

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

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107084

Details

Known as	Bessbrook Friends Meeting Bessbrook Preparative Meeting
Status	Received
Registered	2018-06-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	7 Glen Road Ballyward Castlewellan BT31 9qt BT31 9QT
Phone	07815 159516
Email	bessbrookmeeting@gmail.com
Website	http://www.bessbrookmeeting.org

Activities

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 education, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Men, Older people, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£25,968	£9,590	£0	0
2024-12-31	£9,625	£10,851	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jack Harvey		
Mr Nigel Hampton		
Mrs Lesley Kathleen Burney		

Accounts

		Bessbrook	Preparative	Meeting	
Accounts	January	2025	to	December	2025
Donations	1050		Hospitality		90.61
Subscriptions	3650		Fees		60.84
Bequests	797.58		Zoom		129.9
			Water		346.21
			Frederick St		250
Total Bank Balance	5497.58		Kilpatrick Dishwasher		40
2025	15461.06		Insurance		1800
			Building Fund		2000
			Quaker Service		100
	20958.64		Electric		681
			Moiety 1st &2nd		1848
			Cleaning		460
			Total		7806.56
		Bank	Balance	2026	13152.08
					20958.64

Bessbrook Meeting House Property

Trustee Committee Report for 2025

Maintenance of the building and grounds has been carried out throughout the year.

Public liability and employer liability insurance policies are in force.

The funds which provide the annual income are approx. 6650 shares in Northern Ireland Fund for Charities.

Credit

Opening balance: £ 3154.00

Dividends: £ 3177.60

Bank interest: £ 5.54

GoFundMe : £ 3637.55

Personal donations £ 3650.00

Chapman fund £10000.00

Total: £ 23,624.69

Debit

Grounds : £ 1480.00

Maintenance: £ 270.37

Bank charges: £ 33.45

Total: £ 1783.82

Balance as of 01/01/2026 : £21,840.87

Treasurer: Jack Harvey

Date: 30/01/2026

Audited by 1
2

Date:

Accounts

Year January 2024 to December 2024
Bessbrook
 Accounts
 Income

Subscriptions 4494
 Gift Aid 1456.25
 Bequest Income 759,60
 Total 6709.85
 Balance 2023 17334.09

Treasurer Lesley Burney



Certified Sean Bonner



Expenditure

Windows 250
 Water 320.05
 Electric 954
 Painting Hall 650
 Hospitality 30
 Cleaning 325
 1st Moiety 1195
 2nd Moiety 918
 IQFA 100
 Quaker Service 100
 Kitchen cupboard 300
 Picture framing
 Donation to Jonathan Morton 300
 Transfer to Trustees A/c Bessbrook Friends 3000
 Bank charges 64.26
 Household 76.57
 Total 8582.88
 Balance 2025 15461.06
 24043.94

Bessbrook Meeting House Property

Trustee Committee Report for 2024

Maintenance of the building and grounds has been carried out throughout the year.

Public liability and employer liability insurance policies are in force.

The funds which provide the annual income are approx. 6650 shares in Northern Ireland Fund for Charities.

Credit

Opening balance: £ 2506 - 82

Dividends: £ 2912 - 80

Bank interest: £ 2 -45

Donation from £3000 -00
Preparative Meeting
Account

Debit

Insurance: £ 1760 -00

Grounds : £ 2910 - 00

Maintenance: £ 565 - 06

Bank charges: £ 33 - 01

: **Total: £ 8422- 07**

Total: £ 5268 -07

Balance as of 01/01/2025 : £ 3154 - 00

Treasurer: Jack Harvey

Date: `30/01/2025

Audited by 1
 2

Date:

Accounts

Bessbrook Preparative Meeting Accounts

Year:

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Income		Expenditure
Subscriptions	3,500.93	Electric 684.00
Donations	80.00	Gardening 280.00
Bequest Income	721.62	1st Moiety 912.00
		2nd Moiety 912.00
		Cleaning 250.00
		Window Cleaning 200.00
		Bank charges 58.84
		Water 303.96
		Maps 71.98
		Médecins Sans Frontières 500.00
Sub total	4,302.55	Sub total 4,172.78
Bank balance	17,204.32	Bank balance (Dec 2023) 17,334.09
Total	21,506.87	Total 21,506.87

Treasurer
Lesley Burney

Certified
Francis John Bonner



Bessbrook Meeting House Property

Trustee Committee Report for 2023

Maintenance of the building and grounds has been carried out throughout the year.

