

# BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103258

## Details

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**Known as** Groomsport Parish Church

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-06-11

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

## Contact

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**Address** Maxwell Hall  
Main Street  
Groomsport  
Bangor  
County Down  
BT19 6jr  
BT19 6JR

**Phone** 028 91271311

**Email** [gpcoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:gpcoffice@btinternet.com)

**Website** [www.groomsportparishchurch.org/](http://www.groomsportparishchurch.org/)

## 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:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£124,790	£114,790	£0	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mae Burke		
Maggie		
Mr Bert Smith		
Mr Gary Keenan		
Mr Roy Mcwhinney		
Mr Tony Anderson		
Mr William Mcaneney		
Mrs Barbara Mcclelland		
Mrs Heather Pentland		
Mrs Jenny Craythorne		
Mrs Kathleen Murray		
Mrs Mary Cargill		
Mrs Maureen Taggart		
Mrs Susan Mcnair		
Mrs Zandra Sloan		
Rev Elliot Swattridge		

**BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

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# Accounts

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## Groomspout Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

<u>Income and Expenditure</u>	<u>2,024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Freewill Offering	42,404		37,616	
Subscriptions	30,200		30,399	
Offertory	6,614		2,240	
Income Tax Refunds	17,075		15,235	
Refunds on Gas & Electricity Accounts	5,886		0	
Investment Income	1,756		1,611	
Sundry Income	941		7,174	
Progressive B S interest	670		1,819	
Donations to Rev Swattridge for Ministry	4,553		0	
Special Collections	2,654		0	
Advertising	600		0	
Donations to Church Hall (note 2)	6,810		7,112	
Donations to Church (inc legacies)	4,627		12,515	
		124,790		115,721
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries Allowances & Pensions	74,991		49,885	
Organists' Fees	2,950		0	
Insurances	3,626		3,324	
Church Electricity	661		1,658	
Church Gas	637		8,528	
Printing, Stationery & Postage	2,123		3,830	
Telephone	1,529		1,369	
Choir	0		367	
Youth Ministry Equipment etc Expenses	3,954		113	
Diocesan Charges	9,480		10,094	
Bank Charges	258		463	
Water Rates	657		331	
Rectory Rates	470		0	
Payments to Artists	1,152		0	
Legal Fees & Licences	1,780		0	
Incidental Expenses	2,401		7,472	
Repairs & renewals	4,346		12,981	
Hall Electricity	1,633		2,129	
Hall Gas	1,677		3,404	
Hall Repairs	465		5,589	
		114,790		124,537
Gross Surplus/Deficit		10,000		-8,816.00
Net Donations to Charity (note 3)		-541		-2,723.00
Fund Raising		10,795		4,414.00
Increase/Decrease in Value of Investments		-2,601		-284.00
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>		<b>17,653</b>		<b>-7,409</b>

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# Accounts

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## Income

Churches Included

 Groomsport

Unrestricted Income

Unrestricted Income	£
Free Will Offering	70255
Gifts, Donations & Sustentation	2515
Legacies	10000
Rents	0
Bank Interest	0
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	15235
Other (please state)	
investment income	1611
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
Sub-Total	99616
Restricted Income	
Graveyard	0
Magazines	0
Sunday School Income	0
Restoration Projects	0
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	0
Other Please State	
Sundry and Fundraising	10988
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
Sub-Total	10988
Mission	
Bishop's Appeal	600

Other (Please State)	
Donations and Charity Collections	2149
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
Sub-Total	2749
Total Income	113353

## Expenditure

### Unrestricted Expenditure

Payments	£
Clergy Costs	36084
Other Staff Costs	13801
Diocesan Assessment	10094
Administration	11765
Utilities	17088
Insurance	3324
Legal	0
Rates	331
Loan Repayments	480
Repairs & Maintenance	18570
Other (please state)	
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
Total Expenditure	111537
Surplus/Deficit	-11921
Restricted Expenditure	

Buildings	13000
Mission (All)	0
Glebe Cost	0
Other (please state)	
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None
	None

## Loans & Account Balances

### Loans

Purpose of the loan	Current Balance	Annual repayments
	None	None
	None	None
	None	None
	None	None
	None	None
	None	None

### Bank Accounts

Title of Account	Purpose	Balance
Church Account		7967.63
Project Fund Account		29054.87
		None
		None
		None
		None

## Rector: Stipend and Locomotory Expenses Allowance

### A. Rector: Stipend and Locomotory Expenses Allowance Direct payment from Parish

Stipend	14177
Additional Payments	2028

Locomotory Expenses Allowance	0
Expenses of Office Allowance	0
Other amounts received:	
RectorChaplaincy	14367
RectorGlebeRent	0
Other Rent etc. (specify)	
	0
Total Fees etc. Received	0

Payments received from Parish in respect of expenses.

Do you pay the employee's portion of National Insurance Contributions (if applicable)?  Yes  No

Does your parish pay the employee's part of the clergy Pension Fund (if applicable)?  Yes  No

Do you receive any other allowances or benefits not included above?  Yes  No

If so, please specify

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Rectory/Glebeland

Is the rectory available free of all charges  Yes  No

If not, please state charges

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Nature and amount of charges and expenses paid by Rector in connection with land

Nature of charges and expenses 0

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Amount of charges and expenses 0

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## Curate: Stipend and Locomotory Expenses Allowance

Curate: Stipend and Locomotory Expenses Allowance

Name of Curate	Stipend	L.E.A.	Total
0	0	0	0
	None	None	None

Is free accomodation provided?  Yes  No

If not what is the cost to the Curate(s)?

1. 0

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2. 0

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Payments received from Parish in respect of Expenses



Does the curate receive the minimum Expenses of Office Allowance?

1.  Yes  
 No

2.  Yes  
 No

Does the curate pay the employee's portion of National Insurance Contributions (if applicable)?

1.  Yes  
 No

2.  Yes  
 No

Does the curate receive any other allowances not included above?

		Please specify
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### Contributions to World Mission / Aid Agencies / Local Charities

Contributions made by this parish during the financial year ended 31 December 2021 were as follows:

World Mission e.g. Missionary Societies	2922
Bishops Appeal	600
Other Developmental Agencies e.g. Tearfund	0
Other Charities e.g. Hospice, Help the Aged etc.	1800

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# Annual report

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# Groomsport Parish

Annual General Vestry  
April 2024



[www.groomsportparishchurch.org](http://www.groomsportparishchurch.org)  
NIC103258  
CLI1075909



# Agenda

Appointing a secretary of the meeting.

