

Report Details

<u>Charity Name:</u>	Comber Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church [CNSPC]
<u>Charity's Address:</u>	15 Windmill Hill, Comber, Newtownards, Co. Down, BT23 5WH
<u>Registered Charity Number:</u>	NIC100413
<u>Reporting Period Starting:</u>	01 January 2022
<u>Reporting Period Ending:</u>	31 December 2022

Structure, Governance & Administration Details

Trustees:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates of Office (If not for full year)</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>
Trustee	Mr. S. H. Semple		Congregation
Trustee	Mr. W. A. Carson		Congregation
Trustee (Company)	The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland Trustee Company		Congregation

Office Bearers:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates of Office (If not for full year)</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>
Minister	Rev. I. Gilpin, B.A., B.D.		Presbytery
Session Clerk	Mrs. A. Anderson		Session
Synod Representative	Mrs. A. Anderson		Congregation
Presbytery Representative	Mrs. A. Anderson		Congregation
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. J. Newell		Congregation
Hon. Assistant Secretary	Mr. W. A. Carson		Congregation
Treasurer	Mr. G. Campbell		Congregation
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. N. Walker		Congregation
Sunday School Superintendent	Mrs. E. Marshall		Session
Free-Will Offering Administrator(s)	Mr. G. Grace Mr. R. Grace	To 12 Nov (DOD)	Congregation
Building Fund Administrator	Mr. R. Brown		Congregation
Child Protection Designated Person(s)	Mrs. J. Dempster (Designated) Mrs. S.E. Newell (Deputy) Rev. I. Gilpin Mrs. A. Anderson		Congregation
Organist	Mrs. J. Newell		Committee
Cleaner	Mrs. J. Newell		Committee
Honorary Health / Fire Safety Officer	Mr. H. Russell		Congregation

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates of Office</u> <u>(If not for full year)</u>	<u>Appointed</u> <u>By</u>
Session & Committee	Mrs. A. Anderson		Congregation
Committee	Mr. R. Brown		
Committee	Mrs. M. Burnside		
Session & Committee	Mrs. N. Burrows		
Committee	Mr. G. Campbell		
Session & Committee	Mr. W. A. Carson		
Committee	Mr. A. Charles		
Committee	Mrs. J. Dempster		
Session & Committee	Mr. R. Ferguson		
Committee	Mrs. N. Gillespie	Retired April 2022	
Committee	Mr. G. Grace	12 Nov (DOD)	
Committee	Mr. R. Grace		
Session & Committee	Mrs. A. Halliday	Retired June 2022	
Committee	Miss. L. Low		
Session & Committee	Mr. R. McDowell	14 Dec (DOD)	
Committee	Mr. A. McKenzie		
Session & Committee	Mrs. E. Marshall		
Committee	Mr. H. Miller		
Session & Committee	Mrs. J. Miskelly		
Session & Committee	Mr. J. Montgomery		
Committee	Mrs. S. Mulholland	Retired April 2022	
Session & Committee	Mrs. J. Newell		
Session & Committee	Mrs. S. E. Newell		
Session & Committee	Mr. I. Parsons	6 th Oct (DOD)	
Session & Committee	Mr. R. A. Robinson		
Session & Committee	Mr. S. H. Semple		
Session & Committee	Mrs. G. A. Spratt		
Committee	Mr. N. Walker		
Committee	Mrs. M. Wallace	Retired April 2022	
Committee	Mr. P. Whyte		
Sub Committee Members: Finance & Internal Auditors	Mr. G. Campbell Mr. R. Grace Mr. G. Grace Mr. N. Walker Mr. R. Brown	12 Nov (DOD)	Congregation

Type of Governing Document: Constitution

Trustee Selection Method: Congregation (at A.G.M or E.G.M)

Nominated External Examiner: Mr. D. Bennett

Aim and purposes

The CNSPC, in co-operation through the directly employed incumbent (the Reverend Ian Gilpin), provide our aims and purposes in promoting the inalienable right of every Christian to search the records of Divine Truth (The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament) for their own instruction and guidance, to form their own opinions with regard to what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of their own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by their fellow-men.

The CNSPC is also specifically responsible for the provision and maintenance of the Church complex at Windmill Hill, Comber, where persons can feel welcome and safe for the purposes of worship, ceremony, or community activities.

