

# NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102613

## Details

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**Known as** Movilla Abbey Church

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-03-25

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

## Contact

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**Address** 63 Movilla Road  
Newtownards  
BT23 8ez  
BT23 8EZ

**Phone** 07709203821

**Email** [office@movillaabbeychurch.com](mailto:office@movillaabbeychurch.com)

**Website** [www.movillaabbeychurch.com](http://www.movillaabbeychurch.com)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

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

**How the charity works:** Community development, Religious activities

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£163,991	£186,414	£0	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Martin		
Miss Gillian Clarke		
Mr Ian Lappin		
Mr Martin Mcalinney		
Mrs Barbara Haughan		
Mrs Cheryl Stewart		
Mrs Lorraine Mc Veigh		
Mrs Rosemary Lappin		
Patricia Meara		
Rev Alan Peek		
Rev Michael Paul Spence		
Trevor Bristow		

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Accounts

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## Movilla Abbey Church End of Year 2024 Financial Statement

<b>Receipts 2024</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Standing Orders	80,774.00	3,256.00	-	84,030.00
2	FWO & Loose	27,507.06	456.65	-	27,963.71
3	Gift Aid	21,159.57		-	21,159.57
4	Donations	2,455.90		-	2,455.90
5	Special Collections		7,118.61	-	7,118.61
6	Organisations re running costs		16,632.00	-	16,632.00
7	Bank Interest	94.04		-	94.04
8	Sundry	2,080.05	2,457.00	-	4,537.05
<b>Total</b>		<b>134,070.62</b>	<b>29,920.26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>163,990.88</b>
<b>Payments 2024</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
9	Col Diocesan Costs	18,580.10		-	18,580.10
10	Methodist Comprehensive Assessment	13,663.75		-	13,663.75
11	Stipend/Expenses	58,775.77		-	58,775.77
12	HMRC	8,380.22		-	8,380.22
13	Church Running Costs		39,420.51	-	39,420.51
14	Other Operating Costs	560.00		-	560.00
15	Manse/Rectory Costs	24,839.26		-	24,839.26
16	Mission expenditure		999.14	-	999.14
17	Printing/Stationery	432.18		-	432.18
18	Special Collections		7,118.61	-	7,118.61
19	Charitable Donations	1,970.00	7,500.00	-	9,470.00
20	Sundries	3,899.02		-	3,899.02
21	Bank Fees	275.46		-	275.46
<b>Total</b>		<b>131,375.76</b>	<b>55,038.26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>186,414.02</b>

Signed by:



CHERYL STEWART  
Treasurer  
11 March 2025



REV ALAN PEEK  
Minister  
11 March 2025

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Accounts

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## Movilla Abbey Church End of Year 2023 Financial Statement

<b>Receipts 2023</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	
1	Standing Orders	84,127.00	3,216.00	-	87,343.00
2	FWO & Loose	26,047.49	712.50	-	26,759.99
3	Gift Aid	31,270.77		-	31,270.77
4	Donations	11,532.10	9,513.24	-	21,045.34
5	Special Collections	-	9,603.49	-	9,603.49
6	Organisations re running costs	-	16,138.00	-	16,138.00
7	Bank Interest	120.82	-	-	120.82
8	Sundry	1,110.50	-	-	1,110.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>154,208.68</b>	<b>39,183.23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>193,391.91</b>
<b>Payments 2023</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	
9	Col Diocesan Costs	19,198.10	-	-	19,198.10
10	Methodist Comprehensive Assessment	13,363.55	-	-	13,363.55
11	Stipend/Expenses	73,645.05	-	-	73,645.05
12	HMRC	8,798.61	-	-	8,798.61
13	Church Running Costs	-	57,265.67	-	57,265.67
14	Other Operating Costs	567.00	-	-	567.00
15	Manse/Rectory Costs	5,638.55			5,638.55
16	Mission expenditure	-	2,167.21	-	2,167.21
17	Printing/Stationery	874.88	-	-	874.88
18	Special Collections	-	9,603.49	-	9,603.49
19	Charitable Donations	-	10,890.00		10,890.00
20	Sundries	2,621.03			2,621.03
21	Bank Fees	345.04	-	-	345.04
<b>Total</b>		<b>125,051.81</b>	<b>79,926.37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>204,978.18</b>

Signed by:



CHERYL STEWART  
Treasurer  
4 May 2024



REV ALAN PEEK  
Minister  
4 May 2024

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Annual report

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# **Movilla Abbey Church – Church of Ireland & Methodist Church in Ireland Trustees’ Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Movilla Abbey Church  
63 Movilla Road  
Newtownards BT23 8EZ  
Charity Number: NIC 102613**

With regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit requirement statutory guidance, the trustees are pleased to present this year’s annual report.

