

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street Non Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation.n

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102094

Details

Known as	ALL SOULS' NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Status	Received
Registered	2016-02-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	5 Elmwood Avenue Belfast BT9 6az BT9 6AZ
Phone	028 90321530
Email	secretary@allsoulschurchbelfast.org
Website	allsoulsbelfast.org

Activities

Purposes: Shall be administered with the sole object of the promotion of Christianity in accordance with the constitution and codes of practice of the Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland being: i. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Rule of Christian Faith and Duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. ii. That is 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: Advice/advocacy/information,Arts,Community development,Counselling/support,Cross-border/cross-community,General charitable purposes,Relief of poverty,Religious activities

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£109,279	£88,928	£0	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Kirk		
Anne Stewart		
Charles Stewart		
Herbert Dougherty		
Kenneth Steele		
Maurice Money Penny		
Michael Mckelvey		
Mr Alan Gray		
Mr Darren Ferguson		
Mr Denis Mckelvey		
Mr James Errol Steele Ba, Dip.Ed.		
Mr James Kirkwood Jackson Ba,Msc.,Mrtpi(Rtd)		
Mr Mark Shimmons		
Mrs Barbara Money Penny Bsc.		
Mrs Louise Foye		
Ms Carol Tweedale Bardon		
Ms Monica Burns		
Niall Haldane		
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church Of Ireland Trustee Company Limited		
Professor Sheena E. Lewis		
Rev Alister Bell		
Rev Christopher Hudson		
Rodger Courtney		

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Accounts

**All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast
and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation**

(All Souls Church Belfast)



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

All Souls Church Belfast
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>					
Voluntary giving	32,369		0	32,369	33,181
Donations & Bequests	6,395	0	0	6,395	3,720
Fundraising	50	0	0	50	367
Gift Aid	4,966	0	0	4,966	4,194
Investment Income	32,042	0	0	32,042	30,049
Rental Income	28,433	0	0	28,433	27,740
Other Income received	0	5,024		5,024	1,566
	104,255	5,024	0	109,279	100,817
<u>Payments</u>					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	83,613	5,315	0	88,928	87,747
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0	0
	83,613	5,315	0	88,928	87,747
Before transfers between funds	20,642	(291)	0	20,351	13,070
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0
<u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u>	20,642	(291)	0	20,351	13,070

During the year the proceeds of Maturity of Term Deposits amounted to nil (2023: £148,917) and re-invested in Term Deposits and other Investments £nil (2023: £148,917)

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page under the Statement of Assets and liabilities

All Souls Church Belfast
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	677,295	1,271	8,204	686,770	683,545
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	20,642	(291)	0	20,351	13,070
	697,937	980	8,204	707,121	696,615
Purchase of Investments in year				0	30,000
Increase/ (Decrease) in Value	12,906	0		12,906	(42,262)
Interest on Maturity of Term Deposits	0			0	2,417
Closing Funds at end of year	710,843	980	8,204	720,027	686,770

Held as followings:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Ulster Bank	63,962	43,611
Bank Deposit term Accounts	148,917	148,917
Investments: M & G Charifund	507,148	494,242
	720,027	686,770

The investments in M&G Charitfund are managed by M&G.

M & G Charifund objectives and investment approach can be found on their website.

Non-monetary Assets (not included above)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
Church & Contents	5,722,065	0	0	5,722,065	5,539,269
Hall & Contents	1,596,856			1,596,856	1,545,843
Interest in residential Property	45,000			45,000	45,000
	7,363,921	0	0	7,363,921	7,130,112

The value of the Church & Hall (which have listed status) is based on the Current Insurance cover (index linked).

The charity also has an interest in residential property. The Charity's interest shown above, is based on the Land & Property Services valuation of the property.

Statement of Material Liabilities

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

Approved by the Trustees on 4th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-

Mrs L Foyle, Treasurer

Rev. C Hudson MBE, Minister

All Souls Church Belfast
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

Purpose and nature of funds

Unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Within this fund we have designated funds. Of those which are specific to the property, the basis for making these provisions is given the age of the Church Building and the Hall and their respective listed status ,we would anticipate major expenditure in the future and require these provisions to meet the same.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, these are known as a permanent endowment funds and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert the capital into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any endowment funds held by the Charity are classified as "permanent".

Trustee benefits (in total)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Remuneration	33,564	31,060
Reimbursed expenses	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits not disclosed.

All Souls Church Belfast
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

RECEIPTS:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>					
Stipend	26,524			26,524	27,487
Plate Collections	5,845			5,845	5,694
Special Collections	0			0	0
	32,369	0	0	32,369	33,181
<u>Donations & Bequests</u>					
<u>Bequests</u>					
Wedding, Funerals & Baptisms	6,395			6,395	3,720
Other Donations	0			0	0
	6,395	0	0	6,395	3,720
<u>Fundraising</u>					
	0			0	0
Other	50			50	367
	50	0	0	50	367
<u>Gift Aid received</u>	4,966			4,966	4,194
<u>Investment Income</u>					
Investments	31,385			31,385	29,572
Bank Interest	657			657	477
	32,042	0	0	32,042	30,049
<u>Rental Income</u>					
Rosemary Hall Hire	11,340			11,340	13,648
Car Parking rental	17,093			17,093	14,092
	28,433	0	0	28,433	27,740
<u>Other Income</u>					
Grants Received	0			0	1,200
Received for other charitable causes	0	5,024		5,024	366
Sundry	0			0	0
	0	5,024	0	5,024	1,566
<u>Total Receipts</u>	104,255	5,024	0	109,279	100,817

All Souls Church Belfast
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

PAYMENTS:

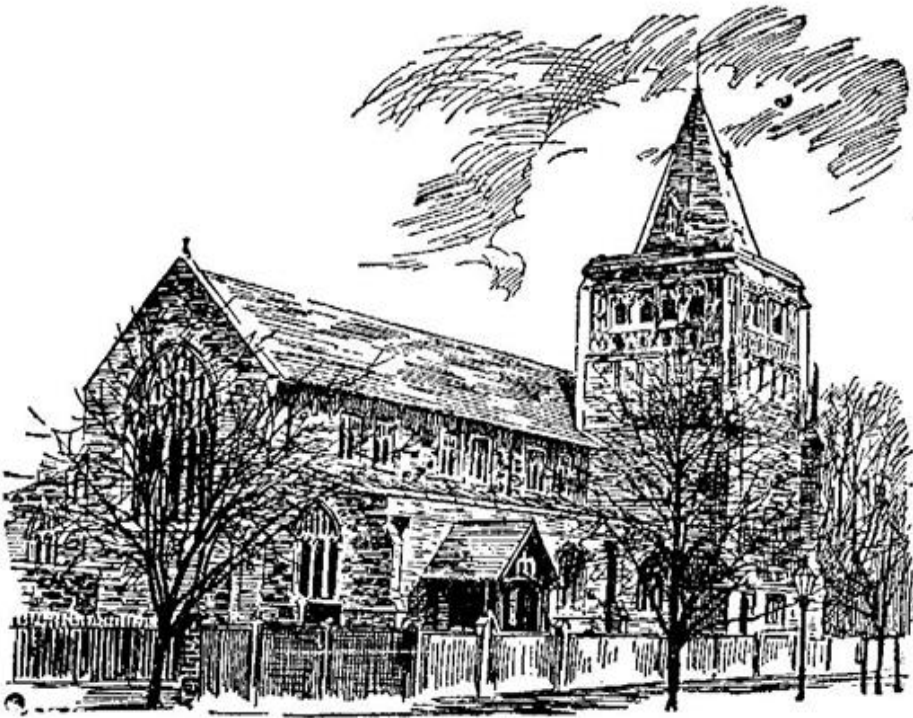
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Charitable Activities</u>					
<u>Staff Costs</u>					
Minister's Stipend	33,820			33,820	31,316
Manse Allowance	6,905			6,905	6,905
Minister's Expenses	3,500			3,500	3,500
Director of Music	7,476			7,476	6,924
Church Officer	8,090			8,090	7,116
Locum Pulpit supply	630			630	280
Locum Organist supply	420			420	360
	60,841	0	0	60,841	56,401
<u>Establishment Costs</u>					
Ground Rent	60			60	60
Insurance	3,895			3,895	3,789
Electricity	3,594			3,594	3,440
Heating oil	5,470			5,470	4,007
Water charges	1,129			1,129	919
Building & Grounds Repairs	3,293			3,293	2,548
Regulatory & Service charges	2,415			2,415	2,110
Assets purchased & Improvements	0			0	10,877
Advertising, Print & Stationery	194			194	179
Telephone & Internet	149			149	140
IT Costs	688			688	182
Denominational Donations	1,608			1,608	1,945
Sunday School & Youth expenses	0			0	51
Choir & Music	0			0	42
Bank Fees	145			145	307
Professional Fees	132			132	750
Sundry expenditure	0			0	0
Paid to other charitable causes	0	5,315		5,315	0
	22,772	5,315	0	28,087	31,346
	83,613	5,315	0	88,928	87,747
<u>Governance Cost</u>					
AGM Meeting expenses	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Total payments</u>	83,613	5,315	0	88,928	87,747

