

# Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104375

## Details

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**Known as** Sinclair Seamen's

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2016-08-05

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

## Contact

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**Address** 87 Dunlambert Drive  
Belfast  
BT15 3nf  
BT15 3NF

**Phone** 02890289876

## Activities

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**Purposes:** THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world

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

**How the charity works:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£237,004	£264,227	£0	1

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Billy Greer		
Mr Aaron Duff		
Mr Samuel John Heading		
Rev Dr.Bill Parker		
William Johnston		

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**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Accounts

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*SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND*

*Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2024*

**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.*

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

*Sinclair Seamen's congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Corporation Square Belfast BT1 3AJ  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)*

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

*The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were*

*Mr William Johnston  
Mr Samuel John Heading  
Mr Aaron Duff  
Mr William Greer  
Rev Dr William Parker*

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

*Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer*

*Rev Dr William Parker  
Mr William Johnston  
Mr David Carlisle*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

*Mr Roy Eakin*

**BANKERS**

*Ulster Bank, York Road, Belfast*

**CHURCH SOLICITORS**

*Hewitt & Gilpin, Holywood Road, Belfast*

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£49,851	£25,583	£0	£75,434	£197,188
Charitable activities	3	£1,208	£0	£0	£1,208	£234
Other trading activities	4	£5,250	£0	£0	£5,250	£5,400
Investment Income	5	£1,454	£0	£0	£1,454	£1,362
Other	6	£0	£152,400	£0	£152,400	£50
Organisations		£0	£1,258	£0	£1,258	£1,303
Sale of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sale of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loans Received		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£57,763</b>	<b>£179,241</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£237,004</b>	<b>£205,537</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£603	£0	£0	£603	£607
Charitable activities	8	£57,080	£201,532	£0	£258,612	£65,798
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other	9	£1,356	£2,293	£0	£3,649	£1,307
Organisations		£0	£1,363	£0	£1,363	£1,477
Purchase of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Purchase of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loan Repayments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£59,039</b>	<b>£205,188</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£264,227</b>	<b>£69,189</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		-£1,276	-£25,947	£0	-£27,223	£136,348
Transfers between funds		-£201,202	£201,202	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		-£202,478	£175,255	£0	-£27,223	£136,348
Funds brought forward		£500,625	£51,942	£0	£552,567	£416,219
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£298,147</b>	<b>£227,197</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£525,344</b>	<b>£552,567</b>

Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )  
Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	500,625	51,942	0	£552,567	£416,219
Net movement in funds	-£202,478	£175,255	£0	-£27,223	£136,348
Bank and Cash at end of year	<b>£298,147</b>	<b>£227,197</b>	0	<b>£525,344</b>	<b>£552,567</b>

**Bank & Cash Balances**

Bank Current Account - General				£209,456	£413,032
Bank Current Account - Property				£226,658	£51,298
Nationwide Building Society				£88,691	£87,593
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				£539	£644
			Sub total	£525,344	£552,567
Endowment Funds				£0	£0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£525,344</b>	<b>£552,567</b>

**Other Assets**

Fixed Assets - **Note 10**

Church Premises

Fixtures and Fittings

Vehicles

Investments - GIF - **Note 11**

Gift Aid receivable on donations

Other assets

£10,049      £9,595  
£10,219      £8,758

**Liabilities**

Loans

Other liabilities

0      0  
0      0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on *Wednesday* 12th *February* 2025 and signed on its behalf by

*Mr. Aaron Duff*

*Mr. William Johnston*

*12th February 2025*

*12th February 2025*

**Sinclair Seamen's Prersbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Financial Statements**

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**Fund Accounting**

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Recorded givings	£39,018	£16,049	£0	<b>£55,067</b>	52,393
Loose collections	£2,936	£703	£0	<b>£3,639</b>	4,546
Donations and gifts	£0	£5,509	£0	<b>£5,509</b>	3,814
Gift Aid	£6,897	£3,322	£0	<b>£10,219</b>	8,758
Legacies and bequest	£1,000	£0	£0	<b>£1,000</b>	127677
	<b>£49,851</b>	<b>£25,583</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£75,434</b>	<b>£197,188</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**3. Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income: Presbyterian Herald	£220	£0	£0	£220	£234
Fees from weddings and funerals	£988	£0	£0	£988	£200
Fundraising events	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Membership fees	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Grants	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£1,208</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,208</b>	<b>£434</b>

**4. Other Trading Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Letting of premises	£0	£0	£0	£0	£150
Vodafone	£5,250	£0	£0	£5,250	£5,250
	<b>£5,250</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£5,250</b>	<b>£5,400</b>

**5. Investment Income**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Nationwide Deposit interest	£1,098	£0	£0	£1,098	£1,082
General Investment Fund	£356	£0	£0	£356	£280
Rents investment properties	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other investment income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£1,454</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,454</b>	<b>£1,362</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**6. Other Income**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
GRANT: Congregational Charity Trust	£0	£20,000	£0	£20,000	0
GRANT: Benefact Trust	£0	£12,400	£0	£12,400	0
GRANT: Esme Michael Trust	£0	£10,000	£0	£10,000	0
GRANT: Garfield Weston Trust	£0	£50,000	£0	£50,000	0
GRANT: National Church Trust	£0	£60,000	£0	£60,000	0
Insurance claims	£0	£0	£0	0	£0
Court Payment	£0	£0	£0	0	£50
	<b>£0</b>	<b>£152,400</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£152,400</b>	<b>£50</b>

**7. Raising Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FWO envelopes	£603	£0	£0	£603	£607
Fundraising	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£603</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£603</b>	<b>£607</b>

**8. Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General Assembly Assessments	£10,520	£0	£0	£10,520	9,463
Presbytery fees	£426	£0	£0	£426	330
Ministry and support staff costs	£35,056	£0	£0	£35,056	31,170
Congregational running expenses	£10,606	£1,013	£0	£11,619	12,500
Stone Work Project/Repairs	£0	£190,565	£0	£190,565	0
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£9,954	£0	£9,954	11,719
Bank Charges	£164	£0	£0	£164	173
Sunday School Expenses	£18	£0	£0	£18	153
Governance Costs	£290	£0	£0	£290	290
	<b>£57,080</b>	<b>£201,532</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£258,612</b>	<b>£65,798</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**9. Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricte Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Insurance Repairs	£0	£2,293	£0	£2,293	0
Presentations	£0	£0	£0	£0	0
Gifts	£1,356	£0	£0	£1,356	1,307
	<b>£1,356</b>	<b>£2,293</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£3,649</b>	<b>£1,307</b>

**10. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Corporation Square, Belfast BT1 3AJ and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery.

