

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NON-SUBSCRIBING
BANBRIDGE**



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Charity No. NIC 100336

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Minister: Rev Brian Moodie

Session: Mr S Agnew (Clerk)

Mr RJ Russell; Mr D Stevenson

Mr R McClean; Mrs C McAlister

Mrs K Bushby

Hon Secretary: Mrs C McAlister

Hon Treasurer: Mrs E Hutton

Committee: Mr T Shields; Mrs L Shields; Mrs V McCullough

Mr D Little; Mrs C Brown

Stipend Treasurer: Mr RJ Russell

Sunday Collection: Mrs E Hutton

Charity Collection: Mr R McClean

Magazine Correspondent: Mrs K Bushby

Organists: Mr Stephen Thompson; Mrs Julie Black

Trustees: Mr RJ Russell; Mr T Shields;

Mr D Stevenson; Mr R McClean

Sunday School Superintendent: Mrs C McAlister

Child Protection Officer: Mrs D Whan

Building Maintenance Officer: Mr D Little

Church Supervisor: Mr D Little

First Presbyterian Church Banbridge, Non-Subscribing

Minister's Report for the Year 2022

Dear Friends

2022 was the first year that marked a return to full normality after the Covid-19 pandemic. It continued to be an encouraging year for us in Banbridge, as our numbers remain steady with a high percentage of attendance of our membership on an average Sunday morning and some very encouraging larger services at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day, as well as our Advent/Christmas period. It also marked another good financial year in which our members once again gave generously through their weekly Free Will Offering contributions, as well as their generous support of the monthly charities.

Sunday Worship Highlights

The year began in January with the celebration of Rev. Lena Cockcroft's 40th anniversary since her ordination on the 9th January 1982. It was therefore a privilege to have her preaching at Banbridge on this, her anniversary year, also in her capacity as Moderator of the NSPCI.

Holy Week was marked with a few online reflections culminating in our Easter Sunday Service on the 17th April at which we were privileged to have a solo from Ruby Bushby.

On the 1st May we shared in Communion, although still using the pre-packaged communion cups and wafers.

2022 was a poignant year as we not only remembered and celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, but also remembered her in her passing in a service led by Rev. Robert McKee, while I was away on leave, as well as two services when I arrived back in the middle of September.

We had a successful Harvest service on the morning of 2nd October and are grateful for all the efforts that were made to decorate the Meeting House so beautifully.

On 6th November we returned to our normal Communion Service for the first time since November 2019. This was special for me as minister because it was the first time for me to participate in this old Presbyterian format of Communion with everyone seated at tables at the front of the Meeting House.

We had a very successful December period with the Christmas Nativity Puppet Show on the 11th December, put together by Wendy and myself, featuring

Sheeny and Beanie. This was followed on the 18th December with our Carol service, which took place at 10am, featuring the beautiful singing of Ellen and Sarah Forsythe, as well as the participation by a number of readers. Both of these services were well attended.

The year ended with our Christmas Service which took place this year on the last Sunday of the year and which drew a significant number of members, extended family and a few visitors as well. It was wonderful to have Lynda and Tom's grandchildren from Dublin, with Charlotte, Bella and Freddie Shields helping to make the service special with their musical items.

Preaching Series and Topics Covered in our Sunday Worship in 2022:

- Jan/Feb – Exploring the Five Languages of Love (Physical Touch; Giving Gifts; Acts of Service; Affirming Words; Quality Time)
- June – Return of the Prodigal Son – 7 weeks
- Jun/July/Oct – Historical Series:
 - The History of Banbridge NSP
 - What is the Westminster Confession and why don't we subscribe to it?
 - Why were we called Unitarians?
 - What does it mean for us to be Presbyterian?
 - How did the NSPCI come into existence?
 - The History and Significance of the Burning Bush for Presbyterians

Other Topics:

