

The image shows the exterior of the Clonduff Presbyterian Church. The building is a simple, rectangular structure with a gabled roof and light-colored, textured walls. It features two prominent red wooden doors with pointed Gothic-style arches above them. A white stone wall runs along the front of the property, with a small gate on the left. In the background, another building and utility poles are visible under a clear blue sky. The text "CLONDUFF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" is overlaid in large, bold, black capital letters across the upper portion of the image.

**CLONDUFF
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

MISSION STATEMENT

Clonduff Presbyterian Church

Mission statement / plan

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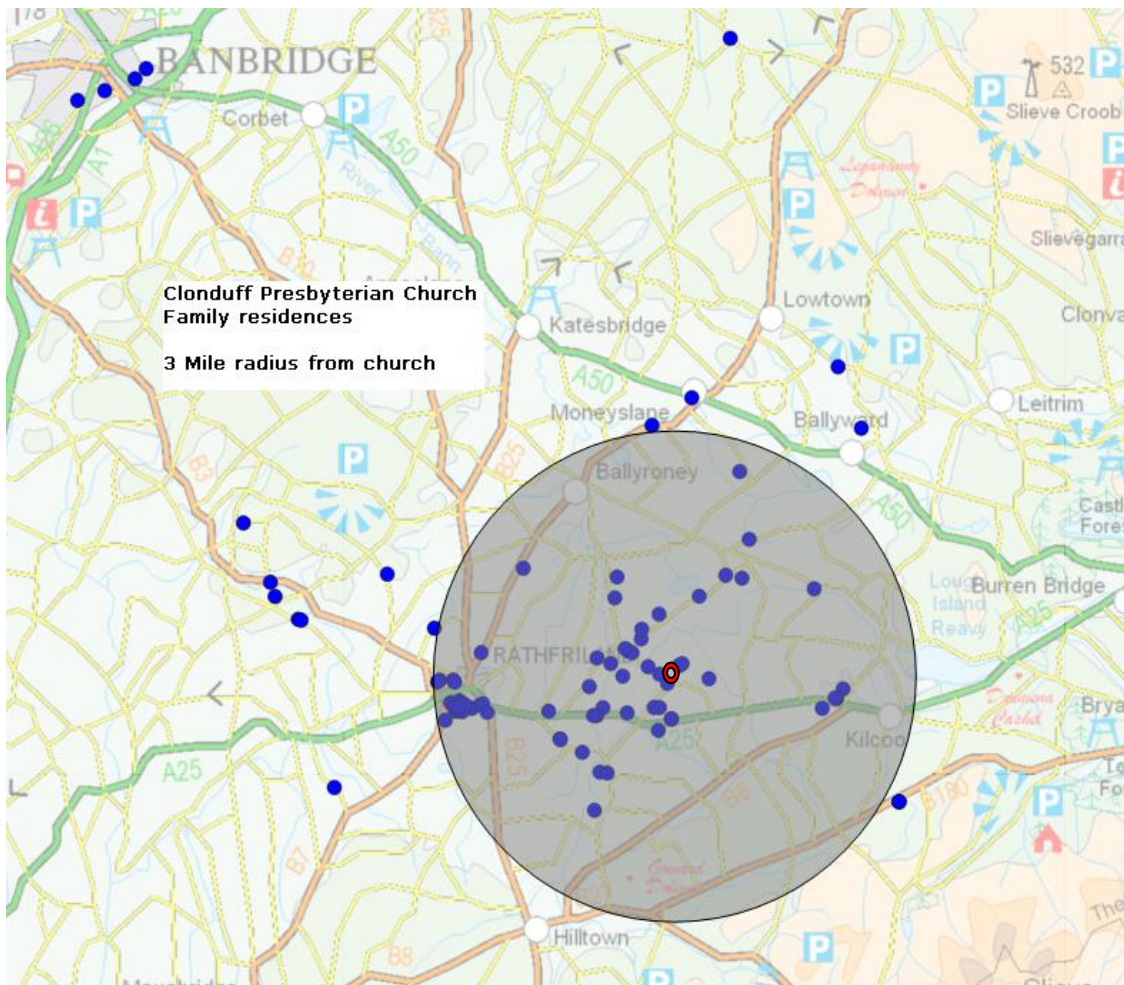
1. Local population and congregation profile

Statistical records of the local schools at the commencement of Clonduff church , would indicate that a large percentage of the local population were already Presbyterians. Records of 1836 show that in the local schools of Annahinchago and Ballynagappoge the majority of pupils were Presbyterian as follows:

Name of School	Total Pupils	No. Presbyterians
Ballynagappoge	32	26
Annahinchago	104	87

Most of the families living in the local area would have been involved in the farming industry. At one point it was believed that in two laneways close to the church, Bann Lane and Manse Lane, over 20 families were residing, however there are presently only 4 families now living in those lanes.