- 1 Opening Prayers
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of last meeting (2023)
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Minister's Remarks
- 6 Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts
- 7 Appointments of Rectors Church and Glebe Wardens
- 8 Appointments of Peoples Church and Glebe Wardens
- 9 Appointments to Select Vestry
- 10 Any other notified business
- 11 Closing Prayers

# Ministers Reflections

*“Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.”*

What is the difference between a church family and a social club? I think David J. Evans’ words in the hymn, written in 1986, that has been called by some ‘our church anthem’, “Be still for the presence of the Lord”, encapsulates the answer to this excellently. The difference is the presence of the Lord! We are a family of people who not only meet together with one another, but with the God who is present with us, around us, within us, by His wondrous Spirit. He is more real than our own bodily existence. And without His reality our existence as a church family is utterly meaningless... but with Him we are caught up together in the eternal story of the Infinite One! Everything else - finance, events, Select Vestry, buildings, services - are simply instruments for this purpose in the hands of our great Musician.

How have we known the presence, the glory, and the power of the Lord moving in this place over the past year? This presence of God can be so breathtaking, so awe-inspiring that all we want to do is be still in His majesty. Each spring we see the gradual coming up of little green shoots of seeds and bulbs in the springtime warmth. Where are the ‘green shoots’ of new life that we see God beautifully growing among us?

Yet like the iceberg hidden beneath the deep ocean, there is always vastly more to what God is doing than what we directly perceive. We can see the tip of the iceberg!

We see the presence of the Lord in the way that we shine out to our community! Our Lord teaches us, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14) And here in Groomsport Parish Church, thanks to the way you so wonderfully spread the word and invite others to be part of things that we are doing together, the way you show such warm and generous hospitality and kindness towards newcomers, the way you have a reputation for being welcoming - all these show the light of God’s presence shining through us. We see this through the joy-filled events of so many kinds, from Raving Micks to breakfasts, to quiz nights, to soup and scones, to Tuesday club, to the bereavement group, to the little groups for scrabble, knitting, art, to shopping trips, to craft stalls, ballots, to the Christmas lights... and that’s absolutely not an exhaustive list as there is much, much, much more! (Both Santa and Elvis visited this year which is quite something!)

Our little church family is, in these outreaches, becoming a glimpse of what our Lord speaks of as this 'city set on a hill'... or perhaps I should say we're like Donaghadee Lighthouse, shining out into the dark ocean of the struggles of life, drawing people in by the welcoming glow of His light into the safe harbour. It's perhaps fitting that the very name 'Groomspout' comes from the Irish Port an Ghiolla Ghruama - 'port of the gloomy servant' - a place where the gloomy and destitute and lonely can come and find family, belonging and invitation into the life of Jesus that endures even beyond death. This is what we proclaim to the whole community, both Groomspout, Bangor and beyond, "To this you belong!" I cannot thank you enough for the way you have invited others into this belonging and I long to see even more reaching out into this next year together.

We see the presence of the Lord at work in the way we follow the one who said to the little children, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Our Lord loves to reach out to all ages, and values every age group, both the oldest and the youngest amongst us, in a way our society often dismisses. I have loved to see the way we have been reaching out to those groups we have previously seen much less connection with, namely parents/carers with primary-aged children, as well as teenagers. I am incredibly thankful for the way we have seen new faces and loads of joy and laughter at the Sunday Fun Club which is a joy to be part of each week - I cannot thank Maggie, Terri, Lorna, and young leaders Shaun, Caoimhe and Zara, enough for your enthusiasm! The Diocese has been very affirmative and supportive in this too which has been amazing and shows us why it is wonderful to be part of a wider group. I have also loved so much meeting the little group of teenagers that has started to grow here in the Youth Pizza & Games nights - I have a real tangible sense of the love of God for each one of them and the great value every moment spent with them has. Please pray we would see even more come into this, and most of all that every one of them would know the wondrous life of Jesus, and be captivated forever by the beautiful glory of the Lord as He shines all around!

We see the presence of the Lord at work in each one of His people individually - that is each one of you! When we put our trust in, and give over our lives to Jesus Christ, He gives us new life, and we each individually receive His Spirit of life, and become like a fruitful tree - and the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23). Whenever we see these qualities amongst one another, we see the fruit of God working amongst us. I have firsthand

seen the way that each of you have had great forbearance with one another in love, even after bitter disagreements, relational clashes, hard Select Vestry meetings, and even times where we have outright wronged one another. Instead of abandoning ship, we come back and renew precious friendships. The way we love and reconcile rather than ostracising, accusing and separating from one another is a sure sign of the work of the God of reconciliation! Every time we forgive one another as we would like to be forgiven, following our Lord's prayer we pray just about every time we meet to worship, we see the beautiful work of God's Spirit. We see the presence of the Lord when we sing together in worship not out of cold duty, but from the depths of our hearts with joy. It is so fitting that our wonderful singing group Jubilate (Latin for 'Rejoice!') has its name!

We see the presence of the Lord in one of these most precious of His Spirit's fruit, the fruit of love. Jesus' words in John 13:35 challenge us to the core as He says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Here is where I am also so thankful for you all, however, as this means every time you show concern for one another when struggling with illness, deep disappointment or loss of many kinds, whether it be loved ones, or the ability to do the same things we used to. The love that you show one another in hard times - shown for instance at funerals and memorial services - is truly beautiful and a powerful sign of the work of the One who spent His time on earth healing and comforting those who suffered. I see you bringing healing to one another in the way you faithfully love those who aren't able to join us on a Sunday, the way you notice the struggles of one another, and the way you hold nothing back in caring with both words and prayerful deeds. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, siblings as children of the same heavenly Father, connected as branches of the same Vine, to the same life source of His Spirit... and the more we see one another treating each other like true, eternal family, the more we see the presence of God moving in our midst! We see this beautifully shown also in the growing relationships with our true family in Christ in Groomspoint Presbyterian and Evangelical Presbyterian churches, and other church groups across the area, of every denomination, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, free church, Pentecostal and any other branch of our one worldwide family. Jesus prayed for our oneness in John 17, and the way we see this fulfilled in coming together rather than cynical distance or bitter separation, shows Him fulfilling His own prayer amongst us - the work of the presence of the Lord!

