

# Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101289

## Details

---

**Known as** Dromore NSP Church

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-02-06

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

---

**Address** Rampart Street  
Dromore  
Co Down  
BT25 1ag  
BT25 1AG

**Phone** 07986 897270

**Email** [dromorenschurch@gmail.com](mailto:dromorenschurch@gmail.com)

**Website** <https://www.dromorenschurch/>

## Activities

---

**Purposes:** To promote the inalienable right of every Christian to search these records of Divine Truth for his own instruction and guidance, to form his own opinions with regard to what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of his own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by his fellow-men.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Counselling/support, Cross-border/cross-community, General charitable purposes, Relief of poverty, Religious activities, Sport/recreation, Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Men, Older people, Parents, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£101,477	£57,136	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair Mcdonald		
David Black		
Jeffrey Martin		

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Accounts

---



**BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 1/1/24</b>	<b>34,940.34</b>		
Fund Envelopes	4,049.00	Bank Fees	33.05
Interest	500.28	Entertainments Licence	50.00
Burial Fees	410.00	All Fire	2,687.52
<b>Molly Ervine Bequest Fund</b>	<b>277.39</b>		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	5,236.67		2,770.57
	<hr/>	<b>Closing Balance 31/12/24</b>	<b>37,406.44</b>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	40,177.01		40,177.01
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income	5,236.67		
Total Expenditure	2,770.57		
Surplus Y/E 31/12/24	<hr/>		
	2,466.10		

**FWO RECEIPTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 1/1/24</b>	<b>5,512.59</b>		
FWO Receipts	9,664.99	Bank Charges	94.78
<b>Harvest Receipts</b>	<b>70.00</b>	Money transferred to No 1 account	15,124.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	9,734.99		15,218.78
	<hr/>	<b>Closing Balance 31/12/24</b>	<b>28.80</b>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	15,247.58		15,247.58
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income	9,734.99		
Total Expenditure (including transfer to No1 a/c)	15,218.78		
Deficit Y/E 31/12/24	<hr/>		
	-5,483.79		

**BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 01/01/24</b>	<b>392.84</b>		
Building Fund Receipts	1,325.00	Bank Charges	59.09
	<hr/>	Money transferred to Building Fund account	1,626.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,325.00		1,685.09
	<hr/>	<b>Closing Balance 31/12/24</b>	<b>32.75</b>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,717.84		1,717.84
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income	1,325.00		
Total Expenditure (including transfer to Building Fi	1,685.09		
Deficit Y/E 31/12/24	<hr/>		
	-360.09		

**ULSTER BANK 1 YEAR FIXED MONEY DESK DEPOSIT ( 3.7 % ) MATURED 07/03/24 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/24**

<b>Opening Balance as at 01/01/24</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	Money transferred to no 1 a/c	103,710.14
Interest paid 07/03/24	3,710.14		
	<hr/>	<b>Closing Balance 07/03/24 (account closed )</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	3,710.14		<hr/>
	<hr/>		103,710.14
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income	103,710.14		
Total Expenditure (transferred to No 1 a/c)	103,710.14		
	<hr/>		
	0.00		

**ULSTER BANK 1 YEAR FIXED MONEY DEST DEPOSIT (4.29 %) MATURING 14/03/25 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/24**

Opening Balance as at 14/03/24	110,000.00		
	<u>110,000.00</u>	Closing Balance 31/12/24	<u>110,000.00</u>
			<u>110,000.00</u>

**PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND (4.05 %) MATURING 20/04/25 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/24**

Opening Balance as at 01/01/24	100,000.00		
Interest paid 01/04/24	3,850.82		
	<u>103,850.82</u>	Closing Balance 31/12/24	<u>103,850.82</u>
			<u>103,850.82</u>

**PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND (4.05 %) MATURING 16/05/25 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/24**

Opening Balance 1/1/24	136,847.86		
Interest paid 01/05/24	5,365.63		
	<u>142,213.49</u>	Closing Balance 31/12/24	<u>142,213.49</u>
			<u>142,213.49</u>

**CONSOLIDATED BANK ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31/12/24**

<b>Opening Balances 1/1/24</b>			
No. 1 Account	34,940.34		
Molly Ervine Bequest Fund	270.87		
Building Fund Account	34,940.34		
FWO Receipts Account	5,512.59		
Building Fund Receipts Account	392.84		
Ulster Desk Money Desk matures 07/03/24	100,000.00		
Progressive Two Year Bond matures 20/04/25	100,000.00		
Progressive Two Year Bond matures 16/05/25	136,847.86	412,904.84	
<b>Surplus/Deficit Y/E 31/12/24</b>			
No. 1 Account	0.00		
Building Fund Account	2,466.10		
FWO Receipts Account	-5,483.79		
Building Fund Receipts Account	-360.09		
Molly Ervine Bequest (closed 11/10/24 tfrd to B/F)	-270.87		
Progressive Two Year Bond matures 20/04/25	3,850.82		
Progressive Two Year Bond matures 16/05/25	5,365.63		
Ulster Money Desk matures 14/03/25	10,000.00		
	<u>15,567.80</u>		
	<u>428,472.64</u>		
		<b>Closing Balances 31/12/24</b>	
		No. 1 Account	0.00
		Building Fund Account incl. Molly Ervine Bequest	37,406.44
		FWO Receipts Account	28.80
		Building Fund Receipts Account	32.75
		Ulster Bank One Year Money Desk (14/03/25)	110,000.00
		Progressive Two Year Bond (20/04/25)	103,850.82
		Progressive Two Year Bond (16/05/25)	142,213.49
			<u>393,532.30</u>
			<u>393,532.30</u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 2024**

Assets

Property

Church Hall Building & Contents £482,360.04

Church Building & Contents £1,009,543.37

Liabilities

There are no liabilities

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Accounts

---





<b>PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND (4.05 % ) MATURING 20/04/25 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/23</b>				
<b>Opening Balance as at 20/04/23</b>		<b>100,000.00</b>		
			<b>Closing Balance 31/12/23</b>	
		<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>	
<b>PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND (4.05 % ) MATURING 16/05/25 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/23</b>				
<b>Opening Balance 1/1/23</b>		<b>36,664.54</b>		
Interest paid 01/05/23 (0.5%)		183.32		
Bank Cheque paid in		100,000.00	<b>Closing Balance 31/12/23</b>	
		<u>136,847.86</u>	<u>136,847.86</u>	
<b>CONSOLIDATED BANK ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31/12/23</b>				
<b>Opening Balances 1/1/23</b>				
No. 1 Account	335,140.50			
Molly Ervine Bequest ( For Grave Upkeep )	270.87			
Building Fund Account	37,444.29			
FWO Receipts Account	249.91			
Building Fund Receipts Account	-5.09			
Progressive Two Year Bond	36,664.54			
		<u>409,765.02</u>		
<b>Surplus/Deficit Y/E 31/12/23</b>			<b>Closing Balances 31/12/23</b>	
No. 1 Account	-314,002.62		No. 1 Account	21,137.88
Molly Ervine Bequest ( account dormant )	0.00		Molly Ervine Bequest	270.87
Building Fund Account	-2,503.95		Building Fund Account	34,940.34
FWO Receipts Account	5,262.68		FWO Receipts Account	5,512.59
Building Fund Receipts Account	397.93		Building Fund Receipts Account	392.84
Ulster Bank One Year Money Desk (07/03/24)	100,000.00		Ulster Bank One Year Money Desk (07/03/24)	100,000.00
Progressive Two Year Bond (20/04/25)	100,000.00		Progressive Two Year Bond (20/04/25)	100,000.00
Progressive Two Year Bond (16/05/25)	100,183.32		Progressive Two Year Bond (16/05/25)	136,847.86
		<u>-10,662.64</u>		<u>399,102.38</u>
		<u>399,102.38</u>		<u>399,102.38</u>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023

