

Coleraine Preparative Meeting

Annual Report 2024

The Coleraine Meeting remains a small meeting, but we have grown in numbers over the year and now average 15 -18 Friends attending. Our numbers have been boosted by the steadfast attendance of several attenders who take an active part in the life and worship of the Coleraine meeting. We value the intermittent attendance from members from other meeting houses who regularly visit the North Coast. We have welcomed new attenders; this growth is positive for our meeting.

It is with sadness that a longstanding member of Coleraine meeting, our friend Veronica Young died peacefully on 23rd December 2024. Veronica was a stalwart and steadfast friend, and she will be sorely missed by members and attenders alike.

Throughout the year our elder has continued to send regular thoughtful email epistles to all Coleraine Friends, some in Germany and others nearer home in Waterford. We hope that this has maintained a strong connection with Coleraine Friends so that they all may feel a part of our Quaker community even though they may not attend Meeting for Worship These epistles from our elder stimulate valuable comment and reflection

In addition, we hold monthly discussions after meeting for worship, topics discussed include the Quaker journey, Forgiveness, Integrity, Peacebuilding, Consensual Honesty, and Quaker Principles. A member attended the Quaker World Conference which was held in South Africa, and she reported on the conference which was of great interest to friends giving us the opportunity to reflect on our future development within our local meeting.

We have had our customary shared meals five times this year with an additional shared meal on Quaker Day and we have held our usual seasonal celebration in December. We have also met socially in the homes of Friends several times during the year.

Our tenants in the upstairs flat wish to remain for another year and we have undertaken general repairs maintaining an excellent relationship with the tenants.

All requirements regarding charitable status continue to be met. Our links with Bishop Street Meeting regarding Child Protection issues have been maintained as has our annual financial commitment to that meeting. This year we have made our usual contribution to Quaker Services. We have also financially supported Irish Quakers Faith in Action, Enniscorthy Meeting House and the Fredrick Street Hub Appeal. We have also supported Age NI Causeway.

This year we have been active socially and spiritually. We have ensured that our listed duties have been attended to and we look forward to 2025 with hope and thankfulness.

Bernadette Brown
29/1/25