

## First Presbyterian Church ( Non-Subscribing ) Dromore

<b>Minister:</b>	Reverend Brian D. Moodie BTh, MTh, - Telephone: 07427 662828
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr Sam O'Mullan, - Telephone: 9269 3932
<b>Acting Treasurer:</b>	Mr Joe Martin - Telephone 07989 314576
<b>Assistant Secretary Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Donna McDonald,  Mrs Ann Sterling
<b>Stipend &amp; FWO Treasurer:</b>	Miss Brenda Francis
<b>Gift Aid Steward:</b>	Mrs Amanda Wilson
<b>Graveyard Committee:</b>	Mrs Amy Flanagan and Messrs Sam Flanagan and Leslie Creighton
<b>Property Committee:</b>	Messrs David Wilson, Ivor Park, Sam O'Mullan and Tom Fairley
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Mrs Ann Sterling, Miss Brenda Francis, Mrs Amy Flanagan, Messrs Joe Martin and Ivor Park
<b>Organist:</b>	As Arranged
<b>Press Officer:</b>	Mrs Donna McDonald
<b>Church Newsletter:</b>	Mr Roderick McMurray
<b>Flower Secretaries:</b>	Mrs Jean McIlroy and Mrs Amy Flanagan
<b>Sunday School S'intendent:</b>	Mrs Helen Dickson
<b>Children's Church/Crèche:</b>	Sunday school teachers and volunteers
<b>Church Officer:</b>	Mr Ivor Park
<b>Assistant Church Officers:</b>	Messrs Rod McMurray and Joe Martin
<b>Honorary Auditors: Committee:</b>	Mrs Amy Flanagan and Mr Rod McMurray Mrs Helen Dickson, Mrs Maureen Smyth, Mrs Marie Holmes, Mrs Helen Kinghan, Mrs Amanda Wilson, Miss Brenda Francis and Messrs David Wilson, Leslie Creighton, David Dickson, Victor Shields and Tom Fairley
<b>Session:</b>	Mrs Joan Black, Mrs Amy Flanagan, Mrs Donna McDonald, Mrs Ann Sterling and Messrs Ivor Park, Joe Martin, Sam O'Mullan and Roderick McMurray
<b>Presbytery Representative:</b>	Mr Ivor Park
<b>Synod Representative:</b>	
<b>Magazine Representative:</b>	Mrs Amy Flanagan
<b>School Governors:</b>	Rev. Brian Moodie and Mr David Wilson
<b>Trustees:</b>	Messrs Jeffrey Martin, David Black (Drumiller), Alistair McDonald, David Wilson and Roy Crookshanks

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## **Ministers Report**

### **Sunday Worship**

2020 was a year of much upheaval as a result of Covid-19, and as a result required greater creativity and flexibility to deal with it.

With the first Covid-19 lockdown it became necessary to explore new ways of doing Church by making use of our Church website in a way that had not been done before. Whereas previously, a voice recording and text version of the sermon would have been loaded up on the website on the day following the Sunday Service, the Sermon Page had to be transformed into a temporary meeting house where a full Sunday Service could be posted that included a welcome, readings, hymns, prayers and a sermon as well as a children's address or story and song.

This proved to be a very successful way of enabling congregation members to still feel connected with the Church community, even if the Sunday Service was not 'live' but rather a collection of recordings that people could access for themselves at their own convenience.

After the lifting of lockdown in the autumn, it proved necessary to continue to provide an online format for Sunday worship to make sure that those members who were unable to attend could continue to be included in some way.

During the process of providing online services, it became apparent that embarking on short preaching series helped to provide a sense of continuity from Sunday to Sunday that also helped to maintain an ongoing sense of interest.

Continuing to provide online worship even with the reopening of Sunday Services in our Meeting House has brought about a semi-permanent change in the structure of my work week as it requires a fair amount of time to record and upload services.

### **Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas**

Despite the limitations placed upon us by Covid restrictions, we were able to hold meaningful Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day services.

### **Communion**

Although restrictions made it impossible to hold Communion services as normal on the first Sunday of May and the first Sunday of November, opportunity was created for our members to share in Communion via an online recorded Communion Service. Many expressed a sense that this had been deeply meaningful as a way of feeling connected with the Church, even though we may not have been able to share in this together in person.

### **Children**

Although I have tried to include children in our online services every week during the course of 2020, it is regrettable that our normal Sunday School activities were unable to resume due to Covid restrictions. With quite a range of ages in our Sunday School, the online contributions could unfortunately never cater for the needs of all ages. When Services in our church buildings were able to resume, I did my best to try and provide a song and a story that would make the children who came to church feel welcome and included as far as was possible. Probably the greatest success in reaching our children was at our Christmas Children's service which, with the help of the previous year's nativity script and music, proved to be a wonderful time that helped all, both young and old, to feel the Christmas spirit and connect with the Christmas story at a time when life was anything but normal.

