

# The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105701

## Details

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Status Received

Registered 2016-09-12

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

## Contact

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Address 50 Woodburn Park  
Londonderry  
Co. Londonderry  
Bt47 5ps  
BT47 5PS

Email [ian.bartlett@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.bartlett@btinternet.com)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** To promote a greater interest in the Cathedral, its traditions of worship and its history. To support the Dean, Chapter and Select Vestry in maintaining the fabric and furnishings of the Cathedral. The Friends are also asked to support the work and witness of the Cathedral by their prayers.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

**How the charity works:** Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Heritage/historical

**Who the charity helps:** General public,Interface communities,Men,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£15,349	£16,602	£0	0

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Muriel Kathleen Hamilton		
Mr David Ian Bartlett		
Mr Morris Forbes		
Mrs Rebecca Mace		

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Accounts

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# Saint Columb's Cathedral

## Londonderry

The Friends of the Cathedral  
Charity No. 105701

### Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions & Donations	2,448	1,099
Shop Sales	1,501	2,220
Grants	11,393	10,891
Bank Interest	7	7
Other		
Tour fees		
<b>A1 Sub total</b> (Gross income for the Annual Return)	<b>15,349</b>	<b>14,217</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,349</b>	<b>14,217</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>		
Concert, Recital, lectures and exhibition fees	830	2,000
Exhibition staging and graphics		1,718
Stationery and postage	736	152
Tourism costs	4,060	5,250
Advertising and printing	2,059	180
Cost of Sale for shop	42	167
Donations	1,070	290
Gratutities	300	300
Repairs & maintenance	2,299	1,036
Miscellaneous	316	323
Bank fees	38	35
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>11,752</b>	<b>11,451</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases</b>		
Signage	1,140	
Display cabinets	3,710	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,601.540</b>	<b>11,451</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 1,253</b>	<b>2,766</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	4,613	1,846
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>4,613</b>





# Saint Columba's Cathedral

Londonderry

The Friends of the Cathedral

Charity No. 105701

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Danske Bank account	3,360	4,613
		-	
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>4,613</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Date of approval	
		26/1/26	
		26.01.2026	

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Accounts

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# Saint Columba's Cathedral

Londonderry

The Friends of the Cathedral

Charity No. 105701

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions & Donations	1,099	1,328
Shop Sales	2,220	657
Grants	10,891	9,805
Bank Interest	7	6
Other		91
Tour fees		
<b>A1 Sub total</b> (Gross income for the Annual Return)	<b>14,217</b>	<b>11,887</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		
	<b>14,217</b>	<b>11,887</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>		
Concert, Recital, lectures and exhibition fees	2,000	2,200
Exhibition staging and graphics	1,718	
Heat and Light		2,000
Stationery and postage	152	46
Tourism costs	5,250	1,400
Advertising and printing	180	480
Cost of Sale for shop	167.00	252
Donations	290	120
Gratuities	300	680
Repairs & maintenance	1,036	1,196
Equipment Hire		
Miscellaneous	323	107
Bank fees	35	30
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>11,451</b>	<b>8,511</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases</b>		
Permanent Signage		710
Design of new reception desk		2,500
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,210</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		
	<b>11,451</b>	<b>11,721</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,680</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,613</b>	<b>1,846</b>



# Saint Columba's Cathedral

## Londonderry

**The Friends of the Cathedral**  
**Charity No. 105701**

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Danske Bank account	4,613	1,846
		0	
		0	0
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,613</b>	<b>1,846</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature *DS Bab*

[Redacted Box]

Date of approval *24/1/25*

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Annual report

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**The Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral**  
**Registered Charity No. NIC 105701**  
**Trustees Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024**

The objects of the Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral are to promote a greater interest in the Cathedral, its traditions of worship and history and to support the Dean, Chapter and Select Vestry in maintaining the fabric and furnishings. The Friends support the Cathedral's participation in the civic and cultural life of the City of Londonderry. They also support the Cathedral's Choirs which consists of approximately 12 male choristers, 20 Girl and 15 Boy Choristers. The choirs have members from all sections of the community and give public recitals both in the Cathedral and in other venues.

The Charity is based within the City of Londonderry but draws members from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The charity is governed by a board of trustees which meets regularly to agree a programme of events, manage the finances and ensure compliance to the constitution.

Saint Columb's Cathedral is the City of Londonderry's most historic building. It was built between 1628 and 1633 on the highest point within the walled city it attracts large numbers of visitors each year.