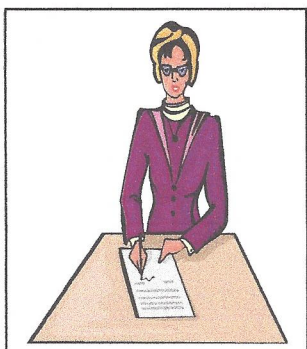
- Is this Really how God Acts in the World? Wrestling with the fall of Jerusalem 598BC
- Mother's Day – Granny is Like God (Reflecting on God as 'Mother').
- I do not condemn you either - Reflection on John 8:108
- Horses, Donkeys, Strength & Vulnerability – Palm Sunday Reflection
- The Resurrection Mystery – Easter Sunday
- Resurrection Stuckness Reflection on John 20:19-31
- Do you love me? Sharing Bread - Communion Sunday 1 May
- Queen Elizabeth II – A Reflection on her Life
- In Life & In Death – Reflecting on the Faith of Queen Elizabeth II
- Harvest – Cain & Abel and the 'First Harvest' (disaster)
- Becoming a Living Temple of God – Reflecting on Haggai & Zacchaeus
- The Art of Deep Listening Matt 13:13ff & Proverbs 1:1-7
- What is True Religion? (James 1:26-27)
- New Light on Communion – a symbol of allegiance to Christ
- Missing – A Remembrance Sunday Reflection
- What kind of a King is this? (A reflection on the Sunday of Christ the King)
- Advent 1: Plant a Sapling then Meet the Messiah

Gratitude needs to be expressed to all those who have helped to make our Sunday worship meaningful over the year: For all those who have assisted in providing flowers every Sunday and have given so generously of their time and creativity in decorating the Church for special services, most particularly for Harvest and the Advent/Christmas period. Gratitude also should be expressed to those members, who so faithfully open up and close on a Sunday and prepare the Meeting House for us all before we arrive, as well as to our organists, Julie Black and Stephen Thompson, for blessing us with beautiful music every Sunday. A very big thank you also needs to be expressed to Paul McCabe, and my father, Tony Moodie for preaching and filling the pulpit in my absence, both of whom gave freely of their time, both in preparation and on a Sunday, not wishing to receive remuneration for their ministry amongst us. From a pastoral perspective, we were privileged to celebrate the Baptism of Poppy Cruikshanks (daughter of Peter and Diane) on the 8th May.

While there were no deaths amongst our own members, we remember those of our members who lost family members during the year. Most especially, we remember Anna McGarry in the loss of her husband, Maurie, who would have been a not infrequent visitor with us.

Lastly, a very big thank you to everyone who has served in the Committee, both elders and non-elders, attending meetings so faithfully in helping to manage the life of our church with care and wisdom. A very special thank you to Elaine Hutton for so diligently looking after the finances of our church and Carol McAlister for both guiding and recording our meetings as Honorary Clerk.

Sincerely
Rev. Brian Moodie



Honorary Secretary's Report 2022

2022 saw the Church and life in general get back to some sort of normality again. Although Covid is very much still with us, we are learning to live with it. The wearing of face masks is no longer deemed mandatory, social distancing restrictions have been lifted and services have more or less returned to normal.

We are grateful to the members of the Congregation for their continued support. Attendances have been fairly regular throughout the year with some very good attendances at the special services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, the Family Service in June, the Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, the Nativity Puppet Show and the Carol Service.

The Congregation were deeply saddened to learn of the death in July of Mr Maurice McGarry. Although, Maurice was a member of the Church of Ireland, following his marriage to Anna he regularly attended our Church with her and for a number of years laid the wreath at our Remembrance Day Service. Maurice always enjoyed a chat and made many friends within the Church. Sympathy is also extended to all the members of the congregation who have been bereaved throughout the year.

Baptism

Poppy Emily Cruikshanks, daughter of Peter and Diane and granddaughter of Noel and Sylvia, was baptised on Sunday 8th May.

Congratulations to Mrs Edna Agnew on the birth of a granddaughter in December.

Thanks are extended to:

Rev Moodie for continuing to provide an online sermon for those members of the Congregation unable to attend Church and for maintaining the Church's Internet site;

Mrs Karen Bushby for maintaining the Church's Facebook page and for her articles in the denominational magazine and local papers;

Mr Stephen Thompson and Mrs Julie Black for playing the organ for us; those members of the Congregation who supplied flowers for the pulpit throughout the year, and

Mr John Cunningham, a new member of the Congregation, for his donation of a Bible which is proudly open and on display at the front of the pulpit.

REVIEW OF EVENTS 2022

January

We welcomed Mr Paul McCabe who led our service on Sunday 2nd January as Rev Moodie was taking the services at Clough and Ballee. There was a good attendance on Sunday 9th January when our Service was taken by Rev Lena Cockroft. Rev Lena was celebrating the 40th anniversary of her ordination as a Non Subscribing Minister and being the first female to be ordained in the Denomination. Mrs Vera McCullough and Mrs Colette Brown both led us in prayer during the service.

