

# Omagh Churches Forum

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106243

## Details

Status	Received
Registered	2018-05-24
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	34 Donaghanie Road Omagh BT79 0nr BT79 0NR
Phone	07967012217
Email	<a href="mailto:esthermillar34@gmail.com">esthermillar34@gmail.com</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** The Omagh Churches' Forum (hereinafter referred to as OCF) is constituted by Christian Churches in Omagh District Council Area with aims, which are hereby declared to be exclusively charitable and are as follows: (a) To be a forum where the members meet, discuss and consult together; (b) To assist the member churches to grow in their understanding of and respect for each other, in accordance with the will of Christ; (c) To assist the member churches to co-operate and act together as appropriate; (d) To assist and facilitate local inter-church initiatives; (e) To support and encourage participation by the churches in local community initiatives; (f) To liaise and co-operate with other bodies; (g) To make known to the churches and community what is happening at all levels in the area of inter-church activity.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

**How the charity works:** Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£2,365	£106	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Conor Keys		
Mr Keith Davison		
Mr Leo Crossey		
Mrs Carmel Sharkey		
Mrs Christine Rodgers		
Mrs Esther Millar		
Mrs Heather Watson		
Mrs Marie Conway		
Mrs Valerie Mcconnell		
Ms Iris Moffitt-Scott		
Pastor Graham Mcelhinney		
Pastor Pamela Mcelhinney		
Rev Alexander Chisnall		
Rev Derek Quinn		
Rev Eleanor Hayden		
Rev Graham Hare		
Rev Kevin Mcelhennon		
Rev Patricia Jane Nelson		
Rev Raymond Eugene Hasson		
Rev Robert William Clarke		

**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Accounts

---



## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Omagh Churches Forum.**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 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:

- a. examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- b. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- c. 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: Nigel Scott**

**Address: C/O Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT78 1DP**

**Signature:**

**Date: 22 January 2024**



**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Accounts

---



**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Annual report

---



**OMAGH CHURCHES FORUM**  
**Co-Chairs: Canon R Clarke & Fr E Hasson**  
(Charity No. 106243)

**Annual Report 2023**

Throughout the year the Forum has continued to meet on a regular basis but with reduced attendance by some lay representatives.

At the annual general meeting the Co-Chairs changed to Canon R Clarke and Fr E Hasson. Although the annual meeting appointed Mrs H Watson as Treasurer she has been unable to fulfil the role fully as there has been severe delays with the bank in getting the signatories changed. To date at the end of December 2023 the problem has not been resolved. At the annual meeting there was general discussion about how the rotation of Co-Chair role when rotation in the Protestant tradition moves beyond Presbyterian and Church of Ireland.

The Christian Unity Service in January was well attended and a substantial donation made to Women's Aid Centre.

The Forum was saddened in May to record the death of a founder member Fr Kevin Mullan and tribute was paid to his enduring support of the work of the Forum throughout the years.

The Forum, with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, hosted a series of lunchtime seminars on social enterprise activities in other parts of the province.

A number of Forum members travelled on a study visit to see the community support work of and similarities/differences at the Skainos centre, Belfast and the Newtownards Centre.

There was considerable work by the Clergy of the Forum in supporting separate groups and shaping the format for Omagh bomb 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial Community Service which was led by the Co-Chairs of the Forum. The Co-Chairs also supported the families at a private commemoration on the actual anniversary.

During Good Relations Week the Forum led an inter church walk for members and the community around the four main churches at the one end of the town with themes including Creation, Community, World Needs and Health. The evening ended with a time together over a cup of tea.

The November meeting was followed by a laughter Yoga session but numbers attending were small due to other commitments.

Clergy took part in the Annual Remembrance Service and two members of the Forum attended the wreath laying event at the town cenotaph.

Towards the end of the year members gathered for lunch to say farewell to Rev Robert Herron as he retired and moved away from the area.

The Forum is grateful for the support it has received from Fermanagh Omagh District Council officers plus the very valuable input from Mrs Eileen Gallagher, Irish School of Ecumenics.

**Esther Millar (Sec.)**

**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Annual return

---



## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Omagh Churches Forum.**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **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:

- a. examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- b. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- c. 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: Nigel Scott**

**Address: C/O Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT78 1DP**

**Signature:**

**Date: 22 January 2024**

**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Accounts

---



**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Annual report

---



## **OMAGH CHURCHES FORUM**

**Co-Chairs: Rev R Herron & Fr D McGeehan**

**(Charity No. 106243)**

### **Annual Report 2022**

Throughout the year there the Forum has continued to meet but with continued reduced attendance from Lay members representing the various denominations.

In the early part of the year the Forum was shocked by the death of Mr Bob Lingwood, our fond longterm member and Treasurer after a short illness. At the May meeting time was taken to allow all present to bring a tribute to the work and person of "Our Bob". Several other members had family bereavements during the year.

Mrs L Coleman a long term member retired during the year .  
At the Annual Meeting Mrs H Watson was appointed as Treasurer.

As referred to in 2021 report the Omagh Half Marathon moved to a Sunday Run. This posed significant difficulties for some churches and the Co-Chair and Churches effected agreed to meet with the organisers.

There was discussion on the Constitution and workings of the Forum and it was agreed that as the community recover after Covid it has been difficult to engage with people generally.

During the year the Forum were able (thanks to Fr Declan McGeehan) to establish a Facebook page to help keep the community informed of activities.

At a meeting Rev Herron and Rev Nelson shared a synopsis of "Mission in Contemporary Scotland". On considering the contents it was giving very similar information to the themes in the N Ireland Census return of 2021, reflecting a general decline in religious affiliation. However, this is negated when there are times of crisis and churches need to continue to be ministering to the community outside actual buildings.

There was no specific Christmas event this year but plans are being progressed for the Service for the Week of Christian Unity and Lent 2023.

Clergy from Churches where the lay members have not attended will discuss this with their members in an effort the re-invigorate the membership.

The Forum is grateful to Mrs Eileen Gallagher continued to provide articles for spiritual reflection during the year. Thanks are also expressed to Mrs Pauline Clarke (Good Relations Officer, F & O Council)

**Esther Millar (Sec).**

**Omagh Churches Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106243

---

# Annual return

---



## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Omagh Churches Forum.**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **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:

- a. examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- b. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- c. 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: Nigel Scott**

**Address: C/O Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT78 1DP**

**Signature:**

**Date: 14 January 2024**