We see the presence of the Lord in the way we pray! As the wonderful Duncan, whom I have had the joy of connecting with in my time here, said in his report in a previous year, "Every project we have undertaken, everyone we have supported, everything, EVERYTHING, has been rooted in prayer." This delights my heart! Prayer is not primarily something a service leader does when standing at the Eagle... it is something that must be for all of us. That's why the Holy Week prayer room is so exciting for instance. And all year round, there is so much possibility here - I cannot emphasise enough how life-transforming this adventure of communicating with the Infinite One, the Living God, when we make this a part of our daily lives. God has so much more He longs to do... what we see so far are the first little green daffodil stems just peeping through the soil, as though to say, 'Hello world!' But if they stayed there just as tiny seedlings, we would not know the glory of golden daffodil trumpets! God has growth, luscious leaves, and beautiful flourishing ahead of us, if we are willing to connect ourselves to His life in prayer. This is part of a wider movement of people longing to see widespread revival in our land, many of whom I have met from other churches, and in special Belfast prayer gatherings, and in which we join in Spirit during each little 'Prayer for Revival' meeting on Wednesday mornings. We are part of something so much bigger than ourselves, and the surest sign of God's presence connecting us into this is seeing these early stirrings of prayer become even stronger! Prayer is the way we water, add compost and nurture these little seedlings of new life with what they need most - the presence of the Creator of life itself, our Lord Jesus!

"Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around...how awesome is the sight- our radiant King of light!" And how wonderful it is to see Him in our very midst, in all these ways and so many more! Let me thank each and every person reading this for being part of this beautiful tapestry. And we long for so much more of His presence into this next year!

Elliot Swatridge

# Rector's Warden - Bert Smith

They say a year in politics is a lifetime. Well, try a year as the Rector's Warden. I had an outstanding handover from Mae Burke, who left me rather big boots to be filled. In the absence of a Rector, Mae, the outgoing Rector's Warden, appointed me. I took over in the Interregnum without a Rector and took over to be line manager of administrator Amanda, who had done so much to get us through lockdown. Amanda has since resigned due to being offered a better employment option. Our heartfelt thanks to Amanda and best wishes for the future, you really did us proud.

This left Susan McNair and Zandra Sloan to publish our pew leaflets and keep everyone informed about upcoming events for which we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Then, our prayers were answered with the appointment of Ashley Rogan to Parish Administrator. She has settled very quickly into her role, and again, my heartfelt thanks to her for all she has done for the Parish and myself since she arrived.

I have outstanding support by Zandra the People's Warden, the vestry members, and a huge thank you to Gary Keenan and Ken Boyd who have had to stand in for me sometimes at short notice to allow me time to visit our family in England. It was humbling, interesting and a delight to assist so many clergy who were on a rota as directed by the Diocese to deliver our services and communion. Yet again our Parish was blessed to have Faith Cully and Tim Wright who were part of our congregation who took the brunt of most of the services and funerals. We are all deeply indebted to them and those who were also on the rota. It was a great honour and privilege to have been of service to them all.

Then in September the day arrived "the eagle had landed" in the form of Elliot and Nomi Swatridge, the answer to our prayers, and boy what a landing with graceful energy to burn and who immediately started building the pillars that will support our parish for years to come. He has been a joy to meet, a joy to assist and a joy to observe his dedication and enthusiasm for this Parish and every single member in it.

Finally, it has been a great privilege to meet everyone at the 8.30, 10.30 and 6 pm service on Sunday and the Thursday morning congregation. Thank you for all your support during my time as Rector's Warden.

My very best wishes, yours ever,

*Bert,*

# People's Warden - Zandra Sloan

The past year has passed so quickly and what a lot has happened!

When I was asked to consider taking on the role of Warden, it was the last thing that had been on my mind. However after much thought and prayer, I decided to stand and was duly appointed People's Warden. Sadly Bert was ill and was unable to be there for the first few Sundays. On my first Sunday morning service, we received the long awaited and welcome news of Elliot's appointment as our new Minister.

I clearly remember Tony walking to the lectern to make the announcement. What a lot of excitement this caused! However Elliot was involved in a project in Croydon and was unable to join us until August. In the meantime it was a privilege to work along side our stand-in Ministers. Faith and Tim worked tirelessly to keep our Church running smoothly. During the summer Simon Doogan was instrumental in arranging to have our evening service broadcast on BBC Radio Songs of Praise. It was a fascinating and uplifting experience to be able to share our worship with so many unseen but present listeners.

Our big day arrived on 21st August, with Elliot's Service of Introduction, led by Bishop David and joined by many local clergy, family and friends. What a rewarding time it has been since then, welcoming Elliot, Nomi and Wesley to Groomsport.

The past year has been a pleasure and joy working with Elliot. Bert and I have been educating him with all our little local ways and idiosyncrasies. He learns quickly!! In return Elliot has been refreshing us with his new ideas. He enjoyed his first Parish event with the Quiz in October. And he joined Bert's amazing Raving Micks with their version of Whiskey in the Jar at their concert in February.

I would like to thank Bert for all his help throughout the year. He has been a tower of strength and always offers sensible advice. Life would have been much more difficult without his wise counsel. So very many thanks Bert. I hope and pray that with God's help, we will have a great year ahead.

*Zandra*

# Select Vestry Report

Since the publication of the last full annual Report in 2021, much has happened in the life of Groomsport Parish. It has been an extremely busy period for your Select Vestry who has had to make many very important decisions on your behalf.

First we learned at the Easter Vestry in 2022, that our Rector of 22 years, Duncan Pollock had decided to retire in the month of June. This took many people by surprise, but a lot of hard work by Select Vestry members was put into arranging an elaborate Farewell Event to acknowledge the incredible contribution Duncan had made to GPC. Parishioners were very generous in their donations to his leaving gift and at a very special sit-down dinner, following his final service, Duncan was presented with a variety of very personal thank you presents, culminating in his fairly recent trip to New York, flying back Club class – an experience I know Janice and he thoroughly enjoyed!!

During the Interregnum, Select Vestry meetings were ably chaired by the Area Dean, Simon Doogan from Ballyholme Parish. At his final meeting he was thanked by Bert and given a bespoke present. This was a very busy time for the Select Vestry, mainly because of the sale of the old Rectory - a property which needed so much work done to it, it was decided to sell it. It is all credit to you, the parishioners, that church services were attended so well at this time.

However, this became a rather stressful time for your Select Vestry, as it was soon obvious that we were not and continue not to be in the financial position to purchase a property which meets RCB (Representative Church Body) essential criteria for a property which can be classed as a Rectory. Even properties of £600,000 in the area did not match the essential criteria. Indeed, it is only right at this point that I mention our gratitude to Roy Lawther, Diocesan Secretary for all his support during this difficult time. Therefore, we were most grateful when Bishop David came up with the idea of appointing a Priest in Charge for 5 years – a term most of us had never heard of. As this situation cannot last for ever, the Select Vestry has had to give much thought about how we can plan for the long-term future. Just round this time, Bishop David invited Select Vestry members in the local area to attend a large meeting in Newtownards where the main theme was about the lack of youth in the

of the Church of Ireland. So after much prayer and many, many drafts of letters, the Select Vestry decided to write to you, the Parishioners, to inform you about our new Projects Fund. This is specifically to be used to eventually purchase a new Rectory, but has been set up in such a way that a percentage of it can be used for children and youth projects. As I write, I can confirm it is growing, but it is growing very slowly, so we must leave this project in God's hands. If anyone wishes to discuss it with me, please feel free.