The congregation also own the Church manse situated at 11 Meadow Dale, Newtownabbey BT37 OUT. These have an insurance value of :

Church Hall Building & Contents	£758,880	
Church Building & Contents	£2,978,085	<b>Total value</b>
Church Manse	£572,977	<b>£4,309,942</b>

**11. Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2024 £	2023 £
General Investment Fund at market valuation	£10,049	£9,595
Property	£0	£0
Other investments	£0	£0
	<b>£10,049</b>	<b>£9,595</b>

Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
 Year ended 31 December 2024

**12. Fund Balances**

	Balance at start £	Receipts £	Payment £	Surplus / (Deficit) £	Transfers £	Balance at end £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Ulster Bank General Fund	£413,032	£56,665	£59,039	-£2,374	-£201,202	£209,456
Nationwide Building Society	£87,593	£1,098	£0	£1,098	£0	£88,691
	<b>£500,625</b>	<b>£57,763</b>	<b>£59,039</b>	<b>-£1,276</b>	<b>-£201,202</b>	<b>£298,147</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Stone Restoration Scheme	£0	£152,400	£190,565	-£38,165	£200,000	£161,835
Property/Buildind Fund	£51,298	£16,631	£3,106	£13,525	£0	£64,823
Mission - U. A.	£0	£4,242	£5,244	-£1,002	£1,002	£0
Open Doors Mission	£0	£2,650	£2,650	£0	£0	£0
Earl Haig Fund	£0	£214	£214	£0	£0	£0
Tear Fund	£0	£896	£896	£0	£0	£0
Moderators Appeal E/quake	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Our Daily Bread Ministries	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Belfast City Mission	£0	£450	£450	£0	£0	£0
Royal National Lifeboat	£0	£500	£500	£0	£0	£0
Harvest of the Sea Service	£0	£0	£200	-£200	£200	£0
Organisations	£644	£1,258	£1,363	-£105	£0	£539
	<b>£51,942</b>	<b>£179,241</b>	<b>£205,188</b>	<b>-£25,947</b>	<b>£201,202</b>	<b>£227,197</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>						
(Name of Fund)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£552,567</b>	<b>£237,004</b>	<b>£264,227</b>	<b>-£27,223</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£525,344</b>

	Valuation at Start	Revaluation Increase.	Revaluation at End
General Investment Fund	£9,595	£454	£10,049

General Investment Fund: 720 Shares Fixed Asset  
 Market Share Value @ 31st Dec 2024: £13,957ea.

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Accounts

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**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

***Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2023***

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)**

**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Sinclair Seamen's congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Corporation Square Belfast BT1 3AJ  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

Mr William Johnston  
Mr Samuel John Heading  
Mr Aaron Duff  
Mr William Greer  
Rev Dr William Parker

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer

Rev Dr William Parker  
Mr. William Johnston  
Mr. David Carlisle

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

**Mr. Roy Eakin**

**BANKERS**

**Ulster Bank York Road Belfast**

**CHURCH SOLICITORS**

**Hewitt & Gilpin, Holywood Road Belfast**

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£177,571	£19,617	£0	£197,188	£70,750
Charitable activities	3	£234	£0	£0	£234	£425
Other trading activities	4	£5,400	£0	£0	£5,400	£5,250
Investment Income	5	£1,362	£0	£0	£1,362	£1,398
Other	6	£0	£50	£0	£50	£106
Organisations		£0	£1,303	£0	£1,303	£1,216
Sale of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sale of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loans Received		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£184,567</b>	<b>£20,970</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£205,537</b>	<b>£79,145</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£607	£0	£0	£607	£607
Charitable activities	8	£51,919	£13,879	£0	£65,798	£62,566
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other	9	£1,307	£0	£0	£1,307	£2,326
Organisations		£0	£1,477	£0	£1,477	£1,225
Purchase of Investments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Purchase of fixed assets		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Loan Repayments		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£53,833</b>	<b>£15,356</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£69,189</b>	<b>£66,724</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		£130,734	£5,614	£0	£136,348	£12,421
Transfers between funds		-£1,759	£1,759	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		£128,975	£7,373	£0	£136,348	£12,421
Funds brought forward		£371,650	£44,569	£0	£416,219	£403,798
Funds carried forward	12	<b>£500,625</b>	<b>£51,942</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£552,567</b>	<b>£416,219</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	371,650	44,569	0	£416,219	£403,798
Net movement in funds	<b>£128,975</b>	<b>£7,373</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£136,348</b>	<b>£12,421</b>
Bank and Cash at end of year	<b>£500,625</b>	<b>£51,942</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£552,567</b>	<b>£416,219</b>

**Bank & Cash Balances**

Bank Current Account - General			£413,032		£285,138
Bank Current Account - Property			£51,298		£43,751
Nationwide Building Society			£87,593		£86,512
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations			£644		£818
			Sub total		£552,567
Endowment Funds			£0		£0
			<b>Total</b>		<b>£552,567</b>

**Other Assets**

**Fixed Assets - Note 10**

Church Premises

Fixtures and Fittings

Vehicles

Investments - GIF - Note 11

Gift Aid receivable on donations

Other assets

	£9,595			£8,799
	<b>£8,757</b>			<b>£10,133</b>

**Liabilities**

Loans

Other liabilities

	0			0
	0			0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on Tuesday 23-01-2024 and signed on its behalf by

Name: Mr. William Greer

Name: Mr. Aaron Duff

Date 23-01-2024

Date: 23-01-2024

**Sinclair Seamen's Prersbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Financial Statements**

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**Fund Accounting**

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Recorded givings	£39,976	£12,417	£0	£52,393	55,301
Loose collections	£3,843	£703	£0	£4,546	4,755
Donations and gifts	£0	£3,814	£0	£3,814	561
Gift Aid	£6,510	£2,248	£0	£8,758	10,133
Legacies and bequests	£127,242	£435	£0	£127,677	0
	<b>£177,571</b>	<b>£19,617</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£197,188</b>	<b>£70,750</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**3. Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income: Presbyterian Herald	234	0	0	234	225
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	0	0	0	200
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>£234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£234</b>	<b>£425</b>

**4. Other Trading Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Letting of premises	150	0	0	150	0
Vodafone	5,250	0	0	5,250	5,250
	<b>£5,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£5,400</b>	<b>£5,250</b>

