

Newcastle Presbyterian Church

39 MAIN STREET, NEWCASTLE, BT33 0AD

Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND



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ABOUT US

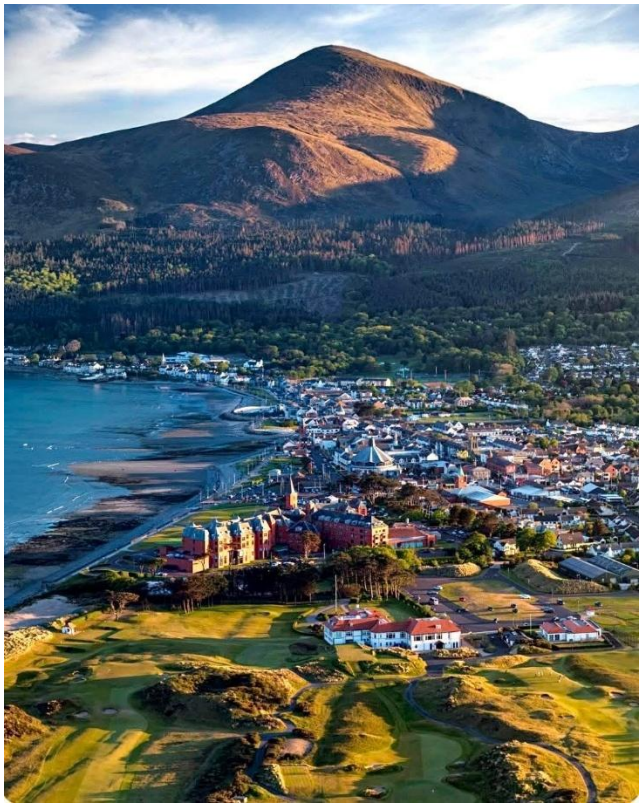
Newcastle Presbyterian Church is the largest of the six Protestant churches in the area and occupies a strategic position on the town's Main Street.

Bounded on the east by the Irish Sea and on the south by the Mountains of Mourne, Newcastle is a popular holiday resort, and the congregation welcomes many visitors, not only in the summer months, but increasingly throughout the year.

When the congregation was formed in 1839, Newcastle was a small fishing village on the outskirts of Bryansford. Over the past 187 years the town has grown and the three council wards from which the church draws its members have a total population of over 8,000.

There is excellent co-operation between the local Protestant churches - Cornerstone (one-week summer outreach to young people), Easter services and Street Chaplains (a street outreach). Both Protestant and Catholic churches are involved in running the local food bank.

Our style of worship blends traditional and contemporary, with a church organist at each service, along with other musicians in various formats who contribute most Sundays. The church choir participates monthly. During the vacancy we have been blessed with multiple participants leading various aspects of worship from preaching, children's talks to prayers and Bible reading. We very much want this to continue under our new minister as part of what we understand by the Reformation and Biblical principle of 'every member ministry'. Gathering after our morning service for coffee helps foster the good sense of fellowship which exists.



We have a sense of growing unity both in the fellowship of the church and in the desire of the elders to work together with our new minister to lead with a servant heart, in a way that is relevant to the community to which we belong. We want to be obedient to how the Lord calls us to live for Him and witness to Him. In our desire to love one another, we have a few fellowship groups which are also part of our discipleship. We want to grow in love, obedience, and faithfulness to the Lord.

OUR VISION

Newcastle Presbyterian Church exists to *'MAKE CHRIST KNOWN'*

Our Calling

We do this by intentionally living out four Gospel-shaped priorities, based on the Great Command of Matthew 22:36-40, and the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20:

❤️ **Loving God**

🤝 **Loving Each Other**

🏘️ **Loving Our Community**

🌍 **Loving Our World**

1. Loving God

THROUGH responding to God's Word – valuing the systematic and applied exposition of the Bible.
THROUGH authentic and joyful worship – Christ-focused, Spirit-led, and honouring to the Father.
THROUGH growing as disciples – developing opportunities for Christian discipleship and prayer.