### **Pastoral Visits**

With the social distancing restrictions imposed on the whole of society during the course of most of 2020, normal pastoral visits and pastoral contact became impossible. While it had

already been a large part of my pastoral practice making use of the phone, text messages and WhatsApp messages, these became the primary medium for pastoral contact with occasional door-step and over-the-fence pastoral visits and chats where it was necessary and appropriate.

During the period of the first lockdown from March to the end of May alone, I made around 190 pastoral contacts, mostly by phone, WhatsApp and text message. I tried as much as possible to make sure that every family on our membership list had some contact from me as a minister during that period.

Feeling some concern for those of our members who may have been particularly isolated, a small pastoral care team was formed, consisting of Maureen Smyth, Donna McDonald, Sonya Russell and Norma Shields to help keep more regular contact with these members. I am very grateful to the four of them for their help in this respect and also for the kindness and care of Maureen who wrote and sent Christmas cards at her own expense to about 25 of our most isolated members.

While I didn't keep the same kind of records as I had over March to the end of May, pastoral contact by phone, text and Whatsapp messages remained important for me over the rest of the year, even after services re-opened near the end of the summer up until Christmas.

### **Session and Committee**

Except for our meetings in January and February and one or two meetings in person during the Autumn, most of our business as a session and committee was conducted either over email, or over Zoom. Although not ideal, it did help the business of the Church to keep ticking over during a very disruptive year.

### **Funerals and Deaths**

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, it was with great sadness that a number of our older members passed away. For most, during the period of Covid regulations that did not permit funerals to take place in the Church, it required very limited numbers even outdoors around the grave.

Sadie Gregg	-	4th November 1921	-	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Ernie Martin	-	18th March 1929	-	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020
Patricia Steele	-	17 March 1942	-	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

William Greer - 19th November 1937 - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Rosemary Harrison - - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020  
George Anderson - 7<sup>th</sup> May 1937 - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020

In addition to these, I also conducted the funeral services for:

Eileen Green - 16<sup>th</sup> December 1941 - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
(Nee Miniss)  
Ruth Dickson - 15<sup>th</sup> February 1951 - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Finally, many in our congregation mourned the loss of one of the most illustrious sons of the church, the Very Reverend William McMillan who was buried at the church graveyard in Dunmurry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 where he had ministered for over 42 years. His connection with the Dromore Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church remained strong right up until the end of his life.

### **Marriages and Baptisms**

There were no marriages or baptisms during the course of 2020.

Reverend Brian Moodie

## **Finance Report**

As with all of our own lives, the church operated for most of 2020 while being affected by the pandemic. The most obvious effect on the church was the suspension of services in spring and early summer meaning that financially, the church was, temporarily, deprived of its main source of income – weekly offertory.

Reports in the press showed that many organisations were suffering immensely and churches were not immune with a number having serious financial difficulties threatening their long-term viability. However, when we all work together, the results can be impressive and thanks to the loyalty of the church membership and the dedication of those who helped at the organised FWO drop-off days, the worst effects were largely mitigated.

In addition to loss of membership income, church hall activities ( and revenues ) similarly were affected with the suspension of the Slimming World, Pilates and Yoga classes. Fortunately, there was a limited revival towards the end of the year, but there was a significant drop in rental income.

The church was not eligible for any government grants during the worst period although for many weeks the church's status had to be regularly reported to the government statistics agency which was monitoring all activity.

Overall, comparing the consolidated bank account figure for 2019 against that of 2020 shows a small increase from £378.8k to £380.4k

As always, the church must try to minimise costs where possible ( although many of them are unavoidable ) along with increasing its income, from various sources.

## **General Church Account**

### *Income*

Total envelope receipts fell only slightly from 2019. Bearing mind the difficulties experienced by everyone in 2020, this could be regarded as positive. However, a number of regular attending members pass away each year, so we need to encourage others to come along to maintain our regular FWO paying membership. Harvest receipts fell by nearly 14% to £2,365.

The activities that take place in the hall were able resume, with caution, when permitted and this meant that there was some rental income from the use of the Ervine Hall. Slimming World rent was about half of its normal level, and this was roughly the same for Pilates and the Yoga classes. The Bowling Club's donation similarly was reduced by 50%.

Thankfully, the Women's League contributed another £1000 to church funds as happens each year.

Charitable collections in 2020 went ahead despite everything, and in some cases, because of everything. The church collected not only groceries for Via Wings but contributed £292 to its Christmas appeal. Other charities benefitting from the usual end of year collections were Friends of the Cancer Centre, The Poppy Appeal, Motor Neurone Disease Association and the Children's Heartbeat Trust with £293.50, £207.50, £220.90 and £297.80 respectively. Together this totals £ 1,019.70.

