



2024
Directory, Statement of Accounts
and Organisation Reports

Love God and love your neighbour

1900 7th December – inaugural service of nucleus congregation in Brown Memorial School, Redcar Street

1902 Application to Belfast Presbytery for recognition as a congregation of the Irish Presbyterian Church

1902 March – opening of the 'Iron Church' on approximate site of the present Allen Memorial Hall

1902 2nd September – oversight accepted by Belfast Presbytery

1902 27th October – Church Extension Committee petitioned to invite the Rev. David Stewart, B.A., Minister of Tralee, "to come and organise the people into a congregation"

1903 January – the Rev. David Stewart takes up his duties at Cregagh

1903 June – the General Assembly sanctions 'the erection' of the congregation to be known as 'Cregagh'

1903 22nd October – installation of the Rev. David Stewart, B.A.

1906 January – the first issue of the church magazine, 'The Blue Banner'

1910 8th July – the Rev. David Stewart, B.A. appointed Presbytery Licensor

1910 Hymns and instrumental music introduced in congregation praise

1914 2nd November – branch of Senior Girls' Auxiliary formed. (Discontinued in 1965)

1919 November – purchase of extra ground from Cregagh Athletic Club

1920 April – Weekly Freewill Offering system introduced

1925 Branch of the Junior Girls' Auxiliary formed. (Discontinued in 1963)

1925 22nd October – registration of 66th Boy Scout Troop

1926 9th March – registration of 66th Wolf Cub Pack

1928 20th September – opening and dedication of present church

1929 23rd February – opening and dedication of Allen Memorial Hall

1931 Registration of 93rd Girl Guide Company

1933 27th March - formation of Women's Christian Union (The Women's Missionary Association since 1958, Presbyterian Women's Association since 1971 and the Presbyterian Women's Group since 2008)

1933 Registration of 93rd Brownie Pack

1943 Retirement of the Rev. David Stewart, B.A.

1944 17th January – installation of the Rev. William Arthur James Barbour, B.A.

1944 22nd January – formation of the Young People Fellowship (The 4Cs from 1972 and Youth Fellowship since 1987)

1944 Doctorate in Divinity conferred on the Rev. David Stewart B.A. by the Faculty of Assembly's College

1944 Formation of the 70th Boys' Brigade Company. (Discontinued in 1981)

1944 Formation of the 70th Life Boy Team. (Discontinued in 1977)

1948 30th May – unveiling of the 1939-1945 War Memorial Windows and Tablet

1948 Formation of Cradle Roll Mother's Circle. Young Women's Group P.W.A. from 1971 and Friendship Circle P.W.A. since 1977. Friendship Circle closed in 2002.

1948 Electrical heating installed in church and halls

1949 Formation of Men's Social Circle (Discontinued 2011)

1951 Manse purchased at 108, Cregagh Road

1952 5th January – opening and dedication of church hall for our daughter congregation, St. Andrews, Rosetta Road

1952 7th September – commencement of Primary Sunday School in Montgomery Road. (Discontinued in 1968)

1953 9th November – unveiling of Dunlop Memorial Window

1956 14th January - opening and dedication of Stewart Hall (temporary Minor Hall from 1969 until demolished in 1989 for site of Sleith Youth Centre)

1959 25th March – decision to undertake extensive building programme and installation of new pipe organ

1959 27th September – launch of Building Fund and dedication of Visitors and Collectors

1961 25th March – death of the Rev. David Stewart, B.A., D.D.

CREGAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

¶102-104 Cregagh Road, Belfast, BT6 9ER

Tel: + 44 (0)28 9045 5160

www.cregaghpresbyterian.org

Minister: Rev Edward J B McKenzie B.A., B.D., Dip.Min., M.Th., C.F.

Tel: 07809 674068

Email: emckenzie@presbyterianireland.org

Manse: 15 Garland Crescent, Belfast BT8 6YJ

Minister Emeritus: Rev J Hastings McIntyre B.Sc., B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed.

Clerk of Session: Mr M Graham 63 Church Road, Moneyreagh

Tel: 07548 635075

Email: michaelgraham112@gmail.com

Secretary: Mr J McCurry 4 Albert Drive

Tel: 9070 5644

Email: j.k.mccurry@tinyonline.co.uk

Assistant Secretary: Mrs R Hill 21 Ormiston Drive

Tel: 07753 709108

Treasurer: Mr G Dunlop

Tel: 9045 3829

Email: gordondunlop3958@gmail.com

WFO/Membership Mrs K McCurry 4 Albert Drive

Secretary: Tel: 07552 606550

Email: j.k.mccurry@tinyonline.co.uk

Property Fund: Mr & Mrs R Molyneaux

Tel: 07799 718817 (R)

Email: r.molyneaux@btinternet.com

Tel: 07922 646535 (E)

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs E Gillespie, 1 Gibson Park Avenue

Tel: 07990 610918

Email: elainejgillespie@hotmail.com

Organist and Mr J R Dallas, 19C Hawthornden Gardens

Choirmaster Tel: 9076 1957



Find Cregagh on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/cregaghpresbyterian

Follow Cregagh on Twitter @cregaghpresby

Watch services on www.youtube.com

Northern Ireland charity number: NIC104556

Organisation name: Cregagh Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

All monetary amounts in the Directory and Statement of Accounts are in £ Sterling.

The names listed below are correct at the time of going to print – June 2025

Sub Committees

Finance

Mrs E Gillespie
Mr G Dunlop
Mrs E Skeet
Mr J McCurry
Mrs E Molyneaux
Mr R Molyneaux
Mr M Graham

Auditor (Organisations)

Mrs J Hewitt

Collectors

All Committee Members

Agents and Convenors

Presbyterian Herald	Mrs J Taylor	9 The Beeches	9064 1262
Christian Aid	Mrs B Dunlop	5 Ardenlee Avenue	9045 3829
Leprosy Mission	Mrs R Clarke	3 Downshire Park South	07753 590690
Orphan & Children Soc.	Mrs D Platt	395 Cregagh Road	07803 264286
Missions Convenor	Vacant		
'Fresh from the Word'	Mrs B Dunlop	5 Ardenlee Avenue	9045 3829
'Inspire'	Mrs D Platt	395 Cregagh Road	07803 264286
Joint Flower Convenors	Mr T D Mahood	229 Cregagh Road	07891 920261
	Ms M Mulligan	36 Haddington Gardens	07730 435377
Tear Fund	Ms M Mulligan	36 Haddington Gardens	07730 435377
Weekly News Sheet	Mrs R Clarke	3 Downshire Park South Email: rebecca.clarke1981@gmail.com	07753 590690
Directory and Church News Co-ordinator	Mr D Gillespie	1 Gibson Park Avenue Email: d.gillespie@ntlworld.com	07964 150960
Computer Convenors	Mr L H Ferguson Mr R McNair	16 Cairnshill Park Email: rmcnair@compuserve.com	9070 2297
United Appeal & Missions Treasurers	Mr L H Ferguson & Mrs C Ferguson	16 Cairnshill Park	9070 2297
Website Co-ordinator	Mr A McNair	Email: alanmcnair@gmail.com	07821 227567

Congregational Notices

MORNING WORSHIP	Sunday at 11.00am
AFTERNOON WORSHIP	Monthly Prayer and Bible Study Sundays at 4pm
EVENING WORSHIP	Cafe Connect at 6.30pm. Monthly Choral Service and Special Services at 7.00pm. (Dates as announced).
LORD'S SUPPER	First Sunday in January & October at morning service. Palm Sunday at morning service and third Sunday in June at evening service. Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm.
COMMUNICANTS' CLASS	As arranged.
KIDZONE	Leader: Mrs K McCurry 07552 606550. Held during morning worship.
KIRK SESSION	Third Tuesday of February, May & September at 7.45pm. Business Committee at 7.30pm.
CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE	Second Monday February, May, September & November at 7.45pm. Finance Committee at 7.15pm.
BIBLE STUDY	Wednesday mornings and evenings, as stated in Weekly News Sheet.
MORNING WATCH	Alternate Tuesdays at 10.45am in Session Room
CAFE CONNECT (Mission Awareness)	As stated in Weekly News Sheet.
PRAYER LINK	Requests for prayer may be forwarded to the minister, Rev Edward McKenzie (07809 674068).
OPEN CHURCH	Church open Fridays, 10.00am – 12.00 noon
MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS	Please contact the Minister as early as possible.
BAPTISMS	By arrangement with the Minister.
ILLNESS	Members are especially requested to report cases of illness to the Minister without delay.
CHANGE OF RESIDENCE	Members changing their residence are requested to give notice to the WFO Secretary.
BEQUESTS	Bequests from late members are always greatly appreciated. Anyone considering furthering the work and witness of this congregation in this way should please speak to the Session Clerk or Church Treasurer.

Details of Organisations

The names listed below are correct at the time of going to print – June 2025

Organisation	Hall	Day	Time	Leader(s)	Contact Details
Church Choir	Barbour	Thursday	7.30pm	Richard Molyneux	07799 718817 r.molyneux@btinternet.com
Junior Choir	Barbour	Tuesday	6.30pm	Maureen Mulligan	07730 435377 maureen.mulligan@btinternet.com
Praise Group	Church	Thursday (once monthly)	6.45pm	Kathryn Glover	07810 276546 kathrynglover@ymail.com
Presbyterian Women's Group (PW)	Allen	1st Monday	2.30pm	Lesley McKenzie (Leader)	07809 674065
				Heather Sharpe (Treasurer)	07954 317603
				Carol Ferguson (Secretary)	07880 672836 carolaferguson@sky.com
Girl Guides	Allen	Thursday	6.30pm	Gillian Simons	9187 4687 gillianhsimons@yahoo.co.uk
Trefoil Guild	Allen	2rd and 4th Thursday as arranged		Roxy Thompson (Chair)	07545 56156 07910 169150
				Vicky Thompson (Treasurer)	93rdbelfasttrefoilguild@gmail.com 07910 460917
				Susan Forsythe (Secretary)	07710 243712 littlesusy29@googlemail.com
Rangers	Session Room	2rd and 4th Thursday as arranged		Susan Forsythe (Leader)	07710 243712 littlesusy29@googlemail.com
				Roxy Thompson (Treasurer)	07910 169150 roxy.thompson@hotmail.co.uk
Brownies	Stewart	Thursday	6.30pm to 7.45pm	Vicki Thompson (Leader in Charge)	93rdbelfastrangers@gmail.com 07910 460917
				93rdbelfastbrownies@gmail.com	
				Roxy Thompson (Ass't Leader)	07910 169150 roxy.thompson@hotmail.com
				Susan Forsythe (Ass't Leader)	07710 243712 littlesusy29@googlemail.com

Organisation	Hall	Day	Time	Leader(s)	Contact Details
Rainbow Guides	Barbour	Thursday	6.00pm	Emma Davey	07454 005686 emma.davey56@gmail.com
				Danielle Wilson	07510 151994 dani-da-viking@hotmail.co.uk
				Dara Caskey	07545 612049 dara_93@hotmail.co.uk
				Susan Forsythe	07710 243712 littlesusy29@googlemail.com
Youth BIG Night	Youth Centre	Saturday	7-9pm	Rev E. McKenzie	07809 674068
				Lesley McKenzie	07809 674065 youth@cragaghpresbyterian.org
				Susan Forsythe	07710 243712 littlesusy29@googlemail.com
				Thomas Clarke	07887 380227
Evergreens	Barbour	3rd Wednesday	2.30pm	Laura Armstrong	07597 684104
				Barbara Dunlop	9045 3829 barbaradunlop54@icloud.com
				Carol Ferguson (Treasurer)	9070 2297 carolaferguson@sky.com
				Vacant	Vacant
Cafe Connect	Allen	Sunday evenings as announced		Vacant	
KidZone	Stewart	Sunday	11am - noon	Karen McCurry	07552 606550 j.k.mccurry@tinyonline.co.uk
Handbell Choir	Allen	Wednesday	6.45-7.45pm	Dorothy Platt	07803 264286 dorothy.platt395@gmail.com
Crèche	Pebbles Crèche	Sunday	11am	Kirsty Diver	07791 983611 kirsty.diver@gmail.com
Morning Bible Study	WhatsApp	Wednesday twice monthly as arranged		Barbara Dunlop	9045 3829 barbaradunlop54@icloud.com
				Robyn McCullough	9079 5574 therobynbird@hotmail.com

Organisation	Hall	Day	Time	Leader(s)	Contact Details
Cregagh Youth Bible Class	Session Room	Sunday mornings	10.15am	Susan Forsythe	07710 712243 littlesusy29@gmail.com
				Emma Davey	07454 005686 emma.davey56@gmail.com
				Rev E McKenzie	07809 674068 youth@cregaghpresbyterian.org
Tea and Talk	McIntyre Suite	2nd & 4th Weds each month	2-3.30pm	Dorothy Platt	07803 264286 dorothy.platt395@gmail.com
				Ruth Hill	07753709108 r.hill22@ntlworld.com
The Brews Brothers	McIntyre Suite	Alternate Tues	12.30-2.00pm	Michael Graham	07548 635075
				Richard Molyneux	07799 718817
Book Club	Homes	Every six weeks	As arranged	May Gordon	07969 149048
				Carol McCormick	07936 529562
Boys Brigade	Allen	Friday Evenings	6:30-7:30pm	George Taggart MBE JP (Company Captain)	07762 909819
			Anchor Boys (P1-4)		
			Junior Section (P5-7)		
			7:15-9:30pm Company Section		
Army Cadet Force	Allen	Monday Evenings	7-9pm	-	info@cregaghadets.com

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS 2024

Kirk Session Report

‘For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them’ (Matthew 18:20)
Every year in this Annual Report we review what God has done within and through our church. Our weekly gathering to praise and glorify God in worship opens our hearts to what is good and helps us to recognise God through the worship experience. Coming together in the name of the Lord enables us to connect with each other in faith, to seek spiritual guidance, and to find peace and strength to help us live as Christ would have us live.