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Accounts

**All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast
and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation**



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary giving	33,181		0	33,181	28,301
Donations & Bequests	3,720	366	0	4,086	3,150
Fundraising	367	0	0	367	258
Gift Aid	4,194	0	0	4,194	4,228
Investment Income	30,049	0	0	30,049	24,249
Rental Income	27,740	0	0	27,740	22,629
Sundry Income	1,200			1,200	0
	100,451	366	0	100,817	82,815
Payments					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	87,747	0	0	87,747	75,102
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0	0
	87,747	0	0	87,747	75,102
Before transfers between funds	12,704	366	0	13,070	7,713
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0
<u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u>	12,704	366	0	13,070	7,713

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page under the Statement of Assets and liabilities

Note of movements in purchase and disposal of the Bank Term Deposits portfolio not reflected above

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Proceeds of Term Deposits Maturity	148,917			148,917	65,773
Re-Investment in Term Deposits	(148,917)			(148,917)	(60,000)
Retained/(Released) in Bank	0			0	5,773

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	674,436	905	8,204	683,545	696,603
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	12,704	366	0	13,070	7,713
	<u>687,140</u>	<u>1,271</u>	<u>8,204</u>	<u>696,615</u>	<u>704,316</u>
Purchase of Investments in year				30,000	
Increase/ (Decrease) in Value	(42,262)	0		(42,262)	(21,545)
Interest on Maturity of Term Deposit:	2,417			2,417	774
Closing Funds at end of year	<u>647,295</u>	<u>1,271</u>	<u>8,204</u>	<u>686,770</u>	<u>683,545</u>

Held as followings:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ulster Bank	43,611	60,540
Bank Deposit term Accounts	148,917	146,500
Investments: M & G Charifund	494,242	476,505
	<u>686,770</u>	<u>683,545</u>

The investments in M&G Charitfund are managed by M&G.

M & G Charifund objectives and investment approach can be found on their website.

Non-monetary Assets (not included above)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u>
Church & Contents	5,539,269	0	0	5,539,269	5,215,884
Hall & Contents	1,545,843			1,545,843	1,455,596
Interest in residential Property	45,000			45,000	45,000
	<u>7,130,112</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,130,112</u>	<u>6,716,480</u>

The value of the Church & Hall (which have listed status) is based on the Current Insurance cover (index linked).

The charity also has an interest in residential property. The Charity's interest shown above, is based on the Land & Property Services valuation of the property.

Statement of Material Liabilities

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:-

Mrs L Foyle, Treasurer

Date: 5th March 2024

Rev. C Hudson

Date: 5th March 2024

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

Notes to the Accounts

Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

Purpose and nature of funds

Unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Within this fund we have designated funds. Of those which are specific to the property, the basis for making these provisions is given the age of the Church Building and the Hall and their respective listed status ,we would anticipate major expenditure in the future and require these provisions to meet the same.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, these are known as a permanent endowment funds and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert the capital into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any endowment funds held by the Charity are classified as "permanent".

Trustee benefits (in total)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Remuneration	35,221	33,223
Reimbursed expenses	6,500	6,500

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits not disclosed.

Analysis of Charitable Payments

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Staff payments	56,401	54,207
Establishment payments	27,750	17,584
Other Charitable payments	3,596	3,311
	<u>87,747</u>	<u>75,102</u>

**All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast
and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation**

The following pages do not form part of the Statutory Financial Statements

They show the analysis of the amounts contained in the Statutory Financial Statements

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>					
Stipend	27,487			27,487	26,172
Plate Collections	5,694			5,694	2,129
Special Collections	0			0	0
	33,181	0	0	33,181	28,301
<u>Donations & Bequests</u>					
<u>Bequests</u>					
Wedding, Funerals & Baptisms	3,720			3,720	2,947
Received for other charitable causes	0	366		366	203
Other Donations	0			0	0
	3,720	366	0	4,086	3,150
<u>Fundraising</u>					
	0			0	0
Other	367			367	258
	367	0	0	367	258
<u>Gift Aid received</u>					
	4,194			4,194	4,228
<u>Investment Income</u>					
Investments	29,572			29,572	24,150
Bank Interest	477			477	99
	30,049	0	0	30,049	24,249
<u>Rental Income</u>					
Rosemary Hall Hire	13,648			13,648	13,835
Car Parking rental	14,092			14,092	8,794
	27,740	0	0	27,740	22,629
<u>Other Income</u>					
Grants Received	1,200			1,200	0
Sundry	0			0	0
	1,200	0	0	1,200	0
<u>Operating Receipts</u>	100,451	366	0	100,817	82,815

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Charitable Activities</u>					
<u>Staff Costs</u>					
Minister's Stipend	35,221			35,221	33,223
Minister's Expenses	6,500			6,500	6,500
Employers NIC	0			0	210
Director of Music	6,924			6,924	6,535
Church Officer	7,116			7,116	6,729
Locum Pulpit supply	280			280	695
Locum Organist supply	360			360	315
	56,401	0	0	56,401	54,207
<u>Establishment Costs</u>					
Ground Rent	60			60	60
Insurance	3,789			3,789	3,602
Electricity	3,440			3,440	2,531
Heating oil	4,007			4,007	4,115
Water charges	919			919	481
Building & Grounds Repairs	2,548			2,548	1,290
Regulatory & Service charges	2,110			2,110	1,733
Assets purchased & Improvements	10,877			10,877	3,772
	27,750	0	0	27,750	17,584
<u>Other Costs</u>					
Advertising, Print & Stationery	179			179	280
Telephone & Internet	140			140	138
IT Costs	182			182	380
Denominational Donations	1,945			1,945	1,672
Sunday School & Youth expenses	51			51	35
Choir & Music	42			42	238
Bank Fees	307			307	295
Professional Fees	750			750	0
Sundry expenditure	0			0	0
Paid to other charitable causes	0	0		0	273
	3,596	0	0	3,596	3,311
	87,747	0	0	87,747	75,102
<u>Governance Cost</u>					
AGM Meeting expenses	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Operating payments</u>	87,747	0	0	87,747	75,102

**All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast
and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation**

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Annual report



All Souls Church

an inclusive church



Annual Report from the Trustees for year ending 31st December 2023

Compiled by the Ministers, Session
and Congregational Committee of All Souls Church

Annual General Meeting: Sunday 24th March 2024

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

NIC 102094

In compiling this report the Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's public benefit requirements statutory guidance.

Objectives and Activities

We are a congregation of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Our objectives are the promotion of Christianity in accordance with the constitution and codes of practice of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland being: that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the rule of Christian faith and duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. That it is the inalienable right of every Christian to search these records of divine truth for his own instruction and guidance, to form his own opinions regarding what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of his own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by others.

We meet regularly for the public worship of God, in the spirit of Jesus. As disciples of Christ, to preach the word of God in accordance with the Constitution, Code of Discipline and Regulations of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To promote the Christian faith within the community of Belfast and beyond, without any requirement for Minister, Elder or Members to subscribe to a doctrinal statement of faith as a condition of Church membership. To offer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion), in accord with the Constitution of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To offer pastoral care to those in need within the church community and beyond; in particular to the sick and elderly within the community. To facilitate access to those in need to denominational charities as appropriate. To support wider community life, through the maintenance of good relations with all other religious traditions and community organisations.

Public benefit statement

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is the provision of liberal Christian religious activities open to all. The benefits are evidenced by the conduct of regular services of Christian worship and the maintenance of an inclusive Christian community. There is no harm arising from these benefits. Public access is made known using printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is in relation to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits because of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The Charity's beneficiaries are all those members of society who wish to be part of, or associate, with a liberal Christian organisation, their families, and other individuals that the Congregation is in direct and indirect contact within the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland and beyond, which benefit from our engagement with them, also our support for Christian and other secular organisations and charities. In furtherance of providing these benefits we involve ourselves in offering advice/advocacy/information, counselling and support, community development, cross-border/cross-community, general charitable purposes, the relief of poverty and also religious activity.

Minister's Report

Rev Chris Hudson MBE (Minister)

In general, it is interesting to note that we are living through an age of decreasing numbers attending churches. However, we are pleased to see a modest increase and a changing demographic, such as identity and age profile. This makes me optimistic for the future of All Souls' Church.

We have many activities and see them increasing, Choir, Book Club, Chapter Chat and YourSpace, to mention a few.

It is my ambition to write and contribute to the understanding of our unique faith. With that in mind, I hope to spend some time in Harris Manchester College in Oxford later this year. We, the NSPCI, have a strong and historic link with the College, which is associated with the General Assembly of Unitarians and Free Christians.

We need to reflect on our own history and see its relevance in our contemporary world. I note that Charles Stewart and Ian Murray have initiated this project already. We can see evidence in the Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the life of our community. We can be truly optimistic as more people come forward to play a role, which helps to continue the growth in church life.