We had generous contributions of £270 from members, and the annual small dividend from the Lady Clanwilliam charitable fund.

### *Expenditure*

A glance at the right hand side of the general church account illustrates the various demands on the church's finances during 2020. As can be seen below, many are directly related to the operation of the church. This is what it costs to keep the church operational before anything else is paid for.

Excluding the expenses related to salary, there are some large overheads that are payable year in, year out. Heating oil costs of £1,169, grass cutting fees of £1,320 and building and contents insurance of £975.91 are big figures when you realise they are being offset against the money put in church envelopes. Power NI costs appear at £1,920, however about 50% of this is a credit balance, as the hall was mostly not in use and Power NI significantly overcharged on that account. The credit balance was restored to the church accounts early in 2021.

Other annual costs included NI Water £328.76, banking costs of £312.36, the FWO envelopes at £524 and website charges of £325.

The unavoidable annual payments to the denomination funds total £1,644. These help support the Presbytery, Synod and other costs of the church at large. Each year the church supports denominational charities, and in 2020 this was as follows - Benevolent Fund ( for those in the denomination who find themselves in need ) £150, Christian Ministers' Fund ( for the training of ministers ) £150, similarly the Bodel-McKenzie and Porter Funds ( £10 and £50 respectively ), the Orphan Society £200 and the Ministers' Widows Fund £150. The total donated is £710.

## **Building Fund**

Fund envelope contributions fell by approximately 2.5%. Grave Fees contributed £610, and those who remembered the Late May Spence with contributions in lieu of flowers also augmented the Fund.

Most of the charges against the fund were those in relation to the maintenance of fire-fighting equipment, fire alarms, lighting and other safety measures now mandatory in public buildings. It is another unavoidable cost, not insignificantly totalling £820.18, and again must be borne before any other costs come along.

Very welcome external lighting for the church cost £81.88, while other sundry costs add approximately another £123.

## **Investments**

There are fewer banking institutions willing to take deposits from a non-personal account. Even when they are willing to do so, their rates are very low with savings interest rates being as low as 0.1%.

However, the church continues to receive 1.5% on its long held Progressive investment of £35,904.04.

Motivated by the lockdown and to move with the times, the church is endeavouring to put in place a mechanism where members will be able to pay FWO or Building Fund contributions by direct debit or by bank transfer. As soon as this is available, it will be made known to congregation members.

I express sincere gratitude to Ivor Park, David Wilson and Sam and Amy Flanagan for doing so much to help with finance work in the early part of 2020 and to Brenda Francis and Anne Mills for continuing to process and record weekly offertory and to Roderick McMurray for assisting with banking duties.

Joe Martin  
Honorary Treasurer



**GENERAL CHURCH ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening Balance 1/1/20</b>	320,838.90	Rev. B. Moodie - Salary Nett	24,163.72
Envelopes	34,852.10	NEST Pension	2,565.60
Harvest	2,365.00	HMRC - Tax and National Insurance	6,664.84
Pilates - Hall Rent	600.00	Organist Supplies	930.00
NSP Magazine receipts	697.75	Pulpit Supplies	75.00
Bowling Club	250.00	Bank Charges	312.36
Yoga Club - Hall Rent	150.00	Presbytery Fees	190.00
Friends of the Cancer Centre	293.50	Power NI	1,920.00
The Poppy Appeal	207.50	SM Vint - Accountant	324.00
Via Wings Christmas Appeal	292.00	EJ Landscapes - Grasscutting	1,320.00
Children's Heartbeat Trust	297.80	Emo Oil - Heating Oil	1,169.44
Motor Neurone Disease Association	220.90	NSP Church Mag Subscriptions	304.00
Anonymous Donation	200.00	Insurance - Arthur J Gallagher	975.91
S Gregg Donation	70.00	Benevolent Fund	150.00
Slimming World - Hall Rent	1,760.00	Joint Incidental & Moderatorial Fund	720.00
Interest	321.49	Sunday Schools Fund	114.00
Women's League Donation	1,000.00	NSPCI - Sustentation Fund	610.00
Lady Cianwilliam Fund	8.85	Trustee Company	10.00
		Bodel-McKenzie Benevolent Fund	10.00
		Porter Benevolent Fund	50.00
		Ministers' Widows Fund	150.00
		Orphan Society	200.00
		Christian Ministries Fund	150.00
		NI Water	328.76
		Weebly Website Fee	115.58
		Church Web Domain Name	209.65
		TH Jordan - FWO Envelopes/Ledger	524.40
		The Poppy Appeal	207.50
		ABC Council - Entertainments Licence	150.00
		Motor Neurone Disease NI	220.00
		Just 4 Children	250.00
		Diamond Shine Cleaners	154.00
		Children's Heartbeat Trust	277.80
		Via Wings Christmas Appeal	300.00
		<b>Closing Balance 31/12/20</b>	<b><u>318,609.23</u></b>
	<b><u>364,425.79</u></b>		<b><u>364,425.79</u></b>
Total Income	43,586.89		
Total Expenditure	<u>45,816.56</u>		
Deficit Y/E 31/12/20		2,229.67	

A few years ago, the session and committee decided that individual contributions to the church will no longer be printed in the annual report.

