

# The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107080

## Details

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**Known as** South Belfast Friends Meeting South Belfast Preparative Meeting

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2018-05-17

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

## Contact

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**Address** 21 Clogher Road  
Lisburn  
BT27 5pq  
BT27 5PQ

**Phone** 07526702784

**Email** [info@southbelfastquakers.org](mailto:info@southbelfastquakers.org)

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

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The object of the Preparative Meeting is the advancement of the general religious purposes of the Religious Society of Friends by the following means, in so far as they are exclusively charitable: i. Strengthening the Christian understanding and religious development of the Quaker meeting both in the geographical area of the Preparative Meeting and beyond; ii. Contributing financially and practically to the relief of suffering at home and abroad; iii. Providing for the pastoral care of individual Members and Attenders including assistance to those in need;

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** General charitable purposes, Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Men, Older people, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Voluntary and community sector, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£39,862	£39,314	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Wilson		
Michael Andress		
Mr William David Adams Haire		

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Accounts

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## South Belfast Preparative Meeting

### Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31/12/2024

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations by members and attenders	16,950
Special collections for charities	3,110
Other fund raising events for charities	1,255
Grants from Quaker Funds	1,368
Dividends and interest	4,895
Hire of Meeting House rooms and facilities	12,284
	<b><u>39,862</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donations and subscriptions	14,829
Contribution to Ireland Yearly Meeting	8,244
Special Collection donations	3,110
Utility payments (electricity, gas, water)	3,513
Buildings insurance	1,656
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	4,041
Other premises costs	1,211
Equipment purchases	1,438
Website, broadband and Zoom charges	544
Assistance Fund payments	470
Other Expenses	258
	<b><u>39,314</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>548</u></b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Year Ended 31/12/2024

<b><u>Bank and Cash Balances</u></b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Current Account	15,009	16,506
Deposit Account	151,365	148,947
	<b><u>166,374</u></b>	<b><u>165,453</u></b>
<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>		
Meeting Fund	<b><u>111,282</u></b>	<b><u>107,615</u></b>
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Spence Bequest	13,739	13,286
Travel Fund	5,701	5,513
	<b><u>19,440</u></b>	<b><u>18,799</u></b>

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Accounts

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## South Belfast Preparative Meeting

### Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31/12/2023

£

#### Receipts

Donations by members and attenders	15,850
Special collections for charities	1,754
Other fundraising events for charities	3,037
Grants from Quaker Funds	1,328
Bequests	31,874
Dividends and interest	5,307
Hiring of Meeting House rooms & facilities	12,584
Gift Aid claimed on donations to the Meeting	7,483
Other income	700
	<b><u>79,917</u></b>

#### Payments

Donations and subscriptions	14,641
Contribution to Ireland Yearly Meeting	7,106
Special Collection donations	1,754
Utility payments (electricity, gas, water)	2,666
Buildings insurance	1,215
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	3,683
Building improvements	10,900
Other premises costs	523
Equipment purchases	100
Website, WiFi and Zoom charges	510
Loving Earth Project (Eco-Quakers)	620
Assistance Fund payments	458
Other expenses	858
	<b><u>45,034</u></b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b><u>34,883</u></b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Year Ended 31/12/2023

	2023	2022
<b><u>Bank and Cash Balances</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current Account	16,506	14,742
Deposit Accounts	148,947	115,458
	<b><u>165,453</u></b>	<b><u>130,200</u></b>
<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>		
Meeting Fund	<b><u>107,615</u></b>	<b><u>101,716</u></b>
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Spence Bequest	13,286	12,558
Travel Fund	5,513	5,211
	<b><u>18,799</u></b>	<b><u>17,769</u></b>

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Annual report

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The Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) In Ireland,  
South Belfast Preparative Meeting

Trustee Annual Report for year ended  
31st December 2023

## South Belfast Preparative Meeting

Trustees (at 31st December 2023)

Brian Davis (Chair)  
Sylvia Roberts  
Will Haire

Contact Name & Address

Brian Davis  
24 Moss Road  
BT36 5JY

Charity number

NIC 107080

Bankers

Co-operative Bank (current account & deposit account)

Facebook page

South Belfast Quaker Meeting  
@SouthBelfastQuakers

Website

[www.southbelfastquakers.org](http://www.southbelfastquakers.org)

# Trustees' Report for year ended 31st December 2023

## Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and in line with the guidance produced by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

## Constitution and governance

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Preparative Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The Trustees, of whom there should be not less than two, are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. They are appointed for a period of up to three years and are eligible for re-appointment for a further two terms. Trustees who served during the year ending 31st December 2023 were as follows:

Brian Davis (Chair of Trustees)  
Sylvia Roberts  
Will Haire

The Trustees are responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. No Trustee received any remuneration for services as a member of the Board of Trustees and the charity has no employees.