The Cathedral is seen as a shared space within the city and is used by many organisations for events. The Cathedral is a member of the Community of The Cross of Nails, based in Coventry Cathedral and is active in promoting peace and reconciliation.

In this financial period the cathedral is open to the public for visits on five days per week and at other times to hold recitals and exhibitions. "The Friends" have provided support by volunteering to guide visitors around the building and to assist at events. Our members are to be congratulated for their support in this and also for their ongoing help in assisting with the cleaning and maintenance of the building.

Recitals included one in July by the Cathedral's organist and three by visiting organists. In September the Cathedral organists and Boy Choristers gave a recital in support of the City Council's Culture Night, The choirs also performed at the special Advent events and at the Festival on Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

The Friends continued to support an ongoing project to preserve the Cathedral's archive of historic books and documents by paying for the repair, conservation and rebinding of a number of historic books and prints/paintings. This is the fifth consecutive year that this project has been financed by the charity.

Derry City & Strabane District Council have generously provided funding from their Heritage Venues Fund to assist with the cost of the various events and exhibitions. "The Friends" manage and account for the monies provided through these grants.

Donations were made to the Cathedral to assist with the general running costs and maintenance of the building and to pay a gratuity to the Assistant Organist who has undertaken the training of the Boy & Girl Choristers.

Financial support was provided for the design and construction of a major exhibition "The Treasures of Saint Columb's Cathedral" which was open to the public throughout 2023/2024. A special souvenir booklet was commissioned for this exhibition.

The Friends continue to maintain links with and co-operate with other bodies to promote the history and cultural activities which are held in the Cathedral. These include The North West Historical & Archaeological Society, Derry Central Library, The Derry Tower Heritage Group, Tourism NI, Derry City & Strabane District Council, The Friends of Derry's Walls, The Honourable The Irish Society and The Hervey Heritage Group. The City Council continues to use the Cathedral's spaces, both internal and external, to hold events.

We believe that people in general benefit from our various activities as we continue to make them aware of the importance of the role played by the Cathedral in society, of its history and heritage and of its outstanding cultural and musical traditions. We also support the musical and cultural traditions of other organisations by assisting with events held by them in the cathedral.

### **Finance**

As can be seen from our Receipts and Payments statement, the Friends ended the 2023/2024 Financial Year with a credit balance of £4613. The main sources of income were from Members Subscriptions, Donations, Shop Sales and Derry City & Strabane District Council grants. These monies were used for Tourism publications, exhibitions, event advertising and cultural events.

Income from members has been reduced due to the ongoing effects of the Covid restrictions.

### **Trustees**

The Trustees continue to be active in supporting the organisation and give of their time freely and often to ensure that the aims and objectives of "The Friends" are carried out in adherence to the constitution.

There were no changes to the membership of the Trustees.

### **Public Benefit**

As well as the public benefits indicated above, the Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. We have given careful consideration to the guidance to ensure that our activities have helped to achieve the charity's purpose and provide a benefit to our beneficiaries.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.

D I Bartlett  
10/01/25

M Hamilton  
10/01/25

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Annual return

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral. Registered Charity Number 105701**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**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 accounts 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: Zara Foster

Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA)

Address: 77 Westlake, Enagh, Londonderry, BT47 6WE

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Accounts

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# Saint Columba's Cathedral

## Londonderry

The Friends of the Cathedral  
Charity No. 105701

### Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions & Donations	1,328	460
Shop Sales	657	235
Grants	9,805	8,018
Bank Interest		7
Other	91	95
Tour fees	6	
<b>A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)</b>	<b>11,887</b>	<b>8,815</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		
	<b>11,887</b>	<b>8,815</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>		
Concert, Recital, lectures and exhibition fees	2,200	3,390
Heat and Light	2,000	
Stationery and postage	46	27
Advertising and printing	1,880	697
Cost of Sale for shop	252	
Donations	120	
Gratutities	680	600
Repairs & maintenance including book repair	1,196	1,534
Equipment Hire		2,316
Miscellaneous	107	631
Bank fees	30	11
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>8,511</b>	<b>9,206</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases</b>		
Permanent Signage	710	
Design of new reception desk	2,500	-
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		
	<b>11,721</b>	<b>9,206</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>- 391</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>2,071</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,680</b>

*Signed on behalf of the Trustees.*

*DS Bank - 29/1/2024  
Muriel J. Hamilton 29.01.2024*

The Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral  
Registered Charity No. NIC 105701