***‘Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans’
(Proverbs 16:3)***

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are warmly invited to share in communion and at our New Year Communion service, we, as a church family, were delighted to welcome four new communicant members to the roll. Kirk Session would encourage members of the congregation to consider communicant membership, this is not for ‘super Christians’ but for anyone who loves and seeks to follow Jesus. It doesn’t matter if a person is 12 or 112 as everyone is on an individual journey of personal faith.

On Monday 15th January, a detachment of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) was established here in Cregagh. The ACF is one of the UK’s leading youth organisations and the detachment is already growing in numbers and is open to boys and girls (12- 18 years) from the BT5 and BT6 postal areas.

On the evening of Sunday 3rd March Cregagh hosted the East Belfast Presbytery Global Mission service. This service included interviews with PCI missionaries, James and Heather Cochrane (Portugal), and Gary and Mary Reid (Kenya), who gave a telling insight into the work of missions abroad.

Saturday 18th May 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of Rev. McKenzie’s ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and on Sunday 19th May 2024 we marked the occasion with a special service at which I presented Rev. McKenzie with an engraved spalted ashwood bowl. The service was followed by a short time of fellowship in the Allen Hall with refreshments being served.

We were delighted to have BBC Radio Ulster live record our Advent service of music and readings on Sunday 1st December. The service commenced at the earlier time of 10.00am but that did not deter a good turnout from the congregation. On the evening of Wednesday 4th December, and for the second year running, a Christmas memorial service, arranged by Willowfield Private Funeral Home was held in Cregagh. The service was conducted by Rev. McKenzie and although mainly a time of remembrance for loved ones who passed away in 2024 and whose

funerals were undertaken by Willowfield, many members of the congregation joined with those friends and families in what was a very moving service.

‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel’ (Mark 16:15)

Our obligation to mission and other charities both at home and overseas remains robust, and we thank everyone who contributes both financially and in prayer to God’s work, supporting a range of projects as we do including our involvement with Malawi, India and Nigeria.

‘And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it’ (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

As we look back on the year with grace and clarity, we have memories of joy and happiness and moments of sadness, grief and loss. Kirk Session records with regret the great loss suffered by our church family with the passing of several faithful servants. We offer to all the bereaved families and friends affected our sincere sympathy and we give thanks to God for lives well lived, centred on a strong Christian faith.

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God’ (Philippians 4:6)

Prayer is central to everything that we do both as individuals and as a Church family. Our monthly Bible study and prayer evening was moved to the earlier time of 4pm to encourage more members of the congregation to come along. Those who attend the studies on a regular basis had suggested that the quality of what was being produced was deserving of a wider attendance, including different age groups across the church family. Although the format of the evening remains the same, a short time of prayer followed by the study, ending with a cup of tea, it is essentially a time to reflect deeper upon the Scriptures but in an informal and relaxed environment. There is an opportunity for discussion and questions, offering different perspectives and a chance to learn from each other, and Kirk Session is grateful to Rev. McKenzie for his leadership in this area.

‘But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded’ (2 Chronicles 15:7)

Throughout the year we saw God’s faithfulness and experienced his generous provision in so many ways, not least through the commitment of all those who gave of their time, energy and talents. Kirk Session recognises and extends our thanks to all who participate in the life of this congregation week by week through dedicated witness, serving God in many ways. Special thanks are due to the collective worship team for the excellent services they provide each Lord’s Day, managing

the Creche, Kidzone, sound desk and online worshipping, and count teams. We recognise the hard work undertaken by our Congregational Secretary Jim McCurry and members of Church Committee, our Church officer Don Jackson who goes out of his way to prepare our buildings for use after services, and after use by the many groups who use our facilities. And we are exceedingly grateful to Gordon Dunlop, Church Treasurer; Richard and Elaine Molyneaux, Property Fund Convenors; Leslie and Carol Ferguson, United Appeal Treasurers; Geraldine Haire, Secretary to the Missions Support Group, Elaine Gillespie, Gift Aid Secretary, Joanne Hewitt, Auditor for Organisations, and to all the Agents and Convenors and leaders of our Organisations. Their efforts are a true testament to the love and service that define our church family.

‘Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord’ (Ephesians 5:19)

Music continues to play a major part in enhancing the spiritual beauty of our worship. Kirk Session acknowledges and give thanks to John Dallas and the members of the Church Choir. A tremendously generous and talented group of people who care for each other and work very hard to make musical worship a meaningful experience in Cregagh.

Besides our excellent Church Choir our Praise Group, Junior Choir and Handbells Choir led the musical worship at various services throughout the year and our gratefulness extends to Kate Glover, Maureen Mulligan and Dorothy Platt for the high standard and selection of music and song presented.

‘Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding’ (Jeremiah 3:15)

Kirk Session continues to be inspired by the leadership in worship and the preaching of our minister, Rev. Edward McKenzie. Words cannot fully express how much we appreciate him as he consistently pours out his time and energy for the benefit of others, and we are confident that we can depend on him to be there during life’s major moments from the joy of new beginnings to the sorrow of loss. His work and dedication to this church, and to the community, is well supported by his wife and family.

‘Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing’ (1 Peter 5:2)

Cregagh has always emphasised the importance of welcoming those attending our services of worship and providing pastoral care to our members. Our Minister, Elders and Committee have worked hard to support and keep in touch with our members, particularly those who are unable to join with us in our Sunday services. We continue to review our arrangements for pastoral visitation to ensure that these

are suitable for our circumstances now and in the future.

***‘Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others’
(1 Peter 4:10)***

During the year two members of Kirk Session, Robert Oliver and Barbara Dunlop, announced their retirement from the Eldership. Both were faithful and dutiful Elders and have made a tremendous contribution to church life, and indeed continue to do so. On behalf of the congregation, I thank Robert and Barbara for their much-valued service and the conscientious commitment displayed by both in undertaking their duties as Elders.

‘Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever’ (Psalm 118:1)

As we pause to reflect on the year that has been we give thanks for the people and those things which have impacted on us and to look ahead to where God is calling us. This is a time for all of us to be forward looking and consider not only what we want from church but also what we are called by God to offer. Let us be thankful, let us be loving and let us fix our eyes on Jesus as we enter this new year. We do so secure in the knowledge that God’s steadfast love and faithfulness will remain with us as we journey forward together in faith.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself’ (Matthew 22:37-38)

Michael Graham
Clerk of Session

Congregational Committee Report

It is almost seven years now since our Church Refurbishment Project was completed, and one of the key words I would use to describe the work of the Congregational Committee in 2024 is ‘maintenance’. Even though the project feels relatively ‘new’ it is a sad fact that some of the fittings and equipment installed back then already needs replacing.

The main frustration has to be our Emergency Lighting. One by one the spotlight emergency lights are failing. We replaced fifteen of the lower-level ones in 2024 as they were easy to reach, but another fifteen at a higher level still need done, but for this, scaffolding will be required, which will prove costly. It looks like the quality of these lights were not great from the start for them to fail so quickly and when they eventually get replaced with new better-quality ones, I would hope that we get more than seven years out of them, but more quotes are still to be sought.

Another item that needed replaced was the water boiler in the Welcome Suite. It was cheaper to buy a new one under warranty than try and repair the existing one with no guarantee.

Other ongoing maintenance relates to the leaks that pop-up on the roof. Repairs were carried out to damaged tiles on the hall roofs, the cost of which was shared with the Cricket Club. Our project roofers have been out on several occasions during the year to try and locate the ingress of water above the disabled toilet, as well as around the lead flashing of the Bell Tower.

One other area that requires both maintenance and modernisation is our Church Manse at Garland Crescent. In 2023 we installed a new modern bathroom in the Manse, so it was decided in 2024 to upgrade the ensuite bathroom as well, and we are indebted to Sharon Hall from 'Soaks Bathrooms' for once again donating all the hardware for this project.

Our Minister also noticed that there were some areas of damp and mould appearing in the children's bedrooms and on further investigation it felt that this was due to a sort of condensation, and so a humidifier was installed in the roof space which I've been told has helped to improve the problem. Some work was also carried out to the boiler in the Manse to keep things running efficiently and a new fridge/freezer was purchased for the kitchen. However, one idea that had been on the backburner for quite some time was to knock through the kitchen with the room next door to make one large open-plan space, which would prove to be more functional for a young family. Plans were drawn up and quotations sought, and eventually this was agreed by Committee with the work carried out in the summer of 2024.

As with most building work, some unexpected problems were encountered which meant having to put in a new floor to ensure that the floor levels were now the same, and enabled to install much more efficient lighting in the form of spotlights to illuminate the new larger space. It took quite a few months, but having visited the Manse now for myself, I have to admit that the builder Brendan Ferris did an excellent job as it looks like it was always meant to be that way, and if anything will actually add more value to the Manse.

Those that organise most of our catering events renewed their Level 2 Food Safety Certificates, and have been brought up-to-date with best practice when serving food to the public. It is an ongoing struggle to sometimes get people to embrace our hygiene guidelines, but we hope some more training will take place in the near future to update everyone using the kitchen on how to keep things clean, safe and within food safety legislation.

One thing that came to the fore at our recent catering events, was the desire for people to pay for their teas and refreshments etc by credit or debit card. This facility is something we hope to have in place in the very near future and will be of immense benefit for all the events planned for our 125 Anniversary year.

I would like to thank the Communications Group for what they have done throughout the year, but in particular for updating the website and social media presence, and for the initial marketing undertaken, such as the new logos, for promoting our 125 celebrations.

We had a new organisation for 2024 and the Army Cadets now use our halls on a Monday night, but sadly in the latter part of the year the Beaver leaders decided that numbers were too low for them to continue on a Wednesday evening. Once again we managed to successfully renew our Entertainment's License but obtaining some of the required certification such as the Electrical Certificate proved to be very costly due to the large number of circuits that we now have in place since our upgrade.

This was the first time we have had to get this done since the completion of our Refurbishment Project and hopefully it will be several more years before we have to do it again. We do have various forms of entertainment planned for our incoming 125 Anniversary Year, which is why it is important that we have an Entertainment's License in place.

As always, we are indebted to our Committee and Count Team leaders for looking after our weekly envelope recording especially as 2024 saw a new way of lodging our contributions. This came about largely through necessity as our local Branch of the Ulster Bank on the Ormeau Road closed down in February, with Connswater now being the only Branch within a few miles radius. We no longer lodge on a weekly basis, but instead fortnightly for some accounts and monthly for others. There still are a few teething problems with our new system but they should get smoothed out as time progresses.