At last year's Easter Vestry, the Trustee Body had hoped to announce the name of our new minister, but a few more details had to be sorted. However, a week after the Easter Vestry, Tony Anderson, Senior Trustee was able to tell us the wonderful news we had a new minister – Rev Elliot Swattridge from Croydon in London. Of course, the internet nearly crashed with people googling to find out all about him!! Not quite what we were expecting – but how lucky have we been.

What we have in Elliot is a young man who is truly a man of God. He is the sincerest individual you will ever meet. Yes, he is trying to get all kind of projects off the ground for young people, because otherwise GPC will not be in existence in 20 years' time!! BUT he is so genuine about also caring for and respecting of the older people in our parish.

Elliot, Nomi and Wesley – Welcome! We are thrilled to have you in our midst with you Elliot as our spiritual leader. We hope you enjoy your lovely home in Cove Avenue and we look forward to all you have to teach us and share with us in the months and years that lie ahead.

*Heather Pentland*  
*Vestry Secretary*



# Club Information

## Groomsport Art Club

The Art Club continues to meet, now on a Monday afternoon at 2pm. We have missed Stuart's guidance in recent months but have continued to meet and support each other. We are hoping to contribute to the Parish Art Exhibition this year. Everyone, whatever your ability, is welcome to join us.

Elaine Lester

## Mother's Union

Mothers' Union is a world wide organisation for women of all ages to show Christian care for families. In our Parish we have over forty members who meet together monthly for friendship and fellowship. There have been a range of interesting speakers over the last year including Duncan Pollock, Bert Smith and Elliot!

This year started with the AGM chaired by Elliot. He thanked the outgoing committee and paid special tribute to Faith Cully who was Branch Leader for several years.

The Diocesan Treasurer, Lynda Bremner, gave a very interesting overview of how MU funds are used for a range of projects at home. This included prison visits, and books distributed to children and their parents in prison, to help maintain a relationship by having something to talk about during prison visits. Also there is ongoing support for local refugees. She talked about Worldwide Parenting Programmes and Literacy and Financial Education.

Our MU Branch supports Women's Aid, and the Ulster Hospital, by providing toiletries, knitted clothes for babies and handmade bags for syringe drivers. The Mothers' Union usually meet on the third Monday of each month from September to May at 7.30 in the Church hall, and attend the Monday Holy Week service as a group.

All ladies are very welcome to attend any of the meetings without any obligation, and there will always be a cup of tea!

Sally Mckee  
MU Branch Leader

## **The Tuesday Club**

The Tuesday Club was formed in October 2017, for people in the community who live alone or are single, (for example brothers or sisters who live together,) to try and overcome the problems of isolation and loneliness.

After forming a temporary committee to organise a programme of speakers and events the numbers began to increase. Now we have fifty+ members who enjoy meeting and chatting to others in the same situation as themselves. We are a non-denominational group, and our catchment area is within ten miles of Groomspoint, which includes Millisle, Donaghadee, Newtownards and Bangor. There is no age limit either way! Our programme is enjoyed by all, and we have a cup of tea at every meeting which allows the members to catch up with news, and to make new friendships.....

People do not stop being lonely at any time of the year, so we meet every month on the first Tuesday all year round. Our December meeting is usually a fun meeting/party with entertainers, a sing song, and a party with small treats. All meetings start at 2 pm and finish any time after 3.30 so that members can return home before dark.

We had a 3-day short break last September at the Burrendale Hotel near Newcastle. Those who went on the break are eagerly looking forward to this year's treat!!

For more details contact me, Mary Cargill on 028 91474098 or email [marycargill3955@gmail.com](mailto:marycargill3955@gmail.com)

## **Mojos Club**

Mojos was set up when the slimming group disbanded a few years ago. We were lucky to have been left with the scales! So the group continued to meet every Wednesday morning. Numbers have dwindled in recent times but there is still a small group of us who meet at 9.30am, weigh ourselves, have a coffee and chat. We pay our subs and every so often, as well as donating to the church, we are able to donate to local charities. This last year we gave to the Air Ambulance, RNLI and SANDS.

Elaine Lester

## **Scrabble Club**

This year our Scrabble Club celebrates 15 years of fun on a Wednesday afternoon! We still have some of our original members. There are now a faithful group of 10 players who regularly attend. Everyone is welcome to join us in the hall on Wednesdays at 2pm.

Elaine Lester

## **Silver Spurs Line Dancing Club**

Silver spurs Linedancing Club has been running for 29 years. We have still a lot of the original dancers still dancing on a Wednesday night. It's a fun class and it's good for exercising our brains learning a new dance every night.

We do run charity dances 3 times a year and so far have raised over £30,000 over the years. It has been a great way to make friends and keep fit. The class is from 8pm to 9pm on a Wednesday night.

Gillian Quinn

## **Chess Club**

Now running for 58 years, our Chess Club meets on Thursday nights at the Canon Tyney Hall (at this location since 1998). We have expanded to 67 members over this past year, with almost half the members under 18. Our weekly sessions also support many chess players with disabilities, both physical and mental, ranging from members with Schizophrenia to about 15 members with ASD. We offer the club as a safe social space for people to play a game without social awkwardness. We work very hard to make every member feel special and project a happy positive atmosphere.

Brendan Jamison,  
Club President

## **Walking for Softies**

It's a bit of a misnomer really. We don't "walk" as such. Not like our more serious friends locally, who make one out of breath just by reading about their energetic exploits around the Province.

No. We are more like "strollers". Relaxed, even laid back in our general approach to exercise, yet serious about the good coffee and scones afterwards, and the great craic that comes from enjoying each others' company in friendly surroundings.

During 2023 we visited some great places, such as Hillsborough Forest Park, Antrim Castle Gardens, the Quoile Pondage and Finnebrogue Estate near Downpatrick, and the spectacular Montalto Estate outside Ballynahinch.

Our numbers have grown because we always welcome new friends. If you'd like to consider joining us at any time, whether to stroll or simply for the refreshments afterwards, just speak to us and we'll be delighted to help you. No car or worried about driving? Don't worry, lifts are easily arranged.

Ian + Zandra

### **Crafty Stitchers**

Crafty Stitchers is a small, informal group that meets most Wednesdays from 2 to 4pm in the Maxwell Hall. We have quilters, knitters and crocheters, but members are free to do whatever they want, sewing or stitching related.