**5. Investment Income**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Nationwide Deposit interest	1,082	0	0	1,082	1,107
General Investment Fund	280	0	0	280	291
Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>£1,362</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£1,362</b>	<b>£1,398</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**6. Other Income**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance claims	0	0	0	0	0
DCMS-Scheme (Vat Return)	0	0	0	0	106
Court Payment	0	50	0	50	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£106</b>

**7. Raising Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
FWO envelopes	607	0	0	607	607
Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>£607</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£607</b>	<b>£607</b>

**8. Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General Assembly Assessments	£9,463	£0	£0	£9,463	9,066
Presbytery fees	£330	£0	£0	£330	388
Ministry and support staff costs	£31,170	£0	£0	£31,170	29,226
Congregational running expenses	£10,340	£2,160	£0	£12,500	13,873
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£11,719	£0	£11,719	9,539
Bank Charges	£173	£0	£0	£173	102
Sunday School Expenses	£153	£0	£0	£153	132
Governance Costs	£290	£0	£0	£290	240
	<b>£51,919</b>	<b>£13,879</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£65,798</b>	<b>£62,566</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity (Receipts and Payments Account)**  
**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**9. Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance Repairs	£0	£0	£0	£0	0
Presentations	£0	£0	£0	£0	450
Gifts	£1,307	£0	£0	£1,307	1,876
	<b>£1,307</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,307</b>	<b>£2,326</b>

**10. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Corporation Square, Belfast BT1 3AJ and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery.

The congregation also own the Church manse situated at 11 Meadow Dale, Newtownabbey BT37 0UT.

These have an insurance value of:

Church Hall Building & Contents	£722,743	
Church Building & Contents	£2,836,272	<b>Total value</b>
Church Manse	£545,693	<b>£4,104,708</b>

**11. Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2023 £	2022 £
General Investment Fund at market valuation	9,595	8,799
Property	0	0
Other investments	0	0
	<b>£9,595</b>	<b>£8,799</b>

Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Year ended 31 December 2023

12. Fund Balances

	Balance at start	Receipts	Payment	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Transfers	Balance at end
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Ulster Bank General Fund	£285,138	£183,486	£53,833	£129,653	-£1,759	£413,032
Nationwide Building Society	£86,512	£1,081	£0	£1,081	£0	£87,593
	£0					£0
	<b>£371,650</b>	<b>£184,567</b>	<b>£53,833</b>	<b>£130,734</b>	<b>-£1,759</b>	<b>£500,625</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance of Property	£43,751	£9,707	£2,160	£7,547	£0	£51,298
Mission -U.A.	£0	£4,119	£5,478	-£1,359	£1,359	£0
Open Doors Mission	£0	£2,913	£2,913	£0	£0	£0
Earl Haig Fund	£0	£259	£259	£0	£0	£0
Tear Fund	£0	£1,324	£1,324	£0	£0	£0
Moderators Appeal E/quake	£0	£495	£495	£0	£0	£0
Our Daily Bread Ministries	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Belfast City Mission	£0	£400	£400	£0	£0	£0
Royal National Lifeboat	£0	£450	£450	£0	£0	£0
Summer Serve Rwanda	£0	£0	£400	£0	£400	£0
Organisations	£818	£1,303	£1,477	£0	£0	£644
	<b>£44,569</b>	<b>£20,970</b>	<b>£15,356</b>	<b>£5,614</b>	<b>£1,759</b>	<b>£51,942</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>						
(Name of Fund)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£416,219</b>	<b>£205,537</b>	<b>£69,189</b>	<b>£136,348</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£552,567</b>

	Valuation at Start	Revaluation Increase	Revaluation at End
General Investment Fund	£8,799	£796	£9,595

General Investment Fund: 720 Shares Fixed Asset  
Market Share Value @ 31st Dec 2023: £13,3269ea.

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Annual report

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*SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S  
CONGREGATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND*

*Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023*

*Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)*

**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.*

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

*Sinclair Seamen's congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Corporation Square Belfast BT1 3AJ  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)*

**CHARITY TRUSTEES**

*The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were*

*Mr William Johnston  
Mr Samuel John Heading  
Mr Aaron Duff  
Mr William Greer  
Rev Dr William Parker*

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

*Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer*

*Rev Dr William Parker  
Mr William Johnston  
Mr David Carlisle*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

*Mr Roy Eakin*

**BANKERS**

*Ulster Bank, York Road, Belfast*

**CHURCH SOLICITORS**

*Hewitt & Gilpin, Hollywood Road, Belfast*

## **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **The Kirk Session**

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community.

The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote. Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least seven times in each year or when required.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of the votes cast.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 the congregation was saddened by the death of Mr William Chambers, an esteemed ruling elder, former Clerk of Session, and trustee of Sinclair Seamen's.

### **Presbytery**

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Sinclair Seamen's congregation has been assigned to the North Belfast Presbytery. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

## **The General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted annually for a number of days in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Sinclair Seamen's is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a reformed Church within the wider body of Christ, is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to the world.

As part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the congregation at Sinclair Seamen's believes that the Bible, God's Word, is the supreme authority over all we do.

The congregation's mission/purpose statement is *Anchored in the Word. Gathering for Worship. Scattering to Serve. Being Disciples. Making Disciples* and this is based around what Jesus Christ, the sole Head of the Church, said were the two greatest commandments and what He gave as the one great commission.

### **The Two Greatest Commandments**

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ...  
"Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40)*

### **The One Great Commission**

*"... go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ..."  
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

**In light of these significant words, Sinclair Seamen's mission and purpose is to bring glory to God by being anchored in God's Word, gathering to worship, scattering to serve, being disciples, and making disciples.**

### **Anchored in God's Word**

The Bible is the standard by which we live our lives.

### **Gathering to Worship**

At Sinclair Seamen's our main gatherings for worship take place on Sundays. Our worship is regulated by how God prescribes He is to be worshipped in the Bible.

### **Scattering to Serve**

*After gathering on the Lord's Day (Sunday) we then scatter to where God has placed us, in His Divine providence, in order to serve Him in our daily lives by loving Him and loving all other people.*

### **Being Disciples**

*We serve Him by placing ourselves under the discipline of the Lord Jesus' teaching, which is found in the Bible, and so, by God's grace, live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ wherever we are.*

### **Making Disciples**

We seek to obey the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples so that people of all ages may become His fully devoted followers.