February

Congratulations were extended to Peter and Diane Cruikshanks on the birth of their daughter, Poppy. The service on Sunday 27th February was conducted by Mr Sam Agnew.

March

Mrs Sylvia Cruikshanks took part in the World Day of Prayer which was held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Friday 4th March. As Rev Moodie had Covid, the services on Sunday 6th and 13th March were conducted by Rev Alister Bell and Mr Sam Agnew respectively. There was a good attendance on Mothering Sunday 27th March and it was lovely to see baby Poppy Cruikshanks out with her mum and dad.

April

There was a good attendance at the service on Easter Sunday 17th April at which Ruby sang the solo 'Death was arrested'. Thanks to Elaine Hutton for giving out creme eggs to everyone.

May

Communion Service was held on Sunday 1st May, again using the prefilled cups. There was a good attendance on Sunday 8th May for the baptism of Poppy Emily Cruikshanks. On Sunday 15th May the Congregation agreed unanimously to move from the Antrim Presbytery back to the Presbytery of Bangor. On Sunday 29th May it was good to have Mr Jock Houston out visiting us again from Scotland. On Sunday afternoon there was a visitation from the Antrim Presbytery. The service was conducted by the Moderator of the Antrim Presbytery, Rev Paul Reid assisted by Rev Dr John Nelson, Rev Colin Campbell and student for the Ministry Mr David McCord. Thanks are extended to the ladies for providing tea/coffee after the service.

June/July

There was a very good attendance at the Family Service on Sunday 19th June, when books were given to the young children and the older children each received a Platinum Jubilee Bible, inscribed by Mr Tom Shields, in commemoration of the Queen's 70th Jubilee. During the service, Heidi and Luke Hansen led the prayers; Noah Hansen, Mia Richardson and Erin

McCluskey read poems; Matthew Little read the lesson; and Sarah and Ellen Forsythe sang, 'Here I am, Lord'. The service on Sunday 26th June was conducted by Rev Alister Bell. The service on Sunday 3rd July was taken by Rev Moodie's father, Tony.

August

On Sunday 7th August, it was pleasing to have Brenda Francis, a previous Church organist, out with our organist for the day, Philip Beattie. During Rev Moodie's holiday, services on 14th, 21st and 28th August 2022 were led by Mr Tony Moodie. As part of the year's celebration of NSPCI women, Mrs Colette Brown, Mrs Diana Whan and Mrs Karen Bushby represented the Church when they joined other ladies from the Denomination for a walk at the Montalto Estate on Saturday 20th August.

September

As Rev Moodie was on holiday, the services on 4th and 11th September were led by the Moderator Rt Rev Lena Cockroft and the Very Rev Robert McKee respectively. There was a good attendance on Sunday 18th September, when Rev Moodie held a Memorial Service for the Queen, following her death on 8th September.

October

The Church, as always, was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Service on Sunday 2nd October 2022. Thanks are extended to Mrs Elizabeth Stevenson, Mrs Sylvia Cruikshanks and Mrs Vera McCullough for all their hard work. Rev Moodie took the service, during which, Sarah and Ellen Forsythe sang 'Amazing Grace'. A large number of non-perishable food items were donated by the Congregation and these were later delivered by Rev Moodie and his wife, Wendy, to the Storehouse Banbridge Community Foodbank.

November

On Sunday 6th November, for the first time since the Pandemic, we held our Communion Service in the traditional way sitting around the tables at the front of the Church. Mr Sam Agnew and Mrs Karen Busby assisted Rev Moodie in the serving of the wine and bread. Thanks were extended to Mrs Sylvia Cruikshanks for baking the shortbread. There was a good attendance at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 13th November, when the wreath at the war memorial was laid by Mrs Sharon Hansen and Binyon's words were read by Mr Alfie Hazley. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Mr Stephen Thompson on the organ. Thanks are extended to Mrs Elizabeth Stevenson for her usual beautiful poppy displays. A Family Service was held on Sunday 20th November, when the lesson was read by Heidi Hansen.