Updates to our Fire Safety Policy are ongoing and I am glad to see that some organisations managed to carry out an Emergency Fire Drill should the need ever arrive to evacuate quickly. Further updates and training should be issued to organisation leaders in the coming year.

Some equipment will need to be upgraded in 2025, in particular the Audio Visual Projector in the Allen Hall which has lost its clarity, and our copying needs in the Church Office, as the quantities we do on our photocopier and Risograph are not sufficient to fund the current maintenance contract that we have with Calvert's. It is fair to say that at times our heating bills have been astronomical and we are trying to work out if there are areas in which we can make further savings. We are trying to be as energy efficient as possible within our suite of buildings, and small adjustments are still being made to the heating to see what works in terms of efficiency yet still provide an adequate level of heating for the church services and organisations. Using the Welcome Suite for entry on a Sunday morning in the winter months, with the other doors closed, has helped somewhat with draughts, although it is essential that we use the air curtain alongside this to make the McIntyre Suite a warm and welcoming space to enter.

We still have only four main face-to-face Committee meetings throughout the year, with ad hoc ones called as and when required when things can't be sorted out by e-mail or on WhatsApp. We were also delighted to co-opt Sarah Platt onto Committee as a new member back in May. I am grateful to Ruth Hill and my wife Karen for keeping track of all the admin from meetings and circulating the minutes to those involved.

Thanks go to the Catering Committee for keeping our kitchen well used as well as raising welcome funds for the Property Fund, and to James McCormick and Karen McCurry for overseeing the weekly coffee bar rota, allowing us all to chat socially after church over a cuppa.

An immense thank you must go to Don Jackson and Nigel Platt for looking after all the odd jobs around the church and for giving me their valuable advice on our Building Maintenance Group. I don't know what we would do without them. I am also indebted to both Michael Graham and Rev McKenzie for steering me on the right track and uplifting me when challenges make it hard to keep going, and to Gordon Dunlop and the Molyneaux's for making sure I don't spend too much! To conclude, I can't believe I'm writing a report without complaining about the automatic doors. Without tempting fate, I am pleased to say that we have had few problems with them throughout the year which has largely come down to training keyholders how to operate them properly.

I started this Report with the notion of 'maintenance' and I will finish it in the same way. We can maintain our buildings, our possessions and our homes, but it is the relationships and friendships that we have built up within Cregagh that are often the most important to maintain.

As it says in **1 Thessalonians 5:11**:

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

By working together and encouraging each other we can maintain not only our buildings but the cohesiveness of the people therein so that Cregagh remains a focal point of the Community for years to come.

Jim McCurry
Congregational Secretary

Treasurer's Report

General Fund

The General Account finished the year with a trading deficit of £9,811 (as compared to a deficit of £285 in 2023). Total income in 2024 was £109,576 and total expenditure was £119,387. 2024 saw a very significant increase in our operating expenditure

of £6,280 compared to total spend in 2023, principally accounted for by increases in salaries and the PCI assessment as well as higher energy costs. Conversely, total income fell by £3,246, the key difference being in Gift Aid revenue which was £3,400 less than the 2023 figure. However, as pointed out in last year's report, 2023 was an exceptional year for Gift Aid income which benefited from a retrospective claim. Regrettably, we again experienced a fall in our Weekly Freewill Offering (WFO). Total WFO decreased by £1,137 from £86,469 in 2023 to £85,332 or 1.3%. Whilst this small reduction may seem inconsequential, it is concerning to note that 2024 is the seventh year in succession that income from our main source of funds has fallen. From a peak figure of £100,727 in 2017, WFO has declined by 15% (in cash terms). As I have reported on previous occasions, this decline is attributable to the reduction in our membership over recent years.

Gift Aid and Charitable Giving

The proceeds from Gift Aid continue to provide a vital source of income and I would like to thank those members who have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration form and encourage those who have not to consider doing so.

Collections for missions and charities totalling £27,777, supplemented by Gift Aid, enabled us to support a substantial number of charitable causes. Funds raised included £1,125 from the Musical Evening held in February and £1,582.50 from the Craft Fayre in November. Donations from our Mission & Charities Fund totalled £24,245, details of which are recorded separately (please refer to the respective income / expenditure statement). Included in this total is our contribution of £10,000 to PCI's United Appeal (exceeding the set "target of honour" of £9,554). Another very worthy cause, Emmanuel Ministries, which we support through Maureen Mulligan, received £3,000 via fundraising and donations. The third largest beneficiary of the Mission Fund, Christian Aid, received £2,200.

The Malawi Fund's income (including Gift Aid) totalled £7,656 of which £7,500 was transferred to Malawi (please refer to the Malawi Group's report and income / expenditure statement).

In accordance with the Kirk Session's previous ruling, the proceeds from the Christmas Offering (£1,646) were again allocated to our Mission & Charities Fund. During the year, our Mission Support Group oversaw the allocation of funds to mission and charitable projects, and our thanks are due to Geraldine Haire for continuing to act as convenor of the Group.

Financial Administration

Once again, I would like to pay tribute to all those who have played a part in our financial administration during the year. Elaine Gillespie, assisted by Heather Sharpe (Gift Aid and Charitable Giving) and Elaine and Richard Molyneaux (Property Fund) have done a wonderful job and give me great support. This has been Ian Sheppard's first year as overseer of the Malawi Fund and I am most grateful to Ian, Emma, and all of the Malawi Group for managing this very important area of our missional work.

Grateful thanks are also due to Leslie and Carol Ferguson (United Appeal) and to Leslie Ferguson and Karen McCurry for ensuring the church records are maintained and updated. Thanks are also due to our count teams led by Karen, Kathryn and Ruth. All of the above give of their time unstintingly and, in that particular regard, a special word of thanks is due to Robert McNair for his expert technical support over the whole area of financial administration.

Summary

In summary, the year under report has once again been a challenging one for the General Fund. Looking towards 2025, we face the prospect of a further fall in income whilst expenditure in some key areas, including payroll costs, will increase.

Consequently, I would urge all our members to review their contributions to church funds and also keep their giving up-to-date, including United Appeal and Missions. I commend the use of standing orders as the easiest and most efficient way of doing so. Please continue to support your church as best you can in the year ahead. Whilst 2024 has been a challenging year for the General Fund, you will note from Richard and Elaine's report that 2024 has been a better year for the Property Fund. Please continue to support the Property Fund which in the years ahead will provide important support to the General Fund by playing an increasing role in covering property related operating expenditure.

Finally, looking at the overall picture and taking into account our capital reserves, I am pleased to affirm that, in the year under report, our finances have remained in good standing.

Gordon Dunlop
Church Treasurer

Property Fund Report

This is our twenty-first and penultimate annual report as Property Fund Convenors, and once again we extend our grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the Fund during the year through faithful giving by envelope, online lodgement, standing order, Harvest Gift Day, by donation or fund-raising, and where appropriate by gift aiding contributions.

We are pleased to report that total income for 2024, from all sources, amounted to £50,645.67, representing a 2.1% increase year-on-year, which is once again a most welcome outcome. We thank each and every contributor for your continuing support and whilst income from envelopes, online lodgements and standing orders dropped by 4%, income from donations and fund-raising rose significantly and that primarily is the reason for the growth we experienced during the year. However, once again the congregation lost a number of valued members over the last twelve months and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the bereaved families.

For the record income is itemised as follows :

	£
Envelopes	11,566.53
On-line lodgements	2,100.00
Stranding Orders	15,851.00
Donations	6,117.00
Fund Raising	3,850.00
Harvest Gift Day	3,155.00
Gift Aid	7,666.14
Other	340.00
TOTAL	50,645.67

Donations rose during 2024 and we are grateful to those who gave generously to the Fund in memory of loved ones. The Acheson family gave £4,000 in memory of Irene who passed to Glory on 8 February 2024, and it was Irene's specific wish that the donation be invested in the Manse kitchen extension project, which was completed in December. This will enhance the property as a family dwelling and our grateful thanks are extended to Jim and Lynn and the family for their kindness which is very much appreciated by the McKenzie family. The Wilkins family continue to support the Fund in memory of Roy, who passed to Glory on 25 February 2017, and in addition to donations given to mark anniversaries, his daughter Anne kindly gave £1,000 in November for which we are very grateful. Roy was a great supporter of the Fund and having worked in the building trade all his life he understood the importance of maintaining and keeping the church property in a good state of repair. Other donations included one from the Heyburn family, in memory of Edith, who passed away on 8 September 2024, and before illness intervened Edith was a regular attendee at 'Tea & Talk'. The PW once again kindly made a donation at year end and we extend our thanks to them too.

Fund-raising also rose in 2024 and this was primarily due to the Catering Committee who provided refreshments at the 'Services of Thanksgiving' for the late Betty Ferguson, Maud Babes, Denise Lowry, Irene Acheson, Joyce Cartlidge, Margaret Brodie and Percy Chambers, raising £3,830.00. We are most grateful to the families, and the Catering Committee led by Anne Graham and Beth McNair, who provide a valued service that gives comfort to families at a time of bereavement. The Handbell Choir gave a donation following a performance at Braniel Methodist, for which we

say thank you, and David Gillespie continues to provide his long established service of transferring video content to the DVD format and we are thankful for his good work.

Total expenditure rose year-on-year from £15,845 to £33,654 and included the aforementioned Manse kitchen extension. We also replaced the ensuite bathroom, with the hardware kindly donated by 'Soaks', as they did for the family bathroom in 2023, and once again we extend our grateful thanks to Sharon Hall for facilitating the donation. However, as in 2023, the installation and fitting costs, including tiling, were covered by the Fund, and it is important that we continue to keep the Manse, and all our buildings in a good state of repair. Standard maintenance and repair work was undertaken during the year and the Fund also covered church insurance costs and Manse Rates.

We were also in the fortunate position to transfer £40,000 in May from the Property Fund Ulster Bank account to an interest earning account, and the continuing strong support we receive from the congregation will enable us to maintain and enhance our suite of buildings as necessary.

At the end of yet another year we convey our grateful thanks to the wider team for their help and support :

- Gordon Dunlop for his continuing dedicated service as Treasurer and for the help and support he gives us throughout the year;
- Robert McNair for the valued support he continues to give on all information technology matters;
- Elaine Gillespie for her good work as Gift Aid Convenor which is a much valued source of revenue;
- All the members of the count teams who faithfully count and lodge the money led by Karen McCurry, Ruth Hill and Kathryn Glover;
- Don Jackson for the great work he does as Church Officer, and together with Nigel Platt for the great work they do on the maintenance front, knowledgeably advising Committee;
- Karen & Jim McCurry for all the work they do on the property side, arranging for work to be done and liaising with contractors as necessary; and finally
- The Building Maintenance Committee for the good work they do to ensure that our suite of buildings are kept in a good state of repair.

In conclusion, thank you all once again for the valuable continuing support that you give to church finances. It is so very much appreciated and please continue to do so as best you can. As we look forward to celebrating the 125th anniversary of Cregagh, we will remember all those who have gone before, those who built and nurtured the church family that we are today. May it be a time of renewal and positive optimism, a time to review our contributions perhaps, and if you can, increase your giving, as we strive to strengthen Christ's Kingdom here in Cregagh. To God be the Glory great things he has done and continues to do.

As at 31 December 2024 the balance on the Ulster Bank Property Fund Account was £40,999.74.

Fund-raising and donations in 2024 were as follows:

	£
In Memory	5,500.00
Catering Committee	3,830.00
BBC for Advent Sunday Broadcast	300.00
PW	150.00
Handbell Choir	30.00
Donations	87.00
Transfer Video - CD Format	20.00

Richard & Elaine Molyneaux
Joint Building Fund Convenors

Malawi Report

Throughout 2024, with the generous support of the congregation, the Malawi Working Group has been able to continue to assist our friends in Malawi at Chifundo3. As well as the regular support for the 16 secondary school students through paying school fees and supplying uniforms, and providing vital nutrition to the nursery school children, we were able to build a new toilet block at Chifundo3. There had previously been two toilets for the 120 children at the centre so this new block of four toilets has been a welcome addition. We also provided resources required to stay in line with the government standards including first aid kits, stationery and teaching materials.