## **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation normally meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are made most welcome. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is normally observed on at least five occasions during the year and all those who have made credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are invited to partake. In addition to its weekly acts of public worship the congregation normally has a range of other activities including:

Midweek fellowship for Bible study, discussion and prayer

Sunday School

Presbyterian Women

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Occasional Choir

Occasional Praise Group

Our historic Church Building opens each week (or by arrangement) for visitors and tours

Outreach to young people who use Belfast Urban Sports Park close to the Church Building

iCafé for international students studying at the nearby university campus.

Annual Summer Bible Club for pre-school and primary school age children

Annual Christmas Bible Club for pre-school and primary school age children

Participation in the annual European Heritage Open days

Participation in the annual Maritime Festival

Participation in other community events as appropriate

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

### **Worship and Prayer**

The congregation meets for worship twice each Sunday - at 11:00am in the Church building and at 6:30pm in the Lower Hall of our Church Hall complex. On Sunday mornings throughout 2023 as we worshipped God, we completed an exposition of the book of the Acts of the Apostles then began an exposition of the book of Romans. On Sunday evenings, in a less formal setting, we worshipped God and finished our exposition of the book of Philippians before beginning an exposition of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7). During the summer months, and taking a break from the book of Philippians, we worked through Mark chapter 1 verses 1-34 in both morning and evening worship, dealing with topics such as Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit, Demon Possession, Divine Healing. On Sunday evenings opportunity is given to the congregation to discuss the exposition of God's Word after the sermon just prior to a time of open prayer.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there were 45 communicant members and 195 families connected to the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was around 40 people and attendance at evening worship averaged around 14 persons.

On Sunday mornings during 2023 when we gathered for worship, on occasions the praise group helped lead the congregation in worship. We are grateful to Mr Jonathan Burnside who, on occasion, helped us in morning worship by playing the church organ in the absence of our organist, Mrs Esther Parker, who was fulfilling speaking engagements in her role as Presbyterian Women President.

### **Midweek Meetings**

Meeting in our Lower hall, the first part of the year was given over to completing our series *Will Build My Church – Twenty Centuries of Church History and Counting*. Then, as part of rolling out our Navigating Our Way (NOW) strategy (see below), we undertook the four-week add-on optional course on *The Peacemaking Church*. [We had worked through the core course in 2022.] Sixteen people enrolled for the course and it concluded with our last midweek of the Church year on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Following the summer recess, midweeks recommenced in October 2023 and we began a study of the book of Job. This study took the format of a DVD presentation followed by discussion and working through accompanying study material. An average of 13 people attended our midweek services.

### **2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The congregation held its AGM on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Lower Hall. The first half of the evening was given over to formal reports by Mr Bill Johnston (Clerk of Session), Mr David Carlisle (Treasurer), and Rev Dr Bill Parker (Minister). The church accounts were accepted by those attending after they were explained, proposed and seconded. The second half of the evening consisted of having some savoury snacks followed by a table quiz and a Beetle Drive. All in attendance had a very enjoyable evening.

### **Pastoral care**

Routine general pastoral visitation of members and adherents of the congregation took place throughout 2023. It is the Minister's aim to visit every family in the congregation at least once during the year, in addition to any necessary reactionary pastoral care. Members of the Kirk Session, the Church Committee, and congregation, also provided general and reactionary pastoral support through telephone calls and/or pastoral visits.

### **Mission and Outreach**

**Uganda (Waakisa).** Two members of the congregation travelled to Uganda in November 2023 to serve with Waakisa Ministries, an organisation that seeks to provide care and support to young, vulnerable women who are pregnant and alone, and that delivers health education programmes to local schools and churches in Uganda. This was the first time this ministry was able to be undertaken since Covid restrictions were lifted.

**Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland (CEF).** One young person from our fellowship was a leader in a Summer Camp organised by CEF.

**Belfast City Council Bridges Urban Sports Park.** Weekly outreach to the Belfast City Council-operated Bridges Urban Sports Park carried on with its normal pattern. The Minister and another member of the congregation continued to forge relationships with the young people by spending time with them in the Sports Park, normally each Saturday afternoon. Numbers attending the Urban Sports Park have declined as a result of the opening of 'Skate 100 @ V36', a new 14,000 square foot, £750,000 EU peace funded urban sports facility at the Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey, in May 2022. However, sufficient numbers still make use of 'Bridges' to justify our regular ministry.

**Summer Outreach.** The Minister and a member of the congregation were well received in door-to-door visitation, in Pilot Street, Princess Dock Street, and Short Street, to inform parents and children of a planned open-air 4-Day Club for pre-school and primary school aged children, from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The first night of the club took place in Barrow Square, a paved performance area close to our Church premises. However, because of rain on the following two nights the club was conducted in a replica tram shelter in Princess Dock Street. The final night of the club, when we enjoyed hot dogs and other snacks, was held across the street from the tram shelter in St Joseph's Community Centre, kindly granted. A total of fourteen children attended the club, some accompanied by a parent.

**Christmas Outreach.** In December 2023, and as a follow-up to our summer 4-Day Club, we held a one-off Christmas Club in St Joseph's, the deconsecrated Chapel that is now a community centre, in Princess Dock Street. Once again, the Minister and another member of the congregation were well received in door-to-door visitation, in Pilot Street, Princess Dock Street, and Short Street, to inform parents and children of this event, and fifteen children and young people turned up on the night, along with two parents. A team of five from Sinclair's, together with the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland Local Director, conducted the club. Each child went home with a 'goody' bag.

**iCafé.** We continue to have a close association with iCafé, a weekly ministry to international students studying at Ulster University, Belfast campus. After initially meeting weekly in our Lower Hall, the Christian Union Committee decided to mainly relocate to social space in the main campus building, and use our halls on occasion. The Minister visits iCafé weekly in order to maintain regular contact with the students and to build relationships. The iCafé evenings that took place in our Lower Hall were well-attended, one of which was a Christmas dinner in December 2023 when thirty plus students enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal. We are thankful to God that iCafé ministry continues to enable us as a congregation to reach out to students in the Cathedral Quarter and we look forward to developing this ministry in the future.

**University of Ulster Belfast Campus Christian Union.** The Minister was invited, as a result of developing relationships mainly through iCafé ministry, to speak at two events in 2023: a

regular Thursday night meeting of the Christian Union and at a student lunch organised by the Christian Union Evangelism Committee.

**“The Captain’s Galley” Student Lunches.** After consulting the Queen’s University Presbyterian Chaplain, and others including some students, about what might be effective ministry to engage with university students, we decided to begin a monthly free student lunch served in our Lower Hall. The first “Captain’s Galley”, a title based on a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ in Hebrews chapter 2 verse 10, was held in November and was followed up with another one in December. Publicity material was designed by a graphics designer student from the Ulster University Belfast campus Christian Union. We hope to continue to develop this ministry.

