

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101048

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-12-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address
Church House
45 Main Street
Saintfield
Ballynahinch
Co Down
Bt24 7ab
BT24 7AB

Phone 07519668747

Email office@saintfieldparish.org

Website www.saintfieldparish.org

Activities

Purposes: The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Older people, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£162,733	£145,273	£0	4
2024-12-31	£161,639	£168,778	£0	4

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bryce Hetherington		
Craig Mccarter		
Craig Weston		
Dawn Gordon		
Heather Todd		
Joy Whitley		
June Butler		
Leonard Hill		
Linda Bloomer		
Mr Peter Andrews		
Mrs Carol Andrews		
Mrs Caroline Kearney		
Mrs Pamela Mcnamara		
Mrs Phylis Whiteside		
Rev Chris Pollock		
Rosemary Armstrong		
Stephen Erskine		

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Accounts

Saintfield Parish Church

**Trustees' Annual Report
and
Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

For the year ended 31 December 2025



Charities Number: NIC 101048

Saintfield Parish Church
Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

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Saintfield Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Saintfield Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 101048

Contact Address: 43-45 Main Street
Saintfield
Ballynahinch
County Down
BT24 7AB

Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Dawn Gordon
Stephen Erskine
Linda Bloomer
Craig McCarter
Peter Andrews

Bryce Hetherington
Craig Weston
June Butler
Joy Whitley
Caroline Kearney
Carol Andrews

Catherine Griffith (Retired 2025)
Rosemary Armstrong
Leonard Hill
Pamela McNamara
Phylis Whiteside (Elected 2025)
Heather Todd (Elected 2025)

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy:	Rev. Chris Pollock
Hon. Secretary:	Stephen Erskine
Church Treasurer:	Caroline Kearney
Church Warden- Clergy:	Pamela McNamara
Church Warden - People:	Heather Todd
Glebe Warden- Clergy:	Craig Weston
Glebe Warden- People:	Joy Whitley

Independent Examiner

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28 – 30 Old Mountfield Road,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Bankers

Danske Bank
49-51 Market Street,
Downpatrick BT30 6LX,
Co. Down
Northern Ireland

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

I love the current Formula 1 trailer with its opening statement: *“Every end has a beginning.”* Taylor Swift — I am told by those who know these things — sings something similar.



As I reflect on our past Church year — **Easter 2025 to Easter 2026** — and on my own personal life, this year has clearly been marked by change, transition, and fresh opportunities. Yet behind every ending and every new chapter stands the truth of Hebrews 13:8: **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

While much has changed this year — people, roles, seasons, and circumstances — Christ has remained constant. His faithfulness has carried me, each of us, and our parish through all the changes that come, both anticipated and unexpected.

The Big Transition

In terms of our church life, the most significant milestone has been the **249th year of our current church building**. This past year has been one in which we as a Vestry have reflected on how this anniversary might shape the next stage of our parish life as we prepare to enter this unique period from **January 2026 to December 2026**.

Through prayer, listening to one another, to our community, and to God through preaching on **Ephesians** and other sermon series, our 250th year has gradually taken shape through planning special worship events, social engagements, mission opportunities, tower repairs and fundraising — resulting in a refreshing combination of faith, fun, food, and family.

Just as our church building first began its life in **1776**, reaching the close of its 249th year in **2025**, we pray this celebration year will open mission-shaped opportunities for generations yet to come.

Change and Continuity in Worship

There have been several transitions within our worshipping life.



Alan Higgins, Diocesan Lay Reader, who faithfully led worship and shared God's Word on the fourth Sunday of most months since **October 2021**, now moves into a new chapter. Alan's passion for Jesus, personal witness, and encouragement will be deeply missed. We pray God's blessing upon Alan and Linda in the season ahead.

Donna Matchett also reaches a point of transition as she takes a well-earned rest from assisting at the **8.30am service**. Her thoughtful intercessions and careful preparation helped lead us into deeper encounters with God in Holy Communion. We thank her sincerely and look forward to future opportunities for her involvement.

Denis Matchett has stepped back from the **8.30am Welcomer** role he faithfully offered since before the Covid years. His dependability and attention to detail were a tremendous gift to clergy and congregation alike. Thank you, Denis.

As some roles conclude, space is created for others to grow.

It is with great joy that I share that **Katie Cooke** is currently training as a **Parish Reader** and, God willing, will begin licensed ministry by **Easter 2026**. She will assist in leading worship and prayer at our **10.00am services**, bringing her energy, faith, and enthusiasm to our church family.



Denis Matchett stepping back opened the way for **Gerry Lavery**, who, together with Kathy, joined our parish last year. Gerry has embraced the Welcomer role wholeheartedly, offering warmth, organisation, and assistance with administering the chalice. Thank you, Gerry, for stepping forward.

Growth is also evident through **SPACE / REFRESH worship**. **Deirdre Hill, Lauren Whitley, Sarah McCarter, and Katie Cooke** have generously offered their gifts to shape worship for young families and children. Their willingness to serve allows Christian faith to grow among the next generation — something vital for what lies ahead.

Thank you also to everyone involved in setting up SPACE worship, to **Craig McCarter** for leading music, and to the **Foodie Team** whose hospitality blesses us each month.

Thank you to **Jackie Todd**, our faithful PowerPoint operator (and weekly challenger to the Vicar's PPT clicker!); **Michael Harris**, our diligent and gifted organist; and **Craig McCarter** for his committed music ministry in SPACE and our joyful Pop-Up Choirs.

Mission Partnerships — At Home and Abroad



An encouraging development is our growing partnership with the **Church of the Redeemer in La Paz, Bolivia**. **Pastor David and his wife Marcia** continue to encourage us through photos, videos, and prayer.