### Assets

#### Property

Church Hall Building & Contents	£459,390.51
------------------------------------	-------------

Church Building & Contents	£961,469.88
----------------------------	-------------

### Liabilities

There are no liabilities

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Annual report

---



**Dromore First Presbyterian Church  
( Non-Subscribing )**

Rampart Street

**DROMORE**

Co. Down

( Charity Number NIC101289 )

**2023 Trustees Annual Report**

The church is governed by Trust Deed and acts in accordance with the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

We, the trustees of the Dromore First Presbyterian Church (Non-Subscribing), are pleased to recommend that the details contained in this Trustee Report for 2023 explain 'the main activities undertaken by the charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit' and 'the main achievements of the charity during the year'.

Alistair S. McDonald

Jeffrey Martin

David Black

## **Minister's Report**

The 26th October 2023 marked the 6th year anniversary since my installation as minister of Dromore. It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve this congregation. On a personal level, it is significant for me that this is the longest I have ever served in a single congregation, where previously, in a different denomination, I had been moved more regularly.

The year 2023 was another full and productive year in the life of our congregation. In terms of Sunday Services preaching topics that were embarked on included the following:

- Exploring Genesis
- Exploring Exodus
- Exploring Numbers
- Exploring Deuteronomy
- Wrestling with Joshua
- Get out your pruning shears!
- What have you dedicated your life to?
- The Priceless Gem and Living Water
- A short history of Mothering Sunday
- Can you sin before you are born?
- Can doubt Sometimes be a Good Thing?
- When last did your heart burn within you?
- A Story of Cross-Community Compassion
- Waiting and Belonging
- The Wind and Flame of Divine Love
- A Mountain-Top Experience
- Where does courage come from?
- A Life of Joy
- The Sound of Silence – A reflection on the song lyrics
- Imagine – a reflection on John Lennon's song
- Everything I own – a reflection on Bread's Hit Song
- That's how the light gets in – Reflecting on Leonard Cohen's song Anthem
- Into my arms (Interventionist God) – a reflection on Nick Cave's song.
- Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water – A reflection on the song lyrics
- Turn Turn Turn – A Harvest Sunday Reflection
- One Day at a Time 12 Steps to Sanity
- The Courage to Change – One Day at a Time
- Hope for Change – One Day at a Time
- Making a Decision – One Day at a Time
- Facing Ourselves – One Day at a Time
- He Ain't Heavy – Remembrance Sunday

- Coming Clean – One Day at a Time
- Hope: Reflecting on the Life and Teaching of Victor Frankl

In addition there were a number of reflections on ‘This Day in History’, as we briefly reflected on significant dates and people throughout the year. These included -

- The birthday of Dr Seuss
- The Birthday of King Henry II
- The death of Terry Pratchett
- Abba’s Song– Boomerang
- Iraq War, Supernovas and Psalm 8
- Beethoven and Richard Dawkins
- Hans Christian Anderson and Dr Martin Luther King
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Shakespeare, to be or not to be?
- Sir Tim Berners-Lee – World Wide Web and Unitarian Universalism
- The Founding of Volkswagen
- Tiananmen Square, Emily Davison and Churchill's Speech  
Lord Alfred Tennyson’s Religious Views

All of these sermons and reflections have been made available on the Church Website, the YouTube Channel shared with the Banbridge Congregation, as well as on the Church Facebook page.

Our Sunday Worship in 2023 also included visits from Rev. Stephen Reain-Adair, Moderator of the Presbytery of Bangor, the Right Rev. Lena Cockcroft, Moderator of the NSPCI, as well as guest preaching by Mr Paul McCabe, Dr. Tony Moodie and Rev. Colin Campbell.

We were also privileged to be able to celebrate the baptisms of:

- Holly McNeil on 22nd January
- Nina Alice Emily Cowley on 19th February
- Pippa Alice Morrison on 19th February

Other highlights in terms of Sunday Worship included -

- Mothering Sunday on the 19th March
- Palm Sunday on the 2nd April in which readings from Matthew’s Gospel were read and candles extinguished as we recounted the passion narrative.
- Easter Sunday included a puppet show with Beany and Sheenie, put on by Brian and Wendy to make the message of Easter accessible to the young and the young at heart.

-A Songs of Praise service on the 7th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. This was followed by tea after the service and the dedication of a plaque for new cupboards installed by the Women's League upstairs in the hall in honour of Martha Dickson.

-A Country Gospel Service on Fathers Day on the 18th June in which Brian and Wendy were joined by, Julie Black, Brian's Mom, Margaret and Maureen Smyth in playing some well-known country gospel songs.

-A Children's Service at the end of June featuring Beanie and Sheenie in another puppet show entitled: Shaun the Sheep and the Good Shepherd

-Harvest Sunday was as always a wonderful celebration as Jean McIlroy and her team transformed the Meeting House with beautiful flower arrangements and decorations.

-Our two Communion Services on the first Sunday of May and first Sunday of November were again, moving opportunities to remember Christ in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup.

-Remembrance Sunday was another poignant moment to remember with gratitude the sacrifices of those who had gone before us. Gratitude is expressed to David Dickson for laying the wreath for us.

-Our December Advent/Christmas services were well attended with members in the congregation helping to do readings at the Carol Service on 17th December, Beany and Sheenie making further appearances on the 24th in a puppet show entitled 'Beany's Christmas Rap' as they reminded us all of the Christmas Story. A big thank you to Sonya Russell and Norma Shields for coordinating refreshments in the Ervine Memorial Hall after another successful and well attended Carol Service.

In the first 6 months of 2023 our Sunday attendance was worryingly low. This prompted the Session and Committee to draft a letter to the congregation highlighting our concern at the low attendance and drawing attention to the fact that the future of the Church depended upon members participating and attending. Response to the letter was very encouraging as our Sunday attendance number from June onwards showed a marked improvement beginning to get close to an average attendance of around 50.