**Review of Tenure.** The tenure of Sinclair Seamen’s Presbyterian Church was due for review in 2022 but the Covid-19 pandemic pushed the review back. In December 2022 North Belfast Presbytery appointed a panel to conduct a review throughout 2023. The panel brought a very encouraging & supportive report to North Belfast Presbytery in November 2023, which Presbytery enthusiastically embraced and supported. The report was then forwarded to the Linkage Commission and we await their decisions.

## **Organisations and Facilities**

**Volunteers.** The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees, helping with organisations and other church activities, show pastoral concern for members of the congregation, and generally, do what needs to be done in connection with our fellowship.

**Presbyterian Women (PW).** The Presbyterian Women group met on eight occasions in 2023. Meetings were varied, some using themed resources provided for groups, some addressed by outside speakers, some including practical activities, all aiming to build one another up in our faith and to build relationships. Average attendance was 17. The group, along with the rest of the congregation, continued to prayerfully support the group leader, Mrs Esther Parker, as she completed her year (22/23) as President of Presbyterian Women. Mrs Parker and two others represent the group at the PW Presbytery LINK where Mrs Parker is also part of the organising group.

The WhatsApp group **SNAP** (Sinclair’s News And Prayer), comprising 25 persons, continues to be an invaluable means of keeping in touch, sharing items of news, praise, and sharing items for prayer.

**X.** The Church X (formerly Twitter) account *@SinclairsChurch* has 120 followers and continues to be a means of informing the wider community of church services, church events and news in general concerning the congregation.

**Church website.** *www.sinclairschurch.co.uk* also continues to operate for regular church services updates, announcements and contact points. Links to the 65 weekly recorded services that were uploaded to YouTube in 2020 and 2021, and that are on Sinclair's YouTube channel, *Sinclair's Church*, are still available on the home page of the Church website and folk are encouraged to revisit them or watch them for the first time. The number of views continues to increase.

**Donations.** The congregation continues to be generous in supporting the wider work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland together with other missionary organisations and charities – the United Appeal of the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women (PW) Mission Fund, Open Doors, Tear Fund, Earl Haig Fund, Northern Ireland Hospice, and Christmas gifts to the elderly and families within our parish. The United Appeal, a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College (the Church's training college for ministry students and Deaconesses) and financially supports congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care. The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and other special appeals.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the seven meetings of North Belfast Presbytery in 2023 – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November, and 5<sup>th</sup> December – by its Minister, Rev Dr Parker and one of its ruling elders, Mr Bill Johnston, the Clerk of Session. Presbytery provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

The 2023 annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland took place in Assembly Buildings, Belfast from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The Minister, Rev Dr Bill Parker, attended a number of sessions, as did our nominated representative elder, Mr Billy Greer.

## **Property**

The Church property has been regularly maintained.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. (FWO). There were 99 contributors during the year [101 in previous year, 2023 donating a total of £39,967 [decrease of £1,724 on the previous year, 2022 (£41,691). Total Income of the congregation during the year was £78,295 + £127,242 bringing the total income to £205,537 compared to £79,145, in the previous year 2022. Total expenditure Increased from £66,724 to £69,189

### **Bequests**

The Sum of £127,241.73 was received from the Estate of the Late May Armstrong

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregation's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signed: *W Green*

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Signed: *A Duff*

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: ... Roy Eakin  
Occupation ... Retired Bank Official  
Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland  
... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. BT38 8XH  
Date: ... 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Accounts

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*SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND*

*Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31st December 2022*

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	£53,223	£17,527	£0	£70,750	£66,336
Charitable activities	3	£425	£0	£0	£425	£0
Other trading activities	4	£5,250	£0	£0	£5,250	£5,250
Investment Income	5	£1,398	£0	£0	£1,398	£1,382
Other	6	£0	£106	£0	£106	£0
Organisations		£0	£1,216	£0	£1,216	£818
Sale of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loans Received		0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£60,296</b>	<b>£18,849</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£79,145</b>	<b>£73,786</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	£607	£0	£0	£607	£572
Charitable activities	8	£50,358	£12,208	£0	£62,566	£66,279
Investment costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other	9	£2,326	£0	£0	£2,326	£274
Organisations		£0	£1,225	£0	£1,225	£808
Purchase of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loan Repayments		0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£53,291</b>	<b>£13,433</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£66,724</b>	<b>£67,933</b>
Net receipts / (payments)		£7,005	£5,416	£0	£12,421	£5,853
Transfers between funds		-£1,011	£1,011	£0	£0	£0
Net movement in funds		£5,994	£6,427	£0	£12,421	£5,853
Funds brought forward		£365,656	£38,142	£0	£403,798	£397,945
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£371,650</b>	<b>£44,569</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£416,219</b>	<b>£403,798</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	£365,656	£38,142	£0	£403,798	£397,945
Net movement in funds	<b>£5,994</b>	<b>£6,427</b>	£0	£12,421	£5,853
Bank and Cash at end of year	<b>£371,650</b>	<b>£44,569</b>	£0	<b>£416,219</b>	<b>£403,798</b>

**Bank & Cash Balances**

Bank Current Account - General	£285,138	£280,251		
Bank Current Account - Property	£43,751	£37,198		
Nationwide Building Society	£86,512	£85,405		
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations	£818	£944		
	Sub total	£416,219	£403,798	
Endowment Funds		£0	£0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£416,219</b>	<b>£403,798</b>	

**Other Assets**

**Fixed Assets - Note 10**

Church Premises				
Fixtures and Fittings				
Vehicles				
Investments - GIF - Note 11	£8,799	£9,587		
Gift Aid receivable on donations	£10,133	£8,445		
Other assets				

**Liabilities**

Loans	0	0
Other liabilities	0	0

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on Wednesday 8th February 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Name: Mr William Greer