There is in place a data protection policy and a child protection policy, both of which are reviewed annually.

## Purposes of the charity

South Belfast Preparative Meeting is established by Lisburn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland. It is primarily a Meeting for Worship that practises in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

We are based in a Meeting House at Marlborough Park North in Belfast. As well as the main meeting room where we meet for worship on a Sunday, we also have a kitchen and three smaller meeting rooms.

The purpose of our charity, as set out in our governing document, is the advancement of the general religious purposes of the Religious Society of Friends by the following means, in so far as they are exclusively charitable:

- i. Strengthening the Christian understanding and religious development of the Quaker meeting both in the geographical area of the Preparative Meeting and beyond;
- ii. Contributing financially and practically to the relief of suffering at home and abroad;

- iii. Providing for the pastoral care of individual Members and Attenders including assistance to those in need

### Our activities during 2023

In 2023 we have enjoyed a full year both spiritually and socially as a meeting. We continue to meet each Sunday in a blended manner with a small number of Friends attending via zoom, due to location, health or other reasons.

The average attendance at Meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings is 38 adults and 8 children under 18 years.

We did not record any deaths of members in 2023. We have been heartened to see that 4 Friends who have been regular attenders at our meeting have been accepted into membership this year while we have celebrated the marriage of 3 of our members.

Our "After Meeting Conversations" which generally take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month, have continued to be a useful tool for considering Quaker concerns, the Testimonies and the spiritual life and business needs of the meeting. This year we held 7 sessions on Our Advices & Queries, Quakers and Prison, Quakers in the Arts, Ecology, Ethical Economics and Integrity in Public Life. Our Worship Sharing Group where a passage or passages from scripture are considered and discussed also met monthly and was well attended.

Our spiritual life has been complemented by a wide range of social activity, developing our community of Quakers. In March we held a Quiz Night in the meeting house with a bring and share meal, which was well supported and enjoyed by those there. We also held an all age Meeting for Worship in March. This was led and organised by the young people of the meeting and was on the topic of The Life of Margaret Fell.

We have held fund raising breakfasts in support of those affected by the earthquake on the border of Syria and Turkey and those affected by the war in Ukraine. A small, informal get together between South Belfast Quakers and members of the South Belfast Bahai Group (who use our meeting house space regularly), was held and felt to be helpful and informative for those who attended.

In July we held a Summer Meeting House Picnic, with Friends bringing and sharing food in the Meeting House Garden after Meeting for Worship, while we held a social evening in September in aid of the fund to support Quakers to attend World Plenary Meeting in South Africa. We marked World Quaker Day 2023 on October 1st, by taking part in a virtual link up with two other preparative/local meetings: Cork and Hastings in England.

In November, we held our annual craft fair, jointly with Frederick Street Friends, to raise money for the work of Quaker Service and the renovation of Frederick Street.

In December we held an all-age Meeting for Worship when the young people, supported by several adults prepared for our Family Sunday, to celebrate Christmas.

Our Monthly Book Group has continued, offering an opportunity for regular exploration of spiritual, often Quaker, written materials.

## Website and Technology

Our website and Facebook page continue to be a means of outreach for our worshipping community. We posted an advice/query each week on Facebook, along with promotional events such as the May Sale in aid of Quaker Service, the Christmas Craft Fair, and our in-house monthly book group.

In 2023, our audience on Facebook of 611 followers, came mainly from the UK (52%) followed by the USA (18%). Kenya, the Philippines, and India each have just over 3%.

We still offer the option of attending Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning via Zoom (a practice that originated during the Covid lockdown).

The continuing rollout of Churchbox.co.uk to assist with coordinating all the different roles for a Sunday morning finally extended to just about all the rotas in 2023 (door keeping rota is coming on board in 2024). These included the Tea/Coffee rota, Closing meeting rota, Advice & Queries rota, Flowers rota, Young Persons facilitation rota, and Tech rota.

## Children and Young People

The Annual Child Safeguarding report has been completed by our 2 safeguarding Representatives and forwarded to Monthly Meeting.

An active programme of meetings have been arranged, and we have been delighted to see a number of our young people participate in Quaker activity in Ireland, in Yorkshire with the Yorkshire Summer School, and in Europe through EMES.