Through **SAMS Ireland**, we hope to welcome them in **September 2026** and explore the possibility of a parish visit in **February 2028**. **Claire and Geoff from SAMS** will visit our SPACE service in **April** to strengthen these mission connections. A helpful next step would be reducing my administrative involvement in this partnership. We now need a **Parish Link person or small**

team to nurture this relationship and sustain its momentum.

We also continue supporting **The Suitcase Project** in East Belfast through fundraising events such as our Parish Breakfast — thanks especially to the **Men Alive** group. Again, a Link Person would help strengthen this ministry.

Sad Farewells and Signs of Hope

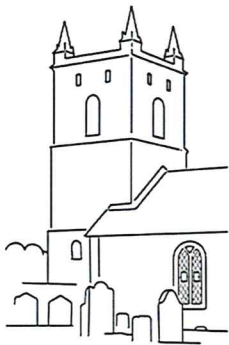
Some transitions come with sadness. We remember with gratitude the lives of **Jim Rountree, Myrtle Drury, Doreen McKelvey, and Rae Jennings**, faithful servants whose quiet discipleship shaped this parish for many years. Their witness reminds us that much of God's kingdom grows through steady faithfulness unseen by many.

At the same time, our **baptisms have increased** — beautiful signs of life among us. May we always remain a church where families feel welcome and children grow knowing Jesus is real.

Some changes are harder to reshape. Our **Wednesday Explore Group** closed in **2025** due to my personal circumstances. I had hoped to restart sooner. Deeper engagement with God's Word and prayer remains essential for discipleship, and I ask your encouragement as we seek ways forward together.



Buildings and Resources — Faithful Stewardship



In buildings and resources there are rarely clear beginnings or endings — only ongoing stewardship.

Following the Diocesan Report concerning the state of our buildings, the **Vicarage** was viewed very positively, while concerns were raised regarding the **Church Tower**. During **2025** we assessed the extent of repairs, now estimated at **£45,000**, and began planning for work to be undertaken in Summer **2026**. Preventative work now will protect us from future damage and costs.

We will launch a **Church Tower Appeal** with a **Gift Day on 22/3/26**, with further opportunities to give throughout the year. We are very grateful to two American families (**Messrs Moffat & Connor**) who donated **£5k** in total to this work — a generosity that deeply encouraged me. Thank you to John McGowan for his invaluable assistance in this and co-ordinating the project.

Church Tower Appeal

Other resources in the Parish Hall were also upgraded. We resolved audio-visual issues between Church and Hall and improved the TV network and screens through a legacy from the **late Bob Armitage's Estate**. These improvements will expand opportunities for cross-community use of our facilities.

We are also exploring a fixed cleaning contract for the Parish Hall to complement the faithful work of our Sexton, **Ian Gordon**, whose dedication consistently goes beyond duty and hours and who keeps the graveyard in such a pristine condition.

Administration

Administration has thankfully been marked by continuity.

Sally Milligan faithfully manages parish administration with warmth and initiative, supporting much of the Vicar's routine workload. Everything is consistently completed to a high standard. Over the past year we also introduced a new administration system connecting everything through Microsoft and our domain name.



(Minus Bryce Hetherington)

Caroline Kearney, Treasurer, continues to ensure strong financial stewardship and up-to-date data for Vestry decision-making.

Jean Perrin, Assistant Treasurer, carefully oversees investments and endowments. Together with Sally, they are a superb asset to parish life.

Our **Select Vestry Trustees** serve with commitment and wisdom.

This Easter marks a transition as **Pamela McNamara** completes two faithful years as **Church Warden**. Pamela has been welcoming, organised, and deeply supportive behind the scenes. Thank you for all you have given, and we look forward to your continued involvement on the Vestry.

Heather Todd has completed her first year as Church Warden, continuing her leadership journey with warmth and dedication.

Special thanks to **Stephen Erskine**, Hon Secretary, for his excellent minutes; to **Joy Whitley** and **Craig Weston**, our Glebe Wardens; and to the whole Vestry for their openness, accountability, and hard work.

We also thank our **Safeguarding Team**, led by **Kate Beattie**, for navigating continually evolving legal requirements. **Ian Logan** now steps down from this role. Thank you, Ian, for your faithful care.

Other Volunteers and groups — Ministry in Motion

Across parish life, volunteer ministry continually evolves.

Our Mothers' Union continues with new members joining and people stepping up to monthly tasks. At present, there isn't a Leader as such, but everyone on the committee is working hard and it is resulting in more people becoming involved. Tuesday nights/afternoons are great to see in action.

Men Alive grows from strength to strength in fellowship and outreach. Different outings, some food time and Coffees all is gradually evolving this group into a core activity that we all look forward too. A big thanks also for the Sunday Breakfast which was a fundraiser for 'The Suitcase Project' in East Belfast. Thanks to Leonard and team for Co-ordinating.

Pitter Patter remains a vital new beginning of connection with young families. Sarah, David, Valda, Joanne and Dawn all together organise this every week and are making great connections with all sorts of new people and families. Thank you for all that you do.

Wednesday Welcome continues faithfully, though new beginnings in leadership support are needed. We thank Ann Drury and Mervyn Smyth as they reached their new ending after thirteen years of devoted service. Julie, Liz and Andree organise everything.

Bowling and Badminton meet weekly through the work of William Drury and Ian Gordon. These are enjoyable, social times together and the numbers have increased in both. (Big thanks for the Sit out as well for Suicide Down to 0000 at Christmas 2025)

Finally, thank you to **Leonard Hill and Muriel Hilman** for delivering magazines each month. Leonard and Deirdre also make sure the Magazine is put together, checked over and ready to go. It is an invaluable gift of time and energy.