## **Introduction**

Movilla Abbey Church (Church of Ireland & Methodist Church in Ireland) is a lively and friendly church in the heart of east Newtownards close to the ancient ruins of Movilla Abbey. It was established in 1980, as a shared ecumenical partnership between the Church of Ireland (COI) and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), by whom the property is equally shared and owned.

You may recall that our 2022 CCNI Annual Report, apprised you of our becoming a united ‘Covenant’ Church belonging fully and equally to both the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Church of Ireland, in 2021. We also reported that our constitutional governance arrangements changed to reflect that in November 2022, with the formation of a single, united Leadership Team to fulfil the executive role of both a COI Select Vestry and a MCI Church Council. We are pleased to inform you that from January 2023, our (formerly) three separate banking accounts were merged into one business account. The accompanying 2023 Financial Report, and all future reports will reflect this change.

## **Purpose and function**

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland, of which Movilla Abbey Church remains a local expression, and through whom we act as Charity Trustees, is the advancement of the Christian religion.

The principal function of Movilla Abbey Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion, through engagement with the general public, by promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole, and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to an expression of Christian faith. The Church’s care for the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a clear public benefit. It’s ministries of baptism, marriage and funerals provide a vital public service to the community and families from birth, through life and death.

This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the

enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion, and providing a bridge between diverse groups; as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching both children and adults.

The beneficiaries are the general public, and the public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance and willingness to support through contributions, the continuing witness of the Church.

As a result of these objectives, Movilla Abbey Church has custody of buildings, property, records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage, and maintenance of which (until November 2022) was undertaken separately by both the COI Select Vestry, and the MCI Church Council. Shared responsibilities were governed by representation to a third shared body – the Joint Management Committee. From 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022, a new united governing body (the Leadership Team) was established, which fulfils all the roles and responsibilities of both Select Vestry and Church Council, and (now defunct) Joint Management Committee.

### **Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity**

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial organisation.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Church Leadership Team members are the charity's trustees, and are responsible for the day-to-day management of Movilla Abbey Church. It consists of the serving member(s) of the clergy, two Church Stewards (*analogous to Church Wardens in COI, and Society Stewards in MCI*), two Property Stewards (*analogous to Glebe Wardens in COI, and Property Stewards in MCI*), two Finance Stewards (*analogous to Treasurers in COI and MCI*) and six other Leadership Team members. All Church Leadership Team members are nominated, elected and appointed at the Annual Church Meeting (*analogous to Annual General Vestry Meeting in COI and Annual Congregational Meeting in MCI*).

The Leadership Team (LT) is chaired by the incumbent minister or other member of the clergy officiating in the church. LT members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the life and worship of the church, including issues of fabric and finance. The LT meets at times fixed by members (currently monthly during term-time) or by the COI Diocesan Synod, or MCI Connexion. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Steward.

From Nov 2022, when the LT was first officially constituted, Office Holders and Members were:

Clergy	Rev Alan Peek (Co-Chair)
	Rev Michael Spence (Co-Chair)

Church Stewards	Patricia Meara Lorraine McVeigh
Treasurers	Karen Boyd Cheryl Stewart
Property Stewards	Ian Lappin Robin Hamill
Leadership Team Members:	Trevor Bristow Gary Dunn Barbara Haughan Rosemary Lappin Georgie Herron Gillian Clarke

Our inaugural ACM was held on 30 April 2023, where the above names were formally ratified and approved, with one subsequent adjustment. Due to personal circumstances, Karen Boyd decided to stand down from the Leadership Team. So, at our last Leadership Team meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, it was proposed and decided to ask Arty McAlinney to take her place and three-year term. He was chosen because when nominated for election in November, he had the next highest number of votes.

