

# The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108013

## Details

Status	Received
Registered	2021-02-15
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	37 Downshire Road Belfast Bt6 9jl BT6 9JL
Phone	07768 671100
Email	<a href="mailto:lisburnmmtreasurer@gmail.com">lisburnmmtreasurer@gmail.com</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** The object of the Monthly 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 Christian understanding and religious development in the geographical area of responsibility of the Monthly Meeting; 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 of Preparative Meetings, including assistance to those in need.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Religious activities, Welfare/benevolent

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£38,300	£32,500	£0	0

# Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bronwen S M Haire		
Martin K Mail		
Philip A Mcdonagh		

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Accounts

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**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

**Receipts & Payments Account for year ended 31st December 2024**

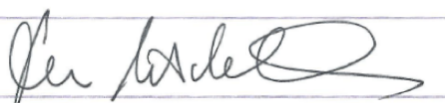
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Last year 2023
<b>Receipts</b>				
PM Moiety payments received		£19,922.39	£19,922.39	£18,715.24
Investment income				
Legacy Funds	£827.96		£827.96	£823.31
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£6,056.93		£6,056.93	£5,630.29
Hillsborough Meeting House income	£11,115.64		£11,115.64	£33,509.84
Lisburn & C'reagh Council (Maghaberry BG)		£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
NICIFC investment income		£381.04	£381.04	£387.09
Bank interest		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£18,000.53</b>	<b>£20,303.43</b>	<b>£38,303.96</b>	<b>£61,065.77</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
QM Moiety payments		£19,921.41	£19,921.41	£18,715.24
Admin expenses		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Legacy Fund grants	£800.00		£800.00	£400.00
Jessie Cairns Bequest grants	£7,350.00		£7,350.00	£10,520.00
Bangor MH Funds			£0.00	£0.00
Hillsborough Meeting House expenditure	£4,419.37		£4,419.37	£5,125.57
Investment in NICIFC			£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£12,569.37</b>	<b>£19,921.41</b>	<b>£32,490.78</b>	<b>£34,760.81</b>
<b>Balance on accounts at 1st January</b>	<b>£33,161.74</b>	<b>£24,203.19</b>	<b>£57,364.93</b>	<b>£31,059.97</b>
Receipts less payments	£5,431.16	£382.02	£5,813.18	£26,304.96
<b>Balance on accounts at 31st December</b>	<b>£38,592.90</b>	<b>£24,585.21</b>	<b>£63,178.11</b>	<b>£57,364.93</b>



**Prepared by:**

Ian Mitchell, Treasurer, Lisburn MM

Signed:



Date:

24.2.25

Signed:



Date:

16.3.25

Signed:



Date:

16.3.25

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

**Assets & Liabilities at 31st December 2024**

<b>Investments*</b>	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2024</b>	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2023</b>
Legacy Funds:		
Jane Green's Legacy for Poor	£ 21,247.03	£ 20,546.89
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£ 1,516.57	£ 1,478.04
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£ 1,697.89	£ 1,641.94
Thomas Green Bequest	£ 2,507.90	£ 2,425.26
Jacob Hancock Legacy	£ 576.35	£ 557.36
General Funds	£ 13,489.68	£ 13,045.16
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£ 69,052.84	£ 66,777.38
Hillsborough MH Funds	£ 13,162.57	£ 12,728.83
<b>Total value</b>	<b>£ 123,250.83</b>	<b>£ 119,200.86</b>
 <b>Bank balances</b>		
Main account	£ 9,154.66	£ 5,934.28
Jessie Cairns Account	£ 6,530.46	£ 12,713.24
Hillsborough MH Account	£ 47,492.99	£ 40,796.72
<b>Total in bank</b>	<b>£ 63,178.11</b>	<b>£ 59,444.24</b>

\*Investments are held in the name of Ulster Friends Trustees Ltd on behalf of the

**Prepared by:**

Ian Mitchell, Treasurer, Lisburn MM

Signed:



