

Belfast Spiritualist Church

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the year to 31st December 2023

134 Malone Avenue, Belfast. BT9 6ET

PROMOTING THE RELIGION OF SPIRITUALISM THROUGH THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

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Belfast Spiritualist Church NIC 107677
134 Malone Avenue,
Belfast
BT6 9ET

Trustees' Report for the Year January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023

The trustees of Belfast Spiritualist Church are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2023. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

Purpose and Public Benefit of Our Charity

Purpose

Belfast Spiritualist Church is dedicated to advancing the religion and religious philosophy of Spiritualism. To fulfil this mission, the charity holds Divine Services every Sunday and on other selected days, inviting the public to participate in worship.

In addition, we offer spiritual education and tuition in religious philosophy, provided by our experienced tutors. The Church supports this educational mission by organising training classes, hosting workshops, and maintaining an extensive library to facilitate learning. Furthermore, we are committed to promoting training for the Spiritualist Ministry as well as for our Church Trustees, ensuring the continued growth and development of our community.

Public Benefits

The Belfast Spiritualist Church provides significant public benefits through our religious philosophy, offering individuals the opportunity to develop a deeper connection with God. This connection fosters a sense of safety and security, reassuring people that they are not alone in the world. Our philosophy and support services help individuals trust that there is a source of comfort and refuge available during challenging times.

In addition, our church encourages people to become more aware of their own spiritual selves, while also promoting a strong sense of community belonging. The direct benefits to the public and society include the promotion of a personal philosophy and a moral framework for living, guiding individuals to be good citizens. Through this process, people develop an increased awareness of core values such as compassion, selfless service, and friendship. We also provide personalised pastoral care to meet the unique needs of everyone.

Additional Benefits and Feedback

Church members and the wider public benefit from the official services we offer, including spiritual healing, guidance, and officiating for weddings and funerals. The positive impact of our charity is evident through feedback and reviews from church members, visitors, and the public who use these services. We actively seek input by providing a suggestion box inside our church and encouraging feedback on social media. We consistently receive positive

feedback and hold Annual General Meetings to discuss church business and gather further input.

For the purposes of the Church, incidental and necessary payments are made to a member of our religious ministry who officiates at these services. These ceremonies, offered to the public, are a vital part of our work in promoting our religion and religious philosophy. The payments made cover essential expenses required to facilitate the provision of these religious services.

2023 Achievements – A Review of Key Activities Advancing Our Purpose for Public Benefit

Committee Commitment and Community Engagement

The committee of Belfast Spiritualist Church remains dedicated to making worship accessible to as many people as possible and actively encourages both congregation members and visitors to become part of our church community. The committee oversees the services we offer to the public and regularly suggests ways to further involve local communities in our activities. Through prayer, philosophy, and our services, we strive to put our beliefs into practice, fostering a deeper connection within our community.

Planning and Achievements for 2023

When planning our activities for 2023, we carefully considered how to maximise public benefit and advance our purposes and objectives. In addition to our regular services, we set additional goals aimed at expanding and growing our charity. These goals included utilising social media and distributing leaflets to:

- **Promote our religion and religious philosophy** to a broader audience, helping individuals bring positive change into their lives.
- **Enhance and expand our educational curriculum** to attract newcomers to our classes and workshops. We redesigned our training materials to accommodate different levels of ability.
- **Engage more actively with our local community** through the services we provide. We continue to reach out to neighbours and distribute leaflets and advertise our services on social media.
- **Further develop our pastoral care** to ensure it remains person centred and increase the number of people who benefit from our spiritual healing services.

Providing an Open and Welcoming Church

We are committed to maintaining an open and welcoming church, holding services every Sunday as well as additional Spiritualist services during the week. Our goal is to create a space where the community can come together for prayer and spiritual reflection. Everyone is welcome, and each week we see a strong turnout, with our evening services offering a wonderful environment for worship.

Through these services, we promote our religion and religious philosophy, encouraging individuals to make positive changes in their lives. In our pursuit of these goals, we have successfully expanded the spiritual services we provide to most days of the week. We have also devoted significant effort to maximising the impact of our services by distributing

leaflets and an online presence. The positive feedback we have received indicates that those who attend find our services both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Providing Spiritual Healing

Spiritual healing is a vital aspect of our religion, and we have seen a growing number of people attending our healing services. In recent years, especially with the challenges posed by rising living costs, many have sought our help for healing—whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. Our church offers a healing service every Thursday evening, which has provided comfort and support to many individuals. In 2023 we also commenced a Sunday Healing Service which takes place every two months.