Objectives and Activities

Although Covid restrictions had put constraints on our normal practices, our objectives and activities remained the same where possible. The CNSPC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our meeting house (Church) and to become part of our community in Comber and the surrounding area. The CNSPC maintains an overview of worship throughout the local area and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our local area. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent, the CNSPC Committee and the CNSPC Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable all persons to live out their selected faith as part of our local area community by:

1. Providing weekly religious meetings and a children's Sunday school where teachings and guidance are provided through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.
2. Providing financial support through freewill offerings and collections for a number of charities.
3. Providing meaning to life & spiritual well-being, development of spirituality as well as providing a moral and ethical framework to live by. This provides comfort, solace and a sense of purpose and also benefits the wider society. Increasing congregation numbers as well as long founded member numbers help support our services to the society.
4. Providing a means, through religious teachings and support, where persons can find purpose in life and increase mental and physical health which assists in recovery from illness.
5. Providing a meeting house (Church) where persons can feel welcome and safe for the purposes of worship or ceremony. Sacred spaces are also provided for burial and memorial purposes.
6. Providing a Church Hall for the purposes of individuals, groups, and entertainment events.
7. Providing support through a dedicated Minister, friends, and spiritual teachings to aid the resolve of grief and find further meaning to life.
8. Providing services for rituals and ceremonies such as Baptism and Marriage.
9. Providing financial as well as education opportunities for Students and Ministers. Financial support through an Auxiliary Fund and the provision of a meeting house and associated buildings for the

furtherance of the Students or Ministers education. This includes the invitation of other religious charities to conduct services within the meeting house.

Achievements and Performance

Owing to the spiritual nature of the church's objectives it is sometimes difficult to quantify achievements; however we have in the past year undertaken the following activities:

KIRK SESSION REPORT - 2022

In 2022 the Church continued to operate within Covid19 guidelines, social distancing, track and trace and the one-way system. Following Government announcements throughout the year we were able to gradually lift the restrictions in place over the last couple of years. Attendance at Church Services had declined and continues to do so however we anticipate an increase once our services return to normal.

Visiting Clergy

Our thanks to Rev Gilpin for arranging cover during 2 weeks of absence and to the visiting Ministers for their continued support. Rev. Lena Cockcroft and Rev Dr Linda Ballard.

Church Business

With Social Distancing and track and trace still in operation the Kirk Session only met on two occasions during 2022, in March and September. It is important for us to continue with Church Business and our duty as Elders for the benefit of the congregation.

Sunday School

Following the retirement of Mrs Beth Marshall, Mrs Emma Lynch agreed to and took on the role of Sunday School Superintendent with Mrs Nadine Dorian as Sunday School Assistant. Several of the older Young People also provide assistance. The Sunday School re-opened after Easter with a marked increase of children (36) on the roll.

Births and Marriages

The Moderator officiated at 8 Sacrament of Baptism's and officiated at 5 marriages. As a congregation, we extend God's blessing on all new members of our congregation and our best wishes to the young couples in their future life together.

Deaths

During the year, the Moderator officiated at 2 funerals in connection with our Moira and Ballyhemlin congregations. He was also asked by another 11 families to officiate at the funeral of their loved ones.

In Comber, it was the very sad duty of our Moderator to officiate at the funerals of 18 members of our congregation. We remember them all with fondness and love:

Mrs Myra Francis Galbraith (nee Brooster)
Mr Evan Craig
Mr James Strain
Mrs Ralda Agnes Rudewicz (nee Long)
Mrs Meta Ann Finlay (nee Drain)
Mrs Heather Boyd (nee Andrews)
Ms Mary (May) Watson
Mr Paul Price
Mr Robert John (Roy) Watson
Mr Walter Coey
Mr Ian Frederick Parsons
Mrs Olive Stevenson (nee Corbett)
Mrs Margaret Robinson (nee Curragh)
Mrs Suzanne McDowell (nee McCormick)
Mr George McAuley Grace
Mr David Walker
Mr Charles Black
Mr Robert (Roy) McDowell

As mentioned earlier, the Church has slowly come through the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic and our services are almost back to normal. No track and trace, hymn singing with face masks, the congregation being shown to their seating and no Sunday School. It has been a long and difficult journey effecting everyone's health and well-being in many ways. Worrying about our loved ones, the effect on our congregation and Church life as we move forward and re-build our Church family. It will not be an easy task, however each day we grow in confidence on returning to everyday life, Sunday worship and the opening our Church building. With Gods guidance and love in our hearts nothing is impossible.