Date:

24.2.2025

**Examined by:**

Signed:

Date:

Signed:

Date:

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Accounts

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**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

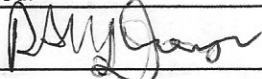
**Receipts & Payments Account for year ended 31st December 2023**

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Last year 2022
<b>Receipts</b>				
PM Moiety payments received		£18,715.24	£18,715.24	£9,300.91
Investment income:				
Legacy Funds	£823.31		£823.31	£1,137.45
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£5,630.29		£5,630.29	£5,514.63
Hillsborough Meeting House income	£26,546.73	£6,963.11	£33,509.84	£6,893.70
Lisburn & C'reagh Council (Maghaberry BG)		£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
NICIFC investment income		£387.09	£387.09	£0.00
Bank interest		£0.00	£0.00	£6.42
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£33,000.33</b>	<b>£28,065.44</b>	<b>£61,065.77</b>	<b>£22,853.11</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
QM Moiety payments		£18,715.24	£18,715.24	£9,300.91
Admin expenses		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Legacy Fund grants	£400.00		£400.00	£1,600.00
Jessie Cairns Bequest grants	£10,520.00		£10,520.00	£2,470.00
Bangor MH Funds			£0.00	£7,268.01
Hillsborough Meeting House expenditure	£1,570.00	£3,555.57	£5,125.57	£5,215.60
Investment in NICIFC			£0.00	£12,000.00
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£12,490.00</b>	<b>£22,270.81</b>	<b>£34,760.81</b>	<b>£37,854.52</b>
<b>Balance on accounts at 1st January</b>	<b>£12,651.41</b>	<b>£18,408.56</b>	<b>£31,059.97</b>	<b>£46,061.38</b>
Receipts less payments	£20,510.33	£5,794.63	£26,304.96	-£15,001.41
<b>Balance on accounts at 31st December</b>	<b>£33,161.74</b>	<b>£24,203.19</b>	<b>£57,364.93</b>	<b>£31,059.97</b>

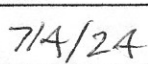
**Prepared by:**

Philip McDonagh, Treasurer, Lisburn MM

Signed:



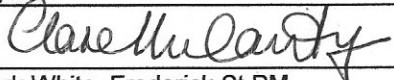
Date:



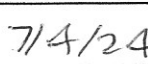
**Examined by:**

Clare McCarty, South Belfast PM

Signed:



Date:

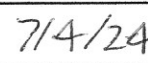


Mark White, Frederick St PM

Signed:



Date:



**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

**Assets & Liabilities at 31st December 2022**

<b>Investments*</b>	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2023</b>	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2022</b>	<b>Where invested</b>
<b>Legacy Funds:</b>			
Jane Green's Legacy for Poor	£20,546.89	£19,420.63	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£1,478.04	£1,513.61	M&G Charifund (Inc)
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£1,641.94	£1,551.94	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Thomas Green Bequest	£2,425.26	£2,292.32	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Jacob Hancock Legacy	£557.36	£526.81	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
<b>General Funds</b>			
General Funds	£13,045.16	£12,330.11	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£66,777.38	£63,117.05	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Hillsborough MH Funds	£12,728.83	£12,031.11	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
<b>Total value</b>	<b>£119,200.86</b>	<b>£112,783.58</b>	

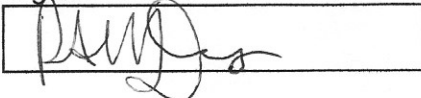
<b>Bank balances</b>			
Main account	£8,744.68	£5,934.28	Ulster Bank
Jessie Cairns Account	£7,823.53	£12,713.24	Ulster Bank
Hillsborough MH Account	£40,796.72	£12,412.45	Danske Bank
<b>Total in bank</b>	<b>£57,364.93</b>	<b>£31,059.97</b>	