Of the families currently associated with Clonduff, 78% reside within a 3 mile radius of the church with only 3 full time farmers in the congregation. (See maps below).



The historical profile of the church shows steady numbers through the 20th century.

Year	Communicant Members	Marriages	Baptisms
1850		6	4
1870		6	14
1890	221		7
1910	224	2	5
1950	186		7
1970	190		6
1990	134		4
2010	123	2	2

The current congregational profile shows that overall numbers remain steady, however the number of communicant numbers have decreased in recent years. Of the 85 families currently associated with the church, 56 (66%) have regular attendees and 29 (34%) are nominally attached.

Of the approximate 185 adults associated with the church, 26% attend weekly, a further 24% attend regularly, a further 16% attend infrequently and 34% do not attend. (See table below.)

Category	Total		
Attend weekly - fully involved	36		
Attend weekly - not involved	13	49	26%
Attend regularly - involved	13		
Attend regularly - not involved	31	44	24%
Attend infrequently	30	30	16%
Don't attend	62	62	34%
	185		

The following table shows a breakdown of current persons with church associations by age group and attendance category.

Category expansion	Age bracket											Grand Total	%
	00-10	10-18	18-25	25-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100		
Attend weekly - fully involved			1		9	7	9	7	1	2		36	14.1%
Attend weekly - not involved			1		5	1	2	1	2	1		13	5.1%
Attend regularly - involved					8		3	2				13	5.1%
Attend regularly - not involved			2	2	7	5	3	6	2	4		31	12.2%
Attend infrequently			2	2	8	5	2	6	1	3	1	30	11.8%
Don't attend			8	5	17	8	7	10	1	6		62	24.3%
Child - attends each week	19	12										31	12.2%
Child - attends regularly	10	1										11	4.3%
Child - attends infrequently	5	1										6	2.4%
Child - Don't attend	3	13										16	6.3%
Student - attends when at home			3									3	1.2%
Student - attends sometimes			3									3	1.2%
	37	27	20	9	54	26	26	32	7	16	1	255	
All persons	64		20	115				56				255	
	25%		8%	45%				22%					
Regular attendees	42		4	61				28				135	
	31%		3%	45%				21%					

The above shows that over 30% of persons with a church association do not attend. A further 14.2% attend infrequently.

Of the regular attendees, 21% is aged 60 or over.

Local Demography.

The NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service) states in the 2011 census that the electoral ward in which the church is situated (Spelga) has a population which is 85.01% brought up in the catholic religion with just over 13% in the protestant faith.

However most of Clonduff church families reside within the Rathfriland ward. Within this area the percentage ascribing to the protestant faith stands at 56.82% with 38.54% in the catholic tradition.

The Rathfriland ward also shows that 58.76% of people were in paid employment with only 4.32% unemployed.

Figures would suggest that within our congregation, of those of employable age, approximately 86% are either employed or self employed.

2. Mission statement

While the table in the previous section has a number of categories, where eternity is concerned there are only two categories of people, those who are saved and those who are lost. God is 'not willing that any should perish'(2Peter 3:9) so it is into this situation, area and demographic that Clonduff Presbyterian Church seeks to bring an effective, relevant witness for the Christian faith.

The eldership and fellow workers of the congregation seek to uphold the primary purpose of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross as the only means of salvation.

In John chapter 3 Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jude verse 23 states that we should, "Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh."

We seek as first Corinthians 9:22f states to, "... have become all things to all people so that by all possible means we might save some."

