



**All Souls Church**  
*an inclusive church*



**Annual Report from the Trustees**  
**for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Compiled by the Ministers, Session  
and Congregational Committee of All Souls Church

**Annual General Meeting: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

## **Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland**

### **NIC 102094**

In compiling this report the Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's public benefit requirements statutory guidance.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

We are a congregation of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Our objectives are the promotion of Christianity in accordance with the constitution and codes of practice of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland being: that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the rule of Christian faith and duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. That it is the inalienable right of every Christian to search these records of divine truth for his own instruction and guidance, to form his own opinions regarding what they teach, and to worship God in sincerity, agreeably to the dictates of his own conscience, without privation, penalty, or inconvenience inflicted by others.

We meet regularly for the public worship of God, in the spirit of Jesus. As disciples of Christ, to preach the word of God in accordance with the Constitution, Code of Discipline and Regulations of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To promote the Christian faith within the community of Belfast and beyond, without any requirement for Minister, Elder or Members to subscribe to a doctrinal statement of faith as a condition of Church membership. To offer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion), in accord with the Constitution of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. To offer pastoral care to those in need within the church community and beyond; in particular to the sick and elderly within the community. To facilitate access to those in need to denominational charities as appropriate. To support wider community life, through the maintenance of good relations with all other religious traditions and community organisations.

#### **Public benefit statement**

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is the provision of liberal Christian religious activities open to all. The benefits are evidenced by the conduct of regular services of Christian worship and the maintenance of an inclusive Christian community. There is no harm arising from these benefits. Public access is made known using printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is in relation to those in paid employment within our congregation who receive benefits because of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The Charity's beneficiaries are all those members of society who wish to be part of, or associate, with a liberal Christian organisation, their families, and other individuals that the Congregation is in direct and indirect contact within the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland and beyond, which benefit from our engagement with them, also our support for Christian and other secular organisations and charities. In furtherance of providing these benefits we involve ourselves in offering advice/advocacy/information, counselling and support, community development, cross-border/cross-community, general charitable purposes, the relief of poverty and also religious activity.

## **Minister's Report**

Rev Chris Hudson MBE (Minister)

In other reports we will learn about the preservation of our buildings, protecting their fabric and developing their use. In all these areas we are successful. Now we can see the wonderful work carried out in the crypt and how that gives us a new space for our growing activities. This is a space that can be used for social and small worship events. We learn about our financial stability and the prudent handling of these same finances. Always making sure that we are safely anchored in a stable financial situation but at the same time creating a more pleasant worship and recreational spaces.

We will record those, who have sadly departed and how we miss them. We will celebrate those who have arrived especially through Baptism, including adult baptism. We recall those, who have recently been married, with a special joy.

Our special services are a significant part of our church life, Holocaust Memorial Service, Good Friday and Easter Communion Services, Pride, Harvest, Remembrance Services, The LGBT Carol Service, which is held in conjunction with LGBT Organisations. Our Christmas Carol Service, which is one of the highlights of our year.

I wish to say thank you to all those who participate in many ways to make sure all the above services are carried out successfully. Reverend Alister Bell, Assistant Minister, Trevor Gillian, Director of Music, All Souls Choir, Solo Artists, Readers and a big thank you to our recording team, making sure that all our services can be accessed on our YouTube Channel. A huge thank you to our "Coffee and Buns" Team for their hard work.

We have developed a special relationship with The Queen's Commons Room, which has resulted in various shared events, Concerts and Art History Talks. We now have an Events Committee and will see more social gatherings coming on stream.

We are here, in All Souls', as people of faith and gather in the name of a loving God. We do that in our own unique way and in diversity. Our music, prayers, reading and sermons reflect that uniqueness. We have been joined by others, who are recent arrivals in Northern Ireland and we are giving thought to how they will fit into our church life. Our inclusive liberal faith is not always immediately understandable to others and I hope to address that in the coming months.