2. Loving Each Other

THROUGH deepening opportunities for fellowship.
THROUGH pastoral care that obeys the biblical call to bear one another's burdens.
THROUGH prayer ministry and practical care that reflect Christ's love.

3. Loving Our Community

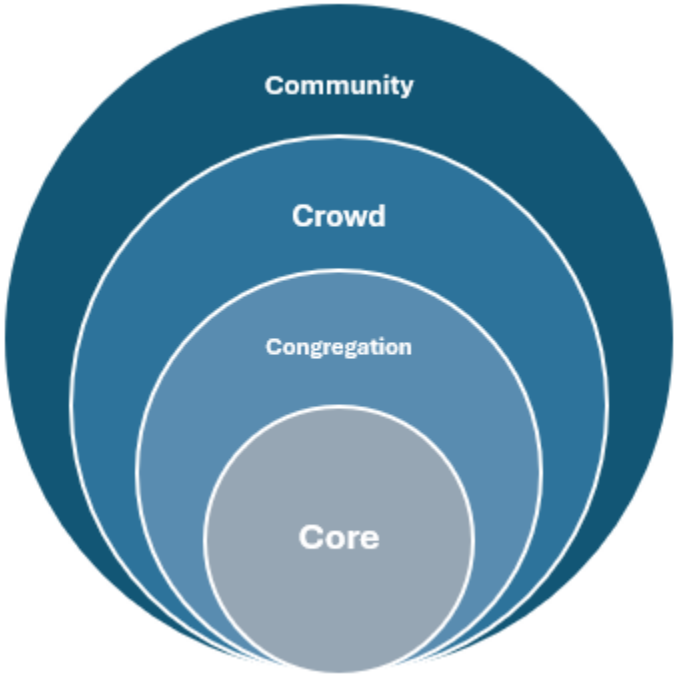
THROUGH love in action – supporting The Pantry, MyMy, RIOT, local businesses and schools, and building relationships with River House and Lawnfield House.
THROUGH sharing gospel hope – engaging our town through courses such as *Christianity Explored* and *Alpha*, and through local events like BBQs and tea & coffee outreach.

4. Loving Our World

THROUGH supporting and promoting PCI's United Appeal.
THROUGH prayerful partnership with our chosen mission partners.

Our Strategy

Moving people intentionally on a journey of faith:



- Community – the town and wider community.
- Crowd – those who attend organisations but do not yet attend church.
- Congregation – all who attend worship.
- Core – communicant members committed to Christ and His church.

Our organisations and groups are encouraged to see themselves as vital pieces of the same jigsaw, contributing to one shared vision. Ownership of this vision by Kirk Session and Committee enables it to be resourced and funded well. Our youth work continues to operate across all these areas, helping to build for the future.

LOCATION

The church premises consist of the sanctuary, reception/welcome area, large and small halls/rooms, and minister and church secretary offices. The main entrances are off the Main Street, with rear entrance leading to the church car park and separate hall building across the street.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Off the 8,000 local population, according to the latest census, there are 17% Protestant, 64% Roman Catholic and 19% with no religious affiliation.

There are 223 families claiming connection with the church and the majority live within a three-mile radius. On a typical Sunday morning there would be about 200 people present. Our monthly evening service is attended by 40 – 50 people.





During Sunday morning services creche facilities are provided. Children and young people leave for Sunday School (primary school age) and Core (teenagers) following the children's address.

Following morning Worship, tea and coffee is served in the 'Welcome Area' and this provides a great opportunity for fellowship together as a church family

CHURCH LIFE

There is a large youth presence in the congregation, and we have a full time Youth and Family Worker. Weekly activities include Sunday School/Core, GB, BB, youth programmes and Drop Zone (after school drop-in), as well as a monthly event for young adults to explore God's Word together.

There is also a rota of ministers/youth workers taking assembly at Newcastle Primary School and All Children's Integrated Primary School. There are two representatives of the congregation (one of whom is normally the minister) on the Board of Governors of Newcastle Primary School.