As part of the centre's Christmas celebrations, we were able to provide funds for a party for the nursery children, as well as a small gift for the volunteers who run the centre.

The MWG continues to pursue ways to support projects in Malawi and thanks the congregation for their ongoing commitment to our work there.

Emma Skeet
Chair of the Malawi Working Group

Kirk Session

The names of Kirk Session members are correct at the time of going to print – June 2025

Dist.No.	Name	Address	Telephone
1	Maureen Mulligan Tommy & Beth McCluskey	36 Haddington Gardens 16 Stirling Avenue	07730 435377 9079 8135
2	Beth McNair	12 Everton Drive	9079 7431
3	Anne Graham	63 Church Road, Moneyreagh	07922 674647
4	David Gillespie	1 Gibson Park Avenue	07964 150960
5	Avril Pollock	3 Castle Court	9079 8872
6	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
7	Joan Taylor	9 The Beeches	9064 1262
8	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
9	Rebecca Clarke	3 Downshire Park South	07753 590690
10	Dorothy Platt	395 Cregagh Road	07803 264286
11	Richard & Elaine Molyneaux	14 Meadow Way, Crawfordsburn	07799 718817 (R) 07922 646535 (E)
12	Robert McNair	12 Everton Drive	07815 817411
13	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant

Members without districts:

Gordon Dunlop	9 Ardenlee Avenue	9045 3829 (Treasurer)
Michael Graham	63 Church Road, Moneyreagh	07548 635075 (Clerk of Session)

Congregational Committee

The names of Committee members are correct at the time of going to print – June 2025.

Dist. No.	Name	Address	Telephone
1	Angela Watson Heather Sharpe	47 Orby Gardens 34A Breda Gardens	07891 554807 07954 317603
2	Robyn McCullough Carol McCormick	27 Ballygowan Road 80 Ladas Drive	07808 745143 07936 529562
3	Ivan Taylor Sarah Platt	29 Orby Drive 241 Cregagh Road	07816 080670 07738 354584
4	Elaine Gillespie Laura Armstrong	1 Gibson Park Avenue 2 Ballylenaghan Park	07990 610918 07597 684104
5	Don Jackson Alan McNair Susan Forsythe	79 Church Road, Moneyreagh 265 Castlereagh Road 22 Belfast Road, Ballygowan	07752 989950 07821 227567 07710 243712
6	Maggi Hamilton Jenny Mooney	9 Carolhill Park 21 Thiepval Avenue	07887 395372 07890 487815
7	Pauline Gibson Wilma McCluskey	7 Thiepval Avenue 8 Downshire Park North	07790 701125 07749 054079
8	James McCormick Margaret Maclaren	56 Manna Grove 77 Ravenhill Park	07796 947913 07912 112479
9	Thomas Clarke	3 Downshire Park South	07887 380227
10	Nigel Platt Emma Skeet Carol Ferguson	395 Cregagh Road 17 Stirling Gardens 16 Cairnshill Park	07595 904260 07738 224021 07880 672836
11	Ruth Hill Kirsty Diver	21 Ormiston Drive 12 Castlegowan Road	07753 709108 07791 983611
12 Nursing Homes	Christine Sharpe	8 Douglas Court	07845 397569
13 Postal	Andrew Todd Jim Hill Kathryn and Stephen Glover	63 The Brackens, Carnmoney 21 Ormiston Drive 16 Vestry Road, Ballygowan	07821 085964 07595 899790 07810276546

Members without districts:

Jim McCurry 4 Albert Drive
Karen McCurry 4 Albert Drive

07587 185445 (Congregational Secretary)
07552 606550 (WFO/Membership Secretary)

**Statement of Financial Activity
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	108,976	89,761	198,737	210,286
Charitable activities	3	-	3,850	3,850	2,020
Investments	4	600	3,326	3,926	1,846
Total		109,576	96,937	206,513	214,152
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	(119,387)	(83,675)	(203,062)	(203,172)
Total		(119,387)	(83,675)	(203,062)	(203,172)
Net Income / (expenditure)		(9,811)	13,262	3,451	10,980
Transfers between funds	8	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		128,504	1,827,661	1,965,165	1,945,185
Total funds carried forward		118,693	1,840,923	1,959,616	1,956,165

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9	-	1,720,426	1,720,426	1,735,154
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	1,720,426	1,720,426	1,735,154
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Current assets					
Debtors	10	4,168	2,503	6,671	10,028
Cash at bank and in hand	11	118,570	119,244	237,814	208,828
Total current assets		122,738	121,747	244,485	228,856
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,045)	(1,250)	(5,295)	(7,845)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net current assets or liabilities		118,693	120,497	239,190	221,011
Total assets less current liabilities		118,693	120,497	239,190	221,011
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		118,693	1,840,923	1,959,616	1,956,165

**Balance Sheet (contd.)
as at 31 December 2024**

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds		-	1,840,923		
Unrestricted funds	<i>14</i>	118,693	-	118,693	128,504
Total charity funds		118,693	1,840,923	1,959,616	1,956,165

Approved by Kirk Session on 18 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Michael R. Graham
18 May 2025

W. Gordon Dunlop
18 May 2025

Notes to the Accounts 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102 – 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the congregation is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

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. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

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 use in the future.

Incoming Resources

(i) Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the congregation becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(ii) Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

(iii) Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the congregation has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

(iv) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

(v) Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

(vi) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

(vii) Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

(viii) Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

(ix) Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

(x) Investment gains and losses

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from

revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

(xi) Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the congregation to pay out resources.

(xii) Governance costs

These are shown within charitable activities and include the costs of preparation and examination of accounts and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

(xiii) Grants with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

(xiv) Grants payable without performance conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

Assets

(xv) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £2,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is recorded on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows

Buildings:	- over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- over 10 years
Computers, software and technical equipment	- over 4 years

(xvi) Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Weekly Freewill Offering	85,332	29,518	-	114,850	117,231
Loose and Special Collections	1,362	3,155	-	4,517	5,693
Donations and Gifts	4,488	6,457	-	10,945	4,536
Gift Aid	17,794	7,666	-	25,460	30,425
Legacies and Bequests	-	-	-	-	2,000
Organisations	-	2,338	-	2,338	2,568
Missions & Charities Funds	-	40,627	-	40,627	47,833
	108,976	89,761	-	198,737	210,286

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities					
Fundraising events	-	3,850	-	3,850	2,020
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
	-	3,850	-	3,850	2,020

4. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	E'dowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	600	3,326	-	3,926	1,846
General Investment Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Property Rents	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	-	-	-	-	-
	600	3.326	-	3,926	1,846

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	10,662	-	-	10,662	10,406
Minister's stipend	40,674	-	-	40,674	39,238
Ministry and support staff costs	40,422	-	-	40,422	38,513
Congregational running expenses	25,589	17,199	-	42,788	36,381
Donations to Missions & Charities	-	32,242	-	32,242	43,024
Governance costs	2,040	-	-	2,040	1,920
Depreciation	-	34,234	-	34,234	33,690
	119,387	83,675	-	203,062	203,172

6. EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	66,006	63,370
Social Security Costs	5,328	5,084
Pension contributions	9,762	9,297
	81,096	77,751

Number of Employees

The average number of employees, including the minister of the congregation, during the year was:

	2024	2023
Average number of employees	3	3

There were no employees in receipt of employee benefits in excess of £60,000.

7. PENSION COSTS

The minister of the congregation is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009). This is a scheme operated by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a separate registered charity.

The congregation pays an assessment to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland equivalent to the employer's pension contribution for the Scheme and based on the stipend paid to the minister.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009) is a funded Scheme of the defined benefit type, providing defined benefits based on career average re-valued salary.

The Scheme has assets held in a separately administered fund managed by a board of trustees. The Presbyterian Church and the Scheme Trustees have agreed a funding plan to ensure the Scheme is sufficiently funded to meet current and future obligations.

A formal schedule of contributions was drawn up on 25 November 2015 whereby the Presbyterian Church agreed to pay from 31 December 2015 contributions of 24% of pensionable salaries to cover the accrual of benefits for future service, expenses, the cost of insuring death in service benefits and funding the scheme deficit.

7. PENSION COSTS

The contributions made by the congregation during the year were:

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Contributions	£9,762	£9,297

The Congregation has two part-time employees (an organist and a church officer) neither of whom qualify for automatic enrolment into a workplace pension scheme. Both have been offered pension scheme membership but both have declined.

8. TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

£15,456 was transferred from the Property Fund to the Manse Fund for Manse renovations during 2024.

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Church	Manse	Fix, Fittings & Equip't	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At start of year	1,475,727	365,000	47,190	1,887,917
Additions	-	15,456	4,050	19,506
At end of year	1,475,727	380,456	51,240	1,907,423
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation				
At start of year	(147,446)	-	(5,317)	(152,763)
Provision for year	(29,515)	-	(4,719)	(34,234)
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	-----		-----	-----
At end of year	(176,961)	-	(10,036)	(186,997)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Book Value				
At end of year	1,298,766	380,456	41,204	1,720,426
	-----	-----	-----	-----
At start of year	1,328,281	365,000	41,873	1,735,154

The redevelopment of the church building was completed in 2018. Depreciation (at 2%) has been applied from 1 January 2019.

During the year capital expenditure of £15,456 was incurred in renovations to the Manse kitchen and dining room. £4,050 was spent on fixtures and fittings (ensuite refurbishment).

No depreciation has been applied to the manse property which is subject to maintenance to maintain its value. The residual value is considered to be at least equal to the carrying valuation.

10. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Gift Aid Recoverable	5,940	6,896
VAT Recoverable	-	-
Other	731	3,132
	6,671	10,028

11. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
Current account	237,814	218,828
Cash in hand	-	-
	237,814	218,828

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Creditors and accruals	5,295	7,845
	5,295	7,845

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	-	-
	-	-

14. FUND BALANCES AND RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1/1/24	Income	Expend	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/24
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	94,853	109,576	119,387	-	85,042
Development Fund	33,651	-	-		33,651
	128,504	109,576	119,387	-	118,693
Restricted Funds					
Renovation Fund	1,116,698	3,208	34,234	-	1,085,672
Property Fund	318,530	50,646	14,147	(15,456)	339,573
Mission & Charities Funds	24,217	40,745	32,242	-	32,720
Organisational Funds	3,216	2,338	3,052	-	2,502
Manse Fund	365,000	-	-	15,456	380,456
	1,827,661	96,937	83,675	-	1,840,923
Total Funds	1,956,165	206,513	203,062	-	1,959,616

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

One of the Trustees, the minister of the congregation, who was appointed minister in September 2018, received remuneration of £40,674 and expenses of £7,836 for acting in that capacity. Pension contributions of £ 9,762 were paid by the congregation, in respect of the minister, to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009).

None of the other trustees received any remuneration or expenses in connection with their duties.

During the year the congregation contributed the following amounts to Funds of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a separate charity:

- £10,662 for congregational assessments (excluding minister's employment costs).
- £10,000 towards the United Appeal.
- £1,250 towards the World Development Appeal.
- £1,000 towards the Children's Society.

The congregation contributed £854 in respect of Presbytery fees during the year.

There were no other related party transactions.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Muir & Addy Chartered Accountants
Muir Building
427 Holywood Road
Belfast BT4 2LT

BANKERS

Ulster Bank
Connswater Link
Arches Retail Park
Belfast BT5 4AF

Note

The additional financial information provided on the following pages does not form part of the above independently examined Church Accounts. The figures shown have, however, been incorporated into the accounts.