Although we do not offer formal tuition, most of us have attended quilting/ sewing classes and are very happy to share our knowledge and experience with members. Some of us knit, crochet or sew for charities.

We are very keen to welcome new members. This is a very friendly, supportive group and of course tea, coffee and snacks are always provided. For more information contact Susan on 07867 782 395.

### **Safeguarding Trust**

It is the policy of Groomsport church to protect young people and vulnerable adults from harm or abuse, whether mental or physical, while on our Church premises, and to ensure a safe secure environment for all who use our halls.

We adopt the Church of Ireland code of good practice for ministry.

Our Safeguarding Panel were appointed in 2023 and comprise three lay people and our Minister. Kate Murray, Stephen McCullough and Christine Dellar were appointed by the Vestry and have undergone training from the diocesan team. All have access clearance. Their photos and contact details are displayed on the notice boards in Church and in our halls. Any incident or accident, whether deemed to be small or not must be reported to a panel member where it will be investigated and dealt with, in total confidence.

# The Parish Archives

The Parish of Groomsport Archives are a full record of the Parish from its creation as a Chapel of Ease in 1842. In addition, items pertaining to the village and district are also included.

Any archive should be supplied with every document, photograph or otherwise formatted item which pertains to the organisation which it represents. This should happen as a matter of course. The Parish Archives are no different.

The Parish Archives Catalogue presently numbers over 500 entries, many of which contain multiple items. Amongst these can be found:

1. Select Vestry Minutes from 1871 to 2022. There are earlier volumes from 1842, presently held in Dublin.
2. Baptismal Registers from 1876 to 2004 and Marriage Registers from 1869 to 1982. These Registers have all been digitised and are available for enquiries.
3. A Photographic Archive of Groomsport heritage from 1800's to the present. This includes photos of the contents of Cackle Row.
4. A collection of Bibles and Prayer Books from 1796 to the present. These include lectern Bibles presented by parishioners and some special editions. The theological library in the Parish Halls is part of this collection.
5. The Visitors Book in the Church Porch. This is part of the Archive collection. Since it was installed in 2016 it has been signed by visitors from every continent on Earth.
6. A full photographic record of all major events/features which have taken place in the Parish since 2014, together with numerous earlier items. Photographs are a vital part of any archive. Please supply them or ask for them to be taken at events.

The Archives can provide the present with information and support but it must also ensure that generations yet unborn will know from where they have come and to what they belong. That's where every one of us comes in – the young, the middling and the . . . beyond middling !!

Let us record the past, preserve the present and thus guide the future.

*D.B.G.*

# Accounts

Groomsport Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>				
<u>Income</u>				
Freewill Offering	37,616		39,837	
Subscriptions	30,399		30,221	
Offertory	2,240		2,798	
Income Tax Refunds	15,235		14,592	
Investment Income	1,611		1,509	
Sundry Income	7,174		16,423	
Progressive B S interest	1,819		311	
Donations to Church Hall (note 2)	7,112		5,948	
Donations to Church (inc legacies)	12,515		9,023	
		115,721		120,662
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries Allowances & Pensions	49,885		51,443	
Insurances	3,324		3,154	
Church Electricity	1,658		1,331	
Church Gas	8,528		6,380	
Printing, Stationery & Postage	3,830		2,483	
Telephone	1,369		1,174	
Choir	367		158	
Sunday School	113		69	
Diocesan Charges	10,094		8,798	
Bank Charges	463		456	
Water Rates	331		551	
Incidental Expenses	7,472		13,143	
Rectory account	13,000			
Repairs & renewals	12,981			
Hall Electricity	2,129		1,280	
Hall Gas	3,404		2,150	
Hall Repairs	5,589		30,804	
		124,537		123,374
Gross Surplus/Deficit		<u>-8,816.00</u>		<u>-2,712</u>
Net Donations to Charity (note 3)		-2,723.00		-718
Fund Raising		4,414.00		3,627
Increase/Decrease in Value of Investments		-284.00		2,329
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<u>-7,409</u>		<u>2,526</u>

Groomspport Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

**Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Rectory At Cost		395,000		395,000
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Bank Account		7,340		15,703
<u>Long Term Assets</u>				
C of I Unit Trust Fund	12,988		12,714	
Share Investments	15,295		15,853	
Progressive B S	54,053		52,233	
		82,336		80,800
		484,676		491,503
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Church Bank Balance				
Sundry Creditor (note 1)	1,224			
Net Current Liabilities		-1,224		-642
Total assets less current		483,452		490,861
Represented By:				
General Reserve Fund		483,452		490,861

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO GROOMSPORT PARISH CHURCH  
Year Ended 31st December 2023

We have examined the financial records of Church of Ireland, Groomspport Parish Church.

On the basis of the information provided to us we have found that the attached accounts to be an accurate reflection of the financial position of the parish as at 31st December 2023.

An audit has not been carried out.

Stephen Bowman FAIA, FFA

## Groomsport Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

<u>Rectory Account</u>	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Net Rent Received	0		0	
Transfer from Church	13,000		9,740	
Airtricity refund	90		0	
		<u>13,090</u>		<u>9,740</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
<u>Landlord Registration</u>				
Repairs				
Ground Rent				
Rates	2,694		937	
Bank Charges	35		40	
Surveyor fees	0		675	
Russell and Co	153		9,958	
Boilerservice and repair	0		416	
Electric	216		49	
Oil	0		527	
Grass cutting	0		300	
Boiler service	0		50	
East Down Construction	18,729		0	
Gas and repairs	1,609		0	
Flooring	1,000		0	
Painting	1,500		0	
Inspection report	720		0	
Sundry Expenses	922		0	
		<u>27,578</u>		<u>12,952</u>
Net Income		-14,488		-3,212
Opening Balance		15,494		18,661
		<u>1,006</u>		<u>15,449</u>
Balance on Bank Account		1,006		<u>15,449</u>
Progressice BS Bonds				
Progressive BS Savings Account				
Payment to Church Account				
		<u>1,006</u>		<u>15,449</u>