### **Public Worship & Working Together**

Our main public gathering for worship is at 11am every Sunday, which are focussed differently, depending on which Sunday in the month it is

First Sunday	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Second Sunday	Morning Worship
Third Sunday	All-Age Worship
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship
Fifth Sunday	Morning Worship

Every service has a relaxed feel to it with a mixture of traditional and modern worship, broadly following the liturgy for a Service of the Word. The Gospel is preached with expectation of change in hearers, and with instruction on how to lead a life centred around Jesus.

During the service there is an opportunity for young people to experience more through Sunday School Kid's Groups. Families with pre-schoolers can make use of our Living Room facility with crèche facilities available while watching the service on a screen. Before and after the service, guests are offered tea, coffee and further fellowship in our Welcome Centre.

Throughout 2023, we continued to stream our services online, and there is a regular 'online congregation' who benefit from this service.

Like many other churches, we did not restart weekly evening services after Lockdown, following a review of their usefulness and popularity. But in June 2023, we decided to experiment with a new monthly, attractive service of contemporary worship, aimed at offering an hour of worship, with

the opportunity for Prayer Ministry from trained practitioners. It happened at 7pm on every first Sunday. By December 2023, owing to its fruitfulness, it was anticipated to continue in 2024.

Our midweek Life Groups (smaller home-based groups for worship, bible study, prayer and outreach) continued to connect people, and resource them for Christian life and mission.

### **Community Involvement, Outreach and Mission**

Here is a summary of our community engagement in 2023:

- Nursery & Playgroup – this is a private enterprise, independent of Movilla Abbey Church, that rent a significant section of our buildings Mon-Fri during term times, but it has very strong ties to our church community, including staff.
- Parent & Toddler Groups – Two weekly sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, which have had problems with over-subscription, necessitating limiting places.
- Wednesday Coffee Shop – a thriving outreach, run by dedicated volunteers to community members from all walks of life, providing cooked breakfasts, tea, coffee and snacks. Operates in our purpose-built ‘Welcome Space’ with commercial-quality seating and dining.
- Seniors Lunches – a fortnightly gathering providing important social space for isolated and vulnerable older adults, as well as a nutritious hot two-course meal.
- Children’s Uniformed Organisations – Guiding, Scouting and Boys Brigade organisations for children of all ages, meet every night Monday to Thursday.
- School Engagement – Church members serving as Transferor Reps on different local school Boards of Governors. We also provide a fortnightly, free coffee and drinks ministry to parents and children at the school gates of Abbey Primary School.
- Summer Kids Club & Youth Drop-in – in July 2023 we ran another fun-packed, Kid’s club for over 80 local children (P1-P7), with a ‘Super-Mario’ theme, providing lunch in an attempt to address ‘holiday hunger’ in poorer families. In the evening, we hosted a Youth (Yr8-Yr14) which attracted about 35 teens through the week. We followed up on this initiative by starting a regular Friday evening Youth Coffee Bar in September. As of Dec 2023, approx. 50 young people are regular attenders
- Litter-Picking Ministry – a monthly community service on Saturday mornings, providing picking (and safely disposing) of public litter on public streets within a half-mile radius of our church premises is ongoing
- And other work going on outside the building each week includes Pastoral care visits, Life groups each with their own community mission engagement including serving at Bowtown Kids Club (sadly postponed by Ards & ND Borough Council in mid-2023 due to building faults), Rivenwood outreach to new residents, and Comber ‘Muddy church’ for young families.
- And then we have the charitable work through which we support organisations by regular donations or fundraising efforts (usually fry mornings, facilitated by our Catering Team). In 2022 we have donated to Newtownards food bank, CAP, Street Pastors, LINK, Churches Ministry of Healing, Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid and others.

- Christmas 2023 included several community engagement highlights: a well-attended Carols by candlelight service, a Blue Christmas service (a reflective seasonal service for bereaved and lonely persons), a well-attended nativity service for young families and small children. And our 'Christmas Light' event, run in partnership with Movilla Presbyterian Church, where we invited local families to an outdoor, dramatised, re-telling by costumed characters, of the Nativity story, followed by a puppet show, some crafts and food indoors. Over 250 people attended.

### **Compliance with Public Benefit**

The charitable purpose of Movilla Abbey Church is the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating with the caring for parishioners and others in our community.

This is achieved through Christian witness and outreach, and is delivered through the provision of public worship and the various activities outlined above. It is of benefit to all in the community. There is also pastoral support and visits for those in need.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, while also providing public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

Full details of the receipts and expenditure can be found in the charity accounts submitted separately, alongside this report. All items of income and expenditure included within the receipts and Payments Statement have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

### **Going concern**

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with the applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time.