General Fund 2024 - Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Totals £		Totals £
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Specified Sources		Stipend	40,674
Weekly Freewill Offering	85,332	General Assembly Assessment	
Gift Aid	17,794	PCI Funds	10,662
Church Collection	1,362	PCI Pension Scheme (2009) Fund	9,762
		National Insurance	5,328
		Other PCI charges	203
			25,955
Organisations to Church funds		Salaries & Related Expenses	
PW	200	Church Officer	7,718
Evergreens	209	Organist	6,278
Rainbows	150	Inc.Tax - Church officer & Organist	3,500
Brownies	150	Minister's General Expenses	2,815
Guides	200	Minister's Car Expenses	5,021
Rangers	100	Guest Organists	1,240
		Pulpit Supply	621
			27,193
Other income			
Bank interest	600	Other expenses	
PCI Publications	1,629	Audit fees	2,070
Use of halls	1,850	Bank charges	109

	Totals £		Totals £	
		Copying machines	1,227	
		Computer/IT	679	
Total Income		Health and Safety	211	
		KidZone	334	
Total Expenditure		Licences	627	
Deficit		Light and Heat	12,414	
		PCI Publications	1,636	
		Presentations and Gifts	469	
		Presbytery Fees	854	
		Stationery and printing	2,437	
		Telephone / broadband	1,185	
		Water charges	510	
		Other expenses	1,070	25,565
		Total Expenditure		119,387

Property Fund 2024
- Summary of Income & Expenditure

	Totals (£)		Totals (£)
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Envelopes / Standing Orders	29,518	Maintenance, Repairs & Enhancements	
Loose & Special Collections	3,155	Manse Rates	1,503
Gift Aid	7,666	Property Insurance	4,115
Cregagh Sports Club	340	Church Maintenance	3,762
		Church Repairs	3,409
Donations		Manse Enhancement	975
Donations and Gifts	6,117		
Fund raising	3,850	Fund Raising	384
Total Income	50,646	Total Expenditure	14,148
Total Expenditure	14,148		
Surplus	36,498		
Net Transfer to Savings A/c	39,718		

Note: The above summary excludes £19,506 of capital expenditure - please refer to the Property Fund Report.

Mission & Charities Fund 2024 - Summary of Income & Expenditure

	Totals (£)		Totals (£)
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Charitable Collections	27,777	Charitable Donations*	24,245
Gift Aid	4,942	Bank fees	19
Bank compensation	370		
Total Income	33,089	Total Expenditure	24,264
		*	
		PCI United Appeal	10,000
		PCI World Development Appeal	1,250
		PCI Children's Society	1,000
		Christian Aid	2,200
		Emmanuel Ministries	3,000
		Tear Fund	500
		Royal British Legion	300
		Mission Africa	1,000
		Leprosy Mission	1,000
		Other Charitable Causes	3,995
		Total	24,245

Malawi Fund 2024 - Summary of Income & Expenditure

	Totals (£)		Totals (£)
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Donations	4,678	Transfers to Malawi	7,500
Soroptomists	1,300	Calendar Printing	228
Gift Aid	855	Bank Charges	
75			
Calendar Sales	399	CPC Malawi re Diane Cusick	50
Pence for Porridge	306	2025 B'fast Marathon Entry Fee	125
Bank Interest	118		
Total Income	7,656	Total Expenditure	7,978

Statistical Summary 2024

NOTE: Please refer to 2013 Directory and Statement of Accounts for information relating to 2009 - 2013 and to the 2020 Directory and Statement of Accounts for information relating to 2014 - 2020.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of envelopes allocated	254	248	231	235
Number of families:				
- contributing to WFO	182	181	165	151
- under the Pastoral care of the congregation	211	207	196	194
This number of families accounts for 399 individuals (was 519 in 2019) made up as follows:				
Under 18	50	45	42	42
Age 19 – 64	206	194	183	180
Over 64	166	172	174	172
Recorded Contributors to WFO	304	292	275	269
(excludes non-contributing families)				
Baptisms	2	1	2	2
Marriages	1	1	1	0
Deaths	12	5	6	10
Communicants on Roll	211	220	211	210
Communicants attended at least once	138	137	148	140
New Communicants by Profession	1	1	0	4
New Communicants by Certificate	3	3	2	0
KidZone	25	19	21	19
KidZone leaders	12	12	14	13
Youth Bible Class	6	5	10	10
Youth Bible Class leaders	3	3	3	3
Bible Study	15	14	12	12
Holiday Bible Club	-	60	45	60
Holiday Bible Club leaders	-	20	20	24
Church Choir	24	24	22	23
Junior Choir	13	11	12	13
Praise Group	11	12	14	16
Handbell Choir	18	16	19	19
PWG	27	26	32	29
Senior Section Guides (includes leaders)	-	-	-	-
Rangers	3	5	10	11
Girl Guides	8	14	6	17
Brownie Guides	15	22	21	25
Rainbow Guides	13	14	16	16
Trefoil Guild	6	6	8	7

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Boys Brigade Anchor Boys (with Cregagh Methodist)		8	7	5
Boys Brigade Company Section	-	-	10	11
Boys Brigade Junior Section	-	-	9	10
Leaders across all Sections	-	-	-	10
Scout Troop	-	-	-	-
No longer meeting				
Cub Scouts	DNM	DNM	-	-
No longer meeting				
Beavers	DNM	DNM	11	-
No longer meeting				
Squirrels	DNM	DNM	-	-
No longer meeting				
Youth BIG Night	14	16	24	30
Mothers and Toddlers	DNM	DNM	-	-
Evergreens	20	20	18	16
Tea and Talk	18	21	25	27
Brews Brothers	-	-	16	26
Connect	DNM	Now Cafe Connect		
Subscribers to Inspire	46	40	41	30
(new name for Wider World)				
Subscribers to Presbyterian Herald	45	35	35	35
Subscribers to IBRA	2	-	-	-
Subscribers to Day by Day with God	8	8	7	8
Subscribers to Scripture Union Daily Bread 1	1	1	2	
Fresh from the Word Bible Notes	-	2	2	1
(new name for IBRA)				

DNM = Did not meet

Congregational Offerings

It is requested that inaccuracies or changes of address be reported without delay to the Minister and WFO Secretary.

Abbreviations and Symbols

- Envelope Number (Env. No.): The contributor's envelope number.
 - Building Fund: Contributions in building fund envelopes or by standing order
 - Mission: Contributions in mission (United Appeal) envelopes or by standing order
 - W.F.O.: Contributions in weekly freewill offering envelopes or by standing order
- Total Tax: Tax reclaimed if your contributions are Gift Aided

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
2	£360.00	£0.00	£50.00	£35.00	£120.00	£360.00	£925.00	£231.25
3	£60.00	£15.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24.00	£520.00	£619.00	£0.00
4	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5	£240.00	£0.00	£0.00	£45.00	£240.00	£600.00	£1,125.00	£281.25
6	£240.00	£0.00	£105.00	£30.00	£0.00	£570.00	£945.00	£236.25
7	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
9	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
10	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£30.00
11	£300.00	£50.00	£82.50	£337.50	£120.00	£860.00	£1,750.00	£437.50
12	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£220.00	£230.00	£0.00
13	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00	£2,500.00	£3,900.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
14	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£270.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£1,870.00	£467.50
16	£700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00	£1,400.00	£2,800.00	£700.00
18	£90.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00	£440.00	£110.00
19	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£420.00	£440.00	£0.00
20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	£800.00	£200.00
21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
22	£60.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£180.00	£180.00	£420.00	£0.00
23	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
24	£220.00	£90.00	£525.00	£570.00	£240.00	£1,450.00	£3,095.00	£773.75
25	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80.00	£1,280.00	£1,360.00	£0.00
26	£15.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5.00	£147.00	£177.00	£0.00
27	£130.00	£5.00	£0.00	£10.00	£27.00	£335.00	£507.00	£126.75
28	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
29	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£345.00	£385.00	£96.25
30	£220.00	£40.00	£0.00	£70.00	£280.00	£1,650.00	£2,260.00	£565.00
31	£1,200.00	£120.00	£125.00	£185.00	£0.00	£1,300.00	£2,930.00	£732.50
32	£60.00	£25.00	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	£800.00	£985.00	£246.25
33	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£400.00	£500.00	£0.00
34	£380.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£120.00	£550.00	£1,070.00	£267.50

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
35	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.00	£240.00	£60.00
36	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£180.00	£180.00	£0.00
37	£110.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£530.00	£760.00	£0.00
38	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£300.00	£0.00
39	£5.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7.50	£244.55	£267.05	£66.77
40	£18.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£218.00	£0.00
41	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£210.00	£210.00	£0.00
42	£110.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£530.00	£670.00	£0.00
43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
44	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£385.00	£390.00	£0.00
45	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£185.00	£205.00	£0.00
46	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£400.00	£0.00
47	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£10.00	£300.00	£670.00	£167.50
48	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00
49	£90.00	£25.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£210.00	£325.00	£0.00
51	£50.00	£25.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£840.00	£915.00	£228.75
52	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
53	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£60.00	£15.00
54	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24.00	£24.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
55	£156.03	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	£12.00	£360.00	£548.03	£137.01
56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£480.00	£480.00	£120.00
57	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
58	£130.00	£20.00	£0.00	£40.00	£47.00	£261.00	£498.00	£124.50
59	£60.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18.50	£199.00	£277.50	£0.00
60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80.00	£80.00	£0.00
61	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£30.00	£7.50
62	£920.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£920.00	£1,840.00	£460.00
63	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
65	£240.00	£10.00	£30.00	£30.00	£130.00	£770.00	£1,210.00	£302.50
66	£195.00	£20.00	£60.00	£315.00	£150.00	£1,960.10	£2,700.10	£675.03
68	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	£255.00	£0.00	£960.00	£1,315.00	£328.75
69	£460.00	£50.00	£30.00	£208.00	£360.00	£1,050.00	£2,158.00	£539.50
71	£720.00	£100.00	£30.00	£180.00	£360.00	£1,080.00	£2,470.00	£617.50
72	£105.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£105.00	£300.00	£510.00	£0.00
73	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
74	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
75	£1,200.00	£20.00	£0.00	£35.00	£20.00	£1,200.00	£2,475.00	£618.75
76	£840.00	£52.00	£0.00	£135.00	£240.00	£840.00	£2,107.00	£526.75

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
77	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
78	£20.00	£0.00	£90.00	£30.00	£20.00	£365.00	£525.00	£131.25
79	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11.00	£11.00	£0.00
81	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£365.50	£365.50	£91.38
82	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£5.00
83	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
84	£120.00	£0.00	£280.00	£120.00	£120.00	£240.00	£880.00	£220.00
85	£1.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£38.23	£59.23	£0.00
86	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
88	£480.00	£20.00	£0.00	£100.00	£240.00	£1,040.00	£1,880.00	£470.00
90	£600.00	£20.00	£70.00	£170.00	£200.00	£600.00	£1,660.00	£415.00
91	£11.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£71.00	£17.75
92	£500.00	£40.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£640.00	£1,240.00	£0.00
94	£70.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£26.00	£243.00	£339.00	£0.00
95	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
96	£160.00	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£230.00	£420.00	£105.00
97	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£31.00	£31.00	£0.00
98	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£281.00	£301.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
100	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
101	£600.00	£0.00	£60.00	£75.00	£20.00	£600.00	£1,355.00	£338.75
102	£0.00	£15.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80.00	£95.00	£23.75
103	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
104	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
105	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
106	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00
107	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£25.00
108	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£660.00	£710.00	£0.00
109	£600.00	£25.00	£80.00	£210.00	£240.00	£600.00	£1,755.00	£438.75
110	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
111	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
113	£980.00	£20.00	£100.00	£200.00	£240.00	£1,390.00	£2,930.00	£732.50
114	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.20	£20.20	£0.00
116	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£420.00	£430.00	£0.00
117	£120.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£0.00	£240.00	£390.00	£97.50
118	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
119	£1,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,458.60	£0.00	£1,200.00	£3,858.60	£964.65