\*Investments are held in the name of Ulster Friends Trustees Ltd on behalf of the Meeting

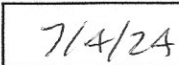
**Prepared by:**

Philip McDonagh, Treasurer, Lisburn MM

Signed:



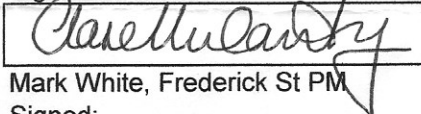
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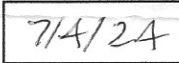
**Examined by:**

Clare McCarty, South Belfast PM

Signed:

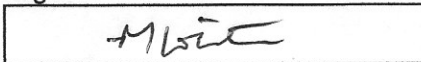


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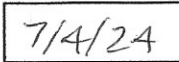


Mark White, Frederick St PM

Signed:



Date:



**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Annual report

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# The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting

## Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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, Lisburn Monthly Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were as follows:

Bronwen S M Haire

Martin K Mail

Philip A McDonagh (Clerk of Trustees)

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 Meeting has put in place a data protection policy and a safeguarding policy, based on guidelines from Ireland Yearly Meeting, which are reviewed regularly.

### Purposes of the charity

Lisburn Monthly Meeting is a Meeting for Worship of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland that practises in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

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 in the geographical area of responsibility of the Monthly Meeting;
- 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 of Preparative Meetings, including assistance to those in need.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 we had a total of 208 members as well as 123 regular Attenders.

### Our activities during 2023

We are responsible for four Preparative Meetings in South Belfast, Frederick Street Belfast, Lisburn and Coleraine, one Recognised Meeting in Bishop Street, Derry and two Worship Groups in Fermanagh and Hillsborough. Monthly Meeting met on 5 occasions during the year with an average attendance of 17 members. As well as our regular business, we heard from Quaker Service on their Strategic Review and their plans to move their administrative office into Frederick Street Meeting

House. Hillsborough Worship Group shared their plans for the construction of a new toilet block at the Meeting House to encourage greater usage and we supported their fundraising efforts.

Our activities in 2023 are reflected in the summary of Annual Reports from these Meetings.

Frederick Street has embarked on a programme of significant change in response to the enormous development going on all around them. The first phase of their project was completed in November 2023. The Meeting Room has been upgraded – triple glazing, new lights and radiators, new carpet, wall panelling, and the room has been redecorated. In addition, there are now three unisex toilets, disabled access and baby changing facilities. Phase 2 will see close collaboration with Quaker Service. Quaker Service is fully committed to moving to Frederick Street with the creation of the Frederick St Quaker Hub.

The usual attendance at Meeting for Worship in Frederick St is 20. It was decided to resume the midweek Meeting which is held on the first Wednesday of each month. This Meeting lasts 30 minutes and is followed by refreshments. It has proved popular with visitors.

Coleraine Meeting has quietly flourished this year – two attenders have been welcomed into membership, a member has returned to live in the area and now brings her young family to Meeting, the usual attendance at Meeting for Worship is 15 to 17. The Meeting has organised several enjoyable social events throughout the year, as well as undertaking a variety of activities to support the spiritual life of its Quaker community.

Lisburn Meeting welcomes a small number of members and attenders every Sunday, both at the Meeting House and virtually via Webex. Illness and frailty prevent many members from attending and the Meeting is aware of the lingering effects of the Covid pandemic on patterns of attendance. Sadly a number of deaths of both members and people with connections to the Meeting occurred during the year.

Sunday School takes place on the first Sunday of each month with the usual attendance being five. The children make buns for after Meeting tea and coffee – this hospitality provides an opportunity to socialise. The Meeting maintains its connection with Friends School by organising Bible Sunday in May when school leavers are presented with Bibles embossed with the school crest. Members and attenders have a monthly get-together at a local garden centre which has proved to be very popular and is usually very well attended.