**Signed on behalf of the trustees**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Peek', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trustee: Rev Alan Peek  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Spence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trustee: Rev Michael Spence  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Annual return

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Movilla Abbey Church

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023

Stephen Bowman Associates  
Accountants & Business Consultants  
16 Balloo Avenue  
Bangor  
BT19 7QT

Movilla Abbey Church

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023

	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Bank Account Balance @ 01.01.2023.		60,562
<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023</b>		
Standing Orders	84,127	
Free Will Offering & Loose Plate	26,047	
Gift Aid	31,271	
Donations	11,532	
Sundry	1,111	
Bank interest	121	
	<u>154,209</u>	154,209
<b>Restricted Funds 2023</b>		
Standing Orders	3,216	
Free Will Offering & Loose Plate	713	
Donations	9,513	
Special Collections	9,603	
Organisations Operating costs	16,138	
	<u>39,183</u>	39,183
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>253,954</u></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023</b>		
Diocesan Costs	19,198	
Methodist Comprehensive Assessment	13,364	
Stipend / Expenses	73,645	
HMRC	8,799	
Other Operating costs	567	
Manse / Rectory costs	5,639	
Printing / Stationery	875	
Sundries	2,621	
Bank fees	345	
	<u>125,052</u>	125,052
<b>Restricted Funds 2023</b>		
Church Operating costs	57,266	
Mission expenditure	2,167	
Special Collections	9,603	
Charitable Donations	10,890	
	<u>79,926</u>	79,926
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>204,978</u></u>
Bank Account Balance @ 31.12.2023		<u><u>48,975</u></u>

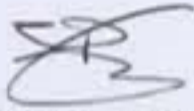
Movilla Abbey Church

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023

Accountants Report

We have examined the financial records of Movilla Abbey Church.

On the basis of the information provided to us we have found that the attached Income and Expenditure Statement to be an accurate reflection of the financial position of the church as at 31 December 2023.



Stephen Bowman FAIA, FFA

26 March 2024.

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Accounts

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**Newtownards/Movilla /Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church  
of Ireland**

**Statement of Receipts & Payments, Assets & Liabilities for Year Ended  
December 2022**

**Charity Number NIC 102613**

**Charity Address:**

Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland

63 Movilla Road

Newtownards

BT23 8EZ

**Bank Address:**

Danske Bank

PO Box 183

Donegall Square

Belfast

BT1 6JS

**Principal Office Bearers:**

Rev. A Peek, Chairperson

Mr M McAlinney, Hon Secretary

Mrs K Boyd, Hon Treasurer

**Accountant:**

Stephen Bowman Associates

Accountants & Business Consultants

16 Balloo Avenue

Bangor

BT19 7QT

Receipts and Payments Statement Year Ended 31 December 2022

<u>Receipts 2022</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
Standing Orders	£36,409.00	£0.00	£0.00	£36,409.00
FWO & LP	£9,071.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,071.00
Gift Aid	£10,929.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,929.00
Donations	£1,591.00	£3,400.00	£0.00	£4,991.00
Child Development Ministry	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Adult Development Ministry	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ministry Development Fund	£13,500.00	£8,780.00	£0.00	£22,280.00
Special Collections	£0.00	£113.00	£0.00	£113.00
Bank Interest	£6.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6.00
Sundry	£1,510.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,510.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£73,016.00</b>	<b>£12,293.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£85,309.00</b>
<u>Payments 2021</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diocesan Costs	£18,054.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18,054.00
Stipend/ Expenses	£32,764.00	£0.00	£0.00	£32,764.00
HMRC	£5,671.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,671.00
Church Running Costs	£0.00	£14,600.00	£0.00	£14,600.00
Other Operating Costs	£2,040.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,040.00
Glebe Costs	£3,900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,900.00
Adult Development Ministry	£131.00	£0.00	£0.00	£131.00
Children Development Ministry	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ministry Development Fund	£0.00	£7,820.00	£0.00	£7,820.00
Printing & Stationery	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Special Collections	£0.00	£113.00	£0.00	£113.00
Charitable Donations	£0.00	£960.00	£0.00	£960.00
Sundry	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Fees	£39.00	£0.00	£0.00	£39.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£62,599.00</b>	<b>£23,493.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£86,092.00</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Set out below are the principal accounting policies that have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Accounts and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Receipts and Payment Accounts: all items of income and expenditure and expenditure included within the Receipt & Payment Statement have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The Church, 2 church halls, kitchen, Youth Mobile and all attached grounds are owned jointly and equally between ourselves and Movilla Methodist Church. All fixtures and fittings with said Church and buildings are jointly owned also. With reference to the value of assets the Church and buildings are currently insured to the value of £1,129,885 and the fixtures are insured to the value of £53,592.