The work of Kirk Session, Committee – including Finance, Events and Property, Choir and Kids Club are covered in other sections of this report. What is important to us is the witness to faith that our community provides. At the heart of our congregation, is a religious commitment which is unique in general church life. We embrace faith with an open mind. This is essential to our continued life in this city. We are blessed to see more people joining in the wonder of creation and the great journey of faith.

Every blessing on all those who enter our beloved community.

Session Report

Mr Errol Steele (Clerk of Session)

The Kirk Session is pleased to report on another good year in the life of All Souls'. Numbers attending services are increasing, with an average of sixty at each service. We are welcoming several new faces and there is a strong feeling of optimism in the church.

We celebrated the usual special services during the year: Holocaust Memorial, Good Friday and Easter Communion, Harvest Thanksgiving, Advent services and the Christmas Readings and Carol Service. We hosted the annual Pride service and the Pride Christmas Services again. Radio Ulster Sunday Service was broadcast from All Souls' in July.

We are, as ever, indebted to Trevor Gillian and the choir for their huge contribution, which enhances our worship each Sunday and we thank all our musicians for their input, which adds so much to our services.

We are particularly indebted to our Technical Team for all their work both in church and in relaying our services on the internet through our YouTube channel, which is bringing our message to an ever-widening audience, of approximately 60 views per week.

We are grateful, as always, to everyone who contributes in any way to make All Souls' a welcoming and inclusive community: those who meet and greet, who read lessons, who provide flowers, produce and serve food and hot beverages, and those who help in so many other ways.

We congratulate our Assistant Minister, the Rev Alister Bell on his appointment as Minister in Charge of our Moira congregation; and on his marriage to Colin Matchett. We wish them every happiness in the future.

In previous years All Souls' has provided the names of those who were baptised, who got married and those who were associated with All Souls' but who died during the year. With due regard to GDPR, names will no longer be included in this report.

We welcomed four new stipend members to the congregation in 2023. There were nine baptisms. There were three marriages; one couple had a religious blessing following a civil marriage. We record with regret the passing of

Margaret Allen and Stephen King and we extend our sympathies to the family circle.

Other activities which continue in the Church and which are not reported on elsewhere, include Your Space, which takes place monthly; Book Club, which also takes place monthly; and the Chapter Chat Group which also takes place every month.

One of our members is undertaking a lay preacher course.

Various events were also held which were open to All Souls' congregants and friends and family, which included bus trips and evening concerts.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to report so positively on the past year. We are, as ever, indebted to the Rev Chris Hudson and Dr Isabella Evangelisti for all their work on our behalf both inside and outside the church, which does so much to keep our tolerant, liberal and inclusive message to the fore at a time when these qualities appear so sadly lacking in the world.

Church Committee Report

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

At the AGM of 2023, I was pleased to be nominated once again as the Hon Secretary of All Souls Church and am pleased to present this report on behalf of the church committee. I send my thanks to my colleagues on committee for their dedication and conscientiousness in their respective roles and to the Ministers for their continued insight and leadership.

There have been many physical improvements around the building this year and we are very thankful to Ian Murray, Charles Stewart, Bryan Cooney and all who have given of their time and energy to improve the communal spaces both inside and outside of the church.

We are indebted to the tireless efforts of all those who look after bookings of the halls and carpark. This is not an easy task, and all individuals handle the challenges with much forbearance.

We are grateful to our Finance subcommittee for their thorough analysis of our church finances and for the hard work that is done on all aspects of our income and outgoings.

The social side of church life has continued to flourish greatly, thanks to the vision of the events subcommittee. This year saw a successful trip to Gracehill and Arthur Cottage; alongside other social events throughout the year. Thanks also to Patricia Whiteside for her continued vision with Chapter Chat and YourSpace.

As a committee, we place on record our thanks to the team at the AV Desk who have continued to work hard to support our worship through technology. We appeal to any member of the congregation who could participate in this important role in church life.

The governance of All Souls' Church was facilitated by in person meetings throughout the year although at times it was difficult to schedule meetings due to availability of officers. Moving forward for the next church year, a detailed schedule of meetings is now in place.

Property Report

Mr Ian Murray (Property Committee)

The aspect of maintaining the Buildings and Grounds is represented on the Committee by Charles Stewart and Ian Murray, who work alongside the Church officer, Brian Cooney.

The Hall and the Carpark are a hybrid aspect of the church administration, crossing over both the Finance and Property sub-committees.

Apart from the routine maintenance carried out on a weekly basis, the following occurred in 2023.

Church

- At the time of writing this report, the renovation to the crypt is close to completion and now offers an alternative meeting space for small groups both on Sundays and during the week. Compared to pre-renovation, it presents a more presentable image of All Souls to visitors and members alike. The renovation was approved by the Committee in May 2022 and has taken considerable time, mainly because most of the “heavy lifting” was done on a volunteer basis. The cost came to £10,307, which is 3% above the budget set by the committee. This cost excludes the purchase of the carpet tiles and their fitting, which amounted to approximately £800. This cost was covered by one member of the congregation, and our thanks go to the individual concerned.
- Safety treads were fitted to the external Crypt stairs in the interests of Health and Safety and Insurance.
- A clean-up operation has been undertaken in the tower. Pigeons have been roosting in the loft. Over time, the wire mesh which prevents pigeons from getting in and roosting has become breached. Given the difficult access (82 steps) and also the fact that the larger room is only used for storage; any damage only becomes apparent at a later stage. On the most recent inspection, a considerable mess was encountered, which has now been cleared, and access improved to provide more regular inspection.
- During the year, a handrail was erected at the steps of the chancel to ease access to the same.
- Every 5 years, we are required by law to have a detailed inspection of our electrical installations, and this occurred in September. The inspection found the following:
 - (a) No immediate/critical action needed.
 - (b) 9 non-critical recommendations to be carried out in the interim (which have now been carried out)
 - (c) 24 suggestions for future consideration.

Halls

Six years ago, the Hall was refurnished and painted, and it is still in good shape. What was not touched at that time were the kitchen and toilet areas, and these areas could now do with some attention.

- The previous plastic chairs (which when stacked looked like a contemporary artwork of the leaning tower of Pisa) were replaced by 85 banqueting style chairs.
- The door from the Rosemary Hall to the Agnew room came off its hinges during the year; this was rectified, and procedures were put in place, with users notified when moving chairs through this doorway.
- During the year, 2 radiators came loose from the wall. The mounting brackets were re-secured. The methods used (over 100 years ago) when the plaster was applied were not the same as what is applied today, and over the years, voids occur between the plaster and brickwork, as anybody with an old house would attest.
- A triple extension ladder has been purchased. This will enable certain tasks to be carried out more safely.

As most members do not normally venture into the hall, it is important to remember that, as well as being used for Church purposes, it also provides approximately 15% of the total income in the form of hiring charges. It is therefore important that it is well maintained and presented.

Grounds

- The Carpark, which provides approximately 15% of total income, was re-marked during the year. Our thanks again to the same donor who paid for this, as they did for the crypt flooring.
- In 2022, we had a tree fall on the Bell tower from Elmwood Avenue. In 2023, our fence returned fire by letting three of its panels fall onto the avenue. This has now been repaired.
- During the year, the shrub beds at the front and side of the church were cleared of invasive grass. The beds will be replanted with low-maintenance shrubs and plants. In a positive prelude, the daffodils are now coming to life after years of being suppressed by the grass.
- Much of the “heavy lifting” was once again done by volunteers. We thank all who volunteered their time and energy to help the Property sub-committee.

If you feel that an aspect of the interior or exterior of the church could be improved, mention it to an Elder or Committee member for consideration by the committee.

To own and occupy buildings and grounds such as ours requires a considerable amount of volunteer time and due diligence, given the safety, health, and liability aspects concerned. In all aspects of responsibility, burdens can put you in a very lonely place. However, as with the sprouting of the daffodils, when you see people lend a hand, it renews our hope in human nature and fellowship. Once again, I record my thanks to all who support us in this aspect of life in All Souls Church.

Finance Report

Louise Foye (Treasurer)

The Treasurer is responsible, under the Denomination's code, for controlling and applying funds, keeping records and preparing an annual statement of Income & Expenditure. In discharging these duties, I am well supported by my fellow subcommittee members: Ian Murray, Alan Gray, and Mark Shimmons.

The Financial Statements show a surplus for 2023 of £12,704, compared to £7,783 in 2022. Excluding the figures for equipment purchased and improvements of £10,877 and £3,772 respectively, treating them as "one-off expenses," our normal running surplus was £23,581 in 2023 and £11,555 in 2022.

I could conclude this report by stating that the church's finances are in rude health, meaning strong and healthy, capable of meeting any financial challenges with confidence. However, custom dictates that I provide further commentary.

INCOME

Our total income for 2023 increased by £17,839 over the previous year. The income can be classified into three categories.

Voluntary Income:

- £41,417 (41% of total income), increased by £5,683. Within this category, stipend income increased by 5%, and plate collection by 167%. This likely reflects societal changes, with people less willing to becoming stipend members. However, stipend income is core funding for any church, and we encourage those who are not already stipend members to consider contributing either by envelope on Sundays or by Standing Order.