Bishop Street Meeting held a memorial Meeting in February for a dear Friend. Health issues continue to impact on attendance, both in person and via Zoom. A series of discussions entitled “The Way Forward” to explore options that would more equitably share the responsibility of running the Meeting was successful. These deliberations have resulted in a sense of optimism for the future of the Meeting.

South Belfast Meeting continues to grow. Four friends can now be referred to with a capital F and two marriages took place in the Meeting House. Seven After Meeting Conversations were held during the year on Quaker related topics. The Eco Quaker Group has been very active, both within and beyond the Meeting. South Belfast has registered as a designated conservation area for the Irish honeybee. The Worship Sharing Group and the Book Group met monthly.

The children and young people meet every two weeks. Two all-age Meetings were held – the Christmas Meeting explored the parallels between the nativity story and the modern plight of refugees.

The Meeting's finances have been helped by income generated from renting the premises to various groups. Many social events took place – quiz nights, a picnic, fund raising breakfasts and the weekly after Meeting tea and coffee.

The newly fledged Hillsborough Worship Group had an inspiring first year – its members bonding over the task of raising funds for a new toilet block. Fund raising efforts included successful grant applications and a sponsored cycle from Cork Meeting House to Hillsborough. Barry, the intrepid cyclist, was welcomed home to the Meeting House with a celebratory BBQ held in glorious sunshine and attended by approximately 65 people. The BBQ raised an additional £1,000 for the building project. Planning approval is awaited.

Twenty-two people attended the annual visit to the old burial ground in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle. In September the Meeting House was opened to the public as part of European Heritage Day.

All Meetings and Worship Groups gave generously to a range of both Quaker and non Quaker charities. The annual Frederick Street/South Belfast joint craft fair raised money for Quaker Service and the Frederick Street renovation fund. Coleraine Meeting contributed to Quaker Service and the Hillsborough Meeting House Appeal. The Meeting also has a financial commitment to Bishop Street Meeting. Bishop Street Meeting gave financial support to Quaker Service, Irish Quaker Faith in Action, Ramallah School and a local food bank. Lisburn Meeting's charitable donations included Quaker Service, Christian Aid and Storehouse, Belfast. South Belfast Meeting continued its regular donations to a range of charities in addition to having special collections through the year for six charities. The Meeting also held many fund-raising events for Quaker Service, the Syria/Turkey earthquake appeal, those affected by the war in Ukraine and the fund to support Quakers to attend the FWCC gathering in South Africa in 2024.

The use of IT is a positive legacy of the Covid pandemic. Bishop Street, Lisburn and South Belfast now hold blended Meetings for Worship. Some committees and groups meet via Zoom. South Belfast continues to find its website and Facebook page a very useful and effective means of outreach. All forms of electronic communication have been helpful in maintaining contact and helping to build and nourish community.

A quote from the report of the South Belfast Worship Sharing Group to finish

“even texts (from Old and New Testaments) that are very familiar continue to alert us in new ways to the breadth and depth of the relationship that God offers to us, and the varying ways in which we may each be called on to respond”.

### Looking forward

We look forward to God's continued blessing on our Meetings in 2024 and we hope to see growth in Christian understanding and spiritual experience in all our Meetings.

### Public Benefit

The trustees of Lisburn Monthly 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 ensured that our Meetings hold regular Meetings for Worship 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 and bequest funds that have been left to the Meeting, we provide financial support to those in need within our Meetings and for other charitable causes;
- We open our two historic sites at Hillsborough and Frederick Street Belfast to the public on European Heritage Day.

### Financial Review

Our financial statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 is attached to this report and shows that we had a surplus of income over expenditure of £26,304.96 for the year, although this included restricted funds of £26,546.73 collected towards the construction of a new toilet block at Hillsborough Meeting House. As a result, our total current funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 increased to £57,364.93 compared with £31,059.97 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

We also spent £400 on legacy grants to Friends in need of financial assistance and £10,520 on grants from the Jessie Cairns Bequest which supports travel & extension expenses of Members and Attenders and charitable work in Northern Ireland.