Assets & Liabilities for the Financial Year 2022/2023

Cash in hand & in Danske Bank 01/04.2022 (Unrestricted funds)	£1680
Cash in hand & in Danske Bank 31/03/2023 (Unrestricted funds)	£1846
Other assets. Permanent Signage	£710
Design of new reception desk	£2500
Liabilities	£0

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

D I Bartlett *D I Bartlett 29/1/2024*

M. Hamilton *Muriel Hamilton 29.01.2024.*

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Annual report

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**The Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral**  
**Registered Charity No. NIC 105701**  
**Trustees Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022/2023**

The objects of the Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral are to promote a greater interest in the Cathedral, its traditions of worship and history and to support the Dean, Chapter and Select Vestry in maintaining the fabric and furnishings. The Friends support the Cathedral's participation in the civic and cultural life of the City of Londonderry. They also support the Cathedral's Choir which consists of approximately 12 male choristers and 15 Boy Choristers. In the current financial year a Girls Choir was formed which has 18 members. The choirs have members from all sections of the community and give public recitals both in the Cathedral and in other venues.

The Charity is based within the City of Londonderry but draws members from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The charity is governed by a board of trustees which meets regularly to agree a programme of events, manage the finances and ensure compliance to the constitution.

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In this financial period the cathedral is open to the public for visits on three days per week and at other times to hold recitals and exhibitions. "The Friends" have provided support by volunteering to guide visitors around the building and to assist at events. Our members are to be congratulated for their support in this and also for their ongoing help in assisting with the cleaning and maintenance of the building.

Recitals included one in July by the Cathedral's organist and three by visiting organists. In September the Cathedral organists and Boy Choristers in support of the City Council's Culture Night, The choirs also performed at the special Advent events and at the Festival on Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

The Friends continued to support an ongoing project to preserve the Cathedral's archive of historic books and documents by paying for the repair, conservation and rebinding of a number of historic books. This is the fourth year that this project has been financed by the charity.

The cost of repairing and conserving two 17<sup>th</sup> Century "Siege" documents was met by the Friends.

Derry City & Strabane District Council have generously provided funding from their Heritage Venues Fund to assist with the cost of the various events and exhibitions. "The Friends" manage and account for the monies provided through these grants.

Donations were made to the Cathedral to assist with the general running costs and maintenance of the building and to pay a gratuity to the Assistant Organist who has undertaken the training of the Boy & Girl Choristers.

Financial support continues for the design and construction of a major exhibition “The Treasures of Saint Columb’s Cathedral” which will open to the public in the Spring of 2023. A special souvenir booklet was commissioned for this exhibition.

The Friends continue to maintain links with and co-operate with other bodies to promote the history and cultural activities which are held in the Cathedral. These include The North West Historical & Archaeological Society, Derry Central Library, The Derry Tower Heritage Group, Tourism NI, Derry City & Strabane District Council, The Friends of Derry’s Walls, The Honourable The Irish Society and The Hervey Heritage Group. The City Council continues to use the Cathedral’s spaces, both internal and external, to hold events.

We believe that people in general benefit from our various activities as we continue to make them aware of the importance of the role played by the Cathedral in society, of its history and heritage and of its outstanding cultural and musical traditions. We also support the musical and cultural traditions of other organisations by assisting with events held by them in the cathedral.

### **Finance**

As can be seen from our Receipts and Payments statement, the Friends ended the 2022/2023 Financial Year with a credit balance of £1846. The main sources of income were from Members Subscriptions, Donations, and Derry City & Strabane District Council grants. These monies were used for Tourism publications, exhibitions, event advertising and cultural events.

Income from members has been reduced due to the effects of the Covid restrictions.

### **Trustees**

The Trustees continue to be active in supporting the organisation and give of their time freely and often to ensure that the aims and objectives of “The Friends” are carried out within the constitution.

There were no changes to the membership of the Trustees.

### **Public Benefit**

As well as the public benefits indicated above, the Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland’s guidance on public benefit. We have given careful consideration to the guidance to ensure that our activities have helped to achieve the charity’s purpose and provide a benefit to our beneficiaries.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.

D I Bartlett  
10/01/24

M Hamilton  
10/01/24

**The Friends of St.Columb's Cathedral**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105701

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# Annual return

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Friends of Saint Columb's Cathedral. Registered Charity Number 105701**  
**I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

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**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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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 accounts 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.

*Z. Foster*

Name: Zara Foster

Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA)

Address: 77 Westlake, Enagh, Londonderry, BT47 6WE

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024