Public liability and employer liability insurance policies are in force.

The funds which provide the annual income are approx. 6650 shares in Northern Ireland Fund for Charities.

Credit

Opening balance: £ 2899.35

Dividends: £ 2912.80

Bank interest: £ 2.64

Debit

Insurance: £ 1650.00

Grounds : £ 1535.00

Building : £ 90.00

Bank charges: £ 32.97

Total: £ 5814.74

Total: £3307.97

Balance as of 1/2/2024 : £ 2506.82

Treasurer: Jack Harvey

Date: 01/02/2024

Audited by

1 *F J San Bomer*
2 *Angela Bomer*

Date: 4/2/2024

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107084

Annual report

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

Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st
December 2023

Bessbrook Preparative Meeting

Trustees (at 31st December 2023)

Nigel R Hampton

Edmund J A Harvey

Lesley Burney

Registered Address

c/o Nigel R Hampton

7 Glen Road

Ballyward

Castlewellan

BT31 9QT

Charity number

NIC 107084

Bankers

Bank of Ireland

Website

<http://www.bessbrookmeeting.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, Bessbrook Preparative Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Preparative Meeting on 4th February 2018. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 4th June 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 2021 were as follows:

Nigel R Hampton (Clerk of Trustees)

Edmund J A Harvey

Lesley Burney

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.

The Trustees have put in place a data protection policy and a child protection policy, both of which are reviewed annually.

Purposes of the charity

Bessbrook Preparative Meeting is established by Lurgan 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 Bessbrook near Newry.

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

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

Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

Our activities during 2023

Our Meeting continues to meet weekly in a pleasant family like atmosphere in the presence of God.

We miss the presence of our dear Friend – Ross Chapman. After worshipping at Bessbrook for many years – he felt he was no longer able to attend due to his age and ill health. He is a great loss to Bessbrook Meeting as he had a superb knowledge of Quaker practice.

This year we welcomed three Friends to Bessbrook. They are David and Olive Hobson and Dawn Marie Rafferty. All three transferred their membership to Bessbrook Meeting from other Meetings.

We had to ask for advice when we discovered a number of dead bats in the upstairs balcony. Two people with a knowledge of bats visited our Meeting House and were able to explain what had occurred. Bats are protected species by law, and we have made sure that bats can live safely in our roof space.

We also received notice that our Meeting House is a Listed Building and any building works will have to be approved before taking place.

Sadly, we have to report the death of our Friend Eilis Manning. Eilis was a highly respected and well thought of Member of our Meeting.

Nigel Hampton continues to maintain our compliance with the requirements of the Ireland Yearly Meeting Child Safeguarding Policy.

Austin Bonner read the Advices on the 'Making of Wills etc'.

Public Benefit

The trustees of Bessbrook Preparative Meeting are pleased to confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the public benefit requirement statutory guidance of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Our public benefit has been demonstrated in a number of ways over the past year:

- We hold regular Meeting for Worship every Sunday morning and these Meetings are open to members of the public as well as our own members and regular attenders – these Meetings provide spiritual nourishment and deepen the Christian experience and understanding of those who attend;
- Using legacy funds that have been left to the Meeting in the past, we provide financial support to those in need within our Meeting;
- We make annual donations to Quaker Charities and other charities as agreed by our Members.

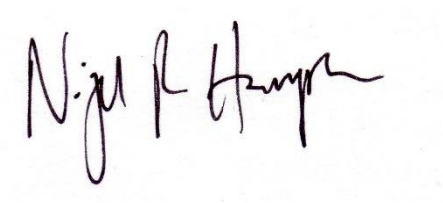
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Bessbrook Preparative Meeting
Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

Financial Review

Our financial statement for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 is attached to this report and shows that at 31st December 2023 we had balances in our General Account of £17,334.09 and in our Property Account of £2,506.82.

Declaration

This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 4th February 2024 and is signed on behalf of trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nigel R Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'N' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nigel R. Hampton
Clerk of Trustees

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107084

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Bessbrook Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland

I/we report on the accounts of the charity 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/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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my/our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I/we have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my/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.