The congregation sees prayer as crucially important and central to the church. We have a Prayer Action Team that helps to co-ordinate prayer. This includes NPC Central once a month. The Prayer Ministry Team offer prayer twice a month after the morning service. There are regular 24-hour prayer events. Prayer Warriors also respond as needed to congregational requests for prayer.

Other weekly organisations include:

- GB - 51st Newcastle Girls Brigade Company with 70 girls.
- BB - 1St Slieve Donard Boys Brigade with 55 boys.
- NPC Tots
- Meet & Greet
- Women's and Men's Ministries
- Badminton Club

As well as our Youth and Family Worker, the church also employs an organist, Christine Irvine, and a church secretary, Pamela Thompson, who works in the church office on Tuesday and Thursday. There is also a cleaner, Paul Topley, who looks after the church buildings.

We are blessed with a high calibre of leaders and helpers across our organisations and groups, including many members who contribute to the upkeep of our church buildings and play active roles in catering and other activities.

LEADERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE

There are 12 active ruling elders, 9 men and 3 women and each shares the responsibility for members in one of our five pastorate areas. We employ a Youth and Family Worker and one of our elders is employed as our Pastoral Visitor.



Alister Bradford, John Heenan, Betty Barrett, Keith Graham (Clerk of Session)



John Kyle, Avril Heenan, John Martin, Laurence Hamilton



Derek Bailey, Jamie Hanna, Margaret Robertson, Adrian Truesdale



Lois Mackay – Youth & Family Worker



Margaret Robertson – Pastoral Visitor

MINISTER PROFILE

CONTEXT

At the heart of NPC is a congregation made up of people from all walks of life. It's difficult to live in a place like this and not be aware of the majesty of God's creation. But, just as the whole of creation is affected by the Fall, we understand that sin has marred and disfigured our humanity. So, although we believe Christians have found salvation in Jesus Christ, we also know that sin makes our fellowship a messy place. We are not yet the people God wants us to be, but in the journey of sanctification, we want to grow increasingly into the likeness of Jesus as the Holy Spirit works ungrace out of us and pours His grace and love into our lives. We long for a minister who will help us walk the path of daily whole-life discipleship, but also one who will have a heart for the lost, and a vision for how we can reach our community for Christ. Our desire is to continue growing in vibrant faith, and in every-member ministry.

Our thoughts and prayers lead us to hope that our new minister will demonstrate servant hearted leadership. One who works with us collegially, who can delegate where appropriate, one who is dedicated to team ministry and the development of the priesthood of all believers. We seek a gifted and systematic preacher of God's Word, a person of prayer and a caring pastor. One with a missional mindset, but one who guards their own personal walk with Jesus, and one who will also, as an example to us, guard their family life.

If this seems like a quest for the perfect minister, we do understand that no such person exists!

Our hope is that our new minister will have an idea of their personal strengths and weaknesses and have the wisdom to know how to play to strengths and develop others who will compensate for any weaknesses. As a Kirk Session, we want to continue to work collaboratively to care for God's family and to build His Kingdom in Newcastle and to the ends of the earth.

As you read this profile and pray about the possibility of coming to serve the Lord with us, we hope it helps you to discern if God is calling you to minister here or at least take the next step in exploring the possibility.

NEW MINISTER ATTRIBUTES

A clearly committed Christian seeking the Lord's guidance and will. One with the ability to help us identify the leading of the Holy Spirit in setting the future strategic direction of NPC. An enabler and equipper of the congregation to work out how to be disciples of Jesus in this day and generation. We prayerfully hope our minister will be:

1. A GIFTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC PREACHER/COMMUNICATOR.

- One who expounds the Word of God with love, balancing truth and grace.
- Provides practical and applied teaching for all.
- Provides evangelical, systematic, and expository teaching of God's Word.

2.BUILDS DISCIPLES.

