

First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church Downpatrick (NIC102339)
Report of Trustees
2023

Constitution

The 1st 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 12th 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 2023

In 2022 we appointed a new minister, Rev Rosalind Taggart who is the first female minister to be appointed to this congregation in its 300 year plus history.

Sunday worship took place throughout the year, including those most important to our purposes, those at Easter, Communion (May and November) Harvest and Christmas.

A joint service of thanksgiving and afternoon tea was held on 7 May 2023 to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This service brought together the three congregations in the charge of our Minister and was enjoyed by all who attended especially those who live

Three Fund raising events and one social outing were held these were inclusive of the local community and well supported by a diverse population of friends and members.

The exterior of our historic church and graveyard were carefully maintained by member volunteers and contractors. The interior of the church building was enhanced by the installation of a bespoke wooden railing at the front of the church.

In recognition of the historical importance of the ancient graveyard within the curtilage of the church grounds and the monuments contained therein. Our Clerk of Session has researched and published a volume entitled "A Guide to the Notable Grave Inscriptions in the The First Presbyterian (NS) Church, Downpatrick". This volume is of particular interest to families in the local community and further afield who have predecessors interred there as well as to historians generally.

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:


Trusted

Date: 23rd September 2024