We have more people volunteering for our 250th Anny events especially for our History Day and Christmas Tree Festival. However, we always need more. The concert on **Friday 9th October** will need various teams to help make it work. We will be asking for help in June, but If God places something on your heart to become involved, please do not wait to be asked. Step forward. Your gift matters, and every person has a place in what God is doing among us.

Personal Reflections

This year our family experienced profound loss with the passing of my parents and Wenda's father. During those months, this church surrounded us with extraordinary love, prayer, patience, and care. We felt supported not only as clergy, but as family. Thank you for being Christ to us. Though painful, we trust God to bring healing and renewed hope in the days ahead.

Moving Forward — At Jesus' Pace

Returning to Formula 1's phrase:
"Every end has a beginning."

Formula 1 moves fast — races end, teams reset, engines restart. But the Church of Jesus moves differently.

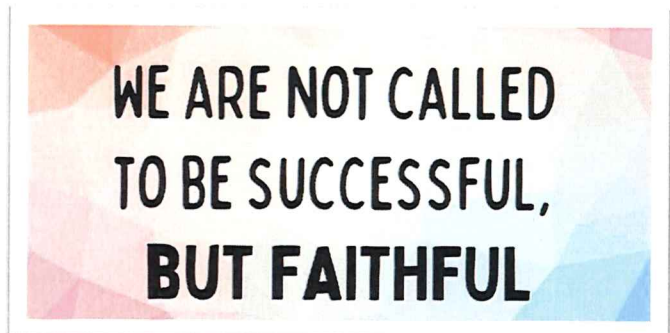
Jesus' speed notices people.
Jesus' speed walks with the hurting.
Jesus' speed makes time for transformation.
Jesus' speed is the pace of love, prayer, and faithfulness.

As we enter a new **250th era of parish life**, our mission is not acceleration but obedience — walking forward at the pace Christ sets. God has never called us to be successful. God has called us to be faithful.

Faithful in worship. Faithful in service. Faithful in love. Faithful in mission.

Because **Jesus Christ — yesterday, today, and forever — remains faithful to us.**

If we remain faithful to Him, we can trust Him with the future, knowing that every season ultimately finds its fulfilment in the eternal glory of God. The best ending of all. Amen



Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

Financial Review

Total Parish receipts for 2025 amounted to approximately £163,000, remaining broadly consistent with 2024 levels. Freewill Offering (FWO) income also remained steady year-on-year, with a continued increase in contributions made via standing order. This method of giving is appreciated as it reduces administrative costs, particularly envelope printing, and supports more accurate budgeting and cash-flow planning.

Income Streams

Income from the Parish Hall remained in line with 2024 at £12,000, supported by steady demand from community groups. There remains additional capacity for increased utilisation of the Church Hall Complex. Parish investments increased in value during the year. Restricted investments stood at £77,000, with unrestricted investments at £359,000. Trustees will continue to monitor investment performance carefully, particularly given the geopolitical instability in the Middle East which may influence financial markets in 2026.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2025 was £145,000, representing a reduction from the prior year primarily due to the absence of major capital projects. Wage and salary costs increased, and ongoing uncertainty—especially relating to energy costs such as heating oil in Northern Ireland—may result in additional financial pressures in 2026.

Fundraising and Stewardship

The Trustees encourage all Parishioners to consider increasing their monthly FWO contributions. Continued generosity helps sustain parish ministries, community activities, and the increasing operational costs required to deliver them. The Parish deeply appreciates the faithful and consistent support of its community.

Financial Controls and Governance

Saintfield Parish Church operates a robust dual-control system for both receipts and payments. Monthly reconciliations are completed and cross-checked to ensure accuracy and proper categorisation of all transactions. The Parish's financial position is presented at each Select Vestry meeting, ensuring transparency and enabling informed decision-making. Trustees remain committed to maintaining strong financial governance and stewardship standards. We thank our Independent Examiners, Hamill McIlwaine for their assistance in our preparation of Accounts for both our Parish and Charity Commission.

Going Concern Statement

The Trustees have carefully reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities without disruption. Based on this review, the Trustees are confident that the financial position of the Parish remains strong and sustainable. As a result, the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 can be signed off as a going concern, allowing us to move forward into the new year with confidence.

The Trustees have reviewed the budget for 2026 and are satisfied that sufficient funds exist to support ongoing Parish activities without disruption. They are therefore confident that the Parish remains a going concern, and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 can be signed off on this basis.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year.

The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2024.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns. The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2025 the Select Vestry met on 7 occasions. The average attendance was 82%.

**Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)**

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

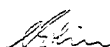
The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock

Mr Stephen Erskine

Mrs Caroline Kearney



Date: 16 March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 11-16.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hamill McIlwaine

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: 26 March 2026

Saintfield Parish Church
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Receipts</u>						
Donations & plate collection	4	103,839	12,724	-	116,563	111,396
Proceeds from Fund Raising Events		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies		2,500	7,476	-	9,976	15,000
Bank & Deposit interest		123	4	-	127	149
Investment income		12,830	10,538	-	23,368	22,024
Rental of premises		12,000	-	-	12,000	11,918
Sale of Unit Trusts		-	-	-	-	-
Grants		-	500	-	500	-
Receipts from General Trustees		-	-	-	-	-
Other Receipts		199	-	-	199	1,152
Total Receipts		131,491	31,242	-	162,733	161,639
<u>Payments</u>						
Wages and Salaries		75,030	5,609	-	80,639	75,863
Diocesan Costs/Assessment		20,791	-	-	20,791	20,442
Church Running Costs		8,045	6,108	-	14,153	18,284
Vicarage / Curacy Costs		3,408	28	-	3,436	3,788
Hall / Property Costs		2,663	-	-	2,663	10,126
Investment Property Costs		6,266	179	-	6,445	7,393
Vicarage renovation expenses		-	-	-	-	8,602
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of new investments		-	-	-	-	9,000
Administration Costs		10,034	67	-	10,101	9,738
Fundraising Costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Donations		55	6,990	-	7,045	5,542
Total Payments		126,292	18,981	-	145,273	168,778
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		5,199	12,261	-	17,460	(7,139)
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		5,199	12,261	-	17,460	(7,139)

