

**First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church Downpatrick (NIC102339)**  
**Report of Trustees**  
**2020**

**Constitution**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian (Non-subscribing) Church, Stream Street, Downpatrick, Co Down is governed by Rules and Regulations which have evolved from the original Rules framed in 1807 and ratified on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1889. These rules and the Memorandum of choice and Appointment of Trustees of Congregational Property form the Constitution and Code of Discipline.

**The purpose of the church is as follows:**

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

**Public benefit**

As a free liberal thinking church, we believe in God and the revelation of God in the Bible, which is the word of God. Through this we help to promote good citizenship in the Downpatrick and surrounding area.

Activities which contribute to the achievement of our purpose and benefit to the public include the following:

Regular Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Inter-denominational Services in the community. Readily available for Historical Tours of the building which is of great historical interest. Annual school visits to local schools. Representing the church at cross community events. We believe everyone has equal rights. We have both male and female elders within our congregation.

**Activities During 2020**

The introduction of Government Restrictions due to the Coronavirus, Covid 19 pandemic significantly impacted on activities during the much of 2020. In the early months of the year the plastering and painting in the hall were carried out. Outdoor maintenance work on the grounds was able to go ahead between travel lockdown periods. However Church Services and attendance were suspended for much of the year. Our Minister galvanized support among the congregation on an ongoing basis to submit on-line readings and musical items and other suitable content which enhanced the on-line services he produced and uploaded to You-tube. This, enabled members, who had access to on-line facilities, to see familiar faces and experience the feeling of safety engendered by the familiarity of the Sunday

Service from their own minister each Sunday. This was particularly important for some medically vulnerable people who continued to utilize this mode of worship even when restrictions were eased.

Charitable collections and fund raising activities were very limited, although the SOS bus benefited from the collection at the United Service in our Church during the World Week of Prayer and the Royal British Legion collection on Remembrance Day and collection for the denominational Benevolent Fund were well supported.

There was one funeral and burial in the churchyard and one wedding, all carried out within the government restrictions in place at the time. The spring communion service was broadcast very successfully on-line and attracted a pleasingly high number of views. In all our on-line services were well received by both members of the church but also by others not connected to our church.

**List of Trustees:**

Volunteer Trustees: Hamilton Cleland, Frederick Straney, John Strain, Mary Stewart.

Denominational Trustee: Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland  
Trustee Company Limited.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Stewart', written over a horizontal line.

Trustee