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
120	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
122	£35.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5.00	£200.00	£240.00	£60.00
123	£180.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£300.00	£620.00	£0.00
124	£240.00	£20.00	£0.00	£110.00	£120.00	£600.00	£1,090.00	£272.50
125	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
127	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£50.00
128	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£640.00	£1,240.00	£310.00
129	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24.00	£24.00	£0.00
130	£115.00	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	£65.00	£805.00	£1,005.00	£251.25
132	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
133	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£600.00	£0.00
134	£60.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£275.00	£405.00	£101.25
135	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£70.00	£80.00	£0.00
136	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£65.00	£0.00	£530.00	£615.00	£153.75
137	£215.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£475.00	£690.00	£0.00
139	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£55.00	£55.00	£0.00
140	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£480.00	£480.00	£120.00
141	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£70.00	£80.00	£0.00
142	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.00	£240.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
143	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£0.00
144	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£125.00	£130.00	£0.00
145	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11.00	£11.00	£0.00
146	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£156.00	£156.00	£39.00
147	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
148	£130.00	£0.00	£0.00	£15.00	£80.00	£580.00	£805.00	£201.25
149	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00	£87.50
150	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£210.00	£700.00	£910.00	£227.50
151	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£30.00
153	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00
154	£300.00	£40.00	£0.00	£205.00	£600.00	£1,200.00	£2,345.00	£586.25
157	£190.00	£10.00	£0.00	£30.00	£80.00	£530.00	£840.00	£210.00
158	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00	£260.00	£270.00	£67.50
159	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£660.00	£860.00	£0.00
162	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£45.00	£45.00	£0.00
163	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£35.00	£0.00	£520.00	£555.00	£138.75
165	£16.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£15.00	£46.00	£77.00	£19.25
166	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
167	£240.00	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	£60.00	£360.00	£680.00	£170.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
168	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
169	£0.50	£10.00	£0.00	£130.00	£10.02	£396.00	£546.52	£136.63
172	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
173	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10.00	£240.00	£350.00	£0.00
174	£240.00	£20.00	£0.00	£80.00	£230.00	£530.00	£1,100.00	£275.00
175	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
176	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.00	£240.00	£60.00
179	£240.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£300.00	£610.00	£0.00
180	£60.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£300.00	£420.00	£105.00
184	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
185	£660.00	£100.00	£0.00	£75.00	£60.00	£660.00	£1,555.00	£388.75
188	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00	£50.00
189	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
190	£120.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£510.00	£650.00	£162.50
191	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
192	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
193	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5.00	£140.00	£720.00	£1,165.00	£291.25
194	£70.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£55.00	£121.00	£246.00	£61.50
195	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
196	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
197	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11.00	£11.00	£0.00
198	£195.00	£20.00	£0.00	£30.00	£180.00	£600.00	£1,025.00	£256.25
199	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5.00	£0.00
200	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
202	£120.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£240.00	£0.00
206	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
207	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£30.00
208	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£165.00	£165.00	£41.25
210	£180.00	£20.00	£0.00	£45.00	£60.00	£840.00	£1,145.00	£286.25
211	£260.00	£25.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£260.00	£605.00	£0.00
212	£30.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£40.00	£215.00	£305.00	£0.00
213	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£335.00	£335.00	£0.00
215	£720.00	£800.00	£0.00	£190.00	£255.00	£700.00	£2,665.00	£666.25
216	£300.00	£30.00	£50.00	£146.00	£120.00	£360.00	£1,006.00	£251.50
217	£5.00	£2.00	£0.00	£0.00	£12.70	£34.00	£53.70	£0.00
218	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	£4,200.00	£4,800.00	£1,200.00
219	£260.00	£0.00	£0.00	£65.00	£0.00	£570.00	£895.00	£223.75
220	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
221	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
224	£180.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£0.00	£1,140.00	£1,380.00	£345.00
225	£160.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£320.00	£500.00	£0.00
226	£495.00	£20.00	£105.00	£165.00	£89.00	£541.00	£1,415.00	£353.75
227	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	£300.00
228	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
229	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£47.00	£0.00	£600.00	£677.00	£169.25
230	£260.00	£30.00	£0.00	£50.00	£60.00	£640.00	£1,040.00	£260.00
231	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£135.00	£135.00	£0.00
232	£0.00	£20.00	£52.50	£67.50	£0.00	£1,720.00	£1,860.00	£465.00
233	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.00	£250.00	£62.50
237	£0.00	£3.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£135.00	£138.00	£34.50
238	£260.00	£25.00	£0.00	£280.00	£140.00	£260.00	£965.00	£241.25
239	£100.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£520.00	£640.00	£160.00
241	£50.00	£10.00	£0.00	£30.00	£10.00	£90.00	£190.00	£47.50
243	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
245	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£160.00	£160.00	£40.00
246	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
247	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.00	£240.00	£60.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
248	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£104.00	£104.00	£0.00
249	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
250	£240.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£480.00	£720.00	£180.00
252	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5.00	£70.00	£75.00	£0.00
254	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£140.00	£140.00	£0.00
257	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£259.00	£259.00	£0.00
258	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
259	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
261	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00	£30.00	£7.50
263	£500.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	£2,020.00	£505.00
264	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
265	£120.00	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00	£400.00	£100.00
268	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£10.00	£190.00	£220.00	£55.00
270	£610.00	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	£30.00	£765.00	£1,465.00	£366.25
271	£245.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£360.00	£605.00	£151.25
275	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
276	£240.00	£10.00	£50.00	£149.50	£10.00	£540.00	£999.50	£249.87
277	£1,080.00	£100.00	£500.00	£280.00	£1,140.00	£1,040.00	£4,140.00	£1,035.00
278	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00

Env No	Building Fund	Harvest Gift Day	Malawi	Misc Gift Aid	Mission	WFO	Total	Total Tax
279	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£112.00	£112.00	£0.00
282	£480.00	£30.00	£70.00	£115.00	£0.00	£480.00	£1,175.00	£293.75
283	£120.00	£100.00	£0.00	£80.00	£140.00	£880.00	£1,320.00	£330.00
285	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
286	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
287	£160.00	£50.00	£0.00	£20.00	£180.00	£200.00	£610.00	£152.50
288	£240.00	£20.00	£0.00	£60.00	£0.00	£610.00	£930.00	£232.50
291	£150.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£300.00	£75.00
293	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00	£0.00
294	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£255.00	£275.00	£68.75
295	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00
298	£10.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60.00	£90.00	£17.50
299	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£69.00	£69.00	£17.25

The Congregational Register 2024

BAPTISMS

“Suffer the little children to come unto Me”

4th February	Seth Harrison Diver
13th October	Oliver Christopher Armstrong

MARRIAGES

“Whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder”

None

DEATHS

“I am the resurrection and the life,” said the Lord

5th January	Betty Ferguson
17th January	Denise Lowry
28th January	Maude Babes
8th February	Irene Acheson
24th February	Joyce Cartlidge
17th June	Cecil Heron
10th July	Margaret Brodie
2nd August	Eric Lowry
15th August	Percy Chambers
8th September	Edith Heyburn

ORGANISATION REPORTS 2024

Church Choir

We started the year with the New Year Communion service and many of our members were subsequently involved in the 'Musical Evening' on 23 February featuring 'The Clare Chorale' and our very own 'Handbell Choir'. The Chorale, conducted by our good friend Sheelagh Greer, and The Handbell Choir conducted by Dorothy Platt, provided a wonderful evening of music, showcasing Cregagh as a venue of quality for events of this nature. John Dallas and Dennison Mahood co-compered the concert and entertained the audience with their renowned witty repartee.

We had our first Choral Evening service of the year in February with the theme of Lent and the anthems included 'Glory be to Jesus', 'Hear Lord' and 'O Saviour of the world'. March was busy with the St. Patrick's Day service and Easter services with Communion observed on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. John Dallas and a group of choir members had a weekend break in Cambridge in May and were joined by Reverend McKenzie who took the opportunity to make the trip as part of his 'Inservice Training'. The visit included attending services at Kings College and St. John's.

Reverend Edward is a great supporter of the Choir and it was a privilege for us to be part of the special service on 18 May to mark the 10th anniversary of his ordination to the Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Junior Choir concert on 28 May benefited the Emmanuel Ministries Calcutta and grateful thanks once again to Maureen and Dorothy for the great work they do with the children. We are so fortunate as a congregation to have a wonderful Junior Choir, Praise Group and Handbell Choir and a common denominator is the involvement of choir members in all three. We also thank Kathryn for her leadership of the Praise group and Dorothy for conducting the Handbell Choir.

June witnessed the 80th anniversary of D Day, and summer Communion incorporated another Choral Evening, this time with the theme of 'Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love' with the prayers based on an Order of Service from St. Edward King and Martyr Church in Cambridge. The anthems included 'The Lord's Prayer' and 'Break now the bread of life'. The Choir AGM was held in June and before the summer break we enjoyed a meal at Rockmount Golf Club. During the year we warmly welcomed two new members to the soprano line, Emma Ferguson and Esme McKenzie, and we hope they enjoy their time with us.

As ever we continued to lead the worship Sunday by Sunday over the summer months, and the autumn programme included Harvest Gift Day and Remembrance Day, when we sang 'For the fallen' and remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom. We also had a pre-Advent November Choral evening service conducted by Reverend Duncan Pollock the former Rector of Groomsport Parish Church. The theme of the service was designed to offer a time to be still and know the Lord is God before the busy days of Christmas. The musical

offering included 'Hushed was the evening hymn' and the anthems included 'The Magnificat' and 'Nunc Dimittis'.

Our Advent season began with a live BBC Broadcast on Advent Sunday and the music included 'A shoot', 'Gabriel's Message' and 'There is no rose'. Once again we also had 'Carols in the Car Park' when we gathered with our friends from the Salvation Army and the Methodist Church, and this has become a part of our Christmas season, reaching out to the local community as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 22 December completed the series of special Christmas services and grateful thanks to Reverend Hastings McIntyre who augmented the bass line during a couple of the services, and to Gordon Myers, our well established guest organist, who played at this service, and at many others during the year, deputising for John when he was on holiday and playing on the occasions when John was conducting.

Grateful thanks are extended once again to our Choirmaster John Dallas, Chairman Robert McNair, Deputy Chair Dorothy Platt, Treasurer Christine Sharpe, Librarian Richard Woods, Wardrobe Mistress Ruth Hill, and all the Committee representatives, for their good work during the year. And finally thank you to all the choir members for their dedicated service throughout the year. Some of our members experienced illness during 2024 and we are so very grateful that they are back amongst us in the choir family.

Richard Molyneaux

Choir Secretary

Praise Group

The Praise Group had another busy year in 2024. We continued to play an active role throughout the church year, including playing at Café Connect services in the Allen Hall alongside the monthly morning services.

Café Connect happens generally one Sunday per month, starting at 6.30 pm, with a cup of tea or coffee on offer before and during the evening. These more informal fellowship gatherings have had a variety of speakers covering the local and wider mission field, and we would really encourage more members of the congregation to attend these enjoyable evenings.

With a total number of 16 folk now making up our group, including new member Ricky Stagg, we have had to move our singers into the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship, which is great to see.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Praise Group for their continued support and help throughout the year with the many behind-the-scenes tasks that need to be done, and also the church audio visual team, for their help at each service.

We are always pleased to welcome any new members to the Praise Group. We

rehearse one Thursday per month in the church by prior arrangement.

Kathryn Glover

Praise Group Leader

Handbell Choir

2024 was a very busy year for the Handbell Choir. Our first performance in February was a concert in Cregagh with the Clare Chorale and their conductor Sheelagh Greer. The church was full and it was a wonderful evening of music making.

On 13th March we were invited to Braniel Methodist (BASE) ladies group. They are a small group but we were made so very welcome and enjoyed a lovely supper together.

On 8th May we played at Cregagh's PW Friendship night. The ladies enjoyed our programme and we got other engagements from that evening.

We returned to play at Bell Rotary Nursing Home on 15th May and some of the residents sang or clapped along to our pieces. It was a memorable evening.

We were invited to play on 5th December in Willowfield Parish as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. With over 40 lit trees it was a beautiful setting to play our Christmas music.

Braniel Methodist Ladies invited us back on 11th December as they wanted to hear our Christmas repertoire! Another lovely evening of fun and fellowship was enjoyed in Braniel.

Our final engagement was in Cregagh on 22nd December. It is always a pleasure to play for the congregation the Sunday before Christmas.

I would like to thank each member for their support and commitment to the Handbell choir and to Don Jackson for all his help during the year.

Dorothy Platt

Leader

Junior Choir

We ended the year with thirteen children in the choir. All the children are so talented and learn choir pieces quite quickly.

We sang at the Mother's Day Service and distributed Daffodils to every lady in the congregation. This is a special occasion for both the ladies and the choir members.

In May we held our annual concert where all the children played a part either individually, or in small groups, as well as singing a variety of songs as a choir. A wide range of talents and abilities were displayed and as usual there was some audience participation. The total of £1,055, including gift aid, was raised for the fantastic work carried out by Emmanuel Ministries Calcutta, in Kolkata.