Investment Income

- £29,572 (30% of total income), up by £5,422. We transferred £30,000 from our Current Account during the year, contributing to the increased return. However, the rate of return is beyond our control as it is managed by M&G Chari fund managers.

Carpark and Hall Hire

- £27,740 (28% of total income), increased by £5,111. The main reason is the occupancy rate for the carpark, which was approximately 90% in 2023, compared to around 50% or less during the Covid period. Thankfully, there has been a consistent recovery since then.

The remaining 1% (£1,200) was a government-funded grant towards energy costs. All charities fall into the domestic tariff rate and were automatically awarded the same.

EXPENSES

Expenses for the year amounted to £87,747.

- Salaries: £56,401 (Congregational Committee decision)
- Purchase of hall chairs: £4,488 (Congregational Committee decision)
- Completion of crypt renovations: £6,389 (Congregational Committee decision)
- Running Costs (Heating/Insurance etc): £20,469.

RESERVES

Our reserves, totalling £686,770 at 31st December 2023, are distributed as follows:

- Bank Operating Account: £43,611, representing 6% of total reserves.
- Bank term deposits: £148,917, representing 22% of total reserves.
- M & G Chari Fund: £494,242, representing 72% of total reserves (market valuation at 31st December 2023).

We believe that the disposition of the reserves is satisfactory for the immediate, medium and long-term needs of the congregation.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Alan, Ian, and Mark for their work and dedication in managing the church's financial affairs in 2023, and for the support they have provided me during that year.

Choir and Musical Report

Rev Trevor Gillian (Director of Music)

I am pleased to submit this report on the musical life of All Souls' for the year 2023.

The choir members continue to rehearse most weeks to ensure a strong lead and make significant contribution to worship at our Sunday and other services. Numbers remain at around a dozen, and it is always encouraging to welcome new members. Please speak to me if you are interested and we will be glad to have you join us, even if only to listen in for a few weeks as a trial.

We are grateful to choir members, Eve, Frances, Violet, Violina and Roger, and others, including Muriel and Patricia who contribute musically in different ways. Jacynth Hamill and Norman Richardson have joined to help us on occasion, in choir and as soloists. Brian Webb has also sung a solo over the last year, and, as always Brian Cooney most willingly adds to the variety of music and song in our services. Gareth Johnston and Sam Magilton have given excellent and reliable service in my absence.

A much-enjoyed highlight of the year was the visit of the PSNI Ladies Choir to the Palm Sunday service. We look forward to their return.

I commend the choir members' enthusiasm to learn new pieces and expand the variety and style of our repertoire. Again, the congregation's willingness to learn new songs of praise is most appreciated. We hope to continue adding to our hymn resources by means of the digital images: the sound and video technical crew are most helpful in every respect and deserve our thanks.

Finally, I record my thanks to the Rev Chris, the Rev Alister, the Session and the Committee for their leadership, vision and encouragement. Many thanks also to the congregation for their continued and valued appreciation and support.

Communications Report

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

After another successful year, it is with pleasure that I present the fourth report on our church communications. In 2023, All Souls Church celebrated 13 years on Social Media and continue to enjoy a growing presence on Facebook and YouTube.

All Souls Church continues to attract a very wide following on Facebook, as evidenced by the number of people engaging with our posts on a weekly basis. Although on average our posts can attract anything between 200 to 900 views, a significant number of posts or series of posts have earned significantly more views. All Souls Church continues to attract the most likes and views throughout the denomination. The Carol Service and Pride Service in particular have attracted enormous support.

As Social Media Officer, on occasion I have had to deal with elements of negativity on our page. A strict policy of respect and tolerance continues to be in place and posts are regularly moderated. If anyone has any concerns, please report them to me.

The church continues to make use of our thriving YouTube channel. Our YouTube videos continue to attract attention, and we have received so much positive feedback from near and far. The role of our existing social media platform (Facebook) continues to promote interest in our YouTube Channel, with over 45% of external views of videos coming from Facebook. Approximately 45% come from email with the remaining 10% coming from a range of sources.

I am indebted to our excellent AV Team. Ian Murray, Alan Gray, Mark Shimmons and Muriel Moore who have done an excellent job this year and I am thankful to them for their support. If other volunteers would like to come forward for a technical support role, they would be most welcome.

I also place on record my thanks for the excellent photography provided by Michael McKelvey. This fabulous collection of photographs will give us an excellent archive of memories for future generations and provides a wonderful snapshot of church life via social media. Michael also provides additional video clips, which provide thoughtful snapshots of church life.

A year on from my last report and there has been no movement on the website. The website urgently needs modernisation, but I lack the skills to do this. Ian Murray has done some initial research in this field, and I am thankful for his efforts. I suggest that a small delegation of session or committee members look at potential material for an update as soon as possible.

As we build upon the success of our social media outlets, the social media officer and technical team will continue to embrace new trends and technology to build upon the solid foundations which have been set, in providing a vibrant, relevant, and accessible online presence for our beloved community in *All Souls Church*.

Kids Club Report

Professor Sheena Lewis (Elder and Kids Club Leader)

Kids Club meets on the first Sunday of every month. The club is managed by Louise Foye and myself.

We meet in the newly refurbished crypt and have a fantastic friendly space to meet. Many thanks to all those who have put in such hard work to create this for us.

Our continuing challenge is getting enough children to make the club worthwhile. However, the small number who do attend seem to enjoy it.

We have four stalwart members in Reuben, Leo, Pranay and Maya who rarely miss a week. However, having a club of 4 children of widely varying ages is challenging to maintain. Each month, I send 25 invites to those connected with All Souls through long standing family connections or recent baptisms, but as yet, few respond.

Louise and I have bought new toys and games for each age group. Each Sunday, we have a theme and we play games, chat to the children about what they are doing and have a short cartoon or talk about a Christian value like kindness, forgiveness, giving or being a good friend.

The children and their parents remain very appreciative of the efforts to develop our children's ministry.

Policy Documents

Reserve Policy

The Unrestricted Funds are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Within this fund we have designated reserves, a significant part of these are those relating to property. The Church Building has Grade B + listed status and the Hall has Grade B listed status, both buildings were constructed circa 1896. Given the age of the buildings and their listed status, the retention of the reserves provide assurance that if major work is required to the buildings and in the absence of outside funding not being forthcoming, that the Church has the sufficient reserves available. Another significant reserve is that to assist in the future purchase of a Manse should the need arise.

Restricted Reserves: These are held until such times that expenditure is made for the purpose that the donor(s) instructed.

Endowment Reserve: These are Bequests held in accordance with the conditions within which they were created, mainly providing income in memory of deceased members.

Structure Governance and Management Governing Document

The Charity is governed under a Trust Deed dated 2001. The Charity also adheres to and is governed by the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, published by the authority of Synod (May 1997)

Appointment, Induction and Training of Trustees

(Trustees being those holding a position of governance within the Church)

Appointment of Trustees The Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and Custodial Trustees are appointed in accordance with Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland as follows:

Kirk Session

The Minister with Charge is automatically a member of the Kirk Session; Where new Elders are to be added to an existing Session, the decision on when an election is to take place and the number of ruling elders to be chosen devolves normally upon the Kirk Session, but any member of the congregation may petition the Session upon the subject.

Such new Elders shall be nominated and appointed by one or other of the following methods:

(a). Selection by the congregation.

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed of the number of new Ruling Elders being sought and voting members invited to look out among themselves qualified persons suitable for the office, and to give to the Kirk Session on the following Sunday signed lists of the person or persons they propose, not exceeding the number required. The Session may, if they see fit, provide lists to be marked with names proposed, signed and returned.
- ii. The Session shall examine the list received, and names which occur most frequently, if the Session approves, and if those so proposed consent, shall form a list up to the numbers of Ruling Elders required. Should any decline to act their places may be filled by those who come nearest in the proposals recorded, up to the said number. No name shall be listed which has not received the minimum of one third of the votes cast.

(b) Selection by the Kirk Session

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed that an election of Ruling Elders is to take place and voting members invited to propose, in writing, for the consideration of the Session, any member or members qualified for the office.
- ii. The Session, having considered the proposals received and having obtained the consent of those approved, shall list the names of those to be presented to the congregation. Such list shall be read to the congregation on two successive Sundays.
- iii. Should any voter desire to make an objection to any of them, he shall lodge his objections, with his reasons, in writing, with the Moderator of the Kirk Session within a week from the second announcement.
- iv. Should such objection not be sustained by the Kirk Session, or should there be no objection, then on a subsequent Sunday, fixed by the Session and not earlier than three weeks after the first reading of the list, the congregation shall be informed that the persons named have been chosen and appointed as Ruling Elders.

