

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 2024

**The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number: 109388
HMRC Charities Reference Number: XN48594**

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Number 109388

HMRC Charities Reference number XN48594

Trustees

Rev D Smith
Mr I Parke
Mr R Graham
Mr E Hamilton
Mr I McCrum
Mr T Graham
Mr J Douglas
Mr P Moore

Contact Address Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church
Ballymoney Hill
Banbridge
BT32 4DR

Independent Examiner Roulston Jardine Chartered Accountants
First Floor
3 Gallows Street
Dromore
BT25 1BG

Bankers Ulster Bank
22 Bridge Street
Banbridge
BT32 3JT

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Introduction

The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster came into being on 17th March 1951 as a testimony to the historic faith of Presbyterians that emphasised the inspiration and authority of Scripture against the liberal, rationalist infidelity that had made serious inroads into Presbyterianism in Ireland as well as the other main Protestant denominations.

The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster is a worldwide Protestant Reformed denomination consisting of congregations which accept and uphold the Articles of Faith. It is Protestant in its basis, Presbyterian in its government, Reformed in its doctrine, Evangelistic in its ministry, Fundamentalist in its stand and defence of the Historic Christian Faith, and subject only to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Great King and only Head of The Church. The Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is its only rule of faith and practice.

Articles of Faith

The Absolute Authority and Verbal Divine Inspiration of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God;

There is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead there are Three Persons, equal in power and glory, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost;

The Eternal Sonship, Virgin Birth and Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

The personality of God the Holy Spirit, and the absolute necessity of His work in Regeneration and Sanctification, and His infilling of the indwelt Believer for power to live and witness for Christ;

The Substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection as the only way of Salvation from sin through Faith;

God has appointed besides the Word and Prayer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper;

Baptism. The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, under Christ the great King and Head of the Church, realises that bitter controversy raging around the ordinance of Christian Baptism has divided the Body of Christ, when that Body should have been united in Christian love and Holy Ghost power to stem the onslaughts and hell-inspired assaults of modernism, hereby affirms that each member of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster shall have liberty to decide for themselves which course to adopt, each member giving due honour in love to the views held by differing brethren, but none espousing the error of baptismal regeneration;

The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper has been appointed by our Lord for Remembrance of Him in His work as Saviour. Its purpose to the child of God is for strengthening, and the putting of a visible difference between the redeemed and the unregenerate. This Sacrament will be observed once each month in every Free Presbyterian Congregation, or more, or less frequently as each local congregation shall decide; and

The visible and personal return of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

These Articles of Faith, together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Westminster Standards form the Subordinate Standards of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster.

Purpose

The Objective of the Church is to promote the advancement of religion in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the subordinate standards of the Articles of Faith, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order.

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Public Benefit

This congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster meets the public benefit requirement. The Church is established to benefit its members and the general public, both at home and abroad through the advancement of religion. The benefits which flow from its purpose include the holding of public worship and fulfilment of the Great Commission to preach Christ crucified in all the world, the coming of souls to saving faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from sin and the holding to orthodox Bible religion. Adherence to this framework leads to spiritual and moral development and wider society living in accordance with God's moral law. It encourages demonstrable acts in the world such as fervent evangelism, missionary effort, the establishment of new churches, the instruction of students for Christian service, the progress of Christian schooling and the provision of pastoral care, and humanitarian relief. The benefits are further demonstrated through attendance at public worship as well as regular evaluation of activities, informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and the general public. The purpose does not lead to harm.

The charity's beneficiaries are the Christian Church and the general public within society in Northern Ireland and wherever across the world the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster has an opportunity to minister. The only private benefits flowing from this purpose are to those members who would receive reasonable remuneration paid in respect of employment by the Church; those members who may enter into contracts with the Church and receive reasonable payment for goods and services supplied; where a member may benefit as a student at our Bible Colleges; or where someone from a member's family may benefit as a pupil at a Christian school. These private benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the public benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

Activities and Events

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church carries out the following activities