## Groomsport Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

<b>Notes To The Accounts</b>	2023	2022
<b><u>1. Sundry Creditors</u></b>		
<u>Accountancy</u>	210	484
HMRC/PAYE	1014	613
	<b>1,224</b>	<b>1,097</b>
<b><u>2. Hall Donations</u></b>		
Gardening Club	250	200
Groomsport Masonic Lodge	300	200
Chattering Needles	185	130
Line Dancers	1,150	813
Orlock residents	0	110
Scrabble Club	270	190
Chess Club	770	900
Bangor Chess Club	300	0
Bangor Art Club	480	385
Mojo Club	295	500
Bridge Club	0	400
Big Sale	0	100
Groomsport Art Club	85	50
Tuesday Club	70	100
Sewing Club	0	170
Crafty Club	552	100
Thai Chi	340	0
Pilates	255	0
Long Story TV	100	0
Rising Stars	260	0
Groomsport residents	40	0
Birthday Party	40	0
Ashley Medical Centre	1,370	1,600
	<b>7,112</b>	<b>5,948</b>

<b>3. Charitable Activities</b>		
<b><u>Special Collections/Donations</u></b>		
Christmas Appeal	0	838
Christingle	121	0
OMA Uganda	1,519	108
Ukraine	0	122
Bishops Appeal	600	756
CMSI	509	1,009
	<b>2,749</b>	<b>2,833</b>
<b>4. Charitable Donations</b>		
Christingle	150	0
SOS NI	0	450
Alzheimers Society	300	0
JDRF	300	0
OMA Foundation	1,522	0
RNLI	300	0
CMSI	1,100	650
Combat Stress	300	0
MND Association	300	0
NI Childrens Hospice	0	200
NI Hospice	0	900
Ukraine	0	200
Bishops Appeal	600	751
Those in Need	600	400
	<b>5,472</b>	<b>3,551</b>

## Groomspout Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

<u>Building Fund Account (Danske Ban</u>	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Opening Balance		944
Transferred from Church Account	0	
Bank interest		
Transfer from Progressive		
	<u>0</u>	<u>944</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Transferred to Church account	0	292
Interest and Fees	0	15
Plans for New Store	0	
Surveyor Fees	0	5
	<u>0</u>	<u>944</u>
<u>Fundraising</u>		
<u>Income</u>		
Book Fair	255	0
Quiz	588	301
Xmas High Tea	1,824	2,276
BBQ Fun Day	0	1,050
Christmas Fundraising	0	0
Ladies Breakfast	515	0
Coronation Tea	26	0
Easter Egg Sale	15	0
Mothers Day	17	0
Christmas Sale	1,174	0
	<u>4,414</u>	<u>3,627</u>
<u>Building Fund - Progressive BS</u>		
Balance at 1st January 2023		23,747
Monthly Subscriptions	4,771	340
Interest	174	23
		<u>24,110</u>
Withdrawals to Building Fund		
Balance	<u>29,055</u>	<u>24,110</u>

**BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103258

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# Annual return

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Groomsport Parish Church Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

**Income and Expenditure**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Freewill Offering		37,616		39,837
Subscriptions		30,399		30,221
Offertory		2,240		2,798
Income Tax Refunds		15,235		14,592
Investment Income		1,611		1,509
Sundry Income		7,174		16,423
Progressive B S interest		1,819		311
Donations to Church Hall (note 2)		7,112		5,948
Donations to Church (inc legacies)		12,515		9,023
		115,721		120,662
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries Allowances & Pensions		49,885		51,443
Insurances		3,324		3,154
Church Electricity		1,658		1,331
Church Gas		8,528		6,380
Printing, Stationery & Postage		3,830		2,483
Telephone		1,369		1,174
Choir		367		158
Sunday School		113		69
Diocesan Charges		10,094		8,798
Bank Charges		463		456
Water Rates		331		551
Incidental Expenses		7,472		13,143
Rectory account		13,000		
Repairs & renewals		12,981		
Hall Electricity		2,129		1,280
Hall Gas		3,404		2,150
Hall Repairs		5,589		30,804
		124,537		123,374
Gross Surplus/Deficit		-8,816.00		-2,712
Net Donations to Charity (note 3)		-2,723.00		-718
Fund Raising		4,414.00		3,627
Increase/Decrease in Value of Investments		-284.00		2,329
Net Surplus (Deficit)		-7,409		2,526

**BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103258

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# Accounts

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to publicly thank my wife Janice. Janice keeps a low profile, mainly because of her disability. You would be surprised at her strength, by her encouragement of me in my ministry and the sacrifices she has made to support me in my work. I owe her so much, and because I owe her so much, so do you. Without her, I wouldn't be me!

2021/2022 have been great years for this Parish. I believe that to be so because everything we have done this past year, has been done in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus. Every project we have undertaken, everyone we have supported, everything, EVERYTHING, has been rooted in prayer. May that life of prayer, and that desire to do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus, carry us through to 2023.

*Duncan*

Groomspoint Parish Church

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Income and Expenditure Account

	2022		2021
	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>			
Freewill Offering	39,837		41,577
Subscriptions	30,221		29,249
Offertory	2,798		2,294
Income Tax Refunds	14,592		14,694
Investment Income	1,509		1,801
Sundry Income	16,423		25,989
Progressive B S interest	311		313
Donations to Church Hall (note 2)	5,948		2,300
Donations to Church (inc legacies)	9,023		7,240
	<hr/>		<hr/>
		120,662	125,457
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Salaries Allowances & Pensions	51,443		73,410
Insurances	3,154		2,968
Church Electricity	1,331		396
Church Gas	6,380		2,295
Printing, Stationery & Postage	2,483		2,509
Telephone	1,174		859
Choir	158		110
Sunday School	69		72
Diocesan Charges	8,798		8,150
Bank Charges	456		347
Water Rates	551		252
Incidental Expenses	13,143		4,348
Hall Electricity	1,280		891
Hall Gas	2,150		1,260
Hall Repairs	30,804		15,628
	<hr/>		<hr/>
		123,374	113,495
Gross Surplus / Deficit		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-2,712	11,962
Net Donations to Charity (note 3)		-718	- 5,223
Fund raising		3,627	2,129
Increase/Decrease in Value of Investments		2,329	3,422
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
		2,526	12,290

Groomspoint Parish Church

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Rectory At Cost		395,000		34,698
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Bank account		15,703		16,272
<u>Long Term Assets</u>				
C of I Unit Trust Fund	12,714		12,714	
Share Investments	15,853		13,524	
Progressive B S	52,233		51,922	
		<u>80,800</u>		<u>78,160</u>
		491,503		129,130
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Sundry Creditors (note 1)	642		1,096	
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		<u>-642</u>		<u>- 1,096</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>490,861</u>		<u>128,034</u>
Presented By:				
General Reserve Fund		<u>490,861</u>		<u>128,034</u>

Accountants Report

We have examined the financial records of Church of Ireland, Groomspoint Parish church.

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

An audit has not been carried out.