The value of our investments at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £119,200.86 compared with £112,783.58 at the end of the previous year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### Declaration

This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 and is signed on behalf of trustees.

Philip McDonagh  
Clerk of Trustees

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Annual return

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Lisburn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland**

I 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 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 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: **Clare McCarty**

Address:

36 Sans Souci Park  
Belfast BT9 5BZ

Date: 17th March 2024

Signature: *Clare McCarty*

Name: **Mark White**

Address: 91 Princess Gdns

Hollywood  
BT18 0PW

Date: 7-4-24

Signature: *M White*

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Accounts

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**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

**Receipts & Payments Account for year ended 31st December 2022**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Last year 2021</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
PM Moiety payments received	£9,300.91		£9,300.91	£5,138.10
Investment income:				
Legacy Funds	£1,137.45		£1,137.45	£828.18
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£5,514.63		£5,514.63	£5,514.63
Hillsborough Meeting House income		£6,893.70	£6,893.70	£5,467.60
Bank interest		£6.42	£6.42	£1.42
<b>Total receipts</b>			<b>£22,853.11</b>	<b>£16,949.93</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
QM Moiety payments	£9,300.91		£9,300.91	£5,138.11
Admin expenses		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Legacy Fund grants	£1,600.00		£1,600.00	£1,950.00
Jessie Cairns Bequest grants	£2,470.00		£2,470.00	£6,500.00
Bangor MH Fund grants	£7,268.01		£7,268.01	£0.00
Hillsborough Meeting House expenditure		£5,215.60	£5,215.60	£2,580.81
Investment in NICIFC		£12,000.00	£12,000.00	
<b>Total payments</b>			<b>£37,854.52</b>	<b>£16,168.92</b>
<b>Balance on accounts at 1st January</b>			<b>£46,061.38</b>	<b>£45,280.37</b>
Receipts less payments			-£15,001.41	£781.01
<b>Balance on accounts at 31st December</b>			<b>£31,059.97</b>	<b>£46,061.38</b>

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

**Assets & Liabilities at 31st December 2022**

	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2022</b>	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2021</b>	<b>Where invested</b>
<b>Investments*</b>			
Legacy Funds:			
Jane Green's Legacy for Poor	£19,420.63	£22,117.12	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£1,513.61	£1,602.89	M&G Charifund (Inc)
Sarah D Malcolmson Fund	£1,551.94	£1,767.42	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Thomas Green Bequest	£2,292.32	£2,610.60	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Jacob Hancock Legacy	£526.81	£599.95	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
General Funds	£12,330.11	£0.00	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Jessie Cairns Bequest	£63,117.05	£71,880.65	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
Hillsborough MH Funds	£12,031.11	£13,701.59	NI Central Investment Fund for Charities
<b>Total value</b>	<b>£112,783.58</b>	<b>£114,280.23</b>	

<b>Bank balances</b>			
Main account	£5,934.28	£13,961.04	Ulster Bank
Business Reserve	£0.00	£11,698.53	Ulster Bank
Jessie Cairns Account	£12,713.24	£7,083.27	Ulster Bank
Jessie Cairns Reserve	£0.00	£2,584.19	Ulster Bank
Hillsborough MH Account	£12,412.45	£10,734.35	Danske Bank
<b>Total in bank</b>	<b>£31,059.97</b>	<b>£46,061.38</b>	

\*Investments are held in the name of Ulster Friends Trustees Ltd on behalf of the Meeting

**Prepared by:**

Philip McDonagh, Treasurer, Lisburn MM

Signed:

Date:

**Examined by:**

Judith Poole, Frederick St PM

Signed:

Date:

Richard Jordan, South Belfast PM

Signed:

Date:

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Annual report

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# The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting

## Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 produced by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

### Constitution and governance

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were as follows:

Bronwen S M Haire

Martin K Mail

Philip A McDonagh (Clerk of Trustees)

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 Meeting has put in place a data protection policy, based on guidelines from Ireland Yearly Meeting, which is reviewed regularly.