My/our 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/our role is to state whether any material matters have come to my/our attention giving me/us 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/we have completed my/our 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/we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Marguerite G Honeyford

Address: 11 Tullyear Avenue

Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 3PR

Date: 4/2/24

Name: Austin Bonner

Address: 4 Dromore Street

Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 4BS

Date: 4/2/24

Accounts

Accounts

Bessbrook Preparative Meeting
January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022

Income

Expenditure

Subscriptions 3,193.49

Electric 834

Donation 1,165

Quaker Service 200

Gift Aid 2,236.77

1st Moiety 605

2nd Moiety 605

Bequest Income 700.52

Cleaning/ 200

Window Cleaning 160

Bank Charges 65.06

Expenses 27

Water Bill 267.37

sub total 7,295.78

bank balance 13,823.91 Dec. 21

Hosting website 150

Total 21,119.69

IQFA 200

Treasurer Lesley Burney

Red Cross 500

L. Burney

Certified Sean Bonner

Domain Name 101.94 5 years

sub total 3915.37

bank balance 17,204.32 Dec-22

Total 21,119.69

Sean Bonner

Bessbrook Meeting House Property

Trustee Committee Report for 2022

Maintenance of the building and grounds has been carried out throughout the year.

Public liability and employer liability insurance policies are in force.

The funds which provide the annual income are approx. 6650 shares in Northern Ireland Fund for Charities.

Credit

Opening balance: £ 4,081.11

Dividends: £ 2,979.00

Bank interest: £ 4.21

Debit

Insurance: £ 1,575.00

Grounds : £ 1,570.00

**Maintenance: £ 987.00
(Ross)**

Bank charges: £ 32.97

: Total: £ 7,064.32

Total: £ 4,164.97

Balance as of 01/01/2023 : £ 2,899.35

Treasurer: Jack Harvey



Date: `30/01/2023

Audited by 1
2

Date:

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107084

Annual report

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Lesley Burney

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c/o Nigel R Hampton

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

Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st December 2022

Our activities during 2022

Our Meeting continues to meet weekly in a pleasant family like atmosphere in the presence of God. Whilst we have many disruptions over the past few years caused by the Global Pandemic, we continued our worship by way of Zoom meetings.

This year started on a very sad note in that we lost two of our 'cornerstone' Members. Roby Harvey in January, followed by the passing of Robina Chapman in May. Their contribution to our worship by their frequent vocal input is badly missed. We also miss the regular attendance of Donald Poole and Eilis Manning.

The Pandemic has affected the number of visitors we would have in normal years.

On the plus side, we now have as regular attenders, David Hobson, Peter & Maggie Elmore, Dawn-Marie Rafferty all joining Francis Chambers. We have adopted them all as 'ours'. We continue to have a weekly attendance of around 11 adults.

Lesley Burney, who organised the Zoom Meetings, also organised our Christmas Lunch at the Pot Belly Restaurant when we have 21 in attendance, including some invited guests from other local Meetings. A very pleasant day was had by all. Thanks to Lesley for all her hard work.

Nigel Hampton continues to maintain our compliance with the requirements of the Child Protection Policy.

Austin Bonner read the Advices on the 'Making of Wills etc'.

We were represented at the local Churches Christmas Carol Service by Rita Honeyford and Jack Harvey. Jack sang with the choir and read a Bible Reading.

We look forward to the future, in the hope that the worse years are past us and that with God's blessing we can continue to praise him in our lovely Meeting House.

To conclude again: Jeremiah 29 v 13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart".

Public Benefit

The trustees of Bessbrook Preparative Meeting are pleased to confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the public benefit requirement statutory guidance of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

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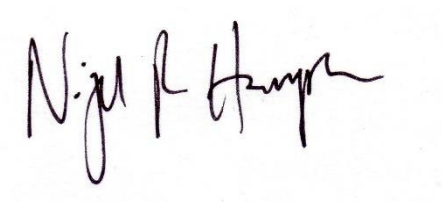
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Declaration

This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 5th February 2023 and is signed on behalf of trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nigel R Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'N' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nigel R. Hampton
Clerk of Trustees

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

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107084

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Name: Marguerite G Honeyford

Address: 11 Tullyear Avenue

Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 3PR

Date: 30/1/23

Name: Austin Bonner

Address: 4 Dromore Street

Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 4BS

Date: 30/1/23