In many ways the Minister's Address attempts to bring an overview of where we are in our Church Community without all the detail from other reports. Are we sustaining our membership as a congregation within the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church? In an age of reduction in Church attendance we are holding steady but is that enough? What is the purpose of our church and its objectives? Maybe that should be central to our discussions. There is a project looking at the denomination in the future and we could add to that our own internal conversation about ourselves. Not in any negative way but looking positively at our church life and the role we play here in the city of Belfast.

Finally, I want to say a sincere and warm thank you to all those, who participate in our church life at all levels. Elders, Committee and Session Members but especially those who put so much effort into our church life and in so many ways. We are blessed to have such people.

## **Session Report**

Mr Errol Steele (Clerk of Session)

The Session is pleased to report on another good year in the life of All Souls' Church as we recover more fully from the COVID19 pandemic. Numbers attending services are steady and we are happy to see some new faces. Special services held included Holocaust Memorial, Easter Service, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday Communion and Christmas readings and carols. We again hosted the LGBT Community Carol Service.

In the spring we had a very special service when Lynda Kane was licensed to preach the gospel by the Synod of Munster and Alan Kirk was ordained as an Elder. We were pleased to welcome Rev Bridget Spain, the Moderator of the Synod of Munster at this service.

The very Reverend Chris Hudson completed three years as Moderator of the General Synod of the NSPCI in June. We congratulate him on this honour and thank him again for all his work in the life of All Souls' and beyond. We are, as ever, grateful to Dr Isabella Evangelisti for her continued efforts on our behalf and we thank Rev Alister Bell, our Assistant Minister, for all he does to support us.

We also pay tribute to Rev Trevor Gillian, our Director of Music; we thank the choir and musicians for their contributions which so enhance our services each week.

We acknowledge with pleasure the contribution and efforts of Alan Kirk, who provides our social media input, who helps to spread our liberal and inclusive messages far beyond our walls and allows our members who feel unable to attend services to maintain contact with us. We thank our technical team for all their efforts on Sundays to support and enhance our services.

No church operates without willing volunteers, and we mark our gratitude to all those who contribute in so many ways to maintain and enhance the strong sense of community which is All Souls'.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our congregation.

- Rev John Herron.

We welcome through baptism the following:

- Fionn Connor Phillips (parents Connor Phillips and Holly Phillips)
- Milad Amerifar
- Eugene Winter Braden Hamill (parents David Hamill and Leah McKeown)
- Soroush Kavian Mehr
- Shea McDonnell (parents Pearse McDonnell and Adele Quinn)
- Georgia Rose Donaghy (parents Michael Donaghy and Gemma Donaghy)

We congratulate the following on their marriages:

- Andrew Booth and Gemma Thorburn 5th May 2022
- Brian Haugh and Rebecca Hudson 10th June 2022
- Rosa Niamh Whelan and Phillip Toland 11th June 2022
- Jonathan Calvert and Fergal Coney 22nd July 2022

It is with regret that we mark the passing of Margaret (Maggie) Kelly. We extend our sympathy to her family and her friends.

In conclusion, we feel that our church is in a good place and we would encourage everyone to attend Sunday services as often as possible, for it is through our collective worship and our social gatherings that we gain so much as a tolerant and liberal community, which is so important in today's society.

## **Church Committee Report**

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

At the AGM of 2022, I was pleased to be nominated as the Hon Secretary of All Souls Church and am pleased to present this report on behalf of the church committee. I thank my predecessors Niall Haldane and Rev Alister Bell for their wise counsel since my appointment.

2022 saw the 'retirements' of Dr Sarah Haveron and Mr Jim Jackson from the committee. We thank both individuals for their time and expertise. Jim served on the committee loyally for many years (longer than some can remember) and we are truly indebted to him for the commitment and service he has shown to the life of the church. From the entire commitment, we send our warmest thanks.

There have been many physical improvements around the building this year and we are very thankful to Ian Murray, Charles Stewart and all who have given of their time and energy to improve the crypt and surrounding areas. We would like to put on record our appreciation of the dedication of our Caretaker, Bryan Cooney and Bernie Cooney who work hard to keep the church clean and tidy.