- Encourages us to grow in our faith, to know the Scriptures, to be people of prayer and worship, to live out and share our faith in everyday life. An encourager of small group study.
- Promotes the centrality of prayer, individually and corporately, as we seek to be a 'Prayer Saturated Church'.
- One who assists the above by being welcoming, approachable, winsome and capable of drawing people together.

3.TEAM BUILDER AND COLLEGIAL WORKER.

- Able to lead and encourage consensus and work together with the men and women of Kirk Session to determine the direction God is leading and specific action plans agreed.
- Able to develop existing and new leaders, empowering members for service, including involvement in services of worship.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to involve all our leaders, including Kirk Session, Committee, Staff and Organisational leadership teams.
- Willing to commit to personal and spiritual development.

4.PERSON WITH VISION.

- Fully supportive of Our Vision (Pages 4-5).
- Ability to critique our vision and work.
- Capable of leading us in a vision that responds to the changing needs of the congregation and community.

5.CARING PASTOR.

- A good listener, empathetic, understanding and supportive of those in need.
- One with a pastoral heart and the ability to empower the congregation to care for one another.
- Able to work with and enable us to action and develop our recent move to having five pastorates.

6.MISSIONAL.

- Displays a heart for mission, encouraging members to be involved in and supportive of mission at home and overseas.
- Supports and develops our mission partnerships.
- Encourages us to have a heart for those in need within our society.

MISSION PARTNERS

At NPC we have chosen to partner with NPC members and several mission organisations, who are working to share the hope of the Gospel and relieve suffering, both locally and across the world. In addition, we support two local charities that provide essential physical and mental wellbeing services within our Newcastle community.

Aidan & Kori Finnegan

Jonathan Graham

PCI United Appeal

Open Doors

Tearfund

Nakansongola, Uganda

Exodus

The Pantry Foodbank

MyMy

THE MANSE

Set on a 0.75-acre site, this 100-year-old property is currently undergoing renovation works to include a new extension and garage. Located at 19 Shimna Road, Newcastle, it is within walking distance to the church and halls.

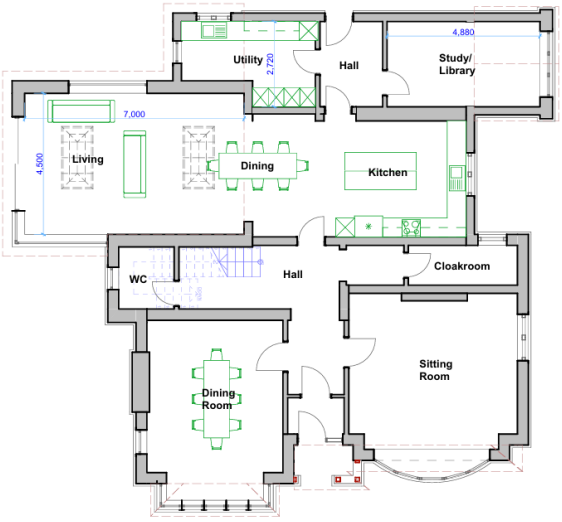
Below are the proposed floor plans and elevations, pending planning approval.