It is always encouraging to see that we can attract wider family and friends to our special services. And yet all of us in the congregation and the leadership ought to be mindful of the fact that in order to ensure a future for our congregation, we need to attract more people to our services, whether those be from within our existing church families or new-comers. A question that we might all need to consider is what our unique identity and contribution is within the churches of Dromore and how we can use that unique identity and contribution to attract those who cannot find a home in any of the other churches in the town. Boosting our profile on social media, particularly on Facebook, may be one of the most effective ways of advertising ourselves in the town.

A very big thank you to all who, in visible and invisible ways have contributed to and helped to enrich and make our Sunday Worship Services special, whether this is opening up and closing, helping to decorate the church for special occasions, providing flowers, assisting with readings, singing solos or simply being a warm, friendly and welcoming presence for regulars and visitors who come through our doors.

Other special events that took place in the life of our church community in 2023 include:

- Line dancing which started up again on the 7th March – organised by Lynn McCormick
- Ceili Dance Saturday 22nd April – organised again by Lynn McCormick
- A Quiz Night on Friday 24th March with Tom Fairley hosting the quiz and Donna sourcing prizes and coordinating refreshments on the night.
- The annual graveyard clean-up took place on Saturday 23rd September from 9.30 am to 1pm and was thankfully well supported
- Coffee Morning held on Saturday 2nd December 10am-1pm organised and coordinated by Donna McDonald.
- Carol singing in Supervalu on Friday 22nd Dec from 5-6pm.

It is also with great sadness that we reflect on the lives of those in the congregation who passed away during the course of 2023 and the funerals that were conducted to remember, honour and celebrate their lives:

Norman Henry Lindsay	25 July 1932 – 31 Jan 2023	Buried 2 February 2023
William Cecil Truesdale	21 July 1941 – 23 May 2023	Buried 27 May 2023
Francis McKee (Frank) Scott	14 Oct 1936 – 10 June 2023	Buried 13 June 2023
Tanya Russell	25 Jan 1977 – 26 June 2023	Buried 29 June 2023
Helen Sarah Scott	03 April 1966 – 27 Sept 2023	Buried 30 September 2023
David (Davy) McConaghy	10 May 1939 – 29 Sept 2023	Buried 2 October 2023
John Presha	18 Feb 1946 – 7 Dec 2023	Buried 9 December 2023
Willow Jennett (née Greer)	18 Mar 1946 – 19 Dec 2023	Buried 23 December 2023

Apart from those who have assisted in various ways, both visible and invisible, I wish most especially to thank our Elders and all in our Committee who have provided me with great care and support and help with the smooth running of the Church. I feel honoured to serve with each of them.

## **Finance Report 2023**

Our consolidated bank account figure for 2023 was £399,102.38 compared to £409,765.02 in 2022; leaving a loss of £10,662.64. To sustain a level in the future where we are able to operate and pay bills, which have rose significantly in 2023, if we as a congregation could, if possible, increase our FWO even by a small amount, this would make a big difference overall.

In 2023 Church attendance was down quite significantly compared to previous years.

### **General Church Account**

#### ***Income - £38,876.31***

FWO envelopes fell by 16.7% in 2023; £29,060.78 compared to 2022; £34,900.09

Harvest receipts increased by £90.00 in 2023; £2,270.00 and in 2022; £2,180.00

Rebates were received from Power NI for electricity accounts for the Ervine Memorial Hall; £600.00 and the Church; £600.00

The Bridge Club continue to use the Ervine Memorial Hall on a Monday evening and have provided a total income of £2,640.00

Line Dancing totalled £165.00

Ceilidh Dance totalled £140.00

Generous donations were received in respect of; the late Helen Kinghan, the late Roy Clarke and the late Sadie Flanagan

Just Giving; anonymous donations totalled £321.38

The Quiz Night raised £370.00 for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

The Sunday School bank account was closed (bank fees were too high), and the money transferred to the No 1 a/c. This amount was £419.39

Bank Interest which was credited to the main bank account amounted to £1,435.43 in 2023, compared to £493.83 in 2022. This was due to the increase in interest rates

No Gift Aid was received from HMRC in 2023

#### ***Expenditure - £352,878.93 (£300,000 of this amount was transferred to new investment accounts)***

Rev. Brian received a salary increase of 5%. This was agreed by the committee

The committee made a decision to refund Rev. Brian one visa application which totalled £2,404.00

The annual Joint Incidental and Moderatorial Fund fees were £720, denominational fees, £610 for Sustentation Fund, £114 for Sunday School fees and £10 to the Trustee Company.

The Denominational Charity contributions are Benevolent Fund (for those in the denomination who find themselves in need) £150, Christian Minister's Fund (for training ministers) £150, Bodel-McKenzie and Porter Funds (£10 and £50 respectively), the Orphan Society £200 and the Minister's Widow Fund £150.

**Comparisons of main expenditure from year 2022 to 2023:**

Nest Pension rose by 5%

HMRC national insurance rose by 2.8%

Organist Supplies increased by £60

Pulpit Supplies decreased by £155.00, this was due to Tony Moodie and Paul McCabe very kindly volunteering to preach in the absence of Rev. Brian

Bank Charges were much the same; 2023: £276.22 against 2022: £287.57

NI water costs rose by 30%

SM Vint Accountancy fees were up by 10%

EJ Landscapes, grass cutting was down by £540.00

Nichol Oil for heating the Ervine Memorial Hall and the Church increased by £913.12 in 2023

Arthur J Gallagher, Church and Hall Insurance rose by 15%

Power NI expenditure rose by £540.00 in 2023

TH Jordan; printing of Church FWO envelopes increased by £20.00 in 2023

As a Church we are very generous in supporting our nominated charities throughout the year. The 3 Christmas charities; NI Air Ambulance, Reach Mentoring Ltd and Shelter box reached a total of £883.16. These charities will be paid an amount of £300.00 each, as agreed by the committee, in 2024.

Carol singing at SuperValu raised £221.30 for Action Cancer. This amount was sent on directly by SuperValu. We thank everyone who sang and to Audrey Anderson who played the keyboard.

***New Investments were opened to help our Church money grow due to interest rates beginning to rise in 2023. The investments are:***

£100,000.00 invested in March 2023 for 1 year at 3.7% interest in Ulster Bank Money Desk Account

2 x £100,000.00 2 year bonds invested in April and May 2023, each at 4.05% interest They were both invested in the Progressive Building Society; one with an existing account and the second a new account

## Building Fund Account

### ***Expenditure - £6,946.02***

CCTV was installed after the Church break in. This amounted to £1,476.00

All Fire expenses totalled £4,512.00

New lift ladder for the Church roof space was £440.00

New keys and locks totalled £125.00

### ***Income- £4,442.07***

Building Fund envelopes fell by 10.7% in 2023; £2743.50 compared to 2022; £3071.50

Kind donations of £120.00 were received after the Church break in

Interest received from the bank was £390.57

Burial fees totalled £840.00

A donation was given to the building fund by Maureen Smyth in memory of her late mother, Dora McIlwrath

Fee for erecting a headstone was £100.00

Bank Details are below to make BACs payments or to set up a Standing Order, if so desired:

### **FWO Receipts account**

Ulster Bank

Sort code: 98 05 60

Account Number: 12440355

### **Building Fund Receipts account**

Ulster Bank

Sort code: 98 05 60

Account Number 12440439

I would like to sincerely thank Marie Holmes for co-ordinating the very talented organists, Lorna Beggs and Ann Mills for recording and banking all Church donations and also, to Joe Martin for guiding me as treasurer. There are so many more people to thank who give freely of their time and work so hard to make our Church operate and keep it relevant.