Saintfield Parish Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds					
Current and cash Accounts	20,991	39,400	-	60,391	42,798
Deposit Accounts	-	273	-	273	406
Total Cash Funds	<u>20,991</u>	<u>39,673</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,664</u>	<u>43,204</u>
Investment Assets					
Investments	358,650	77,445	-	436,095	373,581
Total Investment Assets	<u>358,650</u>	<u>77,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>436,095</u>	<u>373,581</u>
Assets retained for the Parish's own use					
Vicarage	709,274	-	-	709,274	709,274
Church House	268,193	-	-	268,193	268,193
Total Assets retained for the Parish's own use	<u>977,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>977,467</u>	<u>977,467</u>

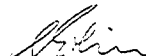
On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Vicar

Mrs Caroline Kearney
Hon Treasurer

Mr. Stephen Erskine
Hon Secretary





Date : 16 March 2026

Date : 16 March 2026

Date : 16 March 2026

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

(b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise: -

- Church Building and Graveyard
- Parish Hall
- Vicarage
- Church House

- The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102)
 - These Heritage assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

- The Parish Hall
 - Was built / acquired in 1971. There are no reliable records of the cost of this construction/ acquisition and valuation approach for such a building lacks sufficient reliability. As a result, this building is not recognised in the Parish statement of assets and liabilities. (Insurance values reconstruction at £1,268,556)

- The Vicarage is recognised at its insurance value of £709,274. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

- The Church House is recognised at its insurance value of £268,193. No depreciation has been provided on the Church House as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

ii) Investments

Fixed asset investments comprising investments in M&G Charifund, NICIFC , investments in equities (ordinary shares) and investment in RCB/CIT Unit Trusts are stated at fair value at each year end date.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at Beginning of the year	43,204
Receipts for the Year	162,733
Payments for the Year	<u>(145,273)</u>
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	<u>60,664</u>

3. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Movement £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2025 £
Restricted funds						
Organ fund	4,895	466	(195)	271	-	5,166
Scarlett bequest	5,401	6,850	(3,584)	3,266	-	8,667
Property account	270	4	-	4	-	274
Trusts and bequests account	8,185	3,222	(1,690)	1,532	(1,844)	7,873
General Fund	-	12,565	(5,250)	7,315	546	7,861
Graveyard Fund	8,661	8,135	(8,262)	(127)	1,298	9,832
	<u>27,412</u>	<u>31,242</u>	<u>(18,981)</u>	<u>12,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,673</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	15,655	118,982	(126,292)	(7,310)	12,646	20,991
RCB deposit account	137	-	-	-	(137)	-
Trusts and bequests account	-	12,509	-	12,509	(12,509)	-
	<u>15,792</u>	<u>131,491</u>	<u>(126,292)</u>	<u>5,199</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,991</u>
Total funds	<u>43,204</u>	<u>162,733</u>	<u>(145,273)</u>	<u>17,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,664</u>

Purposes of Investment Funds

- Income from the RCB Unit Trust bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The use of capital from these holdings is not allowed except by special request and must be approved by Diocesan Council and RCB.
- Income from the Church of Ireland Trustees bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The vestry holds sole authority to use.
- Income from the Central Investment Fund for Charities bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The Vestry holds sole authority to use.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

-Income from the M&G Charifund bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The vestry hold sole authority to use.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

- Organ Fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the organ.
- Scarlett Bequest Fund: This is a discretionary account administered by the Vicar and Church Wardens to support the work of the Parish. Its money is restricted.
- Property fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the Church's properties.
- Trusts and Bequests Fund: This is a fund used to receive the income from the endowment funds and distribute the income according to the instructions of each bequest.

4. Donations and Plate Collections

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
FWO and annual donations	80,232	-	80,232	78,932
Cash collections	640	-	640	2,058
Gift Aid	17,002	923	17,925	17,561
Graveyard fees and donations	5,145	7,212	12,357	8,882
Donations received	820	4,589	5,409	3,963
	103,839	12,724	116,563	111,396

5. Collections for Third Parties

	2025 £	2024 £
Royal Ulster Constabulary GC/ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	689	530
Maridi Bikes	-	319
MS Society NI	-	1,397
Foodbank Ballynahinch	230	110
Planting Fund	-	1,000
SAMS	1,221	500
Suicide to Zero	1,428	-
Suitcase Project	921	-
Mothers Union	100	-
	4,589	3,856

The monies collected for third parties was rounded up to £4,651 by the Parish before being distributed.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

6. Transactions with the Trustees

The Parish paid expenses of £3,436 relating to the running costs of the glebe house which is occupied by the rector.

One Trustee received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,934 during the year.

The Vicar is paid a gross salary (including expenses and Locomotory Allowance) of £50,743 by the Parish.

No Trustee or a person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

7. Governance Costs

Governance costs of £925 were incurred during the year of which £925 relates to fees paid to the independent examiner. Governance costs are included within Administration costs in the Receipts and Payments Accounts.