At the Children's Day Service the choir sang two pieces. After Church we had lunch in the Stewart Hall and played games until the person we had booked to come arrived carrying lots of equipment. All the children, including Dorothy, Emma and I then proceeded to be shown how to make tie dye T-shirts. We all had great fun deciding on colours and how much of each we needed to apply to the material. Everyone went home with a uniquely patterned T- shirt. This event was really enjoyed by everyone.

The choir practices started again in September and the Junior Choir sang two pieces at the morning Harvest Service.

The choir also sang two Christmas pieces at the Candlelight service and a depleted choir sang beautifully to wish Jesus a Happy Birthday on Christmas morning.

I would like to thank the Church Choir for their continuing support and my sister, Dorothy Platt, for her guidance and musical expertise.

The Junior Choir meets on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.15pm and children from age four will be very welcome to join us.

Maureen Mulligan

Junior Choir Leader

Presbyterian Women (PW)

PW meet monthly on the first Monday at 2.30pm under the new leadership of Lesley McKenzie. At the 2024 AGM in April Robyn McCullough stood down as leader. We thank her for her years of dedicated service and we are delighted she is staying on committee. We are fortunate Heather Sharpe has agreed to take on the job of Treasurer and Rosemary Patton to be Hostess. Also standing down after many years on committee are Rosemary Carlisle, Maggi Hamilton and Dorothy Elliot whom we also thank.

Our year started with 'New Year Greetings' from Reverend Edward McKenzie who gave us an insight into John Bunyan. In February, Clive Scoular talked about famous Irish women and encouraged us to join him on a visit to Killyleagh. This was extended to the congregation and later in the Spring an enthusiastic group joined him for an informative trip to Killyleagh Castle and a guided tour of the town followed by

lunch at the Dufferin Arms.

Michael Holmes from 'Hope 365' spoke about transforming the lives of street children and Shirley Strong told us about her volunteering in hospitals in South Sudan.

Our 'Friendship Evening' in May was held in the church. We invited women's groups from local churches and were delighted to welcome ladies from 12 different churches. They were entertained by our own Handbell Choir followed by supper.... an evening enjoyed by all.

The new session in September started with a visit by the 'Spirit of Praise' band, followed in October by an energetic afternoon of armchair aerobics. The Reverend Ruth Craig from Cregagh Methodist was the speaker at our annual PW service in November. An innovation this year was a very enjoyable Christmas lunch in the Allen Hall provided by Cafe Nicole. Pianist Helen Dyatt played carols, and her sister Anne Stevenson provided the entertainment, bringing the year to a most successful conclusion.

Carol Ferguson

PW Secretary

Evergreens

2024 has been a different year for the Evergreens. From January to May we were entertained by Annie Cooke and her collection of thimbles, Carol Ferguson telling us about the Transplant Games in Australia, and Anne Stevenson with her variety of activities. We finished the session with afternoon tea at Coleman's Garden Centre, Templepatrick.

Due to challenging health for some of our members, in September we decided to do things differently. Rather than go the traditional route of speakers, we decided to take our ladies out and about. We have been for lunch at the Arc Cafe Orangefield Presbyterian, a cuppa at Hillmount Garden Centre and we joined with the PW for a lovely Christmas Dinner in December. All in all, a good year.

Barbara Dunlop

Leader

Rainbow Guides

When Rainbows re-commenced in September 2024 after the summer break, we had 15-16 girls on our books. During this term, we completed our 'Ability' badges,

made hedgehog pictures and fairy crafts and got to know the girls through some fun activities. We finished the term with some Christmas crafts and a trip to see Monna 2 in the cinema. On our last night we had a Christmas party with a visit from Santa. Thanks to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule!

This upcoming term we hope to work on the 'Promise' badges and some other 'Challenge' badges. During our weekly meetings we will play games such as Stick in the Mud, Can't Cross the Red Sea and other team games. The girls will also complete activities relating to their badges, including baking, colouring, crafts, Lego and Magnetics.

We have a WhatsApp Group, and a weekly message is posted informing parents of any upcoming events and any other relevant information. We also welcome the girls having an input on the upcoming programme.

Emma Davey

Leader

93rd Belfast Brownies Unit

We have 25 Brownies in our Unit and we began 2024 by completing the Girlguiding Ulster 'Ulster Scots' badge. As well as learning some traditional songs, the girls researched the meanings of their names and made some delicious 'Fifteens'. They got creative by designing rooms in shoe boxes. One of the highlights of the badge was having a former Brownie, Anna, come to teach us some Highland dancing.

The girls worked on activities from our 'Know Myself' and 'Skills for My Future' themes. For 'Know Myself' this included designing flags, finding out about the local area, discovering the importance of asking questions, expressing how you feel and planning a celebration. For 'Skills for My Future' we sewed pencil cases, had a taste challenge to see if paying more always meant you got better – it didn't, and we looked at the many jobs involved in making a book and what skills they might require, assessing which of these skills each of us might have. We also practiced using hammers, spanners, and screwdrivers. We learnt to say thank you in different languages – Merci, Thank you, Takk.

Some of our other crafts have included making Whizzers, bookmarks, friendship circles, Christmas decorations, building monsters and creating 'trash' fashion.

We started the 'Take Action' theme in September with the girls exploring ways to influence others and share ideas. The girls also found out about different ways charities can be supported, such as fund raising, giving of your time, and raising awareness, and hope to put their ideas into practice in the new year.

We had a visit from 'Wee Critters' - Alan, the critter wrangler, and I were very impressed by the knowledge the Brownies had. We attended the Remembrance Day service and took part in the Thinking Day Service.

The Brownies love cooking and making sweet treats. At Easter we made Rice Krispie nests with mini eggs, and at Halloween we made marshmallows ghosts. We also made fruit salad. On our weekend away at Lorne, for our Brownie Pack Holiday, the girls had a go at the Gladiator Challenge, Zipline, & the Lorne Walk Challenge, as well as baking some wonderful cupcakes. We also made woggles, with some of the older girls guiding the younger girls in making theirs.

From September, Susan, one of our leaders, has been helping with the Rainbows, so we set up a rota of parent helpers. We would like to thank Gail, Helen, Nicola and Lisa for all their help and support.

Vicki Thompson

Leader in Charge

Girl Guides

We started the year with eight guides regularly attending our weekly meetings. Although small in number we had a fully packed programme with all girls successfully completing their bronze awards and many different interest badges. In February we joined with all other units of the Guiding movement for our annual Thinking Day service. We continued on the run up to Easter with a St. Patrick's themed night, Mother's Day and Easter crafts.

In the summer session we worked towards our camp skills badge in preparation for our weekend away in September, and on 6th September we headed away to the Ranger cottage in Lorne. We were blessed with amazing weather which allowed the girls to take part in abseiling and deathslide, as well as a beautiful walk to the beach to watch the sunset across Belfast Lough.

We started back our new term with 17 girls and it is great to see our Guide unit increasing in numbers again. We have had fun working on our badges, enjoyed autumn flower arranging and Christmas crafts which included making a Christmas table decoration and cooking. We ended our session with a trip to the Belvoir players to see the pantomime 'Frozen'.

I would like to thank all the parents who regularly send their girls to our Guide group. To Nicola and Jenny for their dedicated service, and to you the congregation for all your prayers and encouragement.

Gillian Simons

Leader

93rd Belfast Trefoil Guild

We currently have 7 members and meet every other Thursday. Between January and June we did some baking to help support one of the Rangers with her fundraising bake sale for international camp. We also worked on Girlguiding Ulster's 'Ulster Scots' badge, which saw us bake soda and potato bread, ceilidh dancing, puzzles, and sewing a bag inspired by a sporran. We also had a go at the Ultimate Challenges at Airtastic in Lisburn.

In August we had a weekend away at the Ranger Cottage at Lorne, where we completed the 'Taskmistress' Badge, based on the TV show Taskmaster. We each planned a few challenges for the rest of the group, with challenges incorporating engineering, art, agility, ingenuity and a few silly laughs. We also headed into Bangor on the train to visit Pickie Park, where we played mini golf and had a ride on the swans.

After the summer, we worked on the 'Civil Engineering' badge - we built bridges and played some games about integrity in engineering.

We also tried our hands at making soap, had a relaxing evening with mindfulness, colouring and chatting, and played a 'Mission Impossible' Challenge.

In November we had an outing to the cinema to see 'Wicked'.

We would like to thank Edward and the church for their continued support and guidance.

We look forward to seeing what 2025 brings for us.

Roxy Thompson

Leader

93rd Belfast Rangers

We meet every other Thursday and we currently have 11 young members. We started back in January 2024, and got stuck straight into Programme activities. We had a go at making armpit fudge, did some activities about Ulster Scots culture and got an opportunity to be involved in designing a new uniform for Rangers, as the uniform is currently under review. We learned about campaigning as part of our 'Take Action Skills Builder', and practiced putting up tents for camp.

In February we attended the Thinking Day Service, and in November we attended the Remembrance Day Service. Just before Easter we headed to the Belfast Activity Centre to have a go at wet caving - this challenged all of the girls, and was pretty cold!

We tried out some fun games and art activities - a particular favourite is 'the animal sounds game' where they have to guess which of their fellow Rangers is making the animal noise behind their back (to often hilarious results). They also enjoyed designing creatures that were a mix of various animals to stretch their imaginations. We also made origami cranes, and scratch art keyrings.

At the end of June, we headed to Ganaway Outdoor Centre for our annual camp. The Rangers enjoyed the assault course, low ropes course, nightline, clay pigeon shooting and a trip to the beach for some paddling in the sea. The girls got involved in pitching and striking camp, collecting firewood, cooking and washing the dishes. We completed a number of activities to earn the 'Camp Skills Builder'.

Over the summer, one of our Rangers headed off to Our Chalet (Guide World Centre) in Switzerland with a group of Rangers from all over Ulster - she had a great time, trying new things and making new friends. We helped her with fundraising in the run up to the trip, organising a coffee morning and spending a Saturday bag packing. In September we had the opportunity to test a new interest badge for Girlguiding. We then got stuck into a 'Skills Builder' which saw the Rangers work on their facilitation skills - culminating in some girls running (short) workshops with the rest of the Unit. We had a Halloween Party in October, where we carved pumpkins.

We finished up for Christmas with a sleepover in the church hall - we made short-bread, built and decorated gingerbread houses, sewed felt Christmas decorations and did a 'Mission Impossible' challenge.

We would like to thank Edward and the church for their continued support.
We look forward to seeing what 2025 has in store for the Rangers.

Roxy Thompson and Susan Forsythe
Ranger Leaders
93rdbelfastrangers@gmail.com

Boys Brigade

BB meets on Friday evenings, continuing our partnership with our friends at Cregagh Methodist. Each evening we follow a varied programme which includes- spiritual, life skills and group work, music, storytelling, drill, physical training and games. We have also had a number of visitors, from insects and reptiles to a drummer as well as a sports coach. In the 24/25 season we had our Christmas outings at We Are Vertigo (for AB and JC) and Trigger Happy and KFC (for CS)

In all of this the object of the Boys' Brigade is sought- "the advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

George Taggart MBE JP (Company Captain)

Leader

OKAY Group

Once again the OKAY Group organised a Family Fun Day on Saturday 1st June, this time with the theme of The Wild West.

As normal this experience was free of charge for all ages and was an outreach opportunity.

Lots of people came dressed in the spirit of characters associated with the Wild West. Edward was dressed as Desperate Dan and gave a short message about Super Heroes.

There were lots of games, craft items to make, including Sheriff Badges, Feather Headdresses and Dreamcatchers, a Fun Shooting Gallery, a Baked Bean competition, Treasure Hunts, Wellie Boot Toss competition, Hobby Horse races and Line Dancing.

Our very tasty lunch included Cowpie and was enjoyed by everyone. We had just under 70 people attending with some families from outside the congregation returning from previous years and a great time was had by all.

The event finished in the Church grounds when everyone toasted Marshmallows over fire pits and made Smores.

Everyone in the OKAY Group all work well together, sharing ideas and producing all items required for a successful day. I would like to say how much I appreciate their constructive help and friendship.

On behalf of the OKAY Group, James McCormick continues to produce the Rota for organisations making the tea/coffee after church so that members can enjoy fellowship together.