My sincere thanks to Rev. Brian and Wendy for their dedication to our Church and for the love and thoughtfulness they give to our congregation. Please let us all support Rev. Brian during Sunday worship as he explores our faith through meaningful and inspirational sermons.

*Sonya Greenfield*

## Property Report –

### January 2023 to December 2023

#### January

- David Wilson changed two external lights

#### February

- The heating system has not been working in the session room. The pump was air-locked but this has been fixed.
- 1 Boiler in the kitchen has not been working. Ivor and David swapped the boiler from upstairs in to the kitchen. Both boilers are now working in the kitchen.
- Tom Fairley got a quote for new lighting in the hall.
- Victor Shields has 2 guys organised to fix the damp in church.

#### March

- New LED lighting was installed in the church hall.

#### April

- Certificate for Entertainments was received. The fire extinguishers need to be checked in the next few months.
- Signs of anti-social behaviour were witnessed around the church.

#### May

- The holly tree has been cut down.
- There was a bill for £1,074.00 from fire defence.
- Yew tree in the corner of the church trimmed by David and Ivor
- The plaque for Martha Dickson has been installed.
- Joe sourced all the parts to fix the photocopier.
- Countryfile were promoting 'no mow' May. The committee have agreed to leave cutting the grass for a month for the sake of the insects.
- The church experienced a break in via the side door (session room side door). This was reported to the police. Thanks to Davy Dickson for logging it with the police in the morning.
- David Wilson bought new locks and Tom's son David fitted them. Tom's son David fixed the session room door lock. Thank you to David, Tom and David.

#### August

- A CCTV system was installed on the church property.

## September

- The Church Watch sign was been stolen. Tom reported this to the police. Our church is part of this watch. It was launched in the Elim Church and Tom attended.
- Picture donated by Norman Lindsay was put up in the church hall. Many thanks to David Fairley for this.
- Margaret Moodie replaced a washer on a running toilet in the ladies bathroom.
- Graveyard clean-up was a great success. Well done to all involved.

## November

- Thanks was expressed to Joe Martin for repairing the photocopier.

Most of all I would like to thank David and Ivor who both worked tirelessly throughout the year with numerous duties that mainly go unnoticed. Also thanks to Victor for all his help over the year.

Tom Fairley

## **Sunday School Report: March 2024**

Sunday School recommenced in the middle of September. As numbers were quite small, we decided to have just one class this year with ages ranging from approximately 4 to 10 years. Sharon, Sonya, Ivor and myself take the class on a four week rota. This year we are very ably assisted by Kaitlyn and very much appreciate this extra help and support.

James' mum, Emma, has also volunteered to help out at Sunday School when she can and we look forward to her joining us as soon as Access Ni has been granted.

Each Sunday, we follow a scheme called Bibletime in which all age groups study the same story but complete different follow-up activities depending on their age. This works well and the children seem to enjoy the various puzzles etc while being introduced to a new Bible Story each week.

Once again the Rev Brian and Wendy organised and performed a very memorable Children's Nativity Puppet Service. Some of the children also took part in Bible Readings and musical items. Thank you to all who made this Service so meaningful and enjoyable.

Thanks also to Santa who took time to pay a visit and the Church for providing selection packs for all of the children who were present. A huge thanks once again to the Poole Family from Supervalu who gave all of the children and teachers a large selection pack. We very much appreciate this very generous gesture.

All of our Sunday Schools, sadly, are suffering from declining numbers and there have been no activities or events organised by the Denomination so far this year.

Philip, once again, has very kindly offered to provide the eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The children really enjoyed this last year and will be excited to know that it is also happening again this year. We are also indebted once again to the Poole Family for their very generous donation of Easter Eggs to the children and teachers of our Sunday School.

As we head towards Summer, we hope to be part of a bigger Church Outing before our Children's Day Service at the end of June.

I would just like to conclude this report by thanking all of the Sunday School teachers and the Rev Brian and Wendy for their support and commitment again this year. Thanks also to the Church Committee and the entire congregation for their support.

We are so lucky to have a very committed and talented group of children and teachers in our Sunday School and I would like to conclude by thanking them for their dedication and loyalty throughout the course of another year.

## **Women's League Annual Report 13th March 2024.**

Last Spring the Women's League was supported by the Rev. Moodie in making the decision that monthly meetings were no longer practical. The Secretary now notifies League's members of forthcoming events on the What's App Group or by telephone.

The League continues to assist with Church events and Funerals as necessary. We also aim to support support events held by other Churches in the town and to attend Regional League Meetings.

Our first outing in April was to a Visitors Evening at Killinchy. Mr. Colin Robinson, gave a "Braid Scots Danda" into our Ulster-Scots heritage. A most informative and entertaining evening.

It was special to see so many of Martha Dickson's family at the service on 7th May. After this service the new storage cupboards in the Hall, funded by Martha's Memorial Donations, were dedicated in her memory. Martha was a loyal, hard working, long term member of our League.

In the Autumn members attended a Visitors' Praise Night at Banbridge Road Church and a Missionary Fund Raising, Fashion Show at the Cathedral Hall.

On 28th November we were delighted after four years to reinstate our Ladies's Christmas Dinner. As an experiment the Riverside Staff kindly catered for us here in the Hall rather than at their Tea Room. This proved popular with a record number of 32 attendees including some very welcome visitors. We concluded our usual festive entertainment with Carol Singing, once again greatly enhanced by Audrey Anderson on keyboard.

On Friday 1st March, World Day of Prayer was celebrated in Dromore for the first time since Covid. St. Colman's hosted the Service which, significantly this year, had been prepared some time ago by the Christian Women of Palestine. Wendy Moodie and Sonya Russell took part in the Service and it was encouraging to see how well our Church was represented in the congregation.

A sincere thank you to the ladies who support the League also to Linda Dickson, Treasurer, Norma

Shields, Secretary, and last, but not least to Meena Poole who ensures that all members start each day with an uplifting message on their phones.

This concludes the Annual Report for 2023 – 2024.

Signed: Sonya C. Russell Chairperson.

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Annual return

---

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of  
First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ) Dromore  
NIC101289**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined the accounts of First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ), Dromore as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.