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Accounts

Saintfield Parish Church

**Trustees' Annual Report
and
Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

For the year ended 31 December 2024



Charities Number: NIC 101048

Saintfield Parish Church
Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Saintfield Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Saintfield Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 101048

Contact Address: 43-45 Main Street
Saintfield
Ballynahinch
County Down
BT24 7AB

Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Dawn Gordon
Stephen Erskine
Linda Bloomer
Craig McCarter
Peter Andrews

Bryce Hetherington
Craig Weston
June Butler
Joy Whitley
Caroline Kearney
Carol Andrews

Catherine Griffith
Rosemary Armstrong
Leonard Hill
Pamela McNamara (Elected 2024)
Phylis Whiteside (Elected 2024)
Judith Stevenson (Retired 2024)
Kate Beattie (Retired 2024)

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy:	Rev. Chris Pollock
Hon. Secretary:	Stephen Erskine
Church Treasurer:	Caroline Kearney
Church Warden- Clergy:	Pamela McNamara
Church Warden - People:	Phylis Whiteside
Glebe Warden- Clergy:	Craig Weston
Glebe Warden- People:	Joy Whitley

Independent Examiner

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28 – 30 Old Mountfield Road,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Bankers

Danske Bank
32 Main St,
Saintfield,
Ballynahinch
Co Down
BT24 7AB1

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

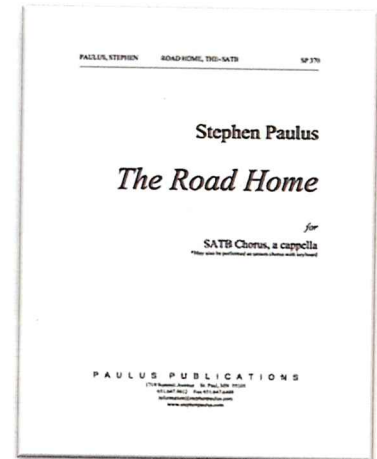
Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit



I have over the past couple of years been singing in the Ards Choral Society and enjoy again being part of a 4-part Choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass: SATB). We held a recent concert singing a large range of music from modern complex choral pieces such as 'The Seal Lullaby' & 'No Night there' to simple ones with Latin words with each 'part' (SATB) using different notes to create the one melody in the ears of those listening.

One piece entitled 'The Road Home' has words of faith that for me echo the words of hope in God that we want everyone to hear in their heart concerning Jesus. The first verse describes how many people sense what is missing in life and the questions they have:

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?



Over the past year, I feel that Saintfield Parish has been using 4 different types of 'part' to invite people to re-discover 'The Road Home' so that questions are transformed into answers. However, instead of being 'Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass' our Church offers another 4 ways to 'sing' about God, that individually all use different notes and melodies, but when added together create a harmony that allows the words to be heard in ways that are amazing, true and filled with a Jesus' love and mission.

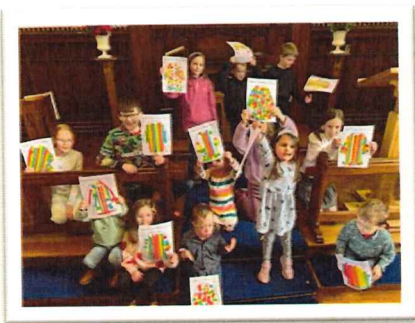
So, for example, instead of there being a 'Soprano' part, we have the top line of 'Sunday worship' where we together offer praise, prayer and hear the preaching of God's Word every week.

Over the past year this 'S' in our 8.30am Holy Communion has retained a dedicated, consistent number of people. Donna Matchett with careful thought and understanding leads us in this Service and guides us in our prayers, Dennis Matchett every Sunday is the Assistant Church Warden setting things up and welcoming people in and Ian Logan helps us in a super way, as and when we need him. This Sunday Worship is such a blessing to those who want traditional worship and weekly Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for their leadership, contribution and support.

10.00am Sunday Worship uses currently a combination of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and S.P.A.C.E. to 'sing' of Jesus. Numbers have increased slightly over each month with new faces welcomed. I want to thank: Michael Harris for his consistent and lovely playing of our church organ; Craig McCarter for inspiring piano playing; Jackie Todd on Power Point and our two marvellous Church Wardens, Phylis Whiteside and Pamela McNamara for a warm welcome and efficient organisation before the Service. Thank you to everyone who offers Flowers for the Church. It is very kind and makes everything look beautiful.



Thanks to Alan Higgins from the Diocese for his invaluable leading of worship and the preaching of God's Word every month and the blessing of Canon Ian McDonald in his leading and preaching. June Butler has thoughtfully led us in prayer every month and we also have super teams of people providing food for SPACE and after our 10.00am Sunday Worship.



11.00am REFRESH has also been growing in numbers and for our young families/work, this is so encouraging. Katie Cooke, Deirdre Hill, Lauren Whitley and Sarah McCarter have stepped up into helping with some of the talks for REFRESH and SPACE.

I could not do it without their gifts of time and energy. Once again, I say thank you to all those who take seriously their Baptismal Promises as we help our young children 'sing' of God, that they may grow in faith in our church family. We are keeping in place this pattern of Sunday Worship, seeking to grow through invitation, Baptisms and hopefully Confirmations.

We have a consistent 11 people on Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion. A 'Life Group' have explored the 'Letter of Romans' and a Prayer Course with Pete Grieg, all adding greatly to our discipleship as we travel on 'The Road Home'. Thank you for your commitment and fellowship.

This 'part' of Sunday Worship in Church life is probably the most familiar to all and what everyone 'sings' in, weekly, monthly or at special times of the year. It offers the main melody of Jesus and with the recent 'Reason for Hope' mission, it is so encouraging to hear even more clearly of this Jesus and 'The Road Home'. We need to grow Sunday Worship and so our 250th Anniversary celebrations will have a clear emphasis on this 'S', its past as well as its future.