The social side of church life has been growing greatly, thanks to the vision of Alex and Louise Foye and Carol Tweedale-Bardon and our links to the QUB Women's Common Room Club. We look forward to continued cultural soirees for the church community. The committee also place on record their thanks to Sam Magilton and the team for their vision with the YourSpace group and I look forward to leading this in 2023 alongside Patricia Whiteside.

As a committee, we place on record our thanks to the team at the AV Desk who have continued to work hard to support our worship through technology. The installation of the screens has greatly enhanced worship – and the team work tirelessly in the background to produce slides and presentations. We also place on record our thanks to Isabella for production of the New Light and for emailing our growing email list with the link to each Sunday's service with an update from the Minister.

The governance of All Souls' Church was facilitated by in person meetings, and it has been good to see a return to this after the restrictions of the pandemic. Committee have continued to work through our 5-year 'Build Back Better' action plan and look forward to carrying out more of our plans as time progresses.

## **Property Report**

Mr Ian Murray (Property Committee Member)

The aspect of the maintenance of the Buildings & Grounds is represented on the Committee by Charles Stewart and Ian Murray and they work alongside the Church officer Brian Cooney, in maintaining the fabric of the buildings and the grounds on a weekly, if not at times daily basis.

Thanks to those who give their time when we organised a Garden tidy up, to those who give up their time to assist in renovating the Crypt and others who have assisted in other ways during the year. Your time is much appreciated and within that your acknowledgement that keeping the roof waterproof, the interior sound, and the weeds outside at bay, is not done by waving a magic wand.

The Hall and the Carpark are hired out and are a valuable source of income for the Church, as well as the physical maintenance, the work also involves; liaising with the tenants, fielding their complaints and requests, and the administration of same, again thanks to those who assisted.

The Committee agreed to the renovation of the Crypt area at the May Committee meeting, prompted by the following:

- The Hall complex consists of 2 function areas; that of the Rosemary Hall (approx. 100 people) and the Agnew Room (approx. 20 people), however because of the lack of sound proofing between both, they cannot be used simultaneously. The kitchen and toilet facilities are not accessible to the Agnew room without going through the Rosemary Hall, for all practicable purposes the Agnew Room is an annex to the Rosemary Hall and when not serving that purpose, serves as a storage area. The cost of heating the Rosemary Hall for a small gathering is financially imprudent.
- When the Welsh choir visited us in 2022, we had to use the crypt as a changing area for them. Prior their visit we cleared out a graveyard of defunct pews and other discarded material, and what we were left with was a cavernous looking area with a cracked concrete floor and walls that probably were last attacked with paint brush in the 1960's. It was not a desirable image to visitors or for that matter potential or existing members to take away with them.

The first phrase was to make the Crypt "sitting room" (approx. 10 people) into a more comfortable setting. The second phrase was to make the remainder of the Crypt into a comfortable area for a meeting room that would accommodate approx. 30 people and also serve as an area for the Kids Club to expand into on a Sunday and maybe midweek (we are allowed to dream). In this phrase, the appearance of the toilet cubicle and the area around it is being improved and altered, so as to be used both as an entrance lobby via the external Crypt steps. It also allows for baby changing facilities, making the Church more family friendly.

The third phrase is to renovate and modernise the kitchen into a gallery style kitchen.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast

It is taking time, this is because as most of the work is done on a volunteer basis by volunteers who also have to juggle commitments outside of All Soul's. What we will hopefully be left with is, an extended area for youth activities and which will also double as a meeting or function room that can comfortably accommodate approx. 40 people. It will also give us the capability to preparing and serving hot snacks, both in the Crypt and at the coffee station upstairs, without the need to relying on the Hall kitchen

## **Finance Report**

Louise Foye (Treasurer)

The Treasurer is charged under the code of denomination of the (a)Control and application of funds, (b) keeping of records and (c) preparation once a year of a statement of Income & Expenditure. In discharging these duties, I am well supported by my fellow subcommittee members, Ian Murray, Alan Gray and Mark Shimmons.