Instead, each member will receive a personal letter indicating the amount donated during the year.

**BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Opening balance 1/1/20</b>	<b>22,279.02</b>		
Fund Envelopes	3194.04	Bank Fees	31.22
Grave Fees	610.00	Martin's Wallpapers - Paint	23.49
Donation	100.00	Fire Defence - Emergency Light Test	102.00
In lieu of flowers - The Late May Spence	405.00	Fire Defence - Fire Extinguisher Maint.	180.60
Interest	22.53	Fire Defence - Fire Alarm Maintenance	96.00
		Fire Defence - Fire Risk Assessment	240.00
		Fire Defence - Exit Box, Emer. Lights	84.00
		Fire Defence - Fire Alarm Battery	117.58
		Screwfix - External Church Lighting	81.88
		Toilet Fixtures	15.00
		Ervine Hall - New lock and keys	44.40
		Dromore Boiler Servicing-Air Eliminator	40.00
	<hr/> 4,331.57		<hr/> 1,056.17
		<b>Closing Balance 31/12/20</b>	<b>25,554.42</b>
	<hr/> <b>26,610.59</b>		<hr/> <b>26,610.59</b>
Total Income	4,331.57		
Total Expenditure	1,056.17		
Surplus Y/E 31/12/20	<hr/> 3,275.40		

**PROGRESSIVE 2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND ( 1.5% ) - YEAR ENDING 31/12/20**

<b>Opening Balance 1/1/20</b>	<b>35,410.61</b>		
Interest paid 01/05/20	529.43		
	<hr/> <b>35,940.04</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31/12/20</b>	<b>35,940.04</b>
			<hr/> <b>35,940.04</b>

**CONSOLIDATED BANK ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31/12/20**

<b>Opening Balances 1/1/20</b>			
No. 1 Account	320,838.90		
Molly Ervine Bequest ( For Grave Upkeep )	270.87		
Building Fund Account	22,279.02		
Progressive Two Year Bond	35,410.61	378,799.40	
<b>Surplus/Deficit Y/E 31/12/20</b>			
No. 1 Account	-2,229.67		
Molly Ervine Bequest ( account dormant )	0.00		
Building Fund Account	3,275.40		
Progressive Two Year Bond	529.43	1,575.16	
		<hr/> <b>380,374.56</b>	
			<hr/> <b>380,374.56</b>

## **Property Committee Report**

Plans were developed for the re-lamping of the Ervine Hall with LED lighting – this was to reduce the amount of electricity consumed and provide enhanced brightness. Quotes from a number of tenderers were being sought.

The ceiling of the minister's room in the church was re-plastered successfully.

Ongoing maintenance of the car park was carried out throughout the year, including maintenance of the barrier and monitoring of any misuse of the park.

New protocols were developed to ensure the external church doors were kept closed to retain heat.

Heating in the committee room had been restored after maintenance of the adjoining water pump.

During the year, numerous queries on minor property matters had been resolved.

Automatic external lighting had been enhanced outside the committee rooms with the addition of an additional sensor light.

Damp treatment had been applied to the church wall to the left side of the pulpit while further external remedial investigation and action is ongoing. In the meantime, the area around the hymn board that had the damp proof applied was painted a number of times to minimise the effect of the ongoing dampness until the root cause was identified and resolved.

Bulbs were replaced within the buildings when necessary.

The disabled toilet seat/lid had been replaced.

Cupboards in the Ervine Hall had been completed.

Christmas holly wreaths and a 'star' had been acquired and erected at the church.

Grass-cutting was carried out throughout the year by a gardening specialist while graveyard and associated grounds weed spraying was completed by church members.

Fire safety checks had been carried out on the extinguishers in the hall and church, the fire alarm system in the hall and the electrical installation and the emergency lighting in the church and hall. Fire Defence performed the fire risk assessment.

A new lock had been fitted to the Ervine Hall and keys distributed. A padlock was fitted to the hall store door.

Boiler maintenance had been required to maintain efficiency in hall and church heating.

I am grateful to Sam O'Mullan for organising the annual application submission to the ABC council for the Entertainments licence. It involves a lot of effort with the legal safety requirements our hall must meet.

I would also add my thanks to Victor Shields for the repairs to the Ministers room ceiling plasterwork and to Ivor Park, Sam Flanagan and Tom Fairley for assistance with painting and weed control.

David Wilson  
Property Committee