Those who attend receive healing from our dedicated and approved healers, who volunteer their time and energy. Our healers are trained and accredited by the Spiritualists' National Union, ensuring they meet high standards of care and expertise.

Promoting Pastoral Care

Providing support to those in need is a core expression of our religious philosophy. We continue to offer assistance to church members and community members who are unable to attend services due to illness or age. Our trustees and pastoral care team make visits to those who request it, offering spiritual and pastoral support while keeping them connected with the church community. These visits not only provide essential care but also foster fellowship, strengthening our bonds and offering comfort to those who need it most.

Providing a Weekly Spiritual Awareness Class

Our weekly Spiritual Awareness Class, open to everyone, is designed to promote our Spiritualist philosophy while offering a valuable opportunity for spiritual self-reflection and healing. Spiritual growth is central to our religious philosophy, and the class serves as a reminder of life's important values, such as kindness and service to others.

To expand these opportunities, we introduced an enhanced and revised educational program. The feedback has been positive, with an increasing number of participants attending the class. We are pleased that more people are benefiting from the spiritual self-awareness that the class provides, reflecting the growing impact of our efforts.

Promoting Official Services

We continue to effectively highlight the benefits of Spiritualism through our official services, including weddings and funerals. By providing these services to the broader community, we raise public awareness of our church and the various offerings we provide.

Increasing Awareness Through Social Media and Leaflets

We continue to work diligently to promote our services and encourage people to attend to feel a sense of connection with community. Our efforts have led to an increase in attendance, and feedback indicates that reconnecting with the church has positively impacted people's mental well-being.

We have utilised social media, our church website, and leaflets to promote our Divine Services and spiritual healing. This increased visibility has helped attract new individuals to our church, providing them with a safe and reflective environment to worship and deepen their spirituality. Our success is reflected in the growing number of attendees at our Sunday Divine Services and the positive feedback we receive.

In 2023, we continued to achieve significant success in welcoming newcomers to our church. Despite the numerous challenges faced in modern society, we remain committed to offering spiritual comfort and reassurance to many individuals.

Structure, Governance, and Management – Appointment of Trustees

Belfast Spiritualist Church is governed according to the rules outlined in our governing document, "Rules for Churches."

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on the third Wednesday of February each year. During the AGM, committee members, officers, and the church warden are democratically elected by the members of our charity. Each trustee is nominated and seconded by members, with the final selection determined by a vote at the meeting.

The church committee is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general importance, including the allocation of funds. The committee meets monthly to address various issues. Due to the committee's broad responsibilities, smaller sub-committees focus on specific areas such as spiritual healing, outreach, pastoral care, and teaching spiritualist philosophy. These sub-committees report regularly to the main church committee. All church business is discussed during these monthly meetings, and minutes are recorded.

The following individuals served as Trustees (Church Committee Members) from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023:

- Bertha Patricia James
- Minister Eamonn Andrews
- Colette Diamond
- Charlotte Henderson
- Margaret Roe
- Nicola Smith
- Vivienne Reynolds

The following additional Individual Trustees were elected to serve at our AGM on 21st February 2024:

- Colleen Scott
- Curtis Lemon
- Noel Adams

Volunteers

All our trustees and those involved in the daily operations of our church are dedicated volunteers who generously give their time for the benefit of our members and visitors. We

extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who works diligently to create and sustain the vibrant and supportive community that defines our church.

Financial Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year

The accounts for the year 2023 are fully compliant and include a statement of Financial Activities and a balance sheet.

The charity's accountants/independent examiners are -

Cleaver Black

Chartered Accountants

Suite 5 Ormeau House

91-97 Ormeau Road,

Belfast

Co. Antrim

BT7 1SH

The charity banking account is with Danske Bank.

Finance Report for the year 2023

Total income for the year 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 was £30,842 while total expenditure was £33,898

Income was generated through donations collected during Divine Services, educational workshops and classes, sales of educational materials, membership fees, spiritualist readings, and other contributions, including fees for officiating at official services.