That's our first part that sings of 'The Road Home' through Sunday Worship.

Our second line in our choir is the 'Alto' part that we will instead describe as being our 'Admin' line that is fulfilled through roles in the Church, 'paid' as well as that of 'volunteer'. The skill set and dedication of all 'Admins' adds a necessary depth and harmony to what 'Sunday Worship' offers.

Our 'Admins' sing firstly in the Church Office with the superb Sally Milligan as our Admin Officer offering a great welcome to everyone who comes in, answering queries and supporting in so many ways the Vicar and the Treasurer.



Next is Ian Gordon as our outstanding Sexton who looks after the Admin of the Church/Hall/Graveyard making sure all is set out, heated properly and tidied. Then he cuts the grass and repairs all broken items to a marvellous standard as well as offering an Annual 12 hour Sit Out!!!!

Finally, in the Office is William Drury as Graveyard Convenor looking after the admin of our 'Service of Thanksgivings', greatly helping families who are having to cope with difficult situations of loss. William keeps all necessary records up to date, Graveyard maintenance and repairs and answering the endless queries about plots, fees, regulations and headstones. Thanks at this point to Linda Bloomer for being part of our Graveyard Committee who with the Vicar, William and Ian represent the Vestry for Graveyard decisions that need to be made.


Other 'Admins' are the Select Vestry who as Charity Trustees look after the management of our Church. They meet monthly to make informed decisions concerning fabric, finance and faith. We, for example had to authorise a £6.5k Capital Work to rectify a drains problem at the Hall which needed careful discussion as to its cost and completion. The Select Vestries dedication and conversations are such a blessing and each member is consistent in attendance of meetings as well as being together in Sunday Worship.

Stephen Erskine as the Hon Sec is excellent in his Minute taking and Letters representing the Church at Diocesan and community level. Craig Weston and Joy Whitley as Glebe Wardens have had to look after Vicarage grounds and necessary repairs and Rosemary Armstrong represents the constantly up-dated Safeguarding requirements. A big thank you also to our 'Admin' of Kate Beattie as Safeguarding Chair, Ian Logan, Joy Whitley with Rosemary for their contribution and wisdom.

Caroline Kearney is an outstanding Hon Treasurer. Payments are made on time, records kept up to date and working closely with Jean Perrin (who countersigns as well as managing our Bequests). Caroline's precise data for each Vestry meeting is clear and concise, allowing us to budget effectively and make healthy informed decisions. We are very fortunate to have her in this role with Jean and Sally supporting her. Thanks also to Glenda as our Independent Examiner for her guidance and advice through this process and the endless shifting scenes of 'Charity Commission' land.

Other 'Admin' volunteers who sing their 'part' are those involved in our Parish communication. We moved last year away from a weekly newsheet to a monthly Magazine with Leonard Hill as it's editor. Leonard collates the material, formats the Magazine and delivers it to those who do not have computers or social media. Big thanks to Muriel Hilman for delivering as well. Leonard's management makes sure our communication is all up to date, relevant for the Church and community and neatly integrates with Chris' Facebook/WhatsApp posts.

Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
March 2023



FIRST
STEPS
LOVE GROW SERVE GO

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
CHRIST IN ME. CHRIST OVER ME.
Christ to right of me,
CHRIST TO LEFT OF ME,
CHRIST IN LYING DOWN. CHRIST IN SITTING.
Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart
of every person who may think of me,
Christ in the mouth of every
person who may speak of me.
CHRIST IN EVERY EYE,
WHICH MAY LOOK ON ME!
CHRIST IN EVERY EAR. WHICH MAY HEAR ME!

Thank you to all these people who as 'Admins' sing their part, adding to what we sing on Sunday Worship. We might not always hear the 'part' they sing, but we recognise the impact and difference they make and how less effective we would be as a church without them and their 'music'.

Next, the Tenors who 'sing' are all our 'Teams' who serve both the Church and Community. Their part of the 'song' adds to 'Sunday Worship' & 'Admin' helping even more people hear of Jesus through activities and close relationships and connections.

Mothers' Union is a 'Team' for example, that meets every 1st Tuesday of most months. Their committee together work hard to provide a programme to help all women explore their Christian Faith. There is a lot of fun and food. Everyone in the MU is very connected to this branch, the Diocesan Branch and the worldwide family. Our MU offers so much to our Church as they too 'sing' their part of what Saintfield Parish tells of Jesus.



On Mondays, we have a growing Pitter Patter 'Team' who serve the community. Sarah McCarter, Dawn Gordon, Joanne McCavera, David & Valda McCarter all work very hard in setting up on Sunday, and on Monday, providing food and fun to all, making everyone welcome. Also, on Mondays is our 'Knit and Chat' 'Team' crafting all sorts of items, learning new skills and enjoying being together. Thanks to Jean Perrin for establishing this activity and making it so much fun.



Wednesday Welcome has been established for over 13 years now and every 2 weeks, has grown a small community who all know and support each other. The committee of Julie Ritchie, Andree Rea, Ann Drury, Mervyn Smyth has grown this year with Liz Bateman joining.

WW continues to offer a range of activities both in the hall and outside that bless people in the community making everyone welcome. Thank you.

Men Alive is a new men's group meeting every month for a combination of food, faith and fun. Different events have involved road trips to Stormont Buildings as well as

Crumlin Road Gaol or maybe just having breakfast together. Such a big thankyou to Leonard Hill and Ronnie White for looking after things and seeing more and more men come along and joining in.