Name: Mr Samuel Heading

Date 8th February 2023

Date: 8th February 2023

**Sinclair Seamen's Prersbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Financial Statements**

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**Fund Accounting**

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Recorded givings	£41,691	£13,610	£0	<b>£55,301</b>	<b>£49,432</b>
Loose collections	£4,137	£618	£0	<b>£4,755</b>	<b>£5,443</b>
Donations and gifts	£200	£361	£0	<b>£561</b>	<b>£2,832</b>
Gift Aid	£7,195	£2,938	£0	<b>£10,133</b>	<b>£8,445</b>
Legacies and bequests	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>	<b>£184</b>
				<b>£0</b>	
	<b>£53,223</b>	<b>£17,527</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£70,750</b>	<b>£66,336</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**3. Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Income: Presbyterian Herald	£225	0	0	£225	0
Fees from weddings and funerals	£200	0	0	£200	0
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
Membership fees	0	0	0	0	0
Grants - Urban Mission Trust	0	0	0	0	0
				0	
	<b>£425</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£425</b>	<b>£0</b>

**4. Other Trading Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Letting of premises	0	0	0	0	0
Vodafone	£5,250	0	0	£5,250	£5,250
	<b>£5,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£5,250</b>	<b>£5,250</b>

**5. Investment Income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Nationwide Deposit interest	£1,107	0	0	£1,107	£1,102
General Investment Fund	£291	0	0	£291	£280
Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>£1,398</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,398</b>	<b>£1,382</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**6. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
VAT Refund	0	£106	0	£106	0
Other income	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>£106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£106</b>	<b>0</b>

**7. Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	£607	0	0	£607	£572
	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>£607</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£607</b>	<b>£572</b>

**8. Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	£9,066	£0	£0	£9,066	£9,778
Presbytery fees	£388	£0	£0	£388	£490
Ministry and support staff costs	£29,226	£0	£0	£29,226	£25,435
Congregational running expenses	£11,204	£2,669	£0	£13,873	£11,531
Donations to Missions and Charities	£0	£9,539	£0	£9,539	£10,158
Bank Charges	£102	£0	£0	£102	£154
Sunday School Expenses	£132	£0	£0	£132	£153
Church Building Survey	£0	£0	£0	£0	£8,580
Governance Costs	£240	£0	£0	£240	£0
	<b>£50,358</b>	<b>£12,208</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£62,566</b>	<b>£66,279</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**9. Other Expenditure**

	Unrestrictec Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Presentations	£450	0	0	£450	£210
Vodaphone: Cost of Living' Gifts	£1,876	0	0	£1,876	£64
	<b>£2,326</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£2,326</b>	<b>£274</b>

**10. Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at Corporation Square, Belfast BT1 3AJ and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery.

The congregation also own the Church manse situated at 11 Meadow Dale, Newtownabbey BT37 OUT.

These have an insurance value of :

	£	Total value £
Church Hall Building & Contents	£672,319	£3,818,332
Church Building & Contents	£2,638,392	
Church Manse	£507,621	

**11. Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2022 £	2021 £
General Investment Fund at market valuation	£8,799	£9,587
Property	0	0
Other investments	0	0
	<b>£8,799</b>	<b>£9,587</b>

**Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**12. Fund Balances**

	Balance at start £	Receipts £	Payment £	Surplus/ (Deficit) £	Transfers £	Balance at end £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
Ulster Bank General Fund	£280,251	£59,189	£53,291	£5,898	-£1,011	£285,138
Nationwide Building Society	£85,405	£1,107	£0	£1,107	£0	£86,512
	<b>£365,656</b>	<b>£60,296</b>	<b>£53,291</b>	<b>£7,005</b>	<b>-£1,011</b>	<b>£371,650</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance of Property	£37,198	£9,222	£2,669	£6,553	£0	£43,751
Mission: United Appeal	£0	£3,995	£4,923	-£928	£928	£0
Open Doors Mission	£0	£2,912	£2,912	£0	£0	£0
Earl Haig Fund	£0	£162	£162	£0	£0	£0
Tear Fund	£0	£1,142	£1,142	£0	£0	£0
Royal National Lifeboat	£0	£200	£200	£0	£0	£0
Our Daily Bread	£0	£0	£200	-£200	£200	£0
Organisations	£944	£1,216	£1,225	-£9	-£117	£818
						£0
	<b>£38,142</b>	<b>£18,849</b>	<b>£13,433</b>	<b>£5,416</b>	<b>£1,011</b>	<b>£44,569</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>						
(Name of Fund)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£403,798</b>	<b>£79,145</b>	<b>£66,724</b>	<b>£12,421</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£416,219</b>

	Valuation at Start £	Revaluation Decrease £	Revaluation at End £
General Investment Fund	£9,587	£788	£8,799

**General Investment Fund: 720 Shares Fixed Asset**

**Market Share Value @ 31st Dec 2021: £13.3155 ea. 31st Dec 2022 : £ 12.2209 ea.**

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Annual report

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**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S  
CONGREGATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)**

**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.*

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

*Sinclair Seamen's congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Corporation Square Belfast BT1 3AJ  
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104375)*

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

*The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were*

*Mr William Johnston  
Mr William Chambers (deceased 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022)  
Mr Samuel John Heading  
Mr Aaron Duff  
Mr William Greer  
Rev Dr William Parker*

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev Dr William Parker</i>
<i>Clerk of Session</i>	<i>Mr William Johnston</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr David Carlisle</i>

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

*Mr Roy Eakin*

## **BANKERS**

*Ulster Bank, York Road, Belfast*

## **CHURCH SOLICITORS**

*Hewitt & Gilpin, Hollywood Road, Belfast*

## **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **The Kirk Session**

*The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community.*

*The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.*

*The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote. Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held at least seven times in each year or when required.*

*To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of the votes cast.*

*On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 the congregation was saddened by the death of Mr William Chambers, an esteemed ruling elder, former Clerk of Session, and trustee of Sinclair Seamen's.*

### **Presbytery**

*Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Sinclair Seamen's congregation has been assigned to the North Belfast Presbytery. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.*

## **The General Assembly**

*The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted annually for a number of days in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.*

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

*The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.*

*Sinclair Seamen's is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a reformed Church within the wider body of Christ, is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to the world.*

*As part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the congregation at Sinclair Seamen's believes that the Bible, God's Word, is the supreme authority over all we do.*

*The congregation's mission/purpose statement is Anchored in the Word. Gathering for Worship. Scattering to Serve. Being Disciples. Making Disciples and this is based around what Jesus Christ, the sole Head of the Church, said were the two greatest commandments and what He gave as the one great commission.*

### **The Two Greatest Commandments**

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ...  
"Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40)*

### **The One Great Commission**

*"... go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ..."  
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

## Gathering to Worship

At Sinclair Seamen's our main gatherings for worship take place on Sundays. Our worship is regulated by how God prescribes He is to be worshipped in the Bible.

