

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

## Annual Report and Account for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Coleraine Preparative Meeting

Trustees as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Terence Brown - chair

Lynn Finnegan

Valerie Morgan

Registered address

52 Union Street

Coleraine

BT52 1QB

Charity Number NI 107093

Bankers

Danske Bank

The Diamond

Coleraine

Trustees Report for the year ended December 31 2022

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 provided by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland

## Constitution and Governance

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland Coleraine Preparative Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Preparative meeting in March 2018. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission in May 2018.

The Trustees of whom there should be not less than two, are appointed by the Annual General Meeting. They are appointed for a period of up to three years and they are eligible for reappointment for a further two terms.

Trustees who served during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 were

Terence Brown (chair of trustees)

Lunn Finnegan

Valerie Morgan

The Trustees are responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. No Trustee receives 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 and both are reviewed annually.

## Purposes of the Charity

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

We are based in a Meeting House at 52 Union Street in Coleraine. (the property is owned by the Society of Friends Lisburn Monthly Meeting. Coleraine Meeting do not pay any rent for the property). As well as the Meeting room where we meet for worship on Sundays we also have a kitchen, a toilet and a further room. These rooms comprise the ground floor of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century terrace house. The two floors above are a self-contained flat which we lease to tenants.

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.

- Strengthening the Christian understanding and religious development of the Quaker Meeting in our area.
- Contributing financially and practically to the relief of suffering at home and abroad
- Providing pastoral care for individual Members and Attenders including assistance to those in need.

## Activities during 2021

Coleraine remains a small meeting but we have grown in numbers over the year and now average 10-12 members, attenders and visitors

The flat above the Meeting House was vacant for a short period in late summer but a new tenant moved in during the autumn

We have as usual contributed to a range of local charities

The regular epistles from our Elder have continued and stimulate valuable comment and reflection. In addition we hold monthly discussions after Meeting for Worship. We also had shared meals after Meeting for Worship 5 times, and meal at the home of one of our members. A meeting for Worship was also held in the home of a member who is no longer able to attend Sunday worship.

Five members visited Waterford meeting in October to celebrate World Quaker Day with friends there. Two members attended Ireland yearly meeting which was held this year in Belfast.

All our listed duties and responsibilities have been attended to and we look forward to 2022 with hope and thankfulness.

## Public benefit

The Trustees of Coleraine Preparative Meeting confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the public benefit requirement of the 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 all members of the public as well as our own Members and regular Attenders.
- these Meetings provide spiritual support and help to deepen the Christian experience of those who attend.
- we are able to provide some financial support where needed to those within our Meeting
- we provide financial support to Quaker Service and a range of other charities. From a number of collections and individual donations, in 2022 £1200 was given to charities.
- we work with other Christian groups in our area through the Coleraine Churches Forum and take an active part in events, fund raising and worship organised through the Forum.

## Financial review

Our financial statement for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 is attached to this report.

This shows that we had a balance of £5320.11 in our current account at the beginning of the year and a balance of £5501.25 at the end of the year.

In our Jesse Cairns saver account we had a balance of £4034

In our Andrew Young saver account we had £1492

The balance in our current account at the end of the year was very similar to that at the beginning of the year

The flat above the meeting house was vacant for 2 months but was then let to a new tenant

Donations - cheques, direct debits and cash donations - from members and attenders continued to increase

We had major expenditure on repairs to our gas central heating system and for the clearance of the land at the rear of our property which had become completely overgrown

The capital value of our bequests at 31 December 2022 was

Andrew Young Legacy £27,078.88

Coleraine Meeting share (20%) of Jessie Cairns Bequest £47,651.80

This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 22 August 2022 and is signed on behalf of the trustees