It is the aim of the church leadership to :-

'Bring Glory to God and serve the community through biblically based living. presenting Jesus Christ as our only means of salvation'

To this end the mission of Clonduff incorporates several effective areas of witness:-

Worship
Fellowship,
Discipleship,
Prayer
Evangelism,
Service

Clonduff Presbyterian Church exists to lead people to saving faith in Jesus, to bring them to maturity within the fellowship, and to encourage them to worship God in Spirit and in Truth leading to lives of service.

a) Worship:

To bring glory to God and enjoy him forever.

- Scripture is our supreme standard which we follow as we plan for and engage in worship. We believe that the full counsel of God's Word should be preached at our services to encourage the believer, equip them for service, motivate them to spiritual, practical and physical ministry and to present the gospel as the only means of salvation to those who are as yet unsaved.
- Continue to encourage members to attend Sunday evening services for fellowship and midweek meetings for teaching and prayer.
- Promote the best of joyful traditional and contemporary praise in our public worship, ensuring that such praise is Christ centric.
- Seek to identify, equip and encourage members who could use their gifts in participating in and leading worship.
- Continue to pray that we will experience the prompting Spirit of God in each meeting.

Plan:

- Continually review and assess our order of service for Sunday mornings and evening services.
- Endorse the importance for our members to attend midweek meetings for teaching and prayer.
- Offer training for those who would be willing to use their spiritual gifts in worship services and provide opportunities to exercise this.
- Ensure appropriate use of technology in our services and sufficient personnel are trained to use same.
- Explore the continued possibility of joint worship with Hilltown congregation where this is appropriate. i.e. special occasions and possibly one month in summer if minister is on holidays.

b) Fellowship:

To be a welcoming caring Christian community who demonstrate our love for Christ by loving one another.

- Equipping one another through consistent prayer and biblical teaching.
- Continue in our ministry of warm 'person centred' service to one another while listening to and honouring one another.
- Helping one another through compassionate pastoral and prayer support.
- Work at establishing friendships and being peace makers in our relationships.

Plan:

- Continue to provide opportunities for congregational fellowship. e.g. tea after the morning service, soup lunch, BBQ, church dinner etc?
- Encourage folk to avail of the ministry of the word and prayer at midweek meeting.
- Explore possibility of study groups.
- Discuss possibility of prayer triplets/groups.
- Congregational Roll – ensure visitation to all members, also to be aware of all fellowship opportunities.
- Investigate feasibility of pastoral care persons/team to assist in identifying and delivering practical and physical needs.

c) Discipleship:

To work at becoming a Christ-like people who are conforming to his character and committed to his cause.

- Kirk Session recognises that we are utterly dependent upon the Lord as the only one who can help us live out an authentic Christian lifestyle.
- We place a high value on consistent biblical preaching/teaching which leads to personal holiness and obedience to God's will.

Plan:

- Encourage members to realise their responsibilities in serving Jesus Christ where they have been placed.
- Provide special motivational speakers / meetings to inspire members to greater levels of commitment and service.
- Establish library of Christian materials for members to borrow and learn from. Encourage members to share book reviews as a prompt for others to investigate.
- **Areas for investigation:** Bible reading skills, praying and listening to God. faith sharing and personal evangelism. counselling and communication skills. grief care. pastoral care teams, mentoring training for leaders.

d) Prayer:

We exist to be a house of prayer.

- The Kirk Session recognises that prayer is the only means by which any of the above can be accomplished. We are willing to be changed by God and recognise our need for a fresh encounter with his Spirit when we come into his presence.
- We are committed to asking God to teach us to pray and listening to and learning from Him Luke 11:1.
- We have weekly prayer opportunities and humble ourselves before God as we seek to know His heart and bring before Him the concerns/needs of our people.
- We have a heart for the lost and earnestly seek the Lord to bring revival.

Plan:

- We continue to encourage our Congregation to exercise their spiritual ministry of “praying out the bread of life” for our meetings and life together.
- Continue with specific weeks of prayer – possibly quarterly.
- Continually assess ongoing prayer times.
- Establishment of prayer cells to be considered by Session.

e) Evangelism:

We seek to be a more visible and audible Christian presence within the community in which we are placed.

- Ensure all believers are equipped to simply and gently present the way of Salvation as found in Scripture when opportunities arise.
- Continue to pray that those living in the community around us will become more conscious and sensitive to eternal matters.
- Encourage all members to earnestly seek the Lord through prayer and discussion to ensure fresh God inspired vision for our congregation.
- Seek out new opportunities through which we can have a gospel orientated and friendly witness that impacts our local culture and community in a lasting way.