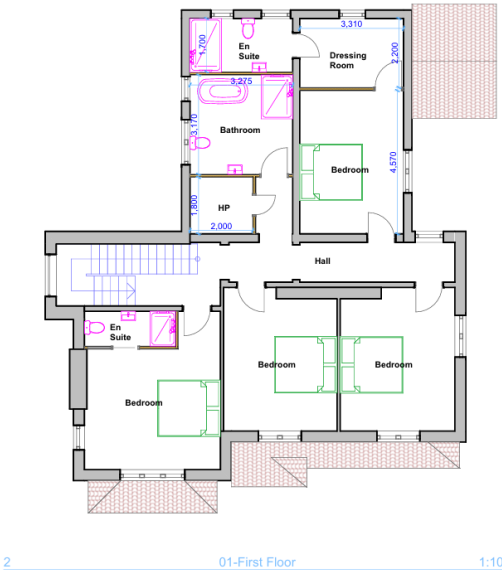


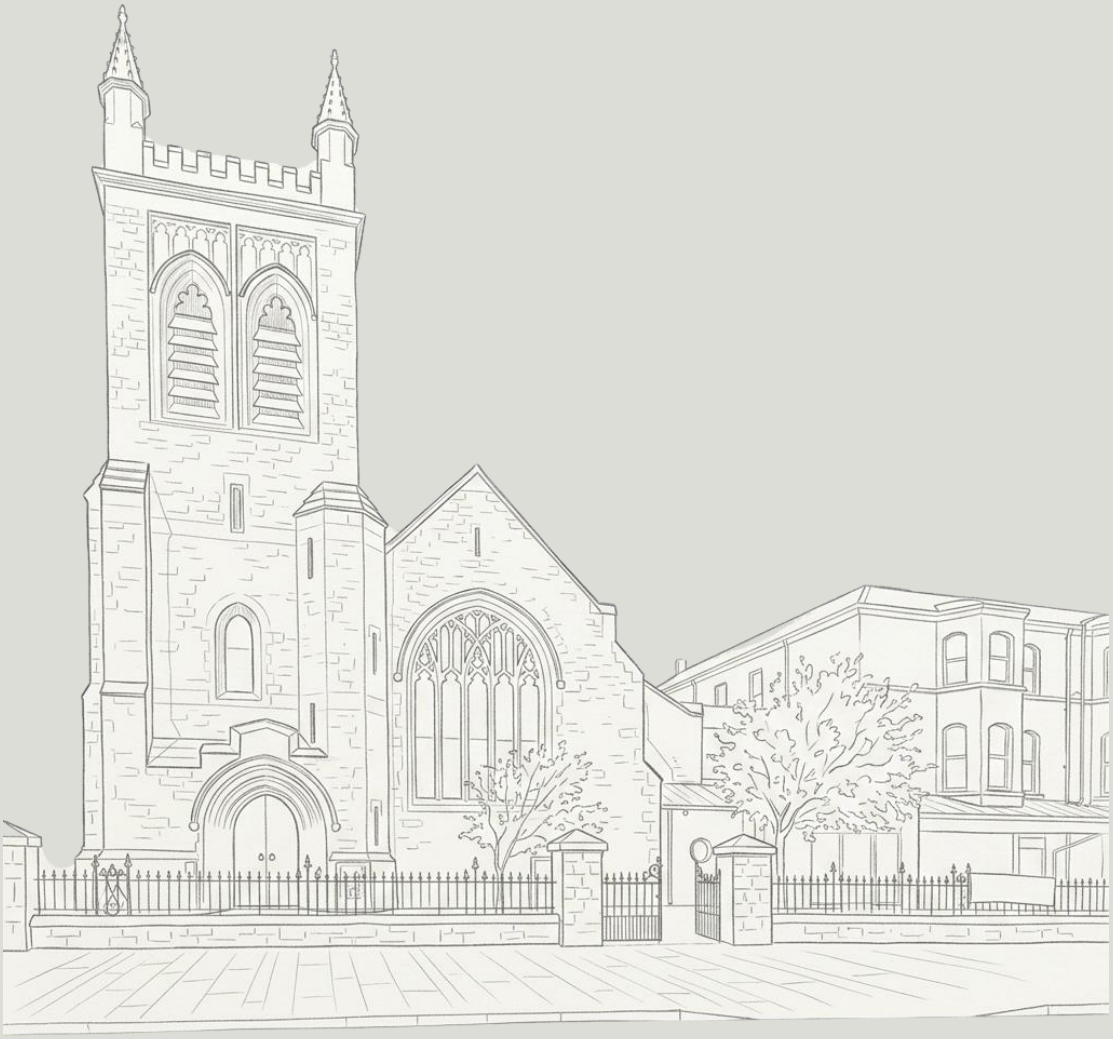












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