## Eco-Quakers

Members of the Eco-Quaker Planning Group have continued to explore ways in which we can engage seriously and wisely with the climatic and ecological emergencies, giving tangible expression to our shared commitment to values such as simplicity, stewardship, equity and peace.

Much attention has been given to a 'learning and discerning journey' in relation to aspects of the food system. In March, we hosted, in partnership with Prof John Barry at Queen's University, a café-style conversation about food over food. This theme was taken up again in April – first in an online pre-IYM Special Interest Group session that focused on food waste and then in a seminar during the Yearly Meeting.

The Meeting's Sustainability Plan was reviewed during the year.

Finally, members of the Eco-Quaker Planning Group participated in two half-day gatherings of the Creation Care Network – one during June in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne; the other in the South Belfast Meeting House during September.

## Premises and Garden

Several work parties were organised and the garden has been kept in a reasonably tidy state. A member of the meeting has taken over the raised bed and has planted fruit bushes and vegetables. The apple trees have been pruned. There is a considerable amount of garden rubbish to be cleared, consideration is being given to hiring a skip.

The entrance doors have been replaced by automatic opening aluminium coated doors using a push pad system, which makes entry to the Meeting House more accessible for wheelchair users. This work was overseen by Pad Lock Security.

New carpet was laid in the New Room.

Electrical testing was carried out, the gas boilers serviced and the fire alarm system and fire extinguishers checked.

## Bookings and Use of the Meeting House

We continue to hire out the Meeting House to a range of local groups, which they can now book via the website. We are using Hallmaster software to keep track of bookings, invoices, payments and receipts.

Income from bookings has not recovered completely to the pre-pandemic level, but it has improved significantly, providing us with an income of £12,584 during 2023.

## Support for Charities

During 2023, we made grants from our funds to various charities. We also held breakfast events in the Meeting House to raise money for the Turkey/Syria earthquake victims and for Ukrainian refugees (both of these were donations were routed through the Disasters Emergency Committee).

We also held a tea party to raise money for the RNLI for its work of rescuing refugees. We had a plant sale in the garden, as well as a social evening, to raise money for Quaker Service.

In total, grants and money raised at these events totalled £14,641.

In addition we had six special collections held after our Sunday Meeting for specific charities, which raised £1,754.

On the first Sunday of every month, we collect donations of groceries and toiletries for the local Storehouse foodbank.

## Financial Overview

We ended 2023 with a balance of £16,506 in our current account, after paying our bills and making grants to the charities we support.

2023 saw further increases in utility prices, but these were compensated for by an energy support payment from the government of £600. Our largest expenditure was on building

improvements (£10,900), most of it being a new front door to replace the old one which was not very secure as well as unfriendly for wheelchair access.

Our income from hiring out the Meeting House went up, and we also received £7,483 from HMRC in respect of claiming Gift Aid for donations made to the Meeting in 2021 and 2022.

Our deposit account was boosted by a final payment of £31,874 from the estate of our late Friend Joan Huddleston, and now stands at £148,947.

Our investments with the NI Central Investment Fund for Charities recovered from the fall in share prices in the last quarter of 2022. The value of our investments with NICIFC rose to £126,415 at the end of this year.

Overall, we ended the year with healthy balances in our current and deposit accounts, as well as the value of investments we have with NICIFC. Financially, we are in a very good position for next year and beyond, as regards meeting our expenses and making generous grants to Quaker and Non-Quaker charities.

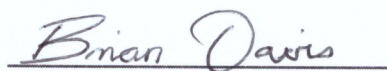
#### Looking Forward

All our activities need help to run and we are blessed with committed volunteers. Week after week Friends serve on coffee, door and flower rotas, organising Youth activities, attending to the premises and garden, convening and sitting on committees and serving the Meeting in a variety of ways.

Our Meeting continues to have a positive and open spirit.

#### Declaration

The report was approved by the Trustees, by email and phone consultation on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, and is signed below on behalf of the Trustees.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Brian Davis  
Chair of Trustees

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Annual return

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of South Belfast Preparative Meeting

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 our responsibility to:

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

### Basis of examiner's statement

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our 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. The 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.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept as required by 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

We 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, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:	<u>Erich Wilgenbus</u>	<u>A. A. Howard Stewart</u>
Address:	<u>Apt 807</u> <u>4 College Avenue</u> <u>Belfast BT7 6BD</u>	<u>15 Dobbins Hill Road,</u> <u>Dromore</u> <u>Co. Down. BT25 1SY</u>
Date:	<u>14/04/24</u>	<u>14/04/24</u>

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Accounts

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# South Belfast Preparative Meeting

## Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31/12/2022

	£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
Donations by members and attenders	16,598
Special collections for charities	1,435
Other fundraising events for charities	1,330
Grants from Quaker Funds	1,184
Bequests	800
Dividends and interest	3,932
Hiring of Meeting House rooms & facilities	9,361
Other income	737
	<b><u>35,377</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>	
Donations and subscriptions	11,869
Contribution to Ireland Yearly Meeting	3,761
Special Collection donations	1,435
Utility payments (electricity, gas, water)	2,108
Buildings insurance	1,059
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	8,619
Building improvements	1,950
Other premises costs	414
Equipment purchases	852
Website, WiFi and Zoom charges	768
Loving Earth Project (Eco-Quakers)	1,560
Assistance Fund payments	722
Other expenses	556
	<b><u>35,673</u></b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b><u>-296</u></b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Year Ended 31/12/2022

	2022	2021
<b><u>Bank and Cash Balances</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current Account	14,742	15,162
Deposit Accounts	115,458	115,308
	<b><u>130,200</u></b>	<b><u>130,470</u></b>
<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>		
Meeting Fund	<b><u>101,716</u></b>	<b><u>115,839</u></b>
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Spence Bequest	12,558	14,302
Travel Fund	5,211	5,935
	<b><u>17,769</u></b>	<b><u>20,237</u></b>

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Annual report

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The Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) In Ireland,  
South Belfast Preparative Meeting

Trustee Annual Report for year ended  
31st December 2022

## South Belfast Preparative Meeting

Trustees (at 31st December 2022)

Brian Davis (Chair)

Sylvia Roberts

Will Haire

Contact Name & Address

Brian Davis

24 Moss Road

BT36 5JY

Charity number

NIC 107080

Bankers

Co-operative Bank (current account & deposit account)

Facebook page

South Belfast Quaker Meeting

@SouthBelfastQuakers

Website

[www.southbelfastquakers.org](http://www.southbelfastquakers.org)

# Trustees' Report for year ended 31st December 2022

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Sylvia Roberts  
Will Haire

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- iii. Providing for the pastoral care of individual Members and Attenders including assistance to those in need

### Our activities during 2022

In 2022 we have enjoyed a full year both spiritually and socially as a meeting. We have been pleased to see a return to a predominantly physical rather than virtual presence in our meeting room each Sunday, although, with a team of volunteers we keep our Meetings blended to address the needs of Friends unable to be at South Belfast. We continued to monitor the Covid 19 procedures each month at our M&O committee meetings and ensured that appropriate limited preventative measures remained in place.

On average 35 adults worship at our Meetings, and 4 younger people. We have also had regular, monthly "Conversations" after Meeting, on a range of spiritual and social justice issues.

Sadly, we recorded the death of one of our members during the year but were pleased to note that 2 Friends who are regular attenders at our meeting have been accepted into membership this year. We also were delighted that during 2022 two of our Members married in the Meeting House.

Our Bible Study group has continued to meet, though not in person, while a new group to study Quaker books and other spirituality writing has now been formed, with up to 18 Friends joining in discussion.

With the end of the restrictions from the pandemic, 4 evening sessions on a Quaker Quest model were organised in April/ May. Each evening had a theme – God and Faith; Worship; Integrity; Equality and Diversity - introduced by 3 brief talks followed by discussion groups and a Meeting for Worship. The sessions were well attended by Friends and attenders including several from other Meetings.

Many of our members and attenders volunteered at Yearly Meeting (YM) at Stranmillis in August and we were pleased to host YM Sunday at South Belfast when about 100 Friends, in person and on 'Zoom' enjoyed Meeting for Worship together and a buffet lunch followed in the garden. The YM experience encouraged us to list our Meeting as a host for FWCC's World Quaker Day in October when we were one of a few Meetings across the world to be available via Zoom for Friends to join an international Meeting. We were joined by local visitors as well as Friends from Britain, Europe and the Americas.

Other events have also been held throughout the year, such as the pre-Christmas Craft Fair organised with Frederick Street Meeting, helped to funds for charities and build the links within our community.

### Website and Outreach

The website continued to be a helpful first point of contact for those enquiring about joining us as new attenders and for those interested in hiring the meeting house for events. We seek to keep it refreshed with stories about our activities, and also ensure that details of our Ministry and Oversight teams are available to all. Facebook is also used to make sure that our

news is more widely circulated, with 412 followers, around 875 post views and 270 post engagements per month.

A new digital rota system for some Meeting responsibilities was established, sending email reminders to Friends with duties the following Sunday.