## Scattering to Serve

*After gathering on the Lord's Day (Sunday) we then scatter to where God has placed us, in His Divine providence, in order to serve Him in our daily lives by loving Him and loving all other people.*

## Being Disciples

*We serve Him by placing ourselves under the discipline of the Lord Jesus' teaching, which is found in the Bible, and so, by God's grace, live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ wherever we are.*

## Making Disciples

We seek to obey the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples so that people of all ages may become His fully devoted followers.

## ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation normally meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are made most welcome. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is normally observed on at least five occasions during the year and all those who have made credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are invited to partake. In addition to its weekly acts of public worship the congregation normally has a range of other activities including:

Midweek fellowship for Bible study, discussion and prayer

Sunday School

Presbyterian Women

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Occasional Choir

Praise Group

Our historic Church Building opens each week (or by arrangement) for visitors and tours

Outreach to young people who use Belfast Urban Sports Park close to the Church Building

iCafe for international students studying at the nearby university campus.

Annual Summer Bible Club for pre-school and primary school age children

Annual Christmas Bible Club for pre-school and primary school age children

Participation in the annual European Heritage Open days

Participation in the annual Maritime Festival

Participation in other community events as appropriate

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

### Worship and Prayer

The congregation meets for worship twice each Sunday - at 11:00am in the Church building and at 6:30pm in the Lower Hall of our Church Hall complex. On Sunday mornings throughout 2022 as we worshipped God we continued with an exposition of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. On Sunday evenings, in a less formal setting, we worshipped God and finished our exposition of the book of Zechariah before beginning an exposition of the book of Philippians. On Sunday evenings opportunity is given to the congregation to discuss the exposition of God's Word after the sermon just prior to a time of open prayer.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 there were 47 communicant members and 173 families connected to the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was around 42 people and attendance at evening worship averaged around 16 persons. In the previous year, 2021, the averages were 43 persons and 18 persons respectively.

On Sunday mornings during 2022 when we gathered for worship, on occasions the praise group helped lead the congregation in worship. We are grateful to Mr Jonathan Burnside who, on occasion, helped us in morning worship by playing the church organ in the absence

of our organist, Mrs Esther Parker, who was fulfilling speaking engagements in her role as Presbyterian Women President.

### **Membership**

The Kirk Session admitted one person to full communicant membership of the congregation in March 2022.

### **Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child**

The congregation participated in a service of thanksgiving, in May 2022, for the birth of a child to parents from the congregation.

### **Midweek Meetings**

Throughout 2021, due to mitigations associated with Covid-19, we continued with our Thursday night ZOOM prayer meeting. These ZOOM meetings continued until March 2022. Our first in-person midweek of 2022 took place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. We met in the Lower Hall and commenced, as part of rolling out our Navigating Our Way (NOW) strategy (see below), an eight-week course on Biblical Peacemaking called *The Peacemaking Church*. Twenty-one people enrolled for the course and it concluded on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Following the summer recess midweeks recommenced in October 2022 and we picked up with our study, which had to be suspended because of the first Covid-19 lockdown, *I Will Build My Church – Twenty Centuries of Church History and Counting*. An average of 18 people attended our midweek services.

### **2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The congregation held its AGM on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in the Lower Hall. The first half of the evening was given over to formal reports by Mr Bill Johnston (Clerk of Session), Mr David Carlisle (Treasurer), and Rev Dr Bill Parker (Minister). The church accounts were accepted by those attending after they were explained, proposed and seconded. The second half of the evening consisted of having some savoury snacks followed by a table quiz and a Beetle Drive. All in attendance had a very enjoyable evening.

### **Pastoral care**

Regular general pastoral visitation of the congregation throughout the first eight months of 2022 was not undertaken due to the continuing presence of the Covid-19 virus and as a result of caution urged by the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. General and reactionary pastoral care by the Minister was undertaken mainly through telephone calls. However, since September 2022 the pre-Covid routine of general visitation of the members and adherents of the congregation was recommenced. Members of the Kirk Session, the Church Committee, and members of the congregation, also provided general and reactionary pastoral support through telephone calls and/or pastoral visits.

## Mission and Outreach

**Uganda (Waakisa).** Members of the congregation who normally travel to Uganda (Waakisa) in the summer of each year were again unable to undertake this ministry in 2022 due to issues surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland (CEF).** One young person from our fellowship was a leader in a Summer Camp organised by CEF.

**Belfast City Council Bridges Urban Sports Park.** Weekly outreach to the Belfast City Council-operated Bridges Urban Sports Park, not being hampered by any lockdowns in connection with Covid-19 for the first time in two years, recommenced its normal pattern. The Minister and another member of the congregation continued to forge relationships with the young people by spending time with them in the Sports Park, normally each Saturday afternoon. Numbers attending the Urban Sports Park have declined as a result of the opening of 'Skate 100 @ V36', a new 14,000 square foot, £750,000 EU peace funded urban sports facility at the Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey, in May 2022. However, sufficient numbers still make use of 'Bridges' to justify our regular ministry. The monthly event in Sinclair's Church halls that had been running for the Sports Park young people, and that was suspended since 2020 as a result of Covid-19 mitigations, has yet to recommence.

**Summer Outreach.** The Minister was well received in door-to-door visitation, in Pilot Street, Princess Dock Street, and Short Street, to inform parents and children of a planned open-air 3-Day Club for pre-school and primary school aged children, in June 2022. Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed due to a number of the volunteer team falling ill. The outreach eventually did take place in Barrow Square, a paved performance area close to our Church premises, in early September 2022 just prior to the children recommencing school. We had an average attendance of eight children each night with some of the children being accompanied by their parents. Over the three evenings we made contact with 16 different children and young people.

**Christmas Outreach.** In December 2022, and as a follow-up to our summer 3-Day Club, we held a one-off Christmas Club in St Joseph's, a deconsecrated Chapel that is now a community centre, in Sailortown. Once again, the Minister was well received in door-to-door visitation, in Pilot Street, Princess Dock Street, and Short Street, to inform parents and children of this event, and nine children and young people turned up on the night, along with some parents. A team of four from Sinclair's, together with the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland Local Director, conducted the club. Each child went home with a 'goody' bag.

