,590 to £20,962. This expenditure includes payments made to the Clerk of Presbytery, Deputy Clerk and Finance Convener for the responsibilities of their respective positions.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

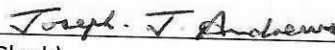
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the presbytery in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice. As the presbytery's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 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 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 4th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by



(Moderator)
4th March 2025



(Clerk)
4th March 2025