Stephen Bowman FCA, FFA

Rectory Account

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Net Rent Received		0		10,535
Trans From Church		9,740		-
Bank Interest		0		10
		<u>9,740</u>		<u>10,545</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Landlord Registration				70
Repairs				-
Ground Rent				-
Rates	937		2,330	
Bank Charges	40		7	
Surveyor fees	675		-	
Russell & Co	9,958			
Boiler service and repair	416			
Electric	49			
Oil	527			
Grass cutting	300			
Boiler service	50		50	
Sundry Expenses	0			-
		<u>12,952</u>		<u>2,457</u>
Net Income		-3,212		8,088
Opening Balance		<u>18,661</u>		<u>10,573</u>
		<u>15,449</u>		<u>18,661</u>
Balance On Bank Account		15,499		18,661
Progressive BS Bonds				9,466
Progressive BS Saving Acc				
Payment to Church Account				
		<u>15,499</u>		<u>28,127</u>

**Building Fund Account (Danske Bank)**

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Balance at 1 January		944		948
Transferred from Church Acc				
Bank Interest			1	
Transfer from Progressive BS				1
		<u>944</u>		<u>949</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Transferred to Church account		929		
Interest and Fees		15		
Plans For New Store				
Surveyor Fees	5		5	
		<u>944</u>		<u>944</u>
Balance at 31 December		<u>0</u>		<u>944</u>

**Fund Raising**

<b>Income</b>		
Book sales	0	75
Quiz	301	
High Tea	2,276	
BBQ Fun day	1,050	
Christmas Fundraising		2,054
	<u>3,627</u>	<u>2,129</u>

**Building Fund - Progressive BS**

Balance at 1 January		23,747		21,339
Monthly Subscriptions	340		2,380	
Interest	23		23	
		<u>24,110</u>		<u>23,747</u>
Withdrawals to Building Fund				
Balance		<u>24,110</u>		<u>23,747</u>

**Notes To The Accounts**

	2022	2021
<b>1. Sundry Creditors</b>		
<u>Accountancy</u>	273	484
HMRC/PAYE	369	613
	<u>642</u>	<u>1,097</u>
<b>2. Hall Donations</b>		
Gardening Club	200	100
Groomsport Masonic Lodge	200	200
Chattering Needles	130	
Line dancers	813	
Orlock residents	110	
Scrabble club	190	
Chess club	900	
Bangor Art club	385	
Mojo club	500	
Bridge club	400	
Big sale	100	
Parish Art club	50	
Tuesday club	100	
Sewing club	170	
Crafty club	100	
Ashley Medical Centre	1,600	2,000
	<u>5,948</u>	<u>2,300</u>
<b>3. Charitable Activities</b>		
<u>Special Collections</u>		
Christmas Appeal	838	1,670
Harvest Appeal		893
Retirement Collections		605
OMA Uganda	108	30
Ukraine	122	
Bishops Appeal	756	
Smartie Tubes (CMSI)	1,009	
	<u>2,833</u>	<u>3,198</u>
<b>4. Charitable Donations</b>		
GULU Uganda		400
YMCA		400
Water Aid		1,000
Assisi		111
Little Princess Trust		400
Aware NI		400
SOS NI	450	450
Alzheimers's Society		450
JDRF		400
Christian Guidelines		400
ADD NI		400
CMSI	650	1,000
Air Ambulance		800
NI Children's Hospice	200	2,000
NI Hospice	900	
Ukraine	200	
Bishops Appeal	751	
Those in Need	400	
	<u>3,551</u>	<u>8,611</u>

**BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103258

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# Annual report

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12 As there were more than 12 names, an election had to take place. The following were elected to the Select Vestry for the coming year: Dorothy Anne Crawford, Stephen McCullough, Heather Pentland, Gary Keenan, Barry Greenaway, Ken Boyd, Florence McAneney, Dorothy McKnight, Helen Parkinson, Jim Love, Kate Murray, Maureen Taggart.

13 The Rector concluded with the words, "Let all bitterness and evil speaking be put away. Be kind to one another." This should be the motivation for the coming year.

Please note.

At last year's General Vestry, the Accounts for the year 1 January – 31 December were adopted. Shortly after General Vestry, it became clear that the Balance sheet of the accounts was incorrect. Simple human error had led to the wrong figures being presented to the General Vestry. The new Select Vestry was informed at their second Vestry meeting on 4 April and were given the correct figures, which they adopted.

## Rector's Remarks

What a year! This last year has proved as challenging as the last, in some ways more so. We moved away from the harshness of lockdown and virtual services, to a slow, very slow return to normality. We did get back into Church, but not unnaturally, numbers were well down on our pre-covid congregations. The Select Vestry recognized the need to continue our recorded services to help with those who were reluctant to return to in-person worship. Unfortunately, it was at this time that we lost the services of Stuart Tanner as our organist. Many people have wondered what happened to Stuart. Suffice to say we, both myself and the Select Vestry, had a disagreement with Stuart over working practices. Try as we might, (and we did try very hard), the differences could not be resolved. As was his right as a freelance organist, Stuart decided to leave us. Stuart is a consummate musician and something of a polymath. As we all know, Stuart wasn't shy in sharing his opinions and knowledge with us! We owe him much and we do, I really do wish him well.

To close this chapter of our life. We were able to secure the services of John Dallas, the Director of Music at Cregagh Presbyterian Church in the short term, and then for a little longer as he continued to play for our recordings. John brought a different style of playing to our recordings and it was a joy to work with him. Meanwhile, like the Seventh Cavalry, Maurice Drury and Vanessa Smith came galloping over the hill to fill the gap left by Stuart. Maurice is now our principal organist, still employed on a freelance basis, and Vanessa his deputy. We have noticed the gentle change in style. I hope, too, that we have recognized the emergence of Jubilate, a new group of singers who have added to our worship at Christmas last, and at Candlemas a few weeks ago. Jubilate is Vanessa's brainchild, wonderfully supported by Maurice. Thank you both. I should at this point extend our thanks to Amanda, without whom the recordings of services might never have happened. And I think it true to say that Amanda's flagging our services up on YouTube, has brought us a small, but truly global audience!

Towards the end of last year, we moved away from recorded services to

to live streaming our main act of Sunday worship. We have to thank the Select Vestry for grasping this particular nettle, and for finding the funds to make it happen. It has proved to be a big investment in time and money. We can now broadcast directly from Church and also from this building. And finally, the Select Vestry has taken the decision to install a large screen in this Hall so that on those occasions, when it is appropriate, (large funerals for example) we can “beam” services into this Hall.