Jim Jackson retired from the Committee at the 2021 AGM. For many years Jim has been the continuity regarding the finances of All Souls and in that capacity has managed many changes over those years. I place on record our thanks and appreciation to Jim for his past work and continued advice and support.

The Financial Statements for 2022 show that our total income in the 2022 year was £82,815 an increase of £18,558 over the 2021 year of £64,257 (leaving out the grant received in that year). This increase is largely accounted for by an increase in the Rosemary Hall hire of £13,035 (the 2021 year was seriously affected by the Covid restrictions imposed on us). In 2021 our Stipend & Plate collection was £28,301 as opposed to £27,098 in the previous year an increase of 4.4%. Stipend & Plate collection can be viewed as a measurement of commitment from the members and whilst we would like to have seen a larger increase, it is comforting to note the trend is not going backwards. If you strip out the Investment Income of £24,249, we generated £58,566 by our own resources/efforts in 2022 compared to £42,930 in 2021.

The re-introduction of the plate collection in December lead to an increase in the plate income and the list of Stipend contributions at end of October sent out in November acted as a prompt to Stipend members. The Audio-visual team intent to add a slide to the end of our online recording of the Service to show how our online viewers can donate to the work of All Souls and the Media officer is considering a periodical post of a similar nature on Facebook. An "events" team has been formed to organise future fund-raising activities and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Turning to costs, in 2022 the staffing and associated cost were in total £54,207 and increase of 2.5% over 2021 but bear in mind the 2021 staff rates were set before the rapid increase in inflation, the average increase in wages rates set by the Committee for the current year 2023 is approx. 6%. Other costs increased, the most significant being an increase of £3,127, in heating oil. Whilst the Church like all other consumers is affected by the general increase in heating costs, in 2021 we did not hire the Hall out but in 2022 we did, so as a rough guide it cost approx. £3,000 to heat the Hall. We now have an alternative for smaller Church groups in the form of the Crypt meeting rooms.

We had £638,545 in reserves at the end of 2022, a decrease of £13,058 on the previous year. During the year we added £60,000 to our investment holdings out of a term deposit that matured. The remaining £146,500 in term deposits will be maturing and hopefully we can get a higher rate of return than the current 1% they are earning. Note that term deposit rates for Businesses and Charities are a lot lower than the headline rates you see being offered to private individuals.

A Church like any voluntary organisation survives because of the support of its members and we thank you for your continued financial support.

### **Choir and Musical Report** Rev Trevor Gillian (Director of Music)

I'm honoured and pleased to submit this report on the musical life of All Souls' for the year 2022.

The choir members continue to rehearse most weeks to ensure a strong lead and significant contribution to worship at our Sunday and other services. Numbers remain at around a dozen, and it is always encouraging to welcome new members. Please speak to me if you are interested and we will be glad to have you join us, even if only to listen in for a few weeks as a trial. I commend the choir members' enthusiasm to learn new pieces and expand the variety and style of our repertoire. Again, the congregation's willingness to learn new hymns, and to sing existing hymns to new tunes, is most appreciated. We hope to continue adding to our hymn resources by means of the digital images: the technical crew are most helpful in every respect and deserve our thanks.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit of the Cardiff Blues Choir, *Cor Y Gleision*, who greatly enhanced the Palm Sunday service with their magnificent singing.

I especially appreciate the talents of Bryan Cooney who, so readily, will sing, sometimes at short notice. I am also most grateful to Muriel Moore, Violet McBride, Eve Devlin, Sam Magilton, Violina Asenova and Frances Mulley who have contributed significantly to the musical life of the church through their anthems. Thanks also to the group of substitute organists who have stepped in to help during my absence.

Finally, I record my thanks to the ministerial team, the Rev Chris, the Rev Alister, the Session and Committee for their encouragement, and to the congregation for continued and valued appreciation and support.

## **Communications Report**

Mr Alan Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)

After another successful year, it is with pleasure that I present the third report on our church communications. In 2022, All Souls Church celebrated 12 years on Social Media and continue to enjoy a growing presence on Facebook and YouTube.