December

The Church was again beautifully decorated throughout the Christmas period and thanks go to Mrs Sylvia Cruikshanks and her daughter, Karen, for the various displays on the windows and throughout the Church. Thanks also go

to David Little for putting up and decorating the Christmas tree and to Mrs Edna Agnew and Sam for providing the Advent wreath. On Sunday 11th December, the Congregation were treated by Rev Moodie and his wife, Wendy, to a Nativity Puppet Show, which was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old present. There was a very good attendance at the Carol Service, which was held on Sunday 18th December. Ellen and Sarah Forsythe sang 'O Holy Night' and the readers were Sarah and Ellen Forsythe, Ruby Bushby, Alison McCluskey, Colette Brown, John Cunningham and Wendy Moodie. At the end of the service, all the children received a selection box. Thanks to everyone who brought gifts of toiletries for Barnardos. There was also a good attendance on Christmas morning, when it was great to have Mr Martin Shields, his wife Francesca and their seven children join us from Dublin and take part in the service. Charlotte sang 'O Holy Night', Bella played the guitar and together, with her brother Freddie, sang 'Silent Night'.

Carol McAlister



Sunday School Report 2022

Unfortunately, Sunday School has not yet resumed. However, it was good to have the children participate in a few services during the year.

June

There was a very good attendance at the Family Service on Sunday 19th June when books were given to the young children and the older children each received a Platinum Jubilee Bible, inscribed by Mr Tom Shields, in commemoration of the Queen's 70th Jubilee. During the service, Heidi and Luke Hansen led the prayers, Noah Hansen, Mia Richardson and Erin McCluskey read poems, Matthew Little read the lesson and Sarah and Ellen Forsythe sang 'Here I am, Lord'.

November

A Family Service was held on Sunday 20th November when the lesson was read by Heidi Hansen.

December

There was a very good attendance at the Carol Service which was held on Sunday 18th December. Ellen and Sarah Forsythe sang 'O Holy Night' and the readers included Sarah and Ellen Forsythe and Ruby Bushby. At the end of the service all the children received a selection box.

Carol McAlister

Honorary Treasurer's Report 2022



Our thanks must go to our church members for their generosity throughout 2022. While we have seen a 23% decline in our ordinary collection, our total stipend collection (envelope and regular monthly bank transfers) for the year has increased by 3.33% from last year. Our donations we make to the various charity collections each month amounted to £935 and as a small congregation we should be proud of this. Our chosen charities are always grateful for the donations they receive from us.

A number of members are now opting to pay stipends directly into our church bank account and if any other church member needs further details about how to do this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our church income was again boosted this year by payment of Gift Aid claims made for 2021, which amounted to £3462.72 Thank you to everyone, who has already signed up to the Gift Aid scheme. The scheme allows the church to claim 25 pence for every pound that you have already given to the church, providing that you are a taxpayer. It is a very simple process and forms are available for anyone, who has not yet signed up to Gift Aid and would like to do so.

Our main outlays during 2022 were for the usual church insurance, graveyard maintenance and heating oil.

I would like to thank the other members of the congregation, who have helped me during the year – Mr Jim Russell for his work as Stipend Treasurer, Mr Bertie McClean for collecting the weekly charity donations and Mrs Carol McAlister for her help & advice throughout the year. Thanks also to Mrs Jocelyn Girvan for independently verifying our accounts for 2022. I am grateful to you all.

Once again, many thanks to all the members of our church – your continued support is greatly appreciated. I hope and pray that 2023 will be an even better year for our church and for us all.

ANNUAL REVIEW

	<u>Stipend Collection</u>	<u>Ordinary Collection</u>
2018	£13,145	£516
2019	£11,946	£224
2020	£11,225	£50
2021	£14,383	£223
2022	£14,862	£170

Elaine Hutton - February 2023

STIPEND FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>STIPEND</u>	<u>GIFT AID 2021</u>
1	£555.00	£2.50
2	£1,050.00	£293.75
3	£300.00	£77.50
6	£1,070.00	£265.00
8	£280.00	£111.25
9	£600.00	£150.00
10	£300.00	£75.00
18	£620.00	£166.25
21	£280.00	£63.75
22	£730.00	£192.50
24	£255.00	£65.00
26	£405.00	£76.25
27	£470.00	£155.00
28	£150.00	£36.25
30	£530.00	
33	£465.00	£106.25
34	£250.00	£52.50
35	£245.00	£52.50
36	£540.00	£142.50
38	£400.00	£96.25
39	£107.00	
45	£320.00	£57.50
51	£520.00	£142.50
52	£10.00	
93	£550.00	£155.00
95/105	£836.00	£218.00
100	£270.00	
101	£560.00	£135.00
106	£112.00	£28.50
107	£112.00	£28.50
119	£170.00	£52.50
120	£170.00	£52.50
121	£200.00	£67.50
122	£520.00	£125.00
132	£490.00	£105.00
137	£360.00	£90.00
	£60.00	£15.00
Interest		£10.22
TOTALS	£14,862.00	£3,462.72