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

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

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs S Agnew ( signature )

6/3/24 ( date )

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Accounts

---

## GENERAL CHURCH ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

### Income

### Expenditure

<b>Opening Balance 1/1/22</b>	<b>341,081.61</b>	Rev. B. Moodie - Salary Nett	25,535.22
		NEST Pension	2,651.20
		HMRC - Tax and National	
Envelopes	34,645.09	Insurance	6,653.04
Harvest	2,180.00	Organist Supplies	2,450.00
Pilates - Hall Rent	550.00	Pulpit Supplies	415.00
Slimming World - Hall			
Rent	950.00	Bank Charges	287.57
Line Dancing - Hall Rent	550.00	Drew McWilliams Photography	255.00
Bowling Fund Donation	200.00	Power NI	646.00
Bowling Club Account			
Closure	5.49	SM Vint - Accountant	402.30
Donation - Thomas Sands	110.00	EJ Landscapes - Grasscutting	1,685.00
Donation - Family of late			
Lorna Truesdale	1,360.00	Alderdice - Heating Oil	1,183.24
Donation - Hannah Scott			
(Wedding)	100.00	Key Cutting	24.00
Ulster Bank -			
Compensation	400.00	Insurance - Arthur J Gallagher	1,149.52
Cancer Fund for Children	2,293.14	Benevolent Fund	150.00
		Joint Incidental & Moderatorial	
Bridge Club -Hall Rent	480.00	Fund	504.00
The Poppy Appeal	272.73	Sunday Schools Fund	114.00
Ukraine Appeal	568.00	NSPCI - Sustentation Fund	610.00
Royal Belfast Hospital for			
Sick Children	207.10	Trustee Company	10.00
PIPS Suicide Prevention	347.46	Bodel-McKenzie Benevolent Fund	10.00
Simon Community	278.00	Porter Benevolent Fund	50.00
Lady Clanwilliam Fund	10.21	Ministers' Widows Fund	150.00
Search for Church			
Records	40.00	Orphan Society	200.00
Donation of Magazine			
Subscription	69.00	Christian Ministries Fund	150.00
Interest	493.83	NI Water	354.17
		Weebly Website Fee	113.64
		Talea Digital - Church Web Domain	
		Name	29.95
		4Corners Signs	55.00
		TH Jordan - FWO Envelopes for	
		2023	440.00
		Multiple Sclerosis Society	221.60
		Walker Fire UK Ltd	604.80
		Christian Aid	245.40
		Sunday School Children's Day	391.95
		Mothers' Day Flowers	50.00

Ukraine Fund	568.00
Centenary Tree	100.00
Plaque for Tree	22.81
Garden Centre - Tree post	4.99
Sunday School Prizes	43.50
Cancer Fund For Children	2,293.14
Memorial Plaque - Martha Dickson	19.80
Sunday School - McDonalds	14.95
Church Keys	4.00
PIPS Suicide Prevention	347.46
Belfast HSS Trust-RVH for sick children	207.10
Security Lighting and batteries	83.08
Simon Community	278.00
Royal British Legion-The Poppy Appeal	272.73

**Closing Balance 31/12/22 335,140.50**

		<b>387,191.66</b>	<b>387,191.66</b>
Total Income	46,110.05		
Total Expenditure	52,051.16		
Deficit Y/E 31/12/22		5,941.11	

## BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

### Income

### Expenditure

<b>Opening balance 1/1/22</b>		<b>27,911.27</b>		
Fund Envelopes	3,071.50		Bank Fees	43.94
			Transfer to No.1 Account	2,122.00
Transfer to No. 1 Account	2,122.00		Purchase of Tables	240.00
The Late Helen Kinghan	5,000.00			
The Late Helen Kinghan	335.00			
The Late Jo Russell in Lieu of Flowers	280.00			
Burial Fees	560.00			
Jubilee Coffee Morning	522.60			
Interest	47.86			
		11,938.96		2,405.94
			<b>Closing Balance 31/12/22</b>	<b>37,444.29</b>
		39,850.23		39,850.23
Total Income	11,938.96			
Total Expenditure	2,405.94			
Surplus Y/E 31/12/22		9,533.02		

**FWO RECEIPTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 9/12/22</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
Direct Debits FWO Receipts	255.00	Bank Charges	5.09
		255.00	5.09
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	
		<b>31/12/22</b>	<b>249.91</b>
		255.00	
Total Income	255.00		
Total Expenditure	5.09		
Surplus Y/E 31/12/22		249.91	

**BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 9/12/22</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
Receipts	0.00	Bank Charges	5.09
		<b>0.00</b>	
			5.09
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	
		<b>31/12/22</b>	<b>-5.09</b>
		0.00	
Total Income	0.00		
Total Expenditure	5.09		
Deficit Y/E 31/12/22		5.09	

**PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND ( 0.5% ) MATURES 04/05/23 - YEAR ENDING 31/12/22**

<b>Opening Balance 1/1/22</b>	<b>36,479.14</b>		
Interest paid 01/05/22	185.40		
		<b>Closing Balance</b>	
		<b>31/12/22</b>	<b>36,664.54</b>
			36,664.54
	36,664.54		

## CONSOLIDATED BANK ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31/12/22

### Opening Balances 1/1/22

No. 1 Account - Ulster Bank	341,081.61	
Molly Ervine Bequest ( For Grave Upkeep ) - Santander	270.87	
Building Fund Account - Ulster Bank	27,911.27	
FWO Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	0.00	
Building Fund Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	0.00	
Progressive Two Year Bond	36,479.14	405,742.89

### Surplus/Deficit Y/E 31/12/22

No. 1 Account - Ulster Bank	-5,941.11	
Molly Ervine Bequest ( account dormant ) - Santander	0.00	
Building Fund Account - Ulster Bank	9,533.02	
FWO Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	249.91	
Building Fund Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	-5.09	
Progressive Two Year Bond	185.40	4,022.13
		409,765.02

### Closing Balances 31/12/22

No. 1 Account - Ulster Bank	335,140.50	
Molly Ervine Bequest - Santander	270.87	
Building Fund Account - Ulster Bank	37,444.29	
FWO Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	249.91	
Building Fund Receipts Account - Ulster Bank	-5.09	
Progressive Two Year Bond	36,664.54	409,765.02
		409,765.02

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2022

### Assets

#### Property

Church Hall Buildings & Contents	£427,340.01
Church Building & Contents	£894,390.59

### Liabilities

There are no liabilities

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Annual report

---



**Dromore First Presbyterian Church  
( Non-Subscribing )**

Rampart Street  
DROMORE  
Co. Down  
( Charity Number NIC101289 )

**2022 Trustees Annual Report**

The church is governed by Trust Deed and acts in accordance with the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

We, the trustees of the Dromore First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ), are pleased to recommend that the details contained in this Trustee Report for 2022 explain 'the main activities undertaken by the charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit' and 'the main achievements of the charity during the year'.