The accounts showed a loss of (£3,056) for 2023 due to essential repairs to our church building which added to £12,346. Our annual accounts continue to be prepared each year by experienced accountants Cleaver Black. The balance sheet continues to remain strong considering the additional essential building expenditure.

Income 2023

There was an overall increase in income of £6,635. This was attributable to an increase in number of Weddings (£8,960) and training/education workshops (£4020) in 2023.

Expenses

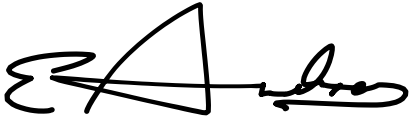
However, the expenditure for the year is (£33,898), an increase of £16,177 on last year's expenses. An additional expenditure increase (£12,346) was due to a break-down in our heating and essential renovation for the church building. Other costs include expenses for weddings and expenses incurred by an increase in visiting mediums.

Balance Sheet

In 2023, I am pleased to report that the church remains financially secure and maintains a healthy financial position, thanks to careful financial management. (Please refer to the detailed financial accounts below.)

This Trustee Report has been approved by the Church Committee of Belfast Spiritualist Church on 27th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Church President, Minister Eamonn Andrews.

Yours sincerely,



Eamonn Andrews (Minister)

President Belfast Spiritualist Church
27th September 2024

Detailed Profit and Loss Account

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Income	2023 £	2022 £
Sunday Collection	5,394	4,230
Weddings	8,960	8,260
Development Circles (Education)	1,688	1,129
Papers/Magazines	418	406
Membership	1,033	759
Readings	2,470	2,257
Awareness Group (Education)	3,753	2,230
Books	80	-

Donations	234	781
Fri/Sat Events	1,227	771
Workshop Events	4,020	3,015
Naming Ceremonies	-	430
Funerals	70	-
Fundraising	580	-
Mediumship	276	-
Other Income	250	-
Government Grants		
Other Income	389	200
Deposit account interest		
Total	30,842	24,468

Expenditure	2023	2022
Rent	16	31
Rates and Water	450	12
Insurance	722	664
Light and Heat	1,946	2,118
Telephone	707	701
Post and Stationery	298	209
Computer Costs	558	144
Repairs and Renewals	12,346	507
Household and Cleaning	1,741	1,466
Mediums Expenses	6,714	3,689

TV Licence	158	159
Magazines/Books	341	291
Teaching Expenses	-	375
Sundry Expenses	790	1,291
Wedding Expenses	4,132	4,507
Accountancy	516	468
SNU Fees and Healing Fees	1,748	500
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets, Fixtures and fittings (a) Computer Equipment (b)	(a) 527 (b) 188	590
Finance costs/Bank charges	71	59
Total	<u>33,898</u>	<u>17,721</u>

NET PROFIT	2023	2022
	<u>3,127</u>	<u>6,688</u>

Balance Sheet for 31st December 2022

Fixed Assets	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Tangible Assets	1	89,091	88,267
Current Assets			
SNU Investment Account		28,794	28,408

SNU Deposit Account		311	308
Danske (Northern) Bank a/c		42,503	45,552
Cash in hand		69	
		71,677	75,268
Current Liabilities			
Trade creditors		1	-
		71,677	75,269
Net Assets		160,769	163,896
Financed By	2	160,769	163,896
Capital Account			

Note 1 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Long Leasehold	Plant and Machinery	Fixture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals £
Cost	86,269	7,357	35,256	420	129,302
At 1 st Jan 2023	(a) - (b) -	(a) - (b) -	(a) 609 (b) (2,452)	(a) 570 (b) -	(a) 1,179 (b) (2,452)
Additions (a)					
Disposals (b)					
Cost	86,269	7,357	33,413	990	128,029

31 st Dec 2023					
Depreciation	-	7,357	32,898	420	40,675
On 1 January 2023					
Charge for year	-	-	527	188	715
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(2,452)	-	(2,452)
On 31 st December 2023	-	7,357	30,973	608	38,938

Net Book Vaue	Long Leasehold	Plant and Machinery	Fixture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals £
At 01/1/2023	<u>86,269</u>	-	2,440	383	89,091
At 31/12/2023	<u>86,269</u>	-	<u>2,358</u>	-	88,627

Note 2 Capital Account

Capital Account	2023 £	2022 £
Brought forward	163,896	157,208
Add net profit		6,688
Less net loss	(3,127)	
	160,769	163,896