

CLOUGH NON SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CASTLEWELLAN ROAD, CLOUGH, CASTLEWELLAN, COUNTY DOWN BT30
8RD
NI CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER - 104954
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2022 – 31st
DECEMBER 2022

PURPOSE

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

CONSTITUTION

The Church is governed by its Trust Deed and acts in accordance with The Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Church Services are conducted every Sunday at Clough except when the Church holds joint services with Ballee and Downpatrick Non-Subscribing Churches. Normal Sunday Services are held at 11.15am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month and at 9.45am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Sunday School takes places during each normal service after the 2nd hymn and the Youth Bible studies group normally meets after the 2nd hymn during the 11.15am services.

The joint services take place on the 5th Sunday of any month and every week during July and August, with each Church hosting the service in rotation. In 2022, a joint service was also held on Christmas morning in Clough.

Rev. Dr. David Steers was Minister in Charge of the Congregation from January – August 2022 with Rev Rosalind Taggart commencing as Minister of our Congregation from September 2022 following a successful call to the Church held in June 2022. Unfortunately Rev. Taggart's installation service planned in November 2022 was postponed but it is hoped that it will be rescheduled again in 2023.

SUMMARY OF 2022 PUBLIC BENEFIT

Normal services resumed in 2022 following the disruption that COVID restrictions had made in the preceding two years. Weekly services were the norm and during the months of July and August in conjunction with the congregations in Ballee and Downpatrick, the Churches held a joint service each week in rotation. Sunday School took place during term time and a Bible Studies class started in September 2022 for the older youth within the congregation.

Communion was held in our Church on 22 May 2022 and 20 November 2022 and our Harvest Thanksgiving service was held on 16 October 2022. The Sunday School led a Children's Easter service in April, a Children's Day service in June and in December the Sunday School led the annual Carol Service.

From spring 2022, the Church of Ireland in Seaforde, has used the Millennium Hall on a regular basis to run a weekly Parent and Toddler group. Since October 2022 the Millennium Hall has also been used by a local dance teacher to teach children's ballet and general dance for adults.

The Congregation also collected gifts for The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal which was well supported by members.

The congregation notes the passing of one member of the congregation in 2022. No baptisms or weddings were held in the Church in 2022.

In carrying out these activities throughout the year the Trustees have had regard to the public benefit in progressing the Church work to enrich the lives of Church members, their families, youth organisations, and the wider community.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank all those members of the Congregation who have contributed to the Church during 2022 by devoting their time and assisting with various matters throughout the year.

The Church is considered to be in sound financial standing at the close of the financial year ending 31st December 2022. There were no safeguarding issues in 2022.

This report is submitted on behalf of the Trustees of Clough Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church by Ruth Rooney, Trustee and Hon. Secretary.

Signed: Ruth Rooney

Dated: 6 June 2023