Plan:

- Preaching/Teaching Ministry to include topical messages that examine the issues we are facing today e.g. LGBT issues, marriage, start/end of life issues. Christian responses to economics/debt/culture/work etc
- Weeks of ministry with invited motivational speakers to encourage all member ministry and witness e.g. Coaching for Christ. Evangelical Ministries. Faith Mission, Belfast City Mission etc.
- Men Only - new venture to bring men together for food, fun and friendship.
- Review Shoe Box appeal – Operation Christmas Child:
- Continue to join our sister congregation with Christmas card drop and Community Carol Service, holiday bible club etc.
- Follow up plans to biscuit/sweet distribution to Clonduff Community.

f) Service:

We offer a ministry that is evangelical in nature, and through this gift we seek to encourage our people in their continuing and deepening relationship with the Lord and one another.

- Seek commitment to knowing Gods will and doing Gods will.
- Encourage members to be an inclusive Christian community where folk can belong, believe and behave.
- Inspire every individual to respond to the gospel and to find and enjoy true faith in Jesus Christ through a personal relationship with Him.
- Work to encourage one another in the Lord through acts of service and mercy ministry both within and outside our congregations.

Plan:

- Continue to make use of key dates in calendar e.g. Mother's day, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Easter etc to present a gospel message and witness that will speak to those folk who might only attend on such an occasion.
- Ensure that we avail of every member ministry within our congregational life through the discovery of and development of gifts.
- Identify and support/resource/encourage those who serve in a voluntary capacity within our organisations.
- Take an active interest in supporting different mission agencies. Invite representatives from missionary organisations to bring updates and reports so that we can offer support and pray in an informed and intelligent manner.
- Investigate the possibility of re-constituting a 'Missionary Committee' to inform the congregation regarding specific mission issues.
- Continue to support and encourage those who volunteer for long or short term service assignments. E.g. Ruth with FIA in Burkina Faso, summer outreach work in PCI teams, SU, CSSM, Fields Life etc.
- Website – update of website to provide information for prospective 'surfers' on our fellowship and information for our members.
- Ensure regular reviews of mission statement objectives.

3. Services

a) Sunday morning worship

Current service

Our morning services are at 10.45 am and are preceded by Sunday School. This is usually the best attended service and follows a normal service format. A rota of 'welcomers' greet worshippers and distribute announcement sheets if available. The musical accompaniment is usually piano with guitar and bass guitar. A mix of traditional and modern songs are used with our choir leading the praise. The children come to the front of the church for a talk specific to them after which they leave for children's church with crèche also provided for babies and younger children. The preaching of God's Word is of course central to the service as those attending our service are challenged regarding their urgent need of salvation. A cup of tea is usually served in the hall afterwards. Special services are held at various times throughout the year, these include:-

- Children's day
- Harvest Sunday
- PWA service.
- Remembrance Day service
- Christmas day service

Possible Future Plans.

- Explore involvement of members to lead prayer and worship.
- Ensure church is warm, comfortable, well lit and suited to the purpose.
- Ensure technology is appropriate for purposes and users are appropriately trained to utilise same.
- Explore uploading to web of sermons to incorporate CD ministry.
- Discuss other possibilities:-

b) Sunday evening worship

Current service

Our evening services are joint with Hilltown and are at 6.30 pm. They are preceded by a time of prayer from 6.00 pm and a short time of praise and worship is led by our praise team from approximately 6.20. This is a more informal service and has traditionally been well attended, however numbers have diminished slightly in recent years. The evening services are often utilised to allow the church organisations to hold services and give thanks for the blessings of their ministries. These services include:

- Youth Fellowship service
- Youth Club service
- Daniel's band service
- Young people reporting on summer activities.
- GB Enrolment service
- Carol service

Possible Future Plans.

- Explore involvement of members to lead prayer and worship.
- Possible testimony or book reports
- Usage of Clonduff church as opposed to hall after renovation work is complete.

c) Midweek fellowship

Current service

Midweeks are joint with Hilltown and are mainly for teaching and prayer. Guest speakers are sometimes invited from missionary organisations to update on current ministries.

Possible Future Plans.