Congregational Committee

The temporal affairs of a congregation shall be under the care of a Committee, known as the Church Committee, consisting of 12 ordinary members plus a Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent. The Committee shall be appointed by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting and shall in all cases be members in good standing in the congregation and attendant upon its services, and contributors to its support. In the election of committee members their appointment may be:

- a. For the ensuing year
- b. For a term of 3 years

While, under normal circumstances committee members stand down at the Annual General Meeting of a congregation they shall be eligible for immediate re-election. Church Officers - Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent shall sit ex-officio as members of Committee. The Church Committees shall be representative of the range and extent of congregational activities and of organisations connected with the congregation. In no case should there be less than five elected members and in no case should that number exceed 15% of the church membership. Members of Committee to be chosen at the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be nominated and seconded individually. Where there are more nominations than the number of places to be filled a ballot shall be held. Voting shall be by simple majority and by show of hands. No person shall be nominated for office unless they are present and assent to their nomination, or, if absent, have signified such assent in writing beforehand. In the event that the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be unable to fill the desired number of places in a Church Committee, the members of the committee may, at a later meeting, co-opt an eligible person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting of the congregation. Church Officers – Secretary, Treasurer – shall sit ex-officio as members of the Committee. Members of Kirk Session are ex-officio members of Committee and are eligible for election as office holders and entitled to vote.

Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation

Every Congregation shall have trustees for all its property and such property shall be defined legally by a declaration of trust. Trustees of congregational property of every kind shall be members of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. They should not be fewer than three in number. Should the number of trustees be reduced to three, the congregation shall at once proceed to choose and appoint an additional trustee or trustees. When a trustee of the property of the congregation ceases to be a member of that congregation, he shall ipso facto cease to be a trustee of such property and shall tender his resignation; and shall sign a declaration to that effect in the minute book of the congregation on taking up office. No resignation of a trustee from his trusteeship of congregational property shall be accepted, and no choice or appointment of a new trustee or trustees shall be made, except by the congregation in congregational meeting assembled. At any meeting of a congregation held to receive a trustee's resignation from office, or to choose and appoint a new trustee or trustees, a memorandum of such resignation or appoint shall be drawn up, shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting in the present of the whole meeting, shall be attested by two or more witnesses, and shall be preserved among the records of the congregation.

Trustee Induction and Training

Kirk Session

Elders are made aware of the duties and obligations of being a member of the Kirk Session having charge of the spiritual needs, welfare and governance of the congregation and are recommended to read the Code of the Church in this respect. Every effort is made to provide mentoring in a meaningful way to help session members be effective for the ministry of eldership and within that, the various aspects of an elder's work. Elders are mentored in the various aspects of the elder's work and ministry by their fellow elders on an individual basis and by the learning from, listening to and challenging one another on matters brought before meetings of Session. There is a clear recognition that learning is an ongoing process of development leading to an enhancement of skills to increase their effectiveness as elders.

Congregational Committee

Committee members are assigned to particular tasks, dependant on the skills and talents that they possess and are also mentored by the fellow members of the committee and encouraged to seek the guidance of other members of the congregation in the discharge of their duties. Where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Committee members in the discharge of their duties.

Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation

New trustees shall be guided by existing members as to the duties of being a custodial trustee and, where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Trustees in the discharge of their duties.

Reference and administrative details

Name of Charity

All Souls' Church Incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation.

Other names used by the Charity.

All Souls' Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Charity number

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC102094

Principal Address:

5 Elmwood Ave, BELFAST, BT9 6AZ.

Points of Contact

Website: <http://allsoulsbelfast.org>

This will soon be under review.

e-mail: secretary@allsoulschurchbelfast.org

Facebook: All Souls Church, Belfast | Facebook

YouTube: All Souls Church Belfast – YouTube

For members of the congregation

The Minister can be contacted via email or by his phone number which is sent out weekly with a link to the church service.



All Souls Church
an inclusive church

Ministers

Rev Christopher Hudson MBE (Minister)
Rev Alister Bell (Assistant Minister)

Clerk of Session

Mr Errol Steele

Elder and Honorary Secretary

Mr Alan Kirk

Elders of Kirk Session

The Minister and The Assistant Minister	Dr Roger Courtney
Mr Errol Steele	Mr Herbie Dougherty
Mr Alan Kirk	Mr Maurice Money Penny
Mr Charles Stewart	Mr Niall Haldane
Ms Monica Burns	Ms Anne Stewart
Professor Sheena Lewis (Children's Coordinator)	Mrs Barbara Money Penny

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Louise Foye

Congregational Committee

(All Elders are Ex-Officio members of the Congregational Committee)

The Hon Secretary and The Hon Treasurer	Mrs Carol Tweedale-Bardon (<i>Events</i>)
Mr Ian Murray (<i>Property and Finance</i>)	Mr Michael McKelvey
Mr Mark Shimmons (<i>Finance</i>)	Mr Ken Steele
Mr Alan Gray (<i>Finance</i>)	Mr David Linton

The Custodial Trustees

Mr James Kirkwood Jackson	Mr Mark Shimmons
Mr Denis McKelvey	Professor Sheena Lewis
Mr James Errol Steele	

This report was approved by Session and Committee on 5/3/2024 and signed on its behalf at the AGM.

Rev C. Hudson (Minister)

Mr E. Steele (Clerk of Session)

Mr A. Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Annual return

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED
ACCOUNTS OF ALL SOULS CHURCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a qualified Chartered Accountant.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Nigel Beggs FCA
Chartered Accountant

NBAS Chartered Accountants
17 Cammoney Road
Glengormley, Newtownabbey
BT36 6HL

Dated: 11th October 2024

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Accounts

**All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast
and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation**



Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>					
Voluntary giving	28,301		0	28,301	27,098
Voluntary giving for other Charities	0	203	0	203	180
Donations and Bequests	2,947	0	0	2,947	3,489
Fundraising	258	0	0	258	0
Gift Aid	4,228	0	0	4,228	4,331
Investment Income	24,249	0	0	24,249	21,327
Rental Income	22,629	0	0	22,629	7,832
Sundry Income	0			0	12,100
	82,612	203	0	82,815	76,357
<u>Payments</u>					
Cost of Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	74,829	273	0	75,102	90,720
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0	0
	74,829	273	0	75,102	90,720
Before transfers between funds	7,783	(70)	0	7,713	(14,363)
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0
<u>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</u>	7,783	(70)	0	7,713	(14,363)

The reconciliation of the receipts and payments shown above to the total funds of the Church is disclosed on the following page under the Statement of Assets and liabilities

<u>Note of movements in purchase and disposal of the Bank Term Deposits portfolio not reflected above</u>					
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Proceeds on Maturity	65,773			65,773	211,136
Re-Investment	60,000			(60,000)	(211,500)
Retained/(released) via Ulster Bank Current Account				5,773	(364)

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Funds at beginning of year	687,424	975	8,204	696,603	643,077
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	7,783	(70)	0	7,713	(14,363)
	695,207	905	8,204	704,316	628,714
Increase/ (Decrease) in value of Investments	(21,545)	0		(21,545)	64,468
Interest on Maturity of Term Deposits	774			774	3,421
Closing Funds at end of year	674,436	905	8,204	683,545	696,603

Held as followings:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Ulster Bank	60,540	47,053
Bank Deposit term Accounts	146,500	211,500
Investments: M & G Charifund	476,505	438,050
	683,545	696,603

The investments in M&G Charifund are managed by M&G.

M & G Charifund objectives and investment approach can be found on their website.

Non-monetary Assets (not included above)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Church, Halls & Contents	5,500,000	0	0	5,500,000	5,500,000
Other Property	45,000			45,000	45,000
	5,545,000	0	0	5,545,000	5,545,000

The trustees are of the opinion that given that the age of the Church buildings and listed status that the most appropriate basis of valuation is the Insurance cover which is shown above. The Insurance valuation is on a rebuild basis.

The charity also has an interest in residential property. The Charity's interest shown above, is based on the Land & Property Services valuation of the property.

Statement of Material Liabilities

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:-

Mrs L Foyle, Treasurer

Date: 7th March 2023

Rev. C Hudson

Date: 7th March 2023

All Souls' Church incorporating The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation

Notes to the Accounts

Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

Purpose and nature of funds

Unrestricted fund : These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Within this fund we have designated funds. Of those which are specific to the property, the basis for making these provisions is given the age of the Church Building and the Hall and their respective listed status, we would anticipate major expenditure in the future and require these provisions to meet the same.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, these are known as a permanent endowment funds and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert the capital into income, such funds are known as expendable endowments.

Any endowment funds held by the Charity are classified as "permanent".

Trustee benefits (in total)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Remuneration	33,223	32,642
Reimbursed expenses	6,500	6,500

As explained in the Trustees Report, the only private benefit flowing from our purpose in relation to the trustees is to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

Analysis of Charitable Payments

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Staff payments	54,207	52,878
Establishment payments	17,584	34,924
Other Charitable payments	3,311	2,918
	<u>75,102</u>	<u>90,720</u>

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Annual report



All Souls Church
an inclusive church



Annual Report from the Trustees
for year ending 31st December 2022

Compiled by the Ministers, Session
and Congregational Committee of All Souls Church

Annual General Meeting: Sunday 26th March 2023

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

NIC 102094

In compiling this report the Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's public benefit requirements statutory guidance.