*All Souls Church* continues to attract a very wide following on Facebook, as evidenced by the number of people engaging with our posts on a weekly basis. Although on average our posts can attract anything between 500 to 700 views, a significant number of posts or series of posts have earned significantly more views. All Souls Church continues to attract the most likes and views throughout the denomination.

The church now also makes use of our thriving YouTube channel. On average, our videos attract anything from 75 to 100 viewers weekly. The role of our existing social media platform (Facebook) continues to promote interest in our YouTube Channel, with over 50% of external views of videos coming from Facebook. Approximately 40% come from email with the remaining 10% coming from a range of sources.

In October 2022, a small delegation of church representatives attended an interfaith meeting in First Church, tasked with researching possible ways of setting up a website for LGBTIA+ people of faith. I am pleased to report that Rev Chris Hudson has recorded two excellent videos for the [www.inclusivefaith.lgbt](http://www.inclusivefaith.lgbt) website and these will be available in early 2023. This will be an excellent virtual resource for our church.

The small team of volunteers who worked hard during lockdown to bring you online church services has since grown into a thriving AV Team. Ian Murray, Alan Gray, Mark Shimmons and Muriel Moore have done an excellent job this year and I am thankful to them for their support. If other volunteers would like to come forward for a technical support role, they would be most welcome.

I also place on record my thanks for the excellent photography provided by Michael McKelvey. This fabulous collection of photographs will give us an excellent archive of memories for future generations and provides a wonderful snapshot of church life via social media. In 2023, we look forward to putting this hard work to good use.

It is my intention now to turn my attention to our church website to carry out some improvements to the features of this resource, and I am thankful to Niall Haldane for his work on the website to date.

As we build upon the success of our social media outlets, the social media officer and technical team will continue to embrace new trends and technology to build upon the solid foundations which have been set, in providing a vibrant, relevant, and accessible online presence for our beloved community in *All Souls Church*.

## **Kids Club Report**

Professor Sheena Lewis (Elder and Kids Club Leader)

Kids Club meets on the first Sunday of every month. During Covid, we ran the club by zoom every month. We have lost leaders since Covid and Lynn Walsh is currently off duty on maternity leave with baby Finn, so Louise and I now manage it between us.

We are now in the newly refurbished crypt and have a fantastic, friendly space to meet. Many thanks to all those who have put in such hard work to create this for us.

One challenge we face is maintaining numbers to make the club viable. We have two stalwart members in Reuben and Leo who rarely miss an event. The Samson family bring Maya too when they can. We were pleased to welcome Fiona Parkinson and her daughter Charlotte this year

To keep the children busy, Louise and I have bought new toys and games for each age group. We have organised special Sundays and plan to hold a range of activities for 2023- a sandwich house and Easter egg hunt to name but a few.

Some outreach opportunities have proved to be unsuccessful. Each month, 25 invites are sent to those connected with All Souls through long standing family connections or recent baptisms, but unfortunately few have responded. In addition to this, we have invited the children from FIFI who are often running round the car park with nothing to do, but their families have declined on several occasions.

We have received a suggestion of inviting the kids of a mothers group connected with a member of the congregation, but they live on the other side of town. I offered to rent a large taxi or drive a minibus to collect them, but we would need more helpers to ensure we are abiding by legal child safeguarding policies.

The option to go 'all out' and send invitations to local primary schools is another route we could take, but again we would need volunteers to assist at such an event.

All feedback on helping to progress our Kids Club would be gratefully received.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast  
**Policy Documents**

**Reserve Policy**

The Unrestricted Funds are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Within this fund we have designated reserves, a significant part of these are those relating to property. The Church Building has Grade B + listed status and the Hall has Grade B listed status, both buildings were constructed circa 1896. Given the age of the buildings and their listed status, the retention of the reserves provide assurance that if major work is required to the buildings and in the absence of outside funding not being forthcoming, that the Church has the sufficient reserves available. Another significant reserve is that to assist in the future purchase of a Manse should the need arise.