### Purposes of the charity

Lisburn Monthly Meeting is a Meeting for Worship of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland that practises in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

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 in the geographical area of responsibility of the Monthly Meeting;
- 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 of Preparative Meetings, including assistance to those in need.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 we had a total of 207 members as well as 143 regular Attenders.

### Our activities during 2022

We are responsible for four Preparative Meetings in South Belfast, Frederick Street Belfast, Lisburn and Coleraine, one Recognised Meeting in Bishop Street, Derry and one Worship Group in Fermanagh. During the year, we also welcomed the establishment of a second Worship Group which meets in Hillsborough Meeting House. Monthly Meeting met on 5 occasions during the year with an average attendance of 20 members. As well as our regular business, we discussed the activity of the

European & Middle East Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and our response as a Society to the cost of living crisis.

Our activities in 2022 are reflected in the summary of Annual Reports from these Meetings. Coleraine Meeting captured the underlying theme of all the Annual Reports – “This has been a year of transition from Covid restrictions to comparative normality”. While all Meetings continued to feel the impact of Covid the return to in person Meeting for Worship and Meeting related activities accelerated as the year progressed. The continued access to online worship for Friends who are house bound, medically vulnerable or geographically isolated is a very positive legacy of the pandemic. Both Lisburn and South Belfast Meetings can be attended online. Bishop St meet in person on the first Sunday of the month and hold online Meeting for Worship each third and fifth Sunday. But Covid has also taught us that online is no substitute for in person – after Meeting tea and coffee, shared meals at Coleraine Meeting, wedding celebrations at Frederick St and South Belfast, a coffee morning at Hillsborough, a Meeting of Remembrance and a shared lunch at Bishop St were all celebrated and appreciated this year.

Fermanagh Worship Group had difficulty in finding a new venue following lockdown which resulted in using three different venues before finding a satisfactory place to meet in Enniskillen. The Group meet on the fourth Sunday at 10.30. A small grant from the Jesse Cairns bequest was gratefully received. The Group’s contact person remarked on the determination of attenders to maintain the Group.

South Belfast hopes to resume its programme of visiting the other Meetings within Lisburn MM in 2023 – two or three visitors might go unnoticed in our bigger Meetings but with average attendance of 10 to 12 in Fermanagh and Coleraine it can make a difference.

Some new books have been added to South Belfast’s library. New software will be available shortly that will enable Friends, including those from other Meetings, to browse the Library’s catalogue.

Young people are a vital part of our Meetings. Sunday School restarted at Lisburn in September – it is held once a month with approximately eight children attending. Bible Sunday took place at Friends School in May. In South Belfast in-person sessions for children resumed and now happen every other Sunday. There were visits by young Friends to JYM, Moyallon camps, Yorkshire Holiday School and a European and Middle East Young Friends Gathering.

Frederick St finds itself in the middle of the redevelopment of its neighbourhood by the University of Ulster with high rise buildings going up around the Meeting House. The Development Working Group continued their explorations of working with Quaker Service in redeveloping the Meeting House site. A grant application to Belfast City Council was unsuccessful. In 2023 the Working Group will bring fresh proposals to the Meeting for consideration.

The spiritual growth of Meetings was nurtured in a number of ways:

- Lisburn held monthly prayer meetings.
- Coleraine discussion topics included prayer, sayings of Jesus, testimonies of equality and simplicity.
- Worship Sharing resumed at South Belfast and a book group reading Quaker books started in the autumn.
- Members of South Belfast M&O organised four evening sessions on the themes – God and Faith, Worship, Integrity, Equality and Diversity.