Objectives and Activities

We are a congregation of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Our objectives are the promotion of Christianity in accordance with the constitution and codes of practice of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland being: that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the rule of Christian faith and duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. That it is the inalienable right of every Christian to search these records of divine truth for his own instruction and guidance, to form his own opinions regarding what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of his own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by others.

We meet regularly for the public worship of God, in the spirit of Jesus. As disciples of Christ, to preach the word of God in accordance with the Constitution, Code of Discipline and Regulations of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To promote the Christian faith within the community of Belfast and beyond, without any requirement for Minister, Elder or Members to subscribe to a doctrinal statement of faith as a condition of Church membership. To offer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion), in accord with the Constitution of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To offer pastoral care to those in need within the church community and beyond; in particular to the sick and elderly within the community. To facilitate access to those in need to denominational charities as appropriate. To support wider community life, through the maintenance of good relations with all other religious traditions and community organisations.

Public benefit statement

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is the provision of liberal Christian religious activities open to all. The benefits are evidenced by the conduct of regular services of Christian worship and the maintenance of an inclusive Christian community. There is no harm arising from these benefits. Public access is made known using printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is in relation to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits because of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The Charity's beneficiaries are all those members of society who wish to be part of, or associate, with a liberal Christian organisation, their families, and other individuals that the Congregation is in direct and indirect contact within the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland and beyond, which benefit from our engagement with them, also our support for Christian and other secular organisations and charities. In furtherance of providing these benefits we involve ourselves in offering advice/advocacy/information, counselling and support, community development, cross-border/cross-community, general charitable purposes, the relief of poverty and also religious activity.

Minister's Report

Rev Chris Hudson MBE (Minister)

In other reports we will learn about the preservation of our buildings, protecting their fabric and developing their use. In all these areas we are successful. Now we can see the wonderful work carried out in the crypt and how that gives us a new space for our growing activities. This is a space that can be used for social and small worship events. We learn about our financial stability and the prudent handling of these same finances. Always making sure that we are safely anchored in a stable financial situation but at the same time creating a more pleasant worship and recreational spaces.

We will record those, who have sadly departed and how we miss them. We will celebrate those who have arrived especially through Baptism, including adult baptism. We recall those, who have recently been married, with a special joy.

Our special services are a significant part of our church life, Holocaust Memorial Service, Good Friday and Easter Communion Services, Pride, Harvest, Remembrance Services, The LGBT Carol Service, which is held in conjunction with LGBT Organisations. Our Christmas Carol Service, which is one of the highlights of our year.

I wish to say thank you to all those who participate in many ways to make sure all the above services are carried out successfully. Reverend Alister Bell, Assistant Minister, Trevor Gillian, Director of Music, All Souls Choir, Solo Artists, Readers and a big thank you to our recording team, making sure that all our services can be accessed on our YouTube Channel. A huge thank you to our "Coffee and Buns" Team for their hard work.

We have developed a special relationship with The Queen's Commons Room, which has resulted in various shared events, Concerts and Art History Talks. We now have an Events Committee and will see more social gatherings coming on stream.

We are here, in All Souls', as people of faith and gather in the name of a loving God. We do that in our own unique way and in diversity. Our music, prayers, reading and sermons reflect that uniqueness. We have been joined by others, who are recent arrivals in Northern Ireland and we are giving thought to how they will fit into our church life. Our inclusive liberal faith is not always immediately understandable to others and I hope to address that in the coming months.

In many ways the Minister's Address attempts to bring an overview of where we are in our Church Community without all the detail from other reports. Are we sustaining our membership as a congregation within the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church? In an age of reduction in Church attendance we are holding steady but is that enough? What is the purpose of our church and its objectives? Maybe that should be central to our discussions. There is a project looking at the denomination in the future and we could add to that our own internal conversation about ourselves. Not in any negative way but looking positively at our church life and the role we play here in the city of Belfast.

Finally, I want to say a sincere and warm thank you to all those, who participate in our church life at all levels. Elders, Committee and Session Members but especially those who put so much effort into our church life and in so many ways. We are blessed to have such people.

Session Report

Mr Errol Steele (Clerk of Session)

The Session is pleased to report on another good year in the life of All Souls' Church as we recover more fully from the COVID19 pandemic. Numbers attending services are steady and we are happy to see some new faces. Special services held included Holocaust Memorial, Easter Service, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday Communion and Christmas readings and carols. We again hosted the LGBT Community Carol Service.

In the spring we had a very special service when Lynda Kane was licensed to preach the gospel by the Synod of Munster and Alan Kirk was ordained as an Elder. We were pleased to welcome Rev Bridget Spain, the Moderator of the Synod of Munster at this service.

The very Reverend Chris Hudson completed three years as Moderator of the General Synod of the NSPCI in June. We congratulate him on this honour and thank him again for all his work in the life of All Souls' and beyond. We are, as ever, grateful to Dr Isabella Evangelisti for her continued efforts on our behalf and we thank Rev Alister Bell, our Assistant Minister, for all he does to support us.

We also pay tribute to Rev Trevor Gillian, our Director of Music; we thank the choir and musicians for their contributions which so enhance our services each week.

We acknowledge with pleasure the contribution and efforts of Alan Kirk, who provides our social media input, who helps to spread our liberal and inclusive messages far beyond our walls and allows our members who feel unable to attend services to maintain contact with us. We thank our technical team for all their efforts on Sundays to support and enhance our services.

No church operates without willing volunteers, and we mark our gratitude to all those who contribute in so many ways to maintain and enhance the strong sense of community which is All Souls'.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our congregation.

- Rev John Herron.

We welcome through baptism the following:

- Fionn Connor Phillips (parents Connor Phillips and Holly Phillips)
- Milad Amerifar
- Eugene Winter Braden Hamill (parents David Hamill and Leah McKeown)
- Soroush Kavian Mehr
- Shea McDonnell (parents Pearse McDonnell and Adele Quinn)
- Georgia Rose Donaghy (parents Michael Donaghy and Gemma Donaghy)

We congratulate the following on their marriages:

- Andrew Booth and Gemma Thorburn 5th May 2022
- Brian Haugh and Rebecca Hudson 10th June 2022
- Rosa Niamh Whelan and Phillip Toland 11th June 2022
- Jonathan Calvert and Fergal Coney 22nd July 2022

It is with regret that we mark the passing of Margaret (Maggie) Kelly. We extend our sympathy to her family and her friends.

In conclusion, we feel that our church is in a good place and we would encourage everyone to attend Sunday services as often as possible, for it is through our collective worship and our social gatherings that we gain so much as a tolerant and liberal community, which is so important in today's society.

Church Committee Report

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

At the AGM of 2022, I was pleased to be nominated as the Hon Secretary of All Souls Church and am pleased to present this report on behalf of the church committee. I thank my predecessors Niall Haldane and Rev Alister Bell for their wise counsel since my appointment.

2022 saw the 'retirements' of Dr Sarah Haveron and Mr Jim Jackson from the committee. We thank both individuals for their time and expertise. Jim served on the committee loyally for many years (longer than some can remember) and we are truly indebted to him for the commitment and service he has shown to the life of the church. From the entire commitment, we send our warmest thanks.

There have been many physical improvements around the building this year and we are very thankful to Ian Murray, Charles Stewart and all who have given of their time and energy to improve the crypt and surrounding areas. We would like to put on record our appreciation of the dedication of our Caretaker, Bryan Cooney and Bernie Cooney who work hard to keep the church clean and tidy.

The social side of church life has been growing greatly, thanks to the vision of Alex and Louise Foye and Carol Tweedale-Bardon and our links to the QUB Women's Common Room Club. We look forward to continued cultural soirees for the church community. The committee also place on record their thanks to Sam Magilton and the team for their vision with the YourSpace group and I look forward to leading this in 2023 alongside Patricia Whiteside.

As a committee, we place on record our thanks to the team at the AV Desk who have continued to work hard to support our worship through technology. The installation of the screens has greatly enhanced worship – and the team work tirelessly in the background to produce slides and presentations. We also place on record our thanks to Isabella for production of the New Light and for emailing our growing email list with the link to each Sunday's service with an update from the Minister.

The governance of All Souls' Church was facilitated by in person meetings, and it has been good to see a return to this after the restrictions of the pandemic. Committee have continued to work through our 5-year 'Build Back Better' action plan and look forward to carrying out more of our plans as time progresses.

Property Report

Mr Ian Murray (Property Committee Member)

The aspect of the maintenance of the Buildings & Grounds is represented on the Committee by Charles Stewart and Ian Murray and they work alongside the Church officer Brian Cooney, in maintaining the fabric of the buildings and the grounds on a weekly, if not at times daily basis.

Thanks to those who give their time when we organised a Garden tidy up, to those who give up their time to assist in renovating the Crypt and others who have assisted in other ways during the year. Your time is much appreciated and within that your acknowledgement that keeping the roof waterproof, the interior sound, and the weeds outside at bay, is not done by waving a magic wand.