David Clark

Quintan J. M. Dandell

Telley Mente

## Ministers Report

Dear Friends

2022 was the first full year that marked our return to relative normality after the Covid-19 pandemic. 2022 was also a significant year marking the earliest beginnings of our congregation as the first Presbyterians to arrive and settle in Dromore, which according to Rev. Peaston, would have been around 1620-1622. While it was only around 40 years later that the first minister was ordained and installed in Dromore in 1660, during those 40 years there would have been a steadily growing Presbyterian presence that marked the beginnings of what would more formally become the First Presbyterian Church of Dromore.

### Sunday Worship Highlights

The year began in January with the celebration of Rev. Lena Cockcroft's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since her ordination on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. This was a particularly significant milestone for us as a congregation because Dromore was her home church and it was here amongst us that Lena would have felt the first stirrings of her call to ministry during the time of Rev. Peaston's ministry.

Holy Week was marked with a few online reflections culminating in our Easter Sunday Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May we shared in Communion although still using the pre-packaged communion cups and wafers.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> June our formal 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration took place with a special service to mark the year. This kicked off a series of historical sermons reflecting on our past and various topics related to our historical identity as Non-Subscribing Presbyterians.

We had a successful harvest service on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> October followed by refreshments in the hall. Having the service in the evening enabled people from other churches to join us, but perhaps made it more difficult for some of our older members who don't like coming out in the evening.

The 16<sup>th</sup> October saw the choir and a number of our members joining Moira for their Harvest Service at 7.00pm. This was the first time we had been back to assist at Moira since their 2019 Harvest Service due to Covid.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November we returned to our normal Communion Service for the first time since November 2019, yet still providing members with the option of using pre-packaged communion cups (which quite a number chose to use).

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November we had the privilege of hosting the Royal British Legion at our Sunday service. It was lovely to have a full Meeting House, and wonderful to have Kaitlyn & Victoria McMurray helping to lay the wreath as well as having an augmented choir to assist in the leading of the hymns.

On the 27th November we brought our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year to a close with our All-Attendance Sunday. This service ended with the dedication of the plaque for the tree planted in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II and concluded in the hall with a video summary of the Walk400 campaign and a handing over of the cheque to a representative of the Cancer Fund for Children. This was followed by tea and refreshments and an opportunity to browse photo albums with historical photos of the Church, (most notably 4 photo albums that belonged to Rev. Peaston and shared with us by Sonya Greenfield.)

We had a very successful December period with the Children's Nativity Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> December which included a puppet show put together by Wendy and Brian featuring and a visit from Santa, thanks to Santa's Dromore agent, Paul McCabe. This was followed on the 18<sup>th</sup> December with our Carols service which took place at 11:30am this year to avoid a clash with football World Cup Final. The service was followed by tea, shortbread and mince pies in the hall and a wonderful opportunity to connect again in shared fellowship and chit chat.

The year ended with our Christmas Service which took place this year on the last Sunday of the year and which drew a significant number of members, extended family and a few visitors as well.

#### Preaching Series and Topics Covered in our Sunday Worship in 2022:

- Jan/Feb – Exploring the Five Languages of Love (Physical Touch; Giving Gifts; Acts of Service; Affirming Words; Quality Time)
- June – Return of the Prodigal Son – 7 weeks
- Jun/July/Oct – Historical Series:
  - The History of Dromore NSP
  - What is the Westminster Confession and why don't we subscribe to it?
  - Why were we called Unitarians?
  - What does it mean for us to be Presbyterian?
  - How did the NSPCI come into existence?
  - The History and Significance of the Burning Bush for Presbyterians

#### Other Topics:

- Is this Really how God Acts in the World? Wrestling with the and fall of Jerusalem 598BC
- Mothers Day – Granny is Like God (Reflecting on God as 'Mother').
- I do not condemn you either - Reflection on John 8:108
- Horses, Donkeys, Strength & Vulnerability – Palm Sunday Reflection
- The Resurrection Mystery – Easter Sunday
- Resurrection Stuckness - Reflection on John 20:19-31
- Do you love me? Sharing Bread - Communion Sunday 1 May
- Queen Elizabeth II – A Reflection on her Life
- In Life & In Death – Reflecting on the Faith of Queen Elizabeth II
- Harvest – Cain & Abel and the 'First Harvest' (disaster)
- Becoming a Living Temple of God – Reflecting on Haggai & Zacchaeus
- The Art of Deep Listening Matt 13:13ff & Proverbs 1:1-7
- What is True Religion? (James 1:26-27)
- New Light on Communion – a symbol of allegiance to Christ
- Missing – A Remembrance Sunday Reflection

- What kind of a King if this? (A reflection on the Sunday of Christ the King)
- Advent 1: Plant a Sapling then Meet the Messiah (on the Sunday we planted a tree in memory of Queen Elizabeth II)

Gratitude needs to be expressed to all those who have helped to make our Sunday worship meaningful over the year: Jean McIlroy for coordinating the flower rota as well as the decorations for harvest along with those who assisted her. Ivor for so faithfully opening up and closing on a Sunday and preparing the Meeting House for us all before we arrive. To Marie for co-ordinating the organists and the choir and for all who have sung in the choir this year as well as to our organists, for blessing us with beautiful music every Sunday. Also to Lorna Beggs and Anne Mills for counting FWO envelopes and other income during the week following our Sunday Worship.

A very big thank you also needs to be expressed to Paul McCabe, and my father, Tony Moodie for preaching and filling the pulpit in my absence, both of whom gave freely of their time both in preparation and on a Sunday not wishing to receive remuneration for their ministry amongst us.

## Baptisms

As a community we celebrated three baptisms in 2022:

- Thomas Vance - 10<sup>th</sup> April – son of Linzi and Jonathan Vance
- Harrison James Thomas Greer 8<sup>th</sup> October – son of Rebecca Adams and Ryan Greer
- Lenny Fitzpatrick - 20<sup>th</sup> November, son of Danielle Orr and Gareth Fitzpatrick

## Weddings

Only one wedding was held in our Church community in the year 2022. It was the wedding of Hannah Scott and Pete Thompson which took place at The Hinch Distillery, located in the grounds of the Killarney Estate, Ballynahinch Co Down, on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## Social, Community and Fundraising Events

To mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Church community, among the other activities that took place one of the most significant was the **Walk400 campaign** in which we aimed to raise £800 by encouraging the community to walk a collective amount of 400 miles. The campaign far exceeded any of our expectations in the end **raising the amazing amount of £2,293.14** in aid of the Cancer Fund for Children NI. Not only did we raise a significant amount of funds and promote the of fitness of the congregation, but it was also a good community building exercise. Out of the campaign we now have a **Church Whats App chat group** that provides a forum for sharing community news and announcements but enables members both locally, and those further away to remain connected to the church community. A thank you is due to Roderick for the inspiration behind the campaign and for keeping us all on track with his weekly updates.

With a return to normality after the pandemic, 2022 was a significant year for us as we began to host events in the Hall again for the first time since 2019. This included a **Quiz Night** held on 6<sup>th</sup> May raising **£568.00** for the **Red Cross Ukraine Appeal**, and the wonderful celebratory event of

the **Platinum Jubilee Coffee Morning** held on 28<sup>th</sup> May (**£522.60 for the building fund**). A special thanks to Tom and Donna and all those that assisted them for helping to make these events a success.