None of this has happened by accident. Select Vestry meetings have been hard-working affairs, and many difficult decisions have been made. Two of these decisions will be discussed later in this meeting. Perhaps the most difficult decision was the decision to visit again the differing roles we have as members of the Select Vestry. There are certain tasks, jobs, that have to be done, say by the Glebe Wardens. I am the worst at interfering with their jobs: a chap came to service our fire extinguishers and alarm system. He’d been before and I recognized him and told him to crack on. Not my job and I should have checked with the Glebe Wardens, because what I didn’t know was that we had a contract with a different company to do that job. Perhaps not a great mistake, but it did cost us twice for the same work, and, who knows, in a different context it could have caused huge embarrassment. Undertaken by my Warden, Mae Burke and a small sub-committee, a digest was put with all the roles of the Church examined and detailed. If you would like something done in the Church or the Halls, that digest will tell you exactly who to go to. We are slowly returning to normal. All our services are now held in Church. We are back to our “normal” Schedule of Sunday services, and although there has been a temporary pause in our mid-week evening Service and bible study, that, too, recommenced after Christmas.

You will see from the accounts that we have been able to be wonderfully generous in our charitable giving. The figure shown is the figure for the remainder of 2020 as well as the donations for 2021. Even so, It is a tribute to your generosity, and the Select Vestry’s thoughtfulness that we have been able to make such disbursements. I can’t thank you enough. Those who know me will know that I hate talking about money

with it. Fortunately, we have two people on the vestry much more worldly wise than I; Florence Macaneney our Treasurer, who not only keeps a brilliant record of our income and Expenditure, but also makes us aware of our financial limitations when we get ahead of ourselves. We also have Barry Greenaway, who has an ability to conjure up money from who knows where in the form of grant aid. Again, even a cursory glance at our accounts will show that we are in a healthy position, thanks be to God.

Last year’s minutes record my thanks to so many people. It is a heart felt catalogue of names of people who have made such a huge contribution to my life and the life of our lovely Church and Parish. Those thanks still stand, but I would like to single out in particular this year, six people who have added so much to my life as well as yours. First, of course, are the two Church Wardens, Mae and Gary. Because of covid and its aftermath, they have had to change the way they carry out their Church duties. They have done so with great grace, respect and integrity. As ever, over the last year, I have come to rely upon the help and friendly counsel of the Vestry Secretary. There is now a well worn saying about talking truth to power. Heather has not just been a minute taker at vestry meetings, she has always been a source of great experience, telling me when to stop and take time for myself and Janice; when I proved reluctant to take that advice, she has presented me with a series of fait accompli which makes me take time off, for myself and Janice. Amanda in the office keeps me aware of life in the village, and life in the Parish. She reminds me of jobs I have to do and when I am tardy in getting things done, she never tells me off! And I would like to thank Kenneth Boyd. Ken does so much behind the scenes for us. Maybe you haven’t stopped to consider who it is that stuffs the envelopes with Parish magazines and correspondence or licks the stamps. Ken does so much more than that. And I am particularly grateful to Ken for acting as my personal chauffeur this past couple of weeks.

Thank you, Mae, Gary, Heather, Amanda, and you Ken. Gary of course stands down as your People’s Warden this year, and I’d like you to show your appreciation of his work amongst us. I said six people. I want

to publicly thank my wife Janice. Janice keeps a low profile, mainly because of her disability. You would be surprised at her strength, by her encouragement of me in my ministry and the sacrifices she has made to support me in my work. I owe her so much, and because I owe her so much, so do you. Without her, I wouldn't be me!

2021/2022 have been great years for this Parish. I believe that to be so because everything we have done this past year, has been done in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus. Every project we have undertaken, everyone we have supported, everything, EVERYTHING, has been rooted in prayer. May that life of prayer, and that desire to do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus, carry us through to 2023.

*Duncan*

Groomspoint Parish Church

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Income and Expenditure Account

	2022		2021
	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>			
Freewill Offering	39,837		41,577
Subscriptions	30,221		29,249
Offertory	2,798		2,294
Income Tax Refunds	14,592		14,694
Investment Income	1,509		1,801
Sundry Income	16,423		25,989
Progressive B S interest	311		313
Donations to Church Hall (note 2)	5,948		2,300
Donations to Church (inc legacies)	9,023		7,240
	<hr/>		<hr/>
		120,662	125,457
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Salaries Allowances & Pensions	51,443		73,410
Insurances	3,154		2,968
Church Electricity	1,331		396
Church Gas	6,380		2,295
Printing, Stationery & Postage	2,483		2,509
Telephone	1,174		859
Choir	158		110
Sunday School	69		72
Diocesan Charges	8,798		8,150
Bank Charges	456		347
Water Rates	551		252
Incidental Expenses	13,143		4,348
Hall Electricity	1,280		891
Hall Gas	2,150		1,260
Hall Repairs	30,804		15,628
	<hr/>		<hr/>
		123,374	113,495
Gross Surplus / Deficit		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-2,712	11,962
Net Donations to Charity (note 3)		-718	- 5,223
Fund raising		3,627	2,129
Increase/Decrease in Value of Investments		2,329	3,422
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
		2,526	12,290

**BANGOR/Groomsport/Groomsport Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103258

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# Annual return

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Groomspoint Parish Church

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Rectory At Cost		395,000		34,698
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Bank account		15,703		16,272
<u>Long Term Assets</u>				
C of I Unit Trust Fund	12,714		12,714	
Share Investments	15,853		13,524	
Progressive B S	52,233		51,922	
		<u>80,800</u>		<u>78,160</u>
		491,503		129,130
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Sundry Creditors (note 1)	642		1,096	
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		<u>-642</u>		<u>- 1,096</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>490,861</u>		<u>128,034</u>
Presented By:				
General Reserve Fund		<u>490,861</u>		<u>128,034</u>

Accountants Report

We have examined the financial records of Church of Ireland, Groomspoint Parish church.

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

An audit has not been carried out.

Stephen Bowman FIAA, PFA

Rectory Account

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Net Rent Received		0		10,535
Trans From Church		9,740		-
Bank Interest		0		10
		<u>9,740</u>		<u>10,545</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Landlord Registration				70
Repairs				-
Ground Rent				-
Rates		937		2,330
Bank Charges		40		7
Surveyor fees		675		-
Russell & Co		9,958		
Boiler service and repair		416		
Electric		49		
Oil		527		
Grass cutting		300		
Boiler service		50		50
Sundry Expenses		0		-
		<u>12,952</u>		<u>2,457</u>
Net Income		-3,212		8,088
Opening Balance		18,661		10,573
		<u>15,449</u>		<u>18,661</u>
Balance On Bank Account		15,499		18,661
Progressive BS Bonds				9,466
Progressive BS Saving Acc				
Payment to Church Account				
		<u>15,499</u>		<u>28,127</u>