- Discuss format of midweeks – prayer times / praise nights / tea etc.
- Explore involvement of members to lead prayer and worship.
- Usage of Clonduff church as opposed to hall after renovation work is complete.

4. Organisations

d) Sunday School

Current work

Sunday School continues to be our most important youth work giving committed leaders the opportunity to teach children the Word of God and tell them of His love for them. The Sunday School meets before church on Sunday mornings at 0945 from September to June and follow carefully prepared lessons to ensure the children are made aware of their value in Jesus' eyes and their value and importance to the congregation. An annual Christmas party is held and a fun day is usually held at the end of the Sunday School year. The highlight of the Sunday School year is the annual Children's Day services where our young people have the opportunity to lead the services, give thanks and sing praises to our great God.

Possible Future Plans.

- Ensure the teachers are aware of support for this important work.
- Investigate what is needed (equipment, personnel, finance etc.) to continue to provide this important aspect of church life.
- Discuss other possibilities:-
 - How to further reach children who don't attend Sunday School.
 - Further involvement in other services (not just Children's day).
 - Senior Sunday school and age groups.
 - Time of Sunday school.

e) Daniel's band

Current work

Daniel's Band is a joint venture with our sister congregation in Hilltown for children of primary school age. The children meet on Tuesday nights at 7.00 pm with a variety of activities organised for their enjoyment. The central purpose is the clear presentation of the gospel for the children and this is usually in the form of a talk by one of the leaders although there are occasions where others will perform this important task. Crafts, games and fun are enjoyed by the children and this work has been blessed through the years with many children accepting Jesus as their Saviour. The attendees are not only from our churches but also from the local community including quite a few from Rathfriland.

Possible Future Plans.

- Ensure the leaders are aware of Session and congregational support for this work.
- Investigate what is needed (equipment, personnel, finance etc.) to continue to this witness.

f) Girl's brigade

Current work

The girl's Brigade continues to provide an opportunity to build relationships with young girls of all age groups and for the leaders to show the love of Christ through their commitment to the work and direct witness and testimony. The numbers

attending have increased again in recent years and the strength of the company is in knowing that each girl is special and is valued not only to the leaders but to Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to 'Seek, serve and follow Christ' through various activities and services. Again, many of the girls do not have a Clonduff or Hilltown congregational background, so this is a good witness into the local community.

Possible Future Plans.

- Ensure the leaders are aware of Session and congregational support for this work.
- Ensure the needs of the company (equipment, personnel, finance etc.) are met.

g) Youth Club

Current work

Youth Club meets on Saturday night catering for age groups from 7 to 20. Various activities are engaged including football, table-tennis, unihoc, pool, table games, volleyball etc. The club has seen thousands of young people pass through during its current form and each week a short epilogue is given to present the gospel through generation relevant illustrations. Many have come to faith as a result of this work with some now involved in leadership roles within the club. The majority of attendees are from the local community (mainly Rathfriland) with most coming from a non-church background.

Possible Future Plans.

- Investigate the best way for this work to continue.
- Ensure young leaders are being encouraged and brought through to take on leadership roles.

h) Youth fellowship

Current work

It is from this organisation that we would most hope to see the next generation of youth leaders come. The current leaders work hard at building and maintaining relationships ensuring that the attendees understand the importance of their faith in coping with the challenges of teenage and young adult years.

Possible Future Plans.

- Ensure that all the young people are aware of their strategic importance in the future of our church.
- Ensure our young Christians are being encouraged, equipped and challenged to take on leadership roles.

i) Presbyterian Women

Current work

Our PW meet on the first Monday of each month. As usual, the ladies of the congregation do a tremendous work in our congregations, from supporting missions, praying faithfully, providing fellowship opportunities, practical pastoral care etc. Guest speakers bring fresh challenges and encouragements each month.

Possible Future Plans.

- Continue to develop pastoral ministries.
- Ensure inclusion of younger women.

j) Bowls Club

Current work

Our bowlers usually meet on Thursday night and share fun and fellowship together while annoying themselves with the game of bowls. There is a healthy camaraderie in the club and matches are played against other churches in the South Down area. These are enjoyable and friendly encounters with many opportunities to share our faith while competing and then sharing a cup of tea.

Possible Future Plans.

- Ensure members and friends are aware that bowling is not just for the elderly!
- Encourage congregation members to attend for fun and fellowship.