The Hall and the Carpark are hired out and are a valuable source of income for the Church, as well as the physical maintenance, the work also involves; liaising with the tenants, fielding their complaints and requests, and the administration of same, again thanks to those who assisted.

The Committee agreed to the renovation of the Crypt area at the May Committee meeting, prompted by the following:

- The Hall complex consists of 2 function areas; that of the Rosemary Hall (approx. 100 people) and the Agnew Room (approx. 20 people), however because of the lack of sound proofing between both, they cannot be used simultaneously. The kitchen and toilet facilities are not accessible to the Agnew room without going through the Rosemary Hall, for all practicable purposes the Agnew Room is an annex to the Rosemary Hall and when not serving that purpose, serves as a storage area. The cost of heating the Rosemary Hall for a small gathering is financially imprudent.
- When the Welsh choir visited us in 2022, we had to use the crypt as a changing area for them. Prior their visit we cleared out a graveyard of defunct pews and other discarded material, and what we were left with was a cavernous looking area with a cracked concrete floor and walls that probably were last attacked with paint brush in the 1960's. It was not a desirable image to visitors or for that matter potential or existing members to take away with them.

The first phrase was to make the Crypt "sitting room" (approx. 10 people) into a more comfortable setting. The second phrase was to make the remainder of the Crypt into a comfortable area for a meeting room that would accommodate approx. 30 people and also serve as an area for the Kids Club to expand into on a Sunday and maybe midweek (we are allowed to dream). In this phrase, the appearance of the toilet cubicle and the area around it is being improved and altered, so as to be used both as an entrance lobby via the external Crypt steps. It also allows for baby changing facilities, making the Church more family friendly.

The third phrase is to renovate and modernise the kitchen into a gallery style kitchen.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast

It is taking time, this is because as most of the work is done on a volunteer basis by volunteers who also have to juggle commitments outside of All Soul's. What we will hopefully be left with is, an extended area for youth activities and which will also double as a meeting or function room that can comfortably accommodate approx. 40 people. It will also give us the capability to preparing and serving hot snacks, both in the Crypt and at the coffee station upstairs, without the need to relying on the Hall kitchen

Finance Report

Louise Foye (Treasurer)

The Treasurer is charged under the code of denomination of the (a)Control and application of funds, (b) keeping of records and (c) preparation once a year of a statement of Income & Expenditure. In discharging these duties, I am well supported by my fellow subcommittee members, Ian Murray, Alan Gray and Mark Shimmons.

Jim Jackson retired from the Committee at the 2021 AGM. For many years Jim has been the continuity regarding the finances of All Souls and in that capacity has managed many changes over those years. I place on record our thanks and appreciation to Jim for his past work and continued advice and support.

The Financial Statements for 2022 show that our total income in the 2022 year was £82,815 an increase of £18,558 over the 2021 year of £64,257 (leaving out the grant received in that year). This increase is largely accounted for by an increase in the Rosemary Hall hire of £13,035 (the 2021 year was seriously affected by the Covid restrictions imposed on us). In 2021 our Stipend & Plate collection was £28,301 as opposed to £27,098 in the previous year an increase of 4.4%. Stipend & Plate collection can be viewed as a measurement of commitment from the members and whilst we would like to have seen a larger increase, it is comforting to note the trend is not going backwards. If you strip out the Investment Income of £24,249, we generated £58,566 by our own resources/efforts in 2022 compared to £42,930 in 2021.

The re-introduction of the plate collection in December lead to an increase in the plate income and the list of Stipend contributions at end of October sent out in November acted as a prompt to Stipend members. The Audio-visual team intent to add a slide to the end of our online recording of the Service to show how our online viewers can donate to the work of All Souls and the Media officer is considering a periodical post of a similar nature on Facebook. An "events" team has been formed to organise future fund-raising activities and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Turning to costs, in 2022 the staffing and associated cost were in total £54,207 and increase of 2.5% over 2021 but bear in mind the 2021 staff rates were set before the rapid increase in inflation, the average increase in wages rates set by the Committee for the current year 2023 is approx. 6%. Other costs increased, the most significant being an increase of £3,127, in heating oil. Whilst the Church like all other consumers is affected by the general increase in heating costs, in 2021 we did not hire the Hall out but in 2022 we did, so as a rough guide it cost approx. £3,000 to heat the Hall. We now have an alternative for smaller Church groups in the form of the Crypt meeting rooms.

We had £638,545 in reserves at the end of 2022, a decrease of £13,058 on the previous year. During the year we added £60,000 to our investment holdings out of a term deposit that matured. The remaining £146,500 in term deposits will be maturing and hopefully we can get a higher rate of return than the current 1% they are earning. Note that term deposit rates for Businesses and Charities are a lot lower than the headline rates you see being offered to private individuals.

A Church like any voluntary organisation survives because of the support of its members and we thank you for your continued financial support.

Choir and Musical Report Rev Trevor Gillian (Director of Music)

I'm honoured and pleased to submit this report on the musical life of All Souls' for the year 2022.

The choir members continue to rehearse most weeks to ensure a strong lead and significant contribution to worship at our Sunday and other services. Numbers remain at around a dozen, and it is always encouraging to welcome new members. Please speak to me if you are interested and we will be glad to have you join us, even if only to listen in for a few weeks as a trial. I commend the choir members' enthusiasm to learn new pieces and expand the variety and style of our repertoire. Again, the congregation's willingness to learn new hymns, and to sing existing hymns to new tunes, is most appreciated. We hope to continue adding to our hymn resources by means of the digital images: the technical crew are most helpful in every respect and deserve our thanks.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit of the Cardiff Blues Choir, *Cor Y Gleision*, who greatly enhanced the Palm Sunday service with their magnificent singing.

I especially appreciate the talents of Bryan Cooney who, so readily, will sing, sometimes at short notice. I am also most grateful to Muriel Moore, Violet McBride, Eve Devlin, Sam Magilton, Violina Asenova and Frances Mulley who have contributed significantly to the musical life of the church through their anthems. Thanks also to the group of substitute organists who have stepped in to help during my absence.

Finally, I record my thanks to the ministerial team, the Rev Chris, the Rev Alister, the Session and Committee for their encouragement, and to the congregation for continued and valued appreciation and support.

Communications Report

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

After another successful year, it is with pleasure that I present the third report on our church communications. In 2022, All Souls Church celebrated 12 years on Social Media and continue to enjoy a growing presence on Facebook and YouTube.

All Souls Church continues to attract a very wide following on Facebook, as evidenced by the number of people engaging with our posts on a weekly basis. Although on average our posts can attract anything between 500 to 700 views, a significant number of posts or series of posts have earned significantly more views. All Souls Church continues to attract the most likes and views throughout the denomination.

The church now also makes use of our thriving YouTube channel. On average, our videos attract anything from 75 to 100 viewers weekly. The role of our existing social media platform (Facebook) continues to promote interest in our YouTube Channel, with over 50% of external views of videos coming from Facebook. Approximately 40% come from email with the remaining 10% coming from a range of sources.

In October 2022, a small delegation of church representatives attended an interfaith meeting in First Church, tasked with researching possible ways of setting up a website for LGBTIA+ people of faith. I am pleased to report that Rev Chris Hudson has recorded two excellent videos for the www.inclusivefaith.lgbt website and these will be available in early 2023. This will be an excellent virtual resource for our church.

The small team of volunteers who worked hard during lockdown to bring you online church services has since grown into a thriving AV Team. Ian Murray, Alan Gray, Mark Shimmons and Muriel Moore have done an excellent job this year and I am thankful to them for their support. If other volunteers would like to come forward for a technical support role, they would be most welcome.

I also place on record my thanks for the excellent photography provided by Michael McKelvey. This fabulous collection of photographs will give us an excellent archive of memories for future generations and provides a wonderful snapshot of church life via social media. In 2023, we look forward to putting this hard work to good use.

It is my intention now to turn my attention to our church website to carry out some improvements to the features of this resource, and I am thankful to Niall Haldane for his work on the website to date.

As we build upon the success of our social media outlets, the social media officer and technical team will continue to embrace new trends and technology to build upon the solid foundations which have been set, in providing a vibrant, relevant, and accessible online presence for our beloved community in *All Souls Church*.

Kids Club Report

Professor Sheena Lewis (Elder and Kids Club Leader)

Kids Club meets on the first Sunday of every month. During Covid, we ran the club by zoom every month. We have lost leaders since Covid and Lynn Walsh is currently off duty on maternity leave with baby Finn, so Louise and I now manage it between us.

We are now in the newly refurbished crypt and have a fantastic, friendly space to meet. Many thanks to all those who have put in such hard work to create this for us.

One challenge we face is maintaining numbers to make the club viable. We have two stalwart members in Reuben and Leo who rarely miss an event. The Samson family bring Maya too when they can. We were pleased to welcome Fiona Parkinson and her daughter Charlotte this year

To keep the children busy, Louise and I have bought new toys and games for each age group. We have organised special Sundays and plan to hold a range of activities for 2023- a sandwich house and Easter egg hunt to name but a few.