- The church conducts public worship through the following regular services – Lord's Day morning and evening worship, prayer meetings, Adult Bible Class, Sunday School, Weekly Prayer Meeting, Youth Fellowship, monthly Ladies Fellowship
- Conducts Public worship through the following special services – Gospel Missions, teaching conferences, special times of prayer, Youth rallies, baptism services and other special meetings.
- The Elders attend the monthly Presbytery meetings
- Representatives attend the monthly Missionary Council meetings
- The Kirk Session interview and accept new communicant members
- The Kirk Session provide pastoral support for the members and attendees
- The Kirk Session meet regularly to provide spiritual oversight
- The Church Committee meets regularly to oversee the financial and practical matters
- The Church supports the work of Radio and TV broadcasting through Let the Bible Speak and the training activities in the Whitefield College of the Bible. Encourages fervent evangelism in the rest of the UK through the work of the Mainland Commission and the growing missionary work through the Mission Board and The Free Presbyterian Mission Society Africa. Supports the work of Christian Education through the work of the Education Board.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees meet on a regular basis to discuss the work of the church, and to make decisions concerning the activities within the church. Matters are reported to Church Members at the Annual General Meeting when the Financial Report is given and the Accounts are presented.

The Church Committee meets regularly to take delegated responsibility on behalf of the members of the Kirk Session to assist it in managing the Church's finances and assets and in making decisions regarding the day to day financial and material affairs of the Church.

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Financial Review

The main source of income is from weekly offerings, and voluntary gifts and donations, supplemented by the use of Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

The total amount received during the year amounted to £130,753, from which total payments in the amount of £104,545 were made, leaving a net surplus of £26,208 for the year compared with a net surplus of £33,087 in the previous year. Cash funds held at the year end amounted to £309,318 (2023: £283,110).

The Church reserves policy is to accumulate sufficient reserves to provide cover for 12 months operating expenses and future capital projects.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Church can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 can be signed off as a going concern.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).


The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Church's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Church. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Rev D Smith



Mr J Douglas

Date: 27th June 2025

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

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 my 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 my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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.

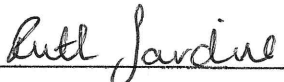
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me 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

I have completed my 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, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Ruth Jardine FCA

Date 27th June 2025

Roulston Jardine Chartered Accountants
First Floor, 3 Gallows Street,
Dromore

Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31 December 2024


	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>					
Offerings and Gifts	2	97,074	14,341	111,415	108,124
Bank Interest				-	
Other Receipts	3	18,865	-	18,865	16,841
<u>From Charitable Activities</u>					
Other	4	473	-	473	156
Total Receipts		116,412	14,341	130,753	125,121
Payments					
Cost of Fundraising				-	
Cost of Charitable Activities	5	80,095	-	80,095	69,614
Grants and Donations	6	22,692	-	22,692	21,228
Governance Costs	7	1,735	23	1,758	1,193
<u>Asset and investment purchases</u>					
Purchase of Fixed Assets	8	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		104,522	23	104,545	92,035
Net receipts/(payments)		11,890	14,318	26,208	33,086
Transfers between funds		(578)	578	-	
Fund surplus/(deficit) for the year		11,312	14,896	26,208	33,086
Cash and Bank Reconciliation					
Balance at start of year		199,318	83,792	283,110	250,024
Surplus/(deficit) this year		11,312	14,896	26,208	33,086
Cash at bank and in hand at year end		210,630	98,688	309,318	283,110

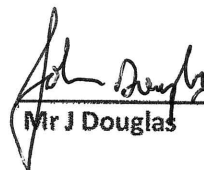
Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church

Statement of Assets and Liabilities For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Assets Retained for Church Own Use					
Land & Buildings		1,300,000		1,300,000	
Fixtures and Fittings					
		<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>	
			1,300,000		1,300,000
Cash Funds					
Current Accounts		126,587		109,184	
Deposit Accounts		182,731		173,926	
Total Cash Funds		<u>309,318</u>		<u>283,110</u>	
			309,318		283,110
Liabilities					
Other Loans					
Net Assets			<u>1,609,318</u>		<u>1,583,110</u>
			<u>1,609,318</u>		<u>1,583,110</u>
Represented By Funds					
Unrestricted funds - General	9		210,630		199,318
Restricted funds - Income	9	98,688		83,792	
- Capital		1,300,000		1,300,000	
		<u>1,398,688</u>		<u>1,383,792</u>	
			1,398,688		1,383,792
Funds at Year End			<u>1,609,318</u>		<u>1,583,110</u>
			<u>1,609,318</u>		<u>1,583,110</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Rev D Smith


Mr J Douglas