**iCafé.** iCafé was an exciting new development for our congregation in 2022. For a number of years now, as a congregation, we have been attempting to establish a significant ministry among students in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast. We were privileged to accommodate and minister to the Belfast Campus Christian Union on a few occasions just prior to lockdown in 2020. However, with the completion of the Ulster University Belfast Campus greater opportunities arose. As a result of a meeting in Spring 2022 between Rev Dr Parker and Mr Andrew Morrow, Staff Worker with Friends International, a Christian charity seeking to grow friendship and faith with international students in Belfast, further conversations were had and it was decided to commence a weekly ministry to international students, based in Sinclair's church hall complex, in Autumn 2022. Subsequently, iCafé was launched on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The second meeting, and all subsequent meetings in 2022, took place on Tuesday nights and were organised and run as a corporate effort between volunteers from Sinclair's, a team from the Ulster University Belfast campus Christian Union, and Friends International (Mr Andrew Morrow). Prior to the first two Tuesday night meetings of iCafé Mr Morrow provided training for all involved on how to relate to international students and how to share the Gospel with them. The iCafé evenings were generally well-attended and on one occasion forty plus young people met in our halls. The year ended with a Christmas party at which Dr Parker was invited to speak. We are thankful to God that the iCafé ministry has enabled us as a congregation to reach out to students in the Cathedral Quarter and we look forward to developing this ministry in the future.

We were also thankful that we were able to host some events for the University of Ulster Belfast Campus Christian Union.

### **Navigating Our Way (NOW) – A Strategy**

A reminder of the background to this important document may be helpful. During the first long lockdown of 2020 an initial draft of the Navigating Our Way (NOW) strategy document was produced and was agreed by the Kirk Session. It set out Sinclair's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Ministry Strategy, plus eight strategy strands and objectives for the revitalisation of the congregation over the next three to five years. At three meetings in February and March 2021 the Kirk Session and the Church committee met to pray and to suggest action steps that could be taken in order to achieve the objective under each strategy strand. The Kirk Session took all the suggestions made and at an away-day in July 2021 agreed upon what were considered to be achievable action steps under each of the eight strategy strand objectives. At a special meeting in October 2021 the Kirk Session then walked through the final version of the document with the Church Committee, who had had significant input to it. As 2021 approached its final two months, as a leadership we began

implementing the agreed action steps of the NOW strategy document. This has continued throughout the year 2022.

A significant rolling out of one of the action steps of the NOW document took place from 31<sup>st</sup> March until 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. As mentioned above under the section on 'Midweek Meetings' we held an eight-week course on Biblical Peacemaking. Twenty-one people enrolled for the course and engaged in enthusiastic participation. A course workbook was provided, and principles of Biblical peacemaking were taught through lectures, drama, and discussion. The course had an optional add-on of four sessions and the group felt it would be profitable to hold them at some stage in the first half of 2023.

### **Organisations and Facilities**

**Volunteers.** The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees, helping with organisations and other church activities, show pastoral concern for members of the congregation, and generally, do what needs to be done in connection with our fellowship.

The all-age **Bowling Club**, because of changing circumstances of key leaders has had to close. The trustees would like to express their thanks to the leaders of the club, past and present, and to all who comprised its membership over the years, making it the enjoyable weekly event that it was.

**Presbyterian Women (PW).** The Presbyterian Women group met on eight occasions in 2022. Some meetings used themed resources provided for groups, some were addressed by outside speakers and two were social occasions, one of which had a devotional element. Average attendance was 17. The group, along with the rest of the congregation, has been prayerfully supporting the group leader, Mrs Esther Parker, in her year as President of Presbyterian Women, as they did in the three previous years while she served as Home Vice President. Mrs Parker and two others represent the group at the PW Presbytery LINK.

The WhatsApp group **SNAP** (Sinclair's News And Prayer), comprising 24 persons, continues to be an invaluable means of keeping in touch, sharing items of news, praise, and sharing items for prayer.

**Twitter.** The Church Twitter account @SinclairsChurch has 115 followers and continues to be a means of informing the wider community of church services, church events and news in general concerning the congregation.

**Church website.** [www.sinclairschurch.co.uk](http://www.sinclairschurch.co.uk) also continues to operate for regular church services updates, announcements and contact points. Links to the 65 weekly recorded services that were uploaded to YouTube in 2020 and 2021, and that are on Sinclair's

YouTube channel, *Sinclair's Church*, are still available on the home page of the Church website and folk are encouraged to revisit them or watch them for the first time.

**Donations.** The congregation continues to be generous in supporting the wider work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland together with other missionary organisations and charities – the United Appeal of the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women (PW) Mission Fund, Open Doors, Tear Fund, Earl Haig Fund, Northern Ireland Hospice, and Christmas gifts to the elderly and families within our parish. The United Appeal, a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College (the Church's training college for ministry students and Deaconesses) and financially supports congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care. The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and other special appeals.

### **Presbytery**

The congregation was represented at the seven meetings of North Belfast Presbytery in 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, and 6<sup>th</sup> December – by its Minister, Rev Dr Parker (who completed his year as Moderator of Presbytery at the March 2022 meeting) and one of its ruling elders, Mr Bill Johnston, the Clerk of Session. Presbytery provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

### **General Assembly**

The 2022 annual General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland returned to its normal time of year, taking place in Assembly Buildings, Belfast from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June until Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The Minister, Rev Dr Bill Parker, was unable to attend due to testing positive for Covid-19. However, the congregation was represented by a nominated representative elder, Mr Billy Greer. Our Clerk of Session, Mr Bill Johnston, was also able to attend the General Assembly having been nominated as a Presbytery Corresponding Representative for Rev Cheryl Meban, Chaplain University of Ulster (Jordanstown and Belfast).

## Property

The Church property has been regularly maintained.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

**SINCLAIR SEAMEN'S CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. (FWO). There were 101 contributors during the year [105 in previous year, 2022 donating a total of £41,691 [decrease of £396.00 on the previous year, 2021 (£42,087). Total Income of the congregation during the year was £79,145 compared to £73,786, in the previous year 2021. Total expenditure decreased from £67,993 to £66,724

Safety Testing and Replacement of equipment for Church Buildings as detailed below

The sum of £2,019 paid E. Wilson & Co Ltd steeplejacks for Testing and Replacement of Lighting Earth Protection Church Building

The Sum of £1,001 paid EES Services Belfast Replacement Testing and Fitting of New Fire Alarm Panel Church Building

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregations total Income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
and signed on its behalf by

Signed: Mr William Greer

Date: 08/02/2023

Signed Mr Samuel Heading

Date: 08/02/2023

**Sinclair Seamen's Congregation of the Presbyterian Church In Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104375

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: ... Roy Eakin  
Occupation ... Retired Bank Official  
Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland  
... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. BT38 8XH  
Date: ... 18/01/2023