### Children and Young People

Face to face sessions during Meeting every other week were revived during this year and a family Sunday was organised in December. The display boards on Quaker themes were refurbished and the older group had a mix of topics, sometimes with outside speakers including Gender Identity and 'Pebble Meditation'. There were visits by younger Friends to JYM, Junior and Senior Moyallon Camps, Yorkshire Holiday School and a European and Middle East Young Friends Gathering. We hope to encourage more volunteers to be involved with the young people's group in the coming year

The Annual Child Safeguarding report has been completed by our 2 safeguarding Representatives and forwarded to Monthly Meeting.

### Eco-Quakers

South Belfast Eco Quakers continue to be an active group. The Loving Earth Project and its exhibition during the year was an important means for the promotion of environmental issues and outreach, as it was part of the Imagine Festival in Belfast and involved arts centres, district councils and other Meetings in the Portadown and Derry areas. A large number of volunteers enthusiastically helped the organising group. Other activities included a foraging walk in Castlewellan Forest, drafting a letter to politicians about home insulation and establishing a link with Friends.

### Premises and Garden

The Premises Committee has met regularly throughout the year. Improvements to the premises have included new electric systems and a locked key safe. A bicycle shed was added in the corner of the car park, thanks to a generous donation from two Friends. The garden was maintained with the help of work parties after Meeting with a soup lunch provided and a cleaning party supplemented the work of the regular cleaners. Maintenance has been carried out and an environmental audit has helped to identify improvements such as new LED lighting, and a 'smart control' system for the central heating.

### Bookings and Use of the Meeting House

Bookings returned to normal through the year, with a large number of groups as diverse as a yoga class, The New Apostolic Church, a chess club, the Baha'is community, a selection of music groups, workshops for young people in care and the Belfast Repair Café, as well as Meeting and other Quaker activities. The neighbours from Marlborough Park held a carol service in the car park the week before Christmas. Bookings can now be done via the website which helps to monitor both room use and finance. The increased use of the building meant that donations as a result of bookings have risen.

## Support for Charities

During 2022, we donated a total of £11,869 to various Quaker and non-Quaker charities. We held a number of after-meeting special collections, which raised an additional £1,435 for six nominated charities. We held a plant sale in the car park and garden of the Meeting House which raised £790 for Quaker Service, and 'Big Breakfasts' in the Meeting House raised £540 for Ukrainian refugees (through the Disasters Emergency Committee).

On the first Sunday of every month, we collect donations of groceries and toiletries for the local Storehouse foodbank.

## Financial Overview

With the end of lockdowns and restrictions due to Covid, our income significantly improved in 2022 as revenue from hiring the Meeting House returned almost to pre-pandemic levels. Donations from members and attenders along with Meeting House lettings constitutes most our annual income.

Our spending on utility bills also rose sharply during 2022, increasing by 65% from £1.3K to £2.1K, but that was more than made up for by revenue from lettings nearly doubling from £5.5K to £9.4K.

We were able to pay our bills, make our usual donations to other charities, and end the year with a healthy balance in our current account of £14.7K.

Our deposit account remained the same as the previous year at £114K, £90K of which was a legacy from the estate of our late Friend Joan Huddleston. This balance also includes £24K reserves to ensure we can continue to run the Meeting should there be an unexpected decline in our income (as happened during the pandemic).

The share price of our investments with the NI Central Investment Fund for Charities fell in the last quarter of 2022, as a result of the government's mini-budget in September. As a result, the value of our investments fell from £136K in 2021 to £119K, but hopefully this will recover next year.

## Looking Forward

All our activities need help to run and we are blessed with committed volunteers. Week after week Friends serve on coffee, door and flower rotas, organising Youth activities, attending to the premises and garden, convening and sitting on committees and serving the Meeting in a variety of ways.

Our Meeting continues to have a positive and open spirit.

Declaration

The report was approved by the Trustees, by telephone conference on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and is signed on behalf of the Trustees.

Brian Davis

Brian Davis  
Chair of Trustees

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, South Belfast Preparative Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107080

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# Annual return

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of South Belfast Preparative Meeting

We report on the accounts of the for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 our responsibility to:

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

### Basis of examiner's statement

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our 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. The 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.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept as required by 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

We 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, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:	<u>A. A. Howard Stewart</u>	<u>BB Williams</u>
Address:	<u>15 Dunbrink Hill Road</u> <u>Dromore</u> <u>Co. Down, BT25 1SY.</u>	<u>19 Birch Lane</u> <u>Scotfield</u> <u>Co. Down BT24 7FP</u>
Date:	<u>12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.</u>	<u>12 March 2023</u>