The church organ is also jointly owned and was purchased in 2016, value of £4,400

The Rectory is owned solely by Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland and is valued at £160,000

### Reconciliation of Cash Funds General Account

Total Cash Funds at the beginning of 2022 £4,808

Receipts for the Year £ 85,309

Payments for the Year £ 86,092

Total Cash Funds at the end of 2022 £ 4,025

### Transfers between Funds

As this is a joint Church venture between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland running costs of the Church and buildings are looked after by a Joint Management Committee with a current account administered by a separate treasurer for the committee.

The Methodist Church Council and the Church of Ireland Select Vestry each transferred £12,600 to this account from their respective general account to cover these costs. A presentation of the account is given to the Church of Ireland parishioners by the Joint Management Committee Treasurer at the Easter General Vestry. This account is also checked and verified by an external accountant.

The Mission Account is again a joint venture between the two denominations with each transferring funds to the Joint Mission Account to facilitate the Joint Mission Team to carry out their ministry in the local community. The Mission account is administered by a member of the Mission Team and accounts are presented to that team. With the continuing situation regarding Covid 19 members of our Mission Team and parishioners continued to provide help to the local community through working with Ards food bank, collecting and delivering grocery shopping and prescription medication. They have developed close links with local primary school and community group in a local housing estate.

The Ministry Development Account is a sole Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland investment account and is administered by two members of the congregation for the advancement of faith and ministry within our local parish.

### **Glebe Costs**

£685.59 was paid To Hiscox Insurance for insuring the Rectory and £786.43 paid to Land and Property Service for yearly rates for the Rectory.

During the summer 2 members of the Select Vestry repainted ceilings in the Rectory living room and hall at no financial cost.

There were no other operating costs presented for payment and only one Trustee needed to be reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses £23.98

### **Special Collections**

£113.11 RBL Poppy Appeal

### **Charitable Donations**

In May the Select Vestry unanimously voted to join with Movilla Methodist Church to commit to funding for 3 years an advisor from the charity Christians Against Poverty.

This is a combined commitment involving 7 churches in the town each contributing £160 per month.

### **Raising Funds**

A Just Giving Donation Page was set up in 2020 and we continue to raise funds through the platform. £216.00 was donated in 2022 through just Giving with a monthly administration charge of £18.

### **Statement of Funds Held for the Year Ending December 2021**

**Sole Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland Accounts**

Ministry Development Deposit Account £7,779

Fields of Life Account £276

Joint Accounts between Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland and Movilla Methodist Church

Joint Management Committee Account Mission Account £7,101

Mission Account £4,072

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees:



Trustee: Rev. A Peek

Chairperson

Date: 03/05/2023



Trustee: Mrs K Boyd

Honorary Treasurer

Date: 29/04/2023

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Annual report

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# **Movilla Abbey Church – Church of Ireland & Methodist Church in Ireland Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Movilla Abbey Church  
63 Movilla Road  
Newtownards BT23 8EZ  
Charity Number: NIC 102613**

With regard to the Charity Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance, the trustees are pleased to present this year's annual report.

Movilla Abbey Church (Church of Ireland & Methodist Church in Ireland) is a lively and friendly church in the heart of east Newtownards close to the ancient ruins of Movilla Abbey. It was established in 1980, as a shared ecumenical partnership between the Church of Ireland (COI) and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), by whom the property is equally shared and owned.

As was highlighted in our CCNI Annual Report 2021, after a Commissioning Service in October 2021 we became a single, united congregation belonging fully and equally to both the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Church of Ireland. This decision was approved and ratified at the aforementioned Commissioning Service led by the COI Diocesan Bishop, Rt Rev David McClay, and the MCI District Superintendent, Rev Philip Agnew.