The autumn time also was the commencement of **Line Dancing** in the hall which apart from being a wonderful social opportunity drawing members from the church as well as members from the community, it raised a total of **£550.00** for Church funds thanks to the initiative of Lynn McCormick.

The **Graveyard Clean-up** on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> was also a great success and gratitude should be expressed thanks to all those who attended on the day. It was wonderful to have a number of new faces coming out with spades and brooms to help.

### **Other Significant Moments in 2022**

Special mention needs to be made regarding the stepping down of Sam O'Mullan as Honorary Secretary and of Joe Martin as Honorary Treasurer both of whom have served faithfully for periods of time that represented a fair portion of each of their lives.

Another significant moment in the life of our Church in 2022 was the closing of the Bowling Club's accounts which marked the official closing of the Church's Bowling Club which had not met since the beginning of Covid in January or February 2020.

Also to be noted was the ending Slimming World's hire of the Church Hall on a Monday after an association with us spanning well over a decade, as well as the ending of the use of the hall by the Pilates group, whose changed arrangements were brought about by moving above one of the shops in the town. We were very fortunate have the Monday evening slot filled by the Bridge Club.

### **Pastoral Care & Funerals**

2022 proved to be a very busy year of pastoral care with a number of our members struggling with their health.

A special thanks needs to be extended to Maureen Smyth for sending out cards most especially at Easter, Harvest and Christmas to a number of our elderly members and those stuck at home for various reasons, as well as for helping to organise treat boxes at Easter which were likewise distributed to a number of our older members and those who have found themselves house-bound.

The year 2022 proved to be one of our most difficult years with a number of funerals:

- Robert Russell (d. 01 03 2022)
- John McConaghy (d. 09 03 2022 funeral on 12<sup>th</sup> March, conducted at the family home by Rev. Robert McKee)
- Helen Kinghan (d. 22 06 2022)
- Josephine Russell (d. 08 08 2022)

- Errol Steele (d. 15 08 2022)
- Myrtle Greer (d. 09 09 2022)
- Dora McIlwrath (d. 31 10 2022)
- Roy Clarke (d. 06 11 2022)
- Sadie Flanagan (d. 28 12 2022)

(I also conducted a funeral at the funeral parlour of John Gamble for Gertrude (Gertie) Goodwin who passed away on Sunday 25th September 2022, resident in Dromblane nursing home, Dromore.)

I would also wish to acknowledge the tragic passing of Lee Gilliland, beloved son of William and Eileen Gilliland.

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would wish to offer our deepest condolences to all for whom 2022 was a year of grief and loss.

A word of gratitude should be expressed to Ivor for all the work he does in preparing the Meeting House for these funerals as well as to Sam and Amy Flanagan for the work they do liaising with the funeral directors about the graveyard plots, to Jean McIlroy for the flower arrangements she does for the communion table and for the hall, as well as to Sonya Russell and Norma Shields and those who assist them in organising the catering, setting up the hall, helping to serve and washing up after wards.

Lastly a very big thank you to everyone who has served in the Committee, both elders and non-elders, attending meetings so faithfully in helping to manage the life of our church with care and wisdom. A very special thank you to Sonya Greenfield for so diligently looking after the finances of our church.

As I conclude, we give thanks for the grace of God that has journeyed with us through all the ups and downs of 2022, but also with a word of concern. Over the passed 5 years of my ministry, we have sadly lost around 20 of our members, most of whom were active in the life of our community and who regularly contributed financially to the well being of the church. On the whole, we are only seeing a limited engagement with our church community from those of a younger generation and we are not finding many new members outside of our community. In reflecting on a year in which we celebrated 400 years, it needs to be acknowledged that, like many churches both within and outside of our own denomination it is not inconceivable that in the not too distant future this community may indeed be barely sustainable to keep it's doors open unless this situation is turned around. How many years do we have left as a Church community if the current trend continues, 10-15 years? If we wish to see the Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church sustaining itself into the future, it will require all of our members and associates to consider deeply how we do that.

Sincerely

Rev. Brian Moodie

## Finance Report

In 2022 Church services resumed as normal following the Covid pandemic.

Comparing the consolidated bank account figure for 2021 against 2022 there is an increase from £405K to £409K.

### General Church Account

#### Income:

FWO envelopes increased by around 8% from 2021.

Harvest receipts fell by £195.00 (approx. 10%)

No Gift Aid was received from HMRC in 2022, where almost £25K was claimed in 2021 (this was for a 4-year period)

The Church received some very kind donations from the family of the late Lorna Truesdale, from Thomas Sands and Hannah Scott.

We as a Church continue to be very generous in supporting our charitable collections throughout the year these were the Ukraine Appeal, The Poppy Appeal, The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, PIPS Suicide Prevention, the Simon Community and Action Cancer (SuperValu sent the £205.08 raised direct to Action Cancer). The Walk 400 was a tremendous success which raised £2,293.14 for Cancer Fund for Children.

The Denominational Charity contributions are Benevolent Fund (for those in the denomination who find themselves in need) £150, Christian Minister's Fund (for training ministers) £150, Bodel-McKenzie and Porter Funds (£10 and £50 respectively), the Orphan Society £200 and the Minister's Widow Fund £150.

New activities in the Ervine Memorial Hall were welcomed in 2022 which include Line Dancing and the Bridge Club. Unfortunately, Slimming World and Pilates no longer use the Ervine Memorial Hall, both activities ceased half-way through 2022. Our long-established Bowling club, founded in 1967, unfortunately also ceased. A donation of £200 was received from them.

#### Expenditure:

Reverend Brian waived any salary increase in 2021. As a committee we felt with all his hard work and dedication that he gives to our Church and congregation, it was agreed by the committee that he should receive a 5% increase from April 2022.

The organist Supplies rose significantly from £650.00 in 2021 to £2,450.00 in 2022. This was due to normal Church services resuming every week. I would just like to thank Marie Holmes for co-ordinating the musicians who are indeed very talented. The pulpit supplies during the Reverend Brian's holidays increased only by £190 in 2022. Our visiting preachers and others from our congregation are of a very high standard, some who give of their services freely.

Grass cutting costs increased from £1,000 in 2021 to £1,685.00 in 2022.

Sunday School costs in 2022 totalled £450.40. This was for prizes, gifts and bibles for the children on Children's Day and at Christmas.

**Other costs were:**

Vint's Accountants from £324.00 in 2021 to £402.30 in 2022.

Oil costs remained much the same and insurance for the Church and Ervine Memorial Hall rose by just over £100.00.

Power NI costs were £646.00 in 2022 slightly down compared to previously £776.00 in 2021.

Walker Fire costs for the maintenance of fire extinguishers, alarms and light testing etc for the Church and Ervine Memorial Hall were £604.80 in 2022 compared to £1,157.10 in 2021.