Restricted Reserves: These are held until such times that expenditure is made for the purpose that the donor(s) instructed.

Endowment Reserve: These are Bequests held in accordance with the conditions within which they were created, mainly providing income in memory of deceased members.

**Structure Governance and Management  
Governing Document**

The Charity is governed under a Trust Deed dated 2001. The Charity also adheres to and is governed by the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, published by the authority of Synod (May 1997)

**Appointment, Induction and Training of Trustees**

(Trustees being those holding a position of governance within the Church)

Appointment of Trustees The Kirk Session, Congregational Committee and Custodial Trustees are appointed in accordance with Constitution and Code of Discipline of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland as follows:

**Kirk Session**

The Minister with Charge is automatically a member of the Kirk Session; Where new Elders are to be added to an existing Session, the decision on when an election is to take place and the number of ruling elders to be chosen devolves normally upon the Kirk Session, but any member of the congregation may petition the Session upon the subject.

Such new Elders shall be nominated and appointed by one or other of the following methods:

(a). Selection by the congregation.

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed of the number of new Ruling Elders being sought and voting members invited to look out among themselves qualified persons suitable for the office, and to give to the Kirk Session on the following Sunday signed lists of the person or persons they propose, not exceeding the number required. The Session may, if they see fit, provide lists to be marked with names proposed, signed and returned.
- ii. The Session shall examine the list received, and names which occur most frequently, if the Session approves, and if those so proposed consent, shall form a list up to the numbers of Ruling Elders required. Should any decline to act their places may be filled by those who come nearest in the proposals recorded, up to the said number. No name shall be listed which has not received the minimum of one third of the votes cast.

## A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast

### (b) Selection by the Kirk Session

- i. On two successive Sundays the congregation shall be informed that an election of Ruling Elders is to take place and voting members invited to propose, in writing, for the consideration of the Session, any member or members qualified for the office.
- ii. The Session, having considered the proposals received and having obtained the consent of those approved, shall list the names of those to be presented to the congregation. Such list shall be read to the congregation on two successive Sundays.
- iii. Should any voter desire to make an objection to any of them, he shall lodge his objections, with his reasons, in writing, with the Moderator of the Kirk Session within a week from the second announcement.
- iv. Should such objection not be sustained by the Kirk Session, or should there be no objection, then on a subsequent Sunday, fixed by the Session and not earlier than three weeks after the first reading of the list, the congregation shall be informed that the persons named have been chosen and appointed as Ruling Elders.

### **Congregational Committee**

The temporal affairs of a congregation shall be under the care of a Committee, known as the Church Committee, consisting of 12 ordinary members plus a Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent. The Committee shall be appointed by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting and shall in all cases be members in good standing in the congregation and attendant upon its services, and contributors to its support. In the election of committee members their appointment may be:

- a. For the ensuing year
- b. For a term of 3 years

While, under normal circumstances committee members stand down at the Annual General Meeting of a congregation they shall be eligible for immediate re-election. Church Officers - Secretary, Treasurer, Stipend Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent shall sit ex-officio as members of Committee. The Church Committees shall be representative of the range and extent of congregational activities and of organisations connected with the congregation. In no case should there be less than five elected members and in no case should that number exceed 15% of the church membership. Members of Committee to be chosen at the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be nominated and seconded individually. Where there are more nominations than the number of places to be filled a ballot shall be held. Voting shall be by simple majority and by show of hands. No person shall be nominated for office unless they are present and assent to their nomination, or, if absent, have signified such assent in writing beforehand. In the event that the Annual General Meeting of the congregation shall be unable to fill the desired number of places in a Church Committee, the members of the committee may, at a later meeting, co-opt an eligible person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting of the congregation. Church Officers – Secretary, Treasurer – shall sit ex-officio as members of the Committee. Members of Kirk Session are ex-officio members of Committee and are eligible for election as office holders and entitled to vote.