Our Church in Comber is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and many see it as an extension of our families. May we continue our journey together in faith and love. On behalf of the Kirk Session and Committee we extend our thanks to our Minister Rev Ian Gilpin and family, wishing them Gods blessings and continued good health.

Clerk of Session – Mrs Audrey Anderson

Committee Report 2022

Our Committee met on 6 occasions through the 2022 year with a fair attendance. June's meeting was not quorate so topics were deferred to the next meeting.

It was encouraging to see the Sunday School up and running once more with over 25 on the roll. The Christmas Childrens' service was more that enjoyable with the children taking an active role in creating the Nativity story on stage in the hall with support from parents. Again Keira Gleave delighted us with her rendition of Away in a Manger. Many thanks to Emma Lynch and Nadine Dorrian who created the play for the children. Also a big thanks to Keith Burnside for organising the sound system and to all the other helpers/husbands, etc. who made the service so enjoyable.

We also had an Adult's Candlelit Carol Service the following week with some members of the congregation helping out with singing and readings. A lovely atmospheric service.

The 'outside' groups who once used our Hall for their activities have been invited back and we are glad to say that these groups are once again bringing musical nights to the Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Family Sunday was held in September with various contributions from our musical talents in the Sunday School and trust that they will continue to grow in confidence as they move up the grades.

We held our Harvest Service in October with Comber Silver Band supporting the service with their musical talents, followed by light refreshments in the Hall provided by the Ladies Guild.

We also held our Annual General Meeting in May reporting on the past three years 2019, 2020 and 2022 as Covid put a real spanner in the works with regard to regularity of meetings.

Continuing maintenance of church and grounds is being carried out around the Manse, Hall and grounds. Mr. Len Ball is in his retirement years and is sadly no longer to carry on his dedicated work in clearing gutters, down spouts etc. Mrs. Dempster has a contact to carry on this work, especially the roosting pigeons over the Church front door which is creating an unsightly mess. The area has been pressure washed and cleaned with spikes put up on the pillars to deter their roosting habits so hopefully they will move to other lodgings.

The Shoe Box appeal was well supported by the congregation and our thanks go to Kim who took them to Blytheswood in Lisburn to distribute to the various charities.

Crossnacreevy Nurseries continue to maintain the grounds around the graveyard and Garden of Remembrance with our Minister cutting the grass in the manse garden and lawn at the front, Mrs. Jennifer Newell strimming the edge of the manse garden and around the paths and driveway.

The Annual Reports are still in the pipeline and will probably culminate in a combined edition of the past three years.

We are in the process of creating a Social Media presence for our church which will hopefully keep others apprised of the activity of our Church and we are currently going through the process of discussing the correct protocol regarding Data Protection, Safeguarding Vulnerable adults etc., in order that we deal with this new activity in the proper manner.

Discussion also took place on the requirement of additional Trustees which will take some time to sort out. We would also like to express our grateful thanks to all those involved behind the scenes who wish to remain anonymous but are the silent workers who give of their time in keeping the Church and grounds in a beautiful state.

Our continued guidance and dedication from our Minister and family remains unstinting and we are most fortunate to have them as our leaders and our friends to the congregation.

Hon Secretary - Jennifer Newell

Sunday School

2019 has been another successful and enjoyable year for our Sunday School.

The denominational Sunday School games were held in March and this was greatly enjoyed by the children.

The children participated in our Mothering Sunday Service. During the service, the children presented flowers to each woman in the Congregation.

The Children's end of term service was held on 16th June when the children excelled themselves once again through their readings and songs. This service coincided with Father's Day. Both fathers and children participated in the service, during which we were thankful to Mr. Jim Miskelly for presenting the prizes for attendance. At the conclusion of the service, a button-hole flower was given by the children to all of the men present.

Following our summer break, Sunday School resumed on 8th September.

Our Sunday School teachers, along with the children, made a significant contribution to our Family service in October.