Our church is blessed with Badminton and Bowling Clubs run by William Drury and Ian Gordon. These are very social and have seen more people join over the past year but there is always room for more. Thanks to Ian and William for setting up and running both nights.

Our 'Teams' also are people who help the Vicar in some pastoral needs. Dawn Gordon was part of the visiting team and Jillian Barnes offered time to help the Vicar in offering communion to some folk in Tullywest Residential. There is a need to grow this team so that we can keep healthy contact with more people in Church who for various reasons can't join in worship anymore. A big thanks to Dawn and Jillian for all they have offered.

So that's the 'Teams' through which some people in our Parish 'sing' together. These 'Teams' add greatly to Sunday Worship and our Admin parts, connecting many in our community so that the sound of Jesus' music is heard in people's lives through new opportunities and friendships. Thank you to all our 'Teams'

And so finally, 'the Bass line!!!!'

The final part of our Church Choir and whose 'singing' completes everything we sing about 'The Road Home'. And the 'Bass line' for any Church is Mission. For if Saintfield Parish is complete through singing of Mission and of Jesus, then we are not being the people of God we are called to be. Presently, we are in partnership with 3 'Bass' Singers who empower Mission in Saintfield Parish.

Firstly, our Christian brothers and sisters in La Paz, Bolivia, Church of the Redeemer and SAMS Ireland have been helping us in so many ways. This partnership helps us 'sing of Mission' albeit in Spanish to help us grow and develop in who Jesus is for us. Pastor Da-vid has been super in sending photos and videos to show our partnership at work and SAMS Ireland have encouraged us through Claire Holmes and Stephen McElhinney. We are looking towards 2026 to developing involvement through some form of physical visitation or integration with La Paz.





Our Bass line also has the support of 1st and 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Churches and Rico Tice for our 'Reason for Hope' events. This offered such an impact for our community through warmup events and the actual weekend itself.

All events were very well attended and I know God spoke clearly through Rico that many people could see in a new way, or perhaps for the first time, what the 'The Road Home' in Jesus offered them.

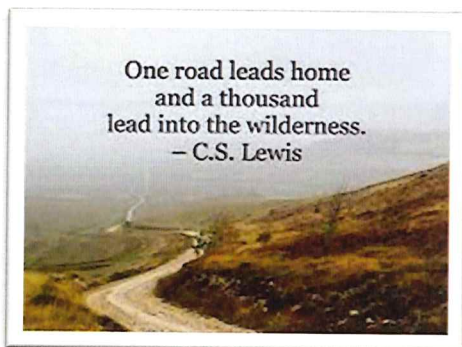
In hearing God's voice, they know the direction their lives can now take and how each of our Churches will walk alongside those who take that first step. I hope more connection with both churches can be made for the future and for the community.

Finally, the last 'Bass singers' are the Diocesan Office and bishop David who are very much part of our Mission 'song'. Their input and advice are much appreciated especially as we want Mission to be in line with the bigger picture of Diocesan Mission and Evangelism that is core to church growth and diocesan aspirations. We were very pleased to have Millie Bellew (Diocesan Youth Support) with us in November at SPACE and very encouraged by what she shared with us. We look forward to our bishop at Harvest 2026 and our Archbishop John McDowell in March 2026 for our 250th Anniversary Service.



As we approach our 250th Anniversary on 2026, I hope to increase the Tenor/Bass sections to help us 'sing' their parts.

We also need to connect more with people in our community to achieve what 2026 could be for God and us. We are not simply wanting to celebrate the Parish Churches place in Saintfield Main Street but being the at the heart of the community. At present, we have some plans in place and a letter is going to be sent out to the Parish and to all sorts of 'Teams' to see how we can all work much more closely together for 2026.



Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong:
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

The final verse of 'The Road Home' is the hope that offers the destination that the world cannot. Jesus as 'The way, the truth and the life' is the song we need to sing of. Jesus is 'The Road Home' for all.

The 4 'parts' of Saintfield Parish (SATB) Sunday Worship, Admin, Teams and the Bass line of Mission (SATB) 'sing' together that the full impact of God's Good News can be heard and not just heard, but felt and not just felt, but responded too. We need people to recognise that the questions of the first verse that reveal what is missing in life and death, have answers in the final verse of 'The Road Home'. Jesus exists calling them to be his song, his assurance of God's Love, his true presence on the journey, his new direction and destination, his new 'Home' the world cannot offer for life or death.

Saintfield Parish in the past year has sung of Jesus in such a powerful way, with each 'part' harmonising what we sing of Jesus. May 2025-2026 continue to sing of Jesus and his 'Road Home'. May we in singing our different 'parts' we invite people to stop, hear, listen and realise that Jesus is the one their lives are missing. May we always welcome home those whom Jesus calls to 'rise up and follow me' so that they are never alone for Saintfield Parish will always walk with them on this road, passing the cross and then empty tomb, leading us beyond the horizons where we will all know God in the most amazing and hope filled and truest of ways. Amen



Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 December 2024, total Parish receipts amounted to approximately £162,000. We are pleased to report a rise in the number of Parishioners contributing their Freewill Offering (FWO) via standing order, following the launch of the GIFT initiative.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has chosen this method of giving. It greatly helps us in budgeting and forecasting our cash flow for the year ahead, ensuring that we can continue to support our Parish activities and maintain our services.

As we reflect on the financial year 2024, we are pleased to report that our Parish Hall income from the rental of premises has continued to rise, thanks to the increased use by new groups. This positive trend is something we aim to build on as we move into 2025.

However, we did see a decrease in graveyard income during the same period.