Some outreach opportunities have proved to be unsuccessful. Each month, 25 invites are sent to those connected with All Souls through long standing family connections or recent baptisms, but unfortunately few have responded. In addition to this, we have invited the children from FIFI who are often running round the car park with nothing to do, but their families have declined on several occasions.

We have received a suggestion of inviting the kids of a mothers group connected with a member of the congregation, but they live on the other side of town. I offered to rent a large taxi or drive a minibus to collect them, but we would need more helpers to ensure we are abiding by legal child safeguarding policies.

The option to go 'all out' and send invitations to local primary schools is another route we could take, but again we would need volunteers to assist at such an event.

All feedback on helping to progress our Kids Club would be gratefully received.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast
Policy Documents

Reserve Policy

The Unrestricted Funds are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Within this fund we have designated reserves, a significant part of these are those relating to property. The Church Building has Grade B + listed status and the Hall has Grade B listed status, both buildings were constructed circa 1896. Given the age of the buildings and their listed status, the retention of the reserves provide assurance that if major work is required to the buildings and in the absence of outside funding not being forthcoming, that the Church has the sufficient reserves available. Another significant reserve is that to assist in the future purchase of a Manse should the need arise.

Restricted Reserves: These are held until such times that expenditure is made for the purpose that the donor(s) instructed.

Endowment Reserve: These are Bequests held in accordance with the conditions within which they were created, mainly providing income in memory of deceased members.

**Structure Governance and Management
Governing Document**

The Charity is governed under a Trust Deed dated 2001. The Charity also adheres to and is governed by the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, published by the authority of Synod (May 1997)

Appointment, Induction and Training of Trustees

(Trustees being those holding a position of governance within the Church)

Appointment of Trustees The Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and Custodial Trustees are appointed in accordance with Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland as follows:

Kirk Session

The Minister with Charge is automatically a member of the Kirk Session; Where new Elders are to be added to an existing Session, the decision on when an election is to take place and the number of ruling elders to be chosen devolves normally upon the Kirk Session, but any member of the congregation may petition the Session upon the subject.

Such new Elders shall be nominated and appointed by one or other of the following methods:

(a). Selection by the congregation.

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed of the number of new Ruling Elders being sought and voting members invited to look out among themselves qualified persons suitable for the office, and to give to the Kirk Session on the following Sunday signed lists of the person or persons they propose, not exceeding the number required. The Session may, if they see fit, provide lists to be marked with names proposed, signed and returned.
- ii. The Session shall examine the list received, and names which occur most frequently, if the Session approves, and if those so proposed consent, shall form a list up to the numbers of Ruling Elders required. Should any decline to act their places may be filled by those who come nearest in the proposals recorded, up to the said number. No name shall be listed which has not received the minimum of one third of the votes cast.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast

(b) Selection by the Kirk Session

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed that an election of Ruling Elders is to take place and voting members invited to propose, in writing, for the consideration of the Session, any member or members qualified for the office.
- ii. The Session, having considered the proposals received and having obtained the consent of those approved, shall list the names of those to be presented to the congregation. Such list shall be read to the congregation on two successive Sundays.
- iii. Should any voter desire to make an objection to any of them, he shall lodge his objections, with his reasons, in writing, with the Moderator of the Kirk Session within a week from the second announcement.
- iv. Should such objection not be sustained by the Kirk Session, or should there be no objection, then on a subsequent Sunday, fixed by the Session and not earlier than three weeks after the first reading of the list, the congregation shall be informed that the persons named have been chosen and appointed as Ruling Elders.

Congregational Committee

The temporal affairs of a congregation shall be under the care of a Committee, known as the Church Committee, consisting of 12 ordinary members plus a Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent. The Committee shall be appointed by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting and shall in all cases be members in good standing in the congregation and attendant upon its services, and contributors to its support. In the election of committee members their appointment may be:

- a. For the ensuing year
- b. For a term of 3 years

While, under normal circumstances committee members stand down at the Annual General Meeting of a congregation they shall be eligible for immediate re-election. Church Officers - Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent shall sit ex-officio as members of Committee. The Church Committees shall be representative of the range and extent of congregational activities and of organisations connected with the congregation. In no case should there be less than five elected members and in no case should that number exceed 15% of the church membership. Members of Committee to be chosen at the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be nominated and seconded individually. Where there are more nominations than the number of places to be filled a ballot shall be held. Voting shall be by simple majority and by show of hands. No person shall be nominated for office unless they are present and assent to their nomination, or, if absent, have signified such assent in writing beforehand. In the event that the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be unable to fill the desired number of places in a Church Committee, the members of the committee may, at a later meeting, co-opt an eligible person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting of the congregation. Church Officers – Secretary, Treasurer – shall sit ex-officio as members of the Committee. Members of Kirk Session are ex-officio members of Committee and are eligible for election as office holders and entitled to vote.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation

Every Congregation shall have trustees for all its property and such property shall be defined legally by a declaration of trust. Trustees of congregational property of every kind shall be members of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. They should not be fewer than three in number. Should the number of trustees be reduced to three, the congregation shall at once proceed to choose and appoint an additional trustee or trustees. When a trustee of the property of the congregation ceases to be a member of that congregation, he shall ipso facto cease to be a trustee of such property and shall tender his resignation; and shall sign a declaration to that effect in the minute book of the congregation on taking up office. No resignation of a trustee from his trusteeship of congregational property shall be accepted, and no choice or appointment of a new trustee or trustees shall be made, except by the congregation in congregational meeting assembled. At any meeting of a congregation held to receive a trustee's resignation from office, or to choose and appoint a new trustee or trustees, a memorandum of such resignation or appoint shall be drawn up, shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting in the present of the whole meeting, shall be attested by two or more witnesses, and shall be preserved among the records of the congregation.

Trustee Induction and Training

Kirk Session

Elders are made aware of the duties and obligations of being a member of the Kirk Session having charge of the spiritual needs, welfare and governance of the congregation and are recommended to read the Code of the Church in this respect. Every effort is made to provide mentoring in a meaningful way to help session members be effective for the ministry of eldership and within that, the various aspects of an elder's work. Elders are mentored in the various aspects of the elder's work and ministry by their fellow elders on an individual basis and by the learning from, listening to and challenging one another on matters brought before meetings of Session. There is a clear recognition that learning is an ongoing process of development leading to an enhancement of skills to increase their effectiveness as elders.

Congregational Committee

Committee members are assigned to particular tasks, dependant on the skills and talents that they possess and are also mentored by the fellow members of the committee and encouraged to seek the guidance of other members of the congregation in the discharge of their duties. Where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Committee members in the discharge of their duties.

Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation

New trustees shall be guided by existing members as to the duties of being a custodial trustee and, where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Trustees in the discharge of their duties.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast
Reference and administrative details

Name of Charity

All Souls' Church Incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation.

Other names used by the Charity.

All Souls' Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Charity number

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC102094

Principal Address:

5 Elmwood Ave, BELFAST, BT9 6AZ.

Points of Contact

Website: <http://allsoulsbelfast.org>

This will soon be under review.

Tel: 028 90321530

e-mail: secretary@allsoulschurchbelfast.org

Facebook: All Souls Church, Belfast | Facebook

YouTube: All Souls Church Belfast - YouTube

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast



All Souls Church
an inclusive church

Ministry Team

Rev Christopher Hudson MBE (Minister)
Rev Alister Bell (Assistant Minister)

Clerk of Session

Mr Errol Steele

Elder and Honorary Secretary

Mr Alan Kirk

Members of the Kirk Session (Elders)

(And Ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee)

The Minister and The Assistant Minister	Mr Herbie Dougherty
The Clerk of Session	Ms Monica Burns
Mr Alan Kirk	Mr Niall Haldane
Dr Roger Courtney	Ms Anne Stewart
Professor Sheena Lewis	Mr Maurice Money Penny
Mr Charles Stewart	Mrs Barbara Money Penny

Congregational Committee

Mrs Louise Foye (Treasurer)	Mr Michael McKelvey
Mr Ian Murray	Mr Alan Gray
Mr Ken Steele	Mr David Linton
Mr Mark Shimmons	Mrs Carol Tweedale-Bardon

Custodial Trustees

Mr James Kirkwood Jackson	Mr Mark Shimmons
Mr Denis McKelvey	Professor Sheena Lewis
Mr James Errol Steele	

This report was approved by the Trustees on 7th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Rev C. Hudson (Minister)

Mr E. Steele (Clerk of Session)

Mr A. Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

All Souls' Church incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and the York Street N

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102094

Annual return

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED
ACCOUNTS OF ALL SOULS CHURCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a qualified Chartered Accountant.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nigel Beggs

Nigel Beggs' FCA
Chartered Accountant

NBAS Chartered Accountants
17 Carnmoney Road
Glengormley, Newtownabbey
BT36 6HL

Dated: 6th March 2024