Charity No. NIC100336
Stipend Treasurer: Mr R.J. Russell
Auditor: Mrs. J. Girvan

No. 1 Account - Year Ending 31 December 2022

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance @ bank Jan 01	£57,794.95	Minister's Salary	
Stipend (envelopes)	£12,272.00	including HMRC & Pension	£10,102.79
Annual Stipend (via bank)	£2,590.00	Vints - Payroll Services	£402.60
Ordinary Collection	£170.35	Pulpit Supplies	£460.00
Rent -Silver Band	£150.00	Church Cleaning	£720.00
Wayleave	£6.32	Organist & Relief	£1,975.00
Sustentation Fund	£150.00	Electricity	£69.85
Ground Rents	£210.00	Oil	£1,297.00
Gift Aid 2021	£3,462.72	Organ Maintenance	£131.90
Ministry Expenses No.4 Acc	£1,000.00	MG Fire Services	£96.00
Dividends	£2,086.22	S. School Platinum Bibles	£105.30
Commonwealth War Graves	£15.00	S. School Gifts (selection boxes)	£21.00
		Rep Elder Synod Travel/Lunch	£30.00
		Benevolent Fund	£100.00
		Insurance	£2,014.46
Charity Collections		Annual Postage Expenses	£95.35
Southern Area Hospice	£160.00	N.I. Water/Sewerage Charges	£162.88
Alzheimers	£180.00	Communion Pre-filled Cups	£19.50
Kidney Research	£100.00	Weedkiller	£159.00
Children's Hospice	£110.00	Antrim Pres Fees	£40.00
Orphan Fund	£80.00	Antrim Pres Student Fund	£50.00
Graveyard	£120.00	Printing Costs	£1.28
B Positive	£100.00		
Poppy Appeal	<u>£85.00</u>		
	£935.00	Denominational Funds	
		Joint Inc & Mod Fund	£199.00
		Sunday School Fund	£74.00
		Sustentation Fund	£430.00
		Rem. Synod	£45.00
		Trustee Co. Fund	£10.00
		Bodel Mackenzie	£10.00
		Ministers' Widows' Fund	£100.00
		Orphan Society	£100.00
		Porter Fund	£30.00
		Students & Ministers	<u>£50.00</u>
			£1,048.00
Donations			
Graveyard Donations:		Charity Collections	
D Bryans	£50.00	Southern Area Hospice	£160.00
		Alzheimer's Society	£180.00
		NI Kidney Research	£100.00
		NI Children's Hospice	£110.00
		B Positive	£100.00
		Poppy Appeal	<u>£85.00</u>
			£735.00
Harvest Donations:			
Mr & Mrs McCarrison	£50.00		
		Balance @ bank Dec 31	<u>£61,105.65</u>
	<u>£80,942.56</u>		<u>£80,942.56</u>

No. 2 Account - Ben Dickson Fund - Year Ending 31 December 2022

Jan 1 Balance @ Bank	£171.18		
		Dec 31 Balance @ Bank	£171.18
	£171.18		£171.18

No. 3 Account - Renovation/Dunbar School - Year Ending 31 December 2022

Jan 1 Balance @ Bank	£46,742.75	Grass cutting at graveyard	£800.00
Rent Dunbar School	£8,750.04	Plumbing Repairs	£50.00
		Dec 31 Balance @ Bank	£54,642.79
	£55,492.79		£55,492.79

No. 4 Account - Manse - Year Ending 31 December 2022

Jan 1 Balance @ Bank	£40,598.88	Ministry Expenses	£1,000.00
Dividends	£3,531.68		
Interest	£8.72	Dec 31 Balance @ Bank	£43,139.28
	£44,139.28		£44,139.28

Dunbar Fund - Year Ending 31 December 2022

Jan 1 Balance @ Bank	£1,891.74	Bank fees	£30.10
Interest	£1.91		
Dividends	£93.66	Dec 31 Balance @ Bank	£1,957.21
	£1,987.31		£1,987.31

Charity No.NIC100336

Treasurer:

Mrs. E. Hutton

Independent Examiner:

Mrs J. Girvan

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (NON SUBSCRIBING) CHURCH

BANBRIDGE

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 9 March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Apologies

Correspondence

Minutes of last AGM - March 2022

Matters Arising

Report of Hon. Secretary

Report of Hon. Treasurer

Sunday School Report

Election of Officers

Election of Presbytery & Synod Representative

Any other business