The process of 'coming together' was more formally established in November 2022, when a new 'Leadership Team' was appointed and elected to fulfil the constitutional roles of both the COI Select Vestry and the MCI Church Council.

## **Purpose and function**

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland, of which Movilla Abbey Church remains a local expression, and through whom we act as Charity Trustees, is the advancement of the Christian religion.

The principal function of Movilla Abbey Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion, through engagement with the general public, by promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole, and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to an expression of Christian faith. The Church's care for the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a clear public benefit. It's ministries of baptism, marriage and funerals provide a vital public service to the community and families from birth, through life and death.

This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the

enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion, and providing a bridge between diverse groups; as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching both children and adults.

The beneficiaries are the general public, and the public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance and willingness to support through contributions, the continuing witness of the Church.

As a result of these objectives, Movilla Abbey Church has custody of property, records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage, and maintenance of which (until November 2022) was undertaken by both the Select Vestry, and the Church Council separately. From 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022, a new united governing body (the Leadership Team) was established, which fulfils all the roles and responsibilities of both Select Vestry and Church Council.

### **Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity**

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial organisation.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Select Vestry members (who from 20 Nov 2022 are known, at Movilla as *Leadership Team* members) are the charity's trustees and are responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish and consists of the serving member(s) of the clergy, the church wardens, the glebe wardens, and usually not more than ten members of the General Vestry, elected at the annual meeting of the General Vestry, known as the Easter Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent minister or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including issues of fabric and finance. The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the church warden.

The principal Select Vestry office-bearers for the year 2022 (from April – Nov) were:

Clergy	Rev. Alan Peek (SV Chairperson)
Secretary	Martin McAlinney
Treasurer	Karen Boyd
Church Wardens:	Ian Lappin (Rector's) Lorraine McVeigh (People's)
Glebe Warden:	Ian Lappin (Rector's)
Additional Select Vestry members were:	

Gillian Clarke  
Lisa Currie  
Michael Hilland  
Rosemary Lappin  
Barbara Soley

From Nov 2022 the principal office bearers of the new Leadership Team were:

Clergy	Rev Alan Peek (Co-Chair) Rev Michael Spence (Co-Chair)
Secretary & Church Steward	Patricia Meara
Church Steward	Lorraine McVeigh
Co-Treasurers	Karen Boyd Cheryl Stewart
Property Stewards	Ian Lappin Robin Hamill
Additional Leadership Team Members were:	
	Trevor Bristow Gary Dunn Barbara Haughan Rosemary Lappin Georgie Herron Gillian Clarke

### **Public Worship & Working Together**

Movilla Abbey Church buildings and grounds are shared and administered equally by both the Church of Ireland (Anglican) and the Methodist Church in Ireland (Methodist). Since social restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic in 2020, forced our public worship online, Sunday gatherings, which were formerly denominationally separate, were united in a single weekly Sunday service at 11am. When public gathering was re-permitted in 2021, we continued to meet as one Anglican & Methodist congregation at 11am, retaining our online streaming option for those at home. This continued to be the pattern throughout 2022, when we saw greater numbers returning to Sunday morning worship, but also maintained a healthy weekly engagement online with views by existing members, but also new visitors.

From September 2022, weekly Sunday Evening worship gatherings at 7pm were re-established, along with a Midweek Communion service on Wednesdays at 11am. Throughout 2022, our midweek Life Groups (smaller home-based groups for worship, bible study, prayer and outreach) continued to connect people, and resource them for Christian life and mission.

## **Community Involvement, Outreach and Mission**

Following Pandemic restrictions and limitations in 2021, Movilla's community life returned to something like a 'new normal' in 2022. Here is a summary of our community engagement:

- Nursery & Playgroup – this is a private enterprise, independent of Movilla Abbey Church, that rent a significant section of our buildings Mon-Fri during term times, but it has very strong ties to our church community, including staff.
- Parent & Toddler Groups – Two weekly sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, which have had problems with over-subscription, necessitating limiting places.
- Wednesday Coffee Shop – a thriving outreach, run by dedicated volunteers to community members from all walks of life, providing cooked breakfasts, tea, coffee and snacks. Operates in our purpose-built 'Welcome Space' with commercial-quality seating and dining.
- Seniors Lunches – a fortnightly gathering providing important social space for isolated and vulnerable older adults, as well as a nutritious hot two-course meal.
- Children's Uniformed Organisations – Guiding, Scouting and Boys Brigade organisations for children of all ages, meet every night Monday to Thursday.
- School Engagement – Church members serving as Transferor Reps on different local school Boards of Governors. We also provide a fortnightly, free coffee and drinks ministry to parents and children at the school gates of Abbey Primary School.
- Summer Kids Club – in July 2022 we ran a fun-packed, full week 'Encanto' themed Kid's club for over 50 local children, providing lunch in an attempt to address 'holiday hunger' in poorer families
- Litter-Picking Ministry – a monthly community service on Saturday mornings, providing picking (and safely disposing) of public litter on public streets within a half-mile radius of our church premises
- And other work going on outside the building each week includes Pastoral care visits, Life groups each with their own community mission engagement including serving at Bowtown Kids Club, Rivenwood outreach to new residents, and Comber 'Muddy church' for young families.
- And then we have the charitable work through which we support organisations by regular donations or fundraising efforts (usually fry mornings, facilitated by our Catering Team). In 2022 we have donated to Newtownards food bank, CAP, Street Pastors, LINK, Churches Ministry of Healing, Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid and others.
- Christmas 2022 included several community engagement highlights: a well-attended Carols by candlelight service, a Blue Christmas service (a reflective seasonal service for bereaved and lonely persons), a popup nativity service for young families and small children. And our 'Christmas Light' event, where we invited local families to an outdoor, dramatised, re-telling by costumed characters, of the Nativity story, followed by a puppet show, some crafts and food indoors. Over 350 attended.

## **Compliance with Public Benefit**

The charitable purpose of Movilla Abbey Church is the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating with the caring for parishioners and others in our community.

This is achieved through Christian witness and outreach, and is delivered through the provision of public worship and the various activities outlined above. It is of benefit to all in the community. There is also pastoral support and visits for those in need.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, while also providing public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

Full details of the receipts and expenditure can be found in the charity accounts submitted separately, alongside this report. All items of income and expenditure included within the receipts and Payments Statement have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

### **Going concern**

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 can be signed off as a going concern.

### **Pay and remuneration**

The stipend of the Rector is administered by the Parish. In 2021 this was £32,764 per annum, including locomotory and office expenses. (See Financial Report for further details)

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with the applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time.

### **Signed on behalf of the trustees**



Trustee: Rev Alan Peek  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023



Trustee: Mrs Rosemary Lappin  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

**NEWTOWNARDS/Movilla/Movilla Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102613

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# Annual return

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**Church of Ireland Movilla Abbey Church**

**Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022**

Stephen Bowman Associates  
Accountants & Business Consultants  
16 Balloo Avenue  
Bangor  
BT19 7QT

## Church of Ireland Movilla Abbey Church

### Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Bank Account Balance @ 01.01.2022.		4,808
<b>Unrestricted Funds 2022</b>		
Standing Orders	36,409	
Free Will Offering & Loose Plate	9,071	
Gift Aid	10,929	
Donations	1,591	
Ministry Development Fund	13,500	
Sundry	1,510	
Bank interest	<u>6</u>	73,016
<b>Restricted Funds 2022</b>		
Gift Aid	0	
Donations	3,400	
Adult Development Ministry	0	
Ministry Development Fund	8,780	
Special Collections	<u>113</u>	12,293
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>90,117</u></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds 2022</b>		
Diocesan Costs	18,054	
Stipend & Loco Expenses	32,764	
Other operating expenses	2,040	
Glebe Costs	3,900	
HMRC	5,671	
Adult Development Ministry	131	
Bank fees	<u>39</u>	62,599
<b>Restricted Funds 2022</b>		
Church Running Costs	14,600	
Ministry Development Fund	7,820	
Special Collections	113	
Charitable Donations	<u>960</u>	23,493
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>86,092</u></u>
Bank Account Balance @ 31.12.2022		<u><u>4,025</u></u>

There were no receipts or payments made during this period in relation Endowment Funds.

Church of Ireland Movilla Abbey Church

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

Accountants Report

We have examined the financial records of Church of Ireland, Movilla Abbey Church.

On the basis of the information provided to us we have found that the attached Income and Expenditure Statement to be an accurate reflection of the financial position of the parish as at 31 December 2022.

  
Stephen Bowman FAIA, FFA

18 April 2023.



Revd A.N. Peek