## **A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation**

Every Congregation shall have trustees for all its property and such property shall be defined legally by a declaration of trust. Trustees of congregational property of every kind shall be members of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. They should not be fewer than three in number. Should the number of trustees be reduced to three, the congregation shall at once proceed to choose and appoint an additional trustee or trustees. When a trustee of the property of the congregation ceases to be a member of that congregation, he shall ipso facto cease to be a trustee of such property and shall tender his resignation; and shall sign a declaration to that effect in the minute book of the congregation on taking up office. No resignation of a trustee from his trusteeship of congregational property shall be accepted, and no choice or appointment of a new trustee or trustees shall be made, except by the congregation in congregational meeting assembled. At any meeting of a congregation held to receive a trustee's resignation from office, or to choose and appoint a new trustee or trustees, a memorandum of such resignation or appoint shall be drawn up, shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting in the present of the whole meeting, shall be attested by two or more witnesses, and shall be preserved among the records of the congregation.

### **Trustee Induction and Training**

#### **Kirk Session**

Elders are made aware of the duties and obligations of being a member of the Kirk Session having charge of the spiritual needs, welfare and governance of the congregation and are recommended to read the Code of the Church in this respect. Every effort is made to provide mentoring in a meaningful way to help session members be effective for the ministry of eldership and within that, the various aspects of an elder's work. Elders are mentored in the various aspects of the elder's work and ministry by their fellow elders on an individual basis and by the learning from, listening to and challenging one another on matters brought before meetings of Session. There is a clear recognition that learning is an ongoing process of development leading to an enhancement of skills to increase their effectiveness as elders.

#### **Congregational Committee**

Committee members are assigned to particular tasks, dependant on the skills and talents that they possess and are also mentored by the fellow members of the committee and encouraged to seek the guidance of other members of the congregation in the discharge of their duties. Where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Committee members in the discharge of their duties.

### **Trustees (Custodial) of the Property of a Congregation**

New trustees shall be guided by existing members as to the duties of being a custodial trustee and, where it is deemed necessary, outside support will be provided to assist the Trustees in the discharge of their duties.

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast  
**Reference and administrative details**

**Name of Charity**

All Souls' Church Incorporating the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast and The York Street  
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation.

**Other names used by the Charity.**

All Souls' Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

**Charity number**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC102094

**Principal Address:**

5 Elmwood Ave, BELFAST, BT9 6AZ.

**Points of Contact**

Website: <http://allsoulsbelfast.org>

*This will soon be under review.*

Tel: 028 90321530

e-mail: [secretary@allsoulschurchbelfast.org](mailto:secretary@allsoulschurchbelfast.org)

Facebook: All Souls Church, Belfast | Facebook

YouTube: All Souls Church Belfast - YouTube

A report of the Trustees of All Souls Church, Belfast



**All Souls Church**  
an inclusive church

**Ministry Team**

Rev Christopher Hudson MBE (Minister)  
Rev Alister Bell (Assistant Minister)

**Clerk of Session**

Mr Errol Steele

**Elder and Honorary Secretary**

Mr Alan Kirk

**Members of the Kirk Session (Elders)**

(And Ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee)

The Minister and The Assistant Minister	Mr Herbie Dougherty
The Clerk of Session	Ms Monica Burns
Mr Alan Kirk	Mr Niall Haldane
Dr Roger Courtney	Ms Anne Stewart
Professor Sheena Lewis	Mr Maurice Money Penny
Mr Charles Stewart	Mrs Barbara Money Penny

**Congregational Committee**

Mrs Louise Foye (Treasurer)	Mr Michael McKelvey
Mr Ian Murray	Mr Alan Gray
Mr Ken Steele	Mr David Linton
Mr Mark Shimmons	Mrs Carol Tweedale-Bardon

**Custodial Trustees**

Mr James Kirkwood Jackson	Mr Mark Shimmons
Mr Denis McKelvey	Professor Sheena Lewis
Mr James Errol Steele	

This report was approved by the Trustees on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

*Rev C. Hudson (Minister)*

*Mr E. Steele (Clerk of Session)*

*Mr A. Kirk (Elder and Hon Secretary)*