**The Church opened new accounts in December 2022** for anyone wishing to make bank transfers into the FWO and Building Fund accounts. FWO contributions began to be received into this account in December 2022. Please enter your full name and FWO number (if you have one) into the reference when making the bank transfer.

Details of the Bank Accounts can be given on request.

**Investments:**

The investment in the Progressive Two-Year Fixed Rate Bond has an interest rate of 0.5% and matures on 4th May 2023. Interest received in this account was £185.40. Market Interest rates are beginning to rise, therefore, the committee are looking at investing some of the Church money in new bank accounts.

I would like to sincerely thank Lorna Beggs and Ann Mills for recording and banking all Church donations. Also, to Joe Martin for his guidance in my transition to the treasurer's post.

These are difficult times with the cost-of-living crisis. The Church also suffers with rising costs and needs continuous financial support in the months and years ahead.

**Sonya Greenfield**

## Property Report

2022 was a reasonably quiet year in relation to property related works within the church even though use of the church and in particular the use of the church hall facility have generally returned to business as usual after the Covid-19 restrictions easing.

The following property items were attended to during 2022 as follows:

1. Completion of general church internal lighting repairs - bulb replacement etc.
2. Quotes received and order placed for works to replace existing Church Hall high-level lighting with new energy efficient LED lighting with works planned for completion by end Feb 2023.
3. Church and Church Hall heating boiler servicing/maintenance by D Wilson Boiler Servicing Dromore.
4. Church graveyard grass cutting contract ongoing.
5. Church graveyard weed spraying and church hall car park, with thanks to Tom Fairley for ongoing completion of this task on a regular basis.
6. Annual church graveyard clean up with thanks to Amy and Sam Flannagan for organising this event, with excellent turn out of willing helpers on the day.
7. Annual renewal of church hall entertainments licence ongoing by Tom Fairley including associated renewal of maintenance contracts for Fire Fighting equipment, Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting, electrical fixed wiring testing and hall risk assessment contracts to ensure ongoing compliance with the halls entertainment licence requirements. To ensure ongoing compliance additional works are required to existing hall emergency lighting system with quotes received and order placed for works and now due completion by end of Feb 2023. Tom Fairley currently reviewing existing Fire systems/equipment maintenance contracts due to ongoing issues with current maintainer and delay in compliance under entertainment licence agreement T&C's.
8. Repairs to church external security sensor lighting.
9. Thanks to Ivor Park for his ongoing role as church warden opening/closing the church and church hall weekly including setting up of the hall for many events including Slimming World ( now relocated to Methodist ), Bridge Club, Line Dancing, Sunday School, Church Quiz, funeral teas etc. Ivor performs many unnoticed tasks around the church on a weekly basis and is a critical part of our church community.
10. Some anti-social activity was experienced during 2021/22 around the exterior of the church hall within the church grounds outside of church hours however this was highlighted to the local PSNI and they completed extra random patrols of the area which appears to have resolved the issue.
11. We have an ongoing issue with damp on the wall at the left hand side of pulpit which Victor Shields is in the process of resolving with the assistance of a building contractor.
12. Our thanks go to Victor Shields who kindly facilitated the removal of the old storage container at the rear of the church hall as this area was being explored by some locals for anti-social activities.
13. Sam and Amy Flanagan continued to manage the church graves records including grave related queries so our thanks to them both.

14. Ongoing management of church hall maintenance records to ensure compliance with the conditions of our hall entertainments licence.
15. Purchased additional folding tables for church hall.
16. Memorial tree purchased and planted to celebrate Queen Elizabeth 2 Platinum Jubilee and her Sovereign reign.
17. Ivor continues to monitor the Church and Church Hall oil tank reserves and orders replenishment as required throughout the year.
18. Purchase and installation of Christmas wreaths over main church entrance doors.
19. Repairs to church hall hot water beverage boiler.

My thanks to all those who helped maintain the church property in 2022 and who continue to provide many hours of unpaid labour to ensure that our church property is maintained and available for use by all the congregation including visitors.

**David Wilson - Church Property Committee Lead.**

## **Sunday School Report**

Sunday School and Bible Class recommenced in the 3rd week of September. Our numbers remain small but those who do attend are very committed and attend on a regular basis.

This year, the Junior Sunday-School are taught by Sonya, Sharon and myself while Donna and Ivor continue to share the teaching of the Bible Class.

As a Christmas treat, Sonya and Sharon organised an outing to the Nativity Scene at Tannaghmore Gardens, followed by a very tasty tea in McDonalds.

A huge thank you to Wendy and the Rev Brian who enthralled both young and old at the Children's Day Service with a very thoughtful and entertaining retelling of the Christmas Story through the use of puppets. Our two puppeteers were extremely professional and treated the large congregation to a very memorable and enjoyable Christmas Service. Thanks again to the Poole family of Supervalu who ensured that all the children and teachers received a very welcome Selection Box.

Santa Claus even found the time to visit and presented all of the children with a selection pack.

The Denominational Games, due to be held in March, have been postponed but will hopefully be held later in the year. We have started work on our entries for the Denominational Sunday School Competitions which are due to go ahead this year at the start of June. The children are all hard at work, learning new Bible stories and preparing their entries. There will be lots of writing, drawing, colouring, cutting and sticking going on in the weeks ahead.

Once again, I would just like to thank the Sunday School and Bible Class teachers, the Rev Brian and Wendy, the Church Committee, the entire congregation and most importantly our children and their parents for their loyalty, commitment and support throughout the year. New members will be made very welcome.

**Helen Dickson – Sunday School Superintendent**

## **Women's League Report**

The Women's League has not yet resumed regular meetings. However on 20th July 2022 some members and friends joined the NSPCI women to celebrate our Denominations 400th Anniversary. Sincere thanks to Mrs Carol McAvoy and the Denominational Committee for organising a very special "Walk-and-Talk" afternoon at Montalto Gardens followed by a wonderful Celebration Dinner at Rockmount Golf Club.

Since Covid it has been decided that the food for larger Church events and Funeral Teas will be ordered from a caterer. The League will continue to set up the Hall, serve and tidy as required.

For fund raising and smaller events, such as the Carol Service the League is happy to cater and is well supported by the congregation.

My thanks to everyone especially my secretary Norma Shields.

Sadly in recent months we have lost many of our congregation. We were deeply moved by the most generous legacy of £5000 left to the League by a long-time faithful member, Mrs Helen Kinghan.

During the past year, cleaning the church and hall has been carried out as required. I shall now be contacting church members so that the cleaning rota can be reorganised.

This concludes the Annual Report for 2022-2023.

**Sonya Russell**

**Chairperson 1st March 2023**

**Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101289

---

# Annual return

---

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of  
First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ) Dromore  
NIC101289**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined the accounts of First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ), Dromore as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.


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

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

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr S Agnew ( signature )

11/10/23 ( date )