

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Grange Preparative Meeting
Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Grange Preparative Meeting

Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st
December 2023

Grange Preparative Preparative Meeting

Trustees (at 31st December 2023)

Katherine M Stephenson. (Clerk of Trustees)

Trevor R Haydock

Derek G Hobson

William C Greeves

Registered Address

Grange Friends Meeting house

21 Dreemore road

Grange

Dungannon

BT71 7EL

Charity number

NIC. 107089

Email:- grangequakers@gmail.com

Bankers

Danske Bank

Trustees' Report for year ended 31st 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, Grange Preparative Meeting is governed by its governing document which was agreed by the Preparative Meeting on 1st April 2018. The Meeting was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 15th June 2018.

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 31st December 2023 were as follows:

Katherine M Stephenson (Clerk of Trustees)

Trevor R Haydock

Derek G Hobson

William C Greeves

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. It pays for the services of an ad hoc cleaner and groundsman.

The Trustees have put in place a data protection policy and a child protection policy, both of which are reviewed annually in accordance with guidelines provided by the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland.

Purposes of the charity

Grange Preparative Meeting is established by Grange and Richhill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland. It is primarily a Meeting for Worship that practises in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

We are based in a grade B listed Meeting House in a rural setting between Dungannon and Moy, Co Tyrone. There are two meeting houses set in approximately an acre which includes a burial ground. The old meeting house, built in 1756 has a number of rooms and a kitchen which adjoins the caretakers cottage, with some outbuildings including an old stable and barn. The newer meeting house was built in 1816 and has recently undergone a major restoration project to provide a new roof and reinforcement of the balcony to bring this back into use.

A Premises Committee, works to oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the property and the burial grounds. Adjoining the burial ground, the Meeting is also responsible for a bungalow which was built in 1960, initially for use by retired missionaries. Following the death of a long term tenant this building is undergoing renovation in order to rent to a new tenant.

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 of the Quaker meeting both in the geographical area of the Preparative Meeting and beyond;

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 including assistance to those in need.

A few members reside outside our area in Northern Ireland or overseas but still wish to retain an affiliation to the Meeting.

Our activities during 2023

As the Covid-19 restrictions eased, normality returned and we resumed our Meetings for Worship in the Meeting House. However, several Friends who were unable to attend Meetings in person asked that we maintained the 'WhatsApp' group, as they valued the encouragement from the messages posted by other Friends, so, in conjunction with Richhill Friends this remained active.

General business meetings were conducted through our the year.

Pastoral care returned to normal and home visits were made to those Friends who were unwell, were unable to attend Meetings in person, had experienced bereavement or were facing difficulties.. Members who did not attend on a regular basis were encouraged to attend. Notification of events was communicated to members through social media, email or personal telephone calls.

We have benefitted greatly from joining with Richhill Friends' Meeting for Bible study and social events, both of which recommenced after the lifting of Covid restrictions. These provided spiritual and social support to our members.

We thank God for His guidance and trust Him to lead and sustain us in the future.

Looking forward

In 2024, we hope to operate a full programme of activities to promote the spiritual welfare of our members.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Grange Preparative Meeting are pleased to confirm that they have complied with their duty they 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 held a Meeting for Worship every Sunday morning which is 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;
- We provided financial support to a range of other charities from regular and special collections at our Meetings. We supported Disaster relief, social need and Christian work at home and abroad,
- We engaged with the local community which we hope will make the Meeting House more visible and encourage others to join with us for fellowship and support;
- We undertook family visits to share fellowship and encourage members in times of joy, as well as difficult times of isolation, sickness and bereavement.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Ireland, Grange Preparative Meeting
Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

Financial Review

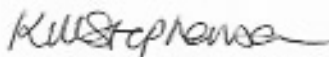
Our financial statement for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 is attached to this report shows that we had an opening balance in the Meeting house Account 32 on the 1st January 2023 of £43777.84 and a closing balance on 31st December 2023 of £50519.28

The restoration fund for the Meeting House Project had an opening balance of on 1st January 2023 OF £9364.83 and a closing balance on 31st December 2023 of £9334.83

Declaration

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees was held in Grange Friends Meeting House 26th May 2024.

This report is approved and is signed on behalf of the Trustees.



Katherine M Stephenson

Clerk of Trustees