Our annual Children's Christmas Service was held during the festive season, during which the children, young people, teachers, Sunday School treasurer and music teacher read the lessons and the children sang a number of items. Some of the children also displayed their talent by playing musical instruments. The church was very tastefully decorated and the service was well attended and greatly enjoyed by everyone present. The Superintendent, explaining the true meaning of Christmas, based a short talk on the theme of Jesus being the centre of the Christmas celebrations. The prayers and address for the young-at-heart was given by the minister. As usual, the children and adults brought along gifts for our charities to share with children less fortunate.

We would like to thank the parents for sending their children to Sunday School, and for their help and support throughout the year. We are also indebted to the teachers for their unfailing and devoted work, and to our organist Mrs. Jennifer Newell. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our minister, Rev. Gilpin, for his continued support.

Sunday School Superintendent - Beth Marshal

Church Finances (Note: See also separate accounts breakdown)

A customary 'thankyou' to all members & visitors for their continued trust, generosity & support throughout the year.

It was another tough year for us financially with our protected trees eating up over £10,000 for their 6 yearly maintenance. Although our expenditure exceeded income, the 'gap' was artificially increased by not claiming our Gift Aid for the year. This will be claimed in 2023.

Income & Expenditure:

Our income for the year totalled £59,094, with expenditure at £70,288

Our main sources of funding are from direct giving by members with over 70% of our income derived from Freewill Offerings, Property Maintenance Contributions, Stipends and Sunday Collections – all demonstrating the continued generosity of our Church members.

Our investments performed reasonably well again with dividend income of £8,512 (approx. 5% return). Our total investment value, which had recovered from 2020's drop, dropped again from £161,580 to £152,691. The influence Covid and Wars around the world have had, and will have, likely continued influence on our investments going forward. Our congregation numbers are now 7% less than in 2019, with donations being 10% lower. Fuel costs have, surprisingly, not increased but this in turn is a reflection of less property usage.

As mentioned, Gift Aid has not been claimed for 2021 or 2022. These will be claimed in 2023 at around £10,000 which highlights the immense value we can gain at no extra cost to our congregation. By simply registering with us for Gift Aid, your donations automatically grow by 25% (as long as you are still paying income tax)

Donations fell from not having the full use of the hall to clubs. Donations totalled around £4,800 and I would like to make special note of the following donations received throughout the year:

£1,100 – Use of hall by Pianist
£1000 – P Johnston
£500 – Family of Anne Ferguson

The generous support we receive from clubs and individuals greatly helps us in maintaining the Church and Hall for the local community.

Our main item of expenditure this year was for property repairs (including our trees and lands) and accounted of our 39% of our annual expenditure with second notable expenditure being our Ministry which accounted for 49%.

Fund Raising & Charity Donations

Our Christmas Craft Fair finally returned for 2022 and raised a wonderful £1,680. There was no annual BBQ this year.

We have always been known as a generous congregation & that generosity continued with £2,745 going to good causes as we continued to support local, national and denominational charities.

Legacies

There was no Legacy Donation made in 2022, although it is noted that previous invested legacies from 2019 are still to be reinvested.

Close

The 2022 accounts reflect the increased costs which remain from outside influences. The 2019 accounts reflect well on the stability of our Churches finances, even in time of uncertainty. Our investments continue to deliver well and your contributions remain steady, which makes it easier to meet the financial demands placed upon us and helps us plan with more certainty when funding future projects to keep the church properties & grounds in the fabulous state they are currently in.

None of this could be delivered without your continued support. The Congregation's generosity continues to amaze me each year, especially in comparison to other larger congregations.

I finish by thanking everyone, on behalf of the Finance Committee, for the generosity, trust & support in us and hopefully we have repaid that by the healthy position the church finances remain in.

Hon. Treasurer - Graham Campbell

Reserves Policy


Our reserves policy has been agreed for the retention of at least 1 year's average expenditure (£70k rounded to the nearest £10k) within our bank accounts. This is to be held in our Santander Deposit Account, when possible, taking account of our current outgoings. Any yearly surplus is expected to be split between charity donations and re-investments.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees (At least one trustee to sign)

Signature

FOR HSPCL TRUSTEES

DIRECTOR

Date

2 NOVEMBER 2013

Full name

IVAN JAMES LAIRD