The sharing of our resources be it financial, time or property continued through the year

- Bishop St held special collections for the Red Cross for its work in Ukraine and Quaker Service. Donations were made to IQWFA and Ramallah School.
- Frederick St and South Belfast held a joint craft fair which raised almost £3,000 for Quaker Service and was a great opportunity to strengthen links between the two Meetings.
- South Belfast saw a return to the pre Covid use of its Meeting House. Many Community groups, interest groups and charities use the premises. The use of the building generates welcome funds for the Meeting and raises its profile in the local community. There were six special collections for Quaker and other charities and a donation was made to the Islamic Centre who moved to a new mosque in 2022.
- Coleraine Meeting contributed to Quaker Cottage and Corrymeela and made Christmas donations to the local Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul.

Eco Quakers had a busy year. They brought the Loving Earth Project to Northern Ireland. This is a textile exhibition created by Friends in Britain and Ireland during lockdown. The textile panels were displayed for a week in three venues – The Millennium Court in Portadown, South Belfast Meeting House and The Playhouse Theatre in Derry. Friends from Bishop St and South Belfast played an active role in ensuring the success of the exhibition.

Many local Friends and attenders volunteered at IYM which took place in Belfast in August. It was a source of pride for Coleraine Meeting that this year's public lecture was given by a Coleraine Friend.

Meetings interacted with the wider community by working with other faith groups such as South Belfast's link with Methodists, both local and further afield, and Coleraine is represented in the Corrymeela Support Group and the Coleraine Churches Forum.

Hillsborough and Frederick Meeting Houses take part in European Heritage Open Day when buildings of interest are open to the public. This year Hillsborough was unable to participate because of road closures owing to the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Lisburn and South Belfast have websites which continue to be very useful as outreach. South Belfast also has a Facebook page.

Lisburn Monthly Meeting had the pleasure of welcoming a new Worship Group in November. Hillsborough Worship Group meet on the last Sunday of the month in the restored Hillsborough Meeting House. It is an active group with up to twenty-five attending Meeting for Worship. The Group is keen to see the Meeting House as a place for both Quakers and the local community.

Frederick St's Annual Report captured the feeling of all the reports – "At a recent Meeting for Worship the various contributions created a theme of "Looking forward with a positive attitude"".

### Looking forward

We look forward to God's continued blessing on our Meetings in 2023 and we hope to see growth in Christian understanding and spiritual experience in all our Meetings.

### Public Benefit

The trustees of Lisburn Monthly 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 ensured that our Meetings hold regular Meetings for Worship 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 and bequest funds that have been left to the Meeting, we provide financial support to those in need within our Meetings and for other charitable causes;
- We open our two historic sites at Hillsborough and Frederick Street Belfast to the public on European Heritage Day, although it was not possible to open Hillsborough Meeting House this year, due to the death of the Queen.

### Financial Review

Our financial statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 is attached to this report and shows that we had a deficit of income over expenditure of £15,001.41 for the year, although this was mainly due to the transfer of £12,000 out of our current account into an investment account in the NI Central Investment Fund for Charities. As a result, our total current funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 decreased to £31,059.97 compared with £46,061.38 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

We also spent £1,600 on legacy grants to Friends in need of financial assistance and £2,470 on grants from the Jessie Cairns Bequest which supports travel & extension expenses of Members and Attenders and charitable work in Northern Ireland. The final grant of £7,268.01 was made from the Bangor Meeting House Fund to support redevelopment of the building at Frederick Street Belfast.

The value of our investments at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 was £112,783.58 compared with £114,280.23 at the end of the previous year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

### Declaration

This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and is signed on behalf of trustees.

Philip McDonagh  
Clerk of Trustees

**The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland, Lisburn Monthly Meeting**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108013

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# Annual return

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of  
Lisburn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends (Quakers) in Ireland**

I report on the accounts of the charity 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:

- 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  
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: RICHARD JORDAN

Address: 3 GRANGE CRESCENT  
SANTFIELD  
BT 24 7NP

Date: 20/4/23

Signature: *Richard Jordan*