Maureen Mulligan

Chair of OKAY Group

KidZone

During 2024 KidZone had a healthy core of children that attended regularly, with some also overlapping with Bible Class too. We had 19 children on the roll with 13 leaders helping. It was also good to see several new babies in creche that will ensure the future of KidZone in years to come.

We have also had some visiting and 'guest' children attend from time to time and it is always nice to see some new faces even on an occasional basis, especially when they fully immerse themselves in the Minister's children's address.

In traditional form we always pick a theme for our annual Christmas Tree service and this year we were looking at the role of Mary. We also talked about other famous Mary's in the hope of finding the one that we wanted to learn more about as the mother of Jesus.

Our time in KidZone is sometimes all about making memories and none more so than on our annual KidZone outing. What better way to get the children thinking about that very first Christmas than to take them to a real stable filled with live animals just as it would have been all those years ago.

And this is what we found when we arrived at 'Kinedale Donkeys' just outside of Ballynahinch. On entering the stable the first few boys commented 'Phew it's smelly!', to which we replied that is just what it would have been like when Jesus was born.

All the boys and girls were then able to get up close to the donkeys to feed them and have a cuddle, not to mention the inquisitive goats and the nosey chicken. Many of them were sad to leave after our time was up, so I think the interaction with these gentle creatures left a lasting impression on them and will help them under-

stand better the first Nativity, as well as their appreciation of the wildlife around us. Before going to the donkey farm, we had tried to tire the children out a bit at the nearby Global Play Adventure Centre, where Santa even made an appearance as they were tucking into their lunch. Thank you to all the extra helpers and drivers that came along on the day to make the outing possible.

With regards to our weekly Sunday KidZone sessions I am delighted that we have recruited a few more leaders from the parents of our children, and often some of the older Bible Class children will come out to assist too. We still use the 'Heartshaper' resource book from time to time but often a theme is just picked to tie in with whatever the service is for that day.

Come the start of the New Year we plan to try out a new set of Resource books so that we have a more formal structure of learning to follow and make it easier for leaders to plan their lesson.

We would always welcome new leaders if you are interested in helping as it is sometimes a struggle to fill each week on the rota, and I am indebted to the existing band of leaders that give up their time and energy to share God's message with the children.

The WhatsApp group has proved invaluable for letting us know how many are likely to attend on a Sunday, which helps greatly with preparation, but also is a great way of sharing information on upcoming events or if we need extra help with something.

I just want to conclude by saying that the children in KidZone are a great wee bunch to teach and the leaders are equally inspiring to work alongside. We hope that the children not only learn something about God's word and the life of Jesus, but experience the fellowship and belonging that comes from meeting and playing together on a Sunday morning. We want them to see Cregagh as part of their extended family and I very much welcome the support we get from their parents, our Minister and the church members in trying to achieve this.

Karen McCurry

KidZone Co-Ordinator

Cregagh Youth Bible Class

Bible Class meets on a Sunday Morning 10.15-10.45am, for young people P7 and Secondary school age. Bible Class doesn't meet on the Sundays when Café Connect is on, as the young people help lead the evening Café Connect Service which helps them to develop their reading and prayer writing skills. Bible Class has focused on a number of different topics such as 'the ingredients of church services' and the structure of the Old Testament. Other activities have been attempting to

learn by heart the books of the Old Testament as well as practicing finding chapters and verses. Bible Class also lead two youth services, one at Christmas and another at Easter. We would typically have 8-10 young people at each meeting

Susan Forsythe

Reverend Edward McKenzie

Emma Davey

Youth Bible Class Leaders

Youth BIG Night

Youth Email – youth@cregaghpresbyterian.org

Youth 'Big Night' meets on a Saturday evening, once a month, 7-9pm. It is for young people P7 and Secondary school age. The activities are usually based around a theme normally something relating to pop culture, and includes bible teaching, food and games. Some of the themes this past season have been 'video games' and 'music'. Youth Big Night also has an annual walk and outdoor 'field' service as well as a yearly BBQ. We have around 30 young people 'on the books' and would average around 25 at each meeting.

Reverend Edward McKenzie

Susan Forsythe

Thomas Clarke

Lesley McKenzie

Laura Armstrong

Leaders

Tea and Talk

Our programme in Tea & Talk starts with a chat, cuppa and some tasty treats. When we meet, our activities include quizzes, craft activities, games, armchair exercises and topical discussions. We always finish our afternoon together by singing, accompanied by Nigel on the guitar. All ages are made welcome and in 2024 the age range was 4 years to 96 years!

Tea & Talk meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2pm - 3.30pm. Come along and join us in some fun and fellowship.

Dorothy Platt and Ruth Hill

Leaders

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We continue to meet twice a month. We finished our study of Luke and have moved on to Mark. Our outing was back to Whitehead and we have a most enjoyable day with lunch and a walk. Our meeting details are in the News Sheet and a warm welcome is extended to all.

Barbara Dunlop and Robyn McCullough

Leaders

Brews Brothers

The Brews Brothers Men's group meets on a fortnightly basis in the McIntyre Suite (Tuesdays 12.30-2.00pm). With an average gathering of 25 plus men at each meeting Brews Brothers has proved to be a successful venture both pastorally and in terms of outreach.

During the year we welcomed quite a few new members to our ranks, and we were treated to a variety of invited speakers presenting many interesting subjects which always attracted a lot of questions from those gathered. Refreshments are always available as are the local newspapers for those who wish to catch up on current affairs over a cup of coffee and a scone.

We were saddened to learn of the death of our member Percy Chambers in August, and we offer our prayers and sincere sympathy to his family. We are grateful to God to have known Percy and to have enjoyed many good times together in fellowship. Our second year in existence came to an end as we joined together for our annual Christmas dinner which was served in the Allen Hall, a quality home-cooked meal prepared by Debbie and Alice from 'Café Nicole'.

I am forever grateful to Eddie Harper who never fails to ensure that a guest speaker is available for each meeting, his telephone must contain the details of many valuable contacts.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Richard Molyneaux who is so generous in giving of his time to collect and transport members to the meetings, who would otherwise

be unable to attend, and for some this is the only time that they are able to leave home and enjoy the company of others.

Michael Graham

Leader

Holiday Bible Club

During the summer the children of Cregagh and their families were transported off to the Wacky Wild West as we saddled up for our American adventures at both our Wild West themed Family Day and our annual Holiday Bible Club.

Our family day at the start of June had lots of fun and games for everyone with some highlights being a cowboy boot throwing competition, hobby horse racing, toasting marshmallows by the fire pit and not to mention our highly skilled baked bean eating contest, with the winners mostly coming from the McKenzie family! We all then sat down together for our Western themed lunch including Cowboy pie, Southern Fried chicken, American corn on the cob, and not to forget some Wagon Wheels for afters. I don't think anyone left hungry.

At our Wacky Wild West Holiday Bible Club in August about 80 children and helpers focused on various stages in the life of Moses and how this linked back to life in the Wild West.

Early settlers in America were there in search of a better life and freedom. These trailblazer journeys were voyages of discovery and hardship, facing new choices and challenges as they entered this new land. This reminded us of the story of Moses and how God had a plan for his life which included a journey through the Wilderness like in the Wild West.

During the week the children saddled up for plenty of rootin' tootin' gun-slinging Wild West fun including some Egyptian and Cowboy crafts, and baking Pharaohs depicting the plagues of Egypt in dessert form. (Yes that's 'dessert' and not 'desert'!) They got out their cowboy boots and hats and line-danced the day away with shouts of 'Yee-Haw!' and 'Howdy Partner!' heard around the church. A big thank you to all the helpers who made these two events possible and to all the families that supported us to give everyone such an enjoyable time.

Karen McCurry

Holiday Bible Club Organiser

Book Club

The Book Club has been meeting regularly every six weeks. We have 14 members. We read a variety of books and have a lively discussion. We also eat, and at each meeting we all bring a contribution for a meal to share together whilst we chat and discuss the book.

All are welcome to come along. To find out more, talk to May Gordon, Carol McCormick, Jim Hill or Harry Stewart.

Malawi Working Group

Throughout 2024, with the generous support of the congregation, the Malawi Working Group has been able to continue to assist our friends in Malawi at Chifundo3. As well as the regular support for the 16 secondary school students through paying school fees and supplying uniforms, and providing vital nutrition to the nursery school children, we were able to build a new toilet block at Chifundo3. There had previously been two toilets for the 120 children at the centre so this new block of 4 toilets has been a welcome addition. We also provided resources required to stay in line with the government standards including first aid kits, stationery and teaching materials.

As part of the centre's Christmas celebrations, we were able to provide funds for a party for the nursery children, as well as a small gift for the volunteers who run the centre.

The MWG continues to pursue ways to support projects in Malawi and thank the congregation for their ongoing commitment to our work there.

Emma Skeet
Chair of Malawi Working Group

1961 2nd May – the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour, B.A., appointed Presbytery Licensor

1963 28th September – re-opening of the church after renovation and enlargement and installation of new organ and the Rev. Dr. David Stewart Memorial Bell

1965 25th September – first Annual Flower Show

1966 25th – 28th April – first Annual Music Festival

1967 29th January – first issue of 'Weekly News Sheet'

1969 15th November – opening and dedication of the Stewart and Barbour Halls

1970 27th September – dedication of church floodlighting and unveiling of wall plaque in memory of Mr William Sparks

1975 16th November – retirement of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour, B.A.

1976 March – new manse purchased at 19 Glen Ebor Park

1976 14th May – installation of the Rev. Albert Allen Sleith, M.A., B.Ed.

1976 10th August – the Rev. A.A. Sleith appointed Presbytery Licensor

1977 28th August – death of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour, B.A.

1978 3rd September – dedication of new kitchen and toilet block

1979 January – first Annual Pantomime

1980 New manse purchased at 11 Kensington Gardens

1980 15th June – dedication of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour Memorial Windows

1989 16th April – opening and dedication of Sleith Youth Centre by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. A.W. Godfrey Brown

1994 Publication of 'The Rock in the Plain', a history of Cregagh Presbyterian Church, by Mrs J.C. Barbour

1996 4th June – the Rev. A.A. Sleith graduates as Doctor of Ministry at the McCormick Theological Seminary, University of Chicago

1996 27th October – new lighting and oil-fired heating installations dedicated by the Very Rev. Dr. John Ross, B.A.

2000 Centenary Year of Congregation

2000 24th September – Millennial/Centenary Window dedicated by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. Trevor Morrow

2001 31st January – retirement of the Rev. Dr. A.A. Sleith, D. Min., B.A., B.Ed., Dip. Ed.

2001 25th March – dedication of the Eva Stewart Memorial Windows

2001 19th September – installation of the Rev. James Hastings McIntyre, B.Sc., B.A., B.D., Dip. Ed.

2002 June – new manse purchased at 15 Garland Crescent, Belfast, BT8 6YJ

2003 September – KidZone formed (amalgamation of Sunday School and Children's Church)

2005 9th January – commenced use of New Irish Presbyterian Hymn Book

2008 21st February – decision to undertake a staged refurbishment of church and construction of extended 'welcoming' area

2011 31st August – retirement of the Rev. James Hastings McIntyre, B.Sc., B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed.

2011 7th November – death of the Rev. Dr. Albert Allen Sleith, D.Min., B.A., B.Ed., Dip.Ed.

2012 4th October – Installation of the Rev. Paul Thomas Dalzell, B.D. (Hons.)

2013 6th December – Church and Allen Memorial Hall listed as Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

2016 18th February – decision to undertake refurbishment and restoration of church building.

2017 2nd March – conclusion of Ministry of Rev. Paul Thomas Dalzell B.D. (Hons.)

2018 16th June – Re-opening and dedication of Church after extensive restoration and refurbishment; and Dedication of the McIntyre Suite and Rev Dr Albert Sleith Memorial Doors.

2018 30th August – Installation of the Rev. Edward J B McKenzie B.A., B.D., Dip.Min., M.Th., C.F.

2023 24th June – Rev. Edward J B McKenzie passes out from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as Chaplain with the rank of Captain.



102-104 Cregagh Road, Belfast, BT6 9ER
Tel: (028) 9045 5160
cregaghpresbyterian.org