Our investments continue to remain steady, with restricted investments valued at approximately £67,000 and unrestricted investments at £306,000. We are grateful for the generous donations we received, totalling £15,000. Of this, £9,000 was transferred to M&G Charifund, further boosting the unrestricted investment value. Additionally, £5,000 was spent on new doors for the Parish, enhancing our facilities, and £1,000 was paid to the Diocese of Down & Dromore towards the Suitcase Project.

These efforts, alongside your ongoing support, help us ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our Parish and community.

As we continue into 2025, the Parish's running costs have continued to rise. In 2024, our total expenses amounted to approximately £169,000, which includes the final retention fee of £8,600 for the Vicarage refurbishment.

In light of these ongoing financial pressures, we once again encourage all Parishioners to consider increasing their monthly Freewill Offering (FWO). Your generous support helps us to maintain the vital services and community activities that are central to our mission, and allows us to meet the rising costs of our operations.

We deeply appreciate your continued commitment, kindness and generosity to the Parish and thank you for your thoughtful and faithful giving. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

Saintfield Parish Church operates a robust dual control mechanism for both receipts and payments. This system ensures that all financial transactions are closely monitored and verified. Each month, reconciliations are performed and cross-checked to guarantee that financial allocations are categorised correctly and accurately.

Additionally, the financial position of the Parish is presented to the Select Vestry at each meeting, with full transparency and examination encouraged. This ensures that all decisions are made with careful consideration of our current financial status.

We are committed to maintaining financial integrity and transparency, and we appreciate the ongoing support and engagement of our Parish community in these matters.

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Going Concern

The Trustees have carefully reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities without disruption. Based on this review, the Trustees are confident that the financial position of the Parish remains strong and sustainable.

As a result, the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 can be signed off as a going concern, allowing us to move forward into the new year with confidence.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year.

The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2024.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns. The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2024 the Select Vestry met on 7 occasions. The average attendance was 82%.

**Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

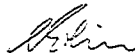
The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock

Mr Stephen Erskine

Mrs Caroline Kearney



Date: 19/3/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 13-18.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hamill McIlwaine

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: 19/3/25

Saintfield Parish Church

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts						
Donations & plate collection	4	98,937	12,459	-	111,396	161,222
Proceeds from Fund Raising Events		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies		10,000	5,000	-	15,000	1,000
Bank & Deposit interest		142	7	-	149	942
Investment income		11,864	10,160	-	22,024	22,503
Rental of premises		11,918	-	-	11,918	9,163
Sale of Unit Trusts		-	-	-	-	139,926
Grants		-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from General Trustees		-	-	-	-	-
Other Receipts		1,152	-	-	1,152	2,165
Total Receipts		134,013	27,626	-	161,639	336,921
Payments						
Wages and Salaries		71,904	3,959	-	75,863	76,039
Diocesan Costs/Assessment		20,442	-	-	20,442	20,916
Church Running Costs		8,186	10,098	-	18,284	12,393
Rectory / Curacy Costs		3,761	27	-	3,788	4,185
Hall / Property Costs		10,126	-	-	10,126	9,459
Investment Property Costs		6,475	918	-	7,393	16,695
Vicarage renovation expenses		8,602	-	-	8,602	338,352
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of new investments		9,000	-	-	9,000	1,000
Administration Costs		9,738	-	-	9,738	7,452
Fundraising Costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Donations		75	5,467	-	5,542	8,270
Total Payments		148,309	20,469	-	168,778	494,761
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		(14,296)	7,157	-	(7,139)	(157,840)
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(14,296)	7,157	-	(7,139)	(157,840)

On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock

Date : 19/3/25



Caroline Kearney

Date : 19/3/25



Saintfield Parish Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash Funds					
Current and cash Accounts	11,337	31,462	-	42,799	49,706
Deposit Accounts	137	269	-	406	637
Total Cash Funds	<u>11,474</u>	<u>31,731</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,205</u>	<u>50,343</u>
Investment Assets					
Investments	306,082	67,499	-	373,581	355,417
Total Investment Assets	<u>306,082</u>	<u>67,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373,581</u>	<u>355,417</u>
Assets retained for the Parish's own use					
Vicarage	709,274	-	-	709,274	675,499
Church House	268,193	-	-	268,193	255,422
Total Assets retained for the Parish's own use	<u>977,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>977,467</u>	<u>930,921</u>

On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Vicar



Date : 19/3/25

Mrs Caroline Kearney
Hon Treasurer



Date : 19/3/25

Mr. Stephen Erskine
Hon Secretary



Date : 19/3/25

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

(b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(i) *Assets retained for the Parish's own use*

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise: -

- Church Building and Graveyard
- Parish Hall
- Vicarage
- Church House

- The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102)
 - These Heritage assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

- The Parish Hall
 - Was built / acquired in 1971. There are no reliable records of the cost of this construction/ acquisition and valuation approach for such a building lacks sufficient reliability. As a result, this building is not recognised in the Parish statement of assets and liabilities. (Insurance values reconstruction at £1,268,556)

- The Vicarage is recognised at its insurance value of £709,274. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

- The Church House is recognised at its insurance value of £268,193. No depreciation has been provided on the Church House as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

ii) Investments

Fixed asset investments comprising investments in M&G Charifund, NICIFC , investments in equities (ordinary shares) and investment in RCB/CIT Unit Trusts are stated at fair value at each year end date.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at Beginning of the year	50,343
Receipts for the Year	161,639
Payments for the Year	<u>(168,778)</u>
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	<u><u>43,204</u></u>

3. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Movement £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Restricted funds						
Organ fund	4,666	444	(215)	229	-	4,895
Scarlett bequest	3,540	6,757	(4,896)	1,861	-	5,401
Property account	501	7	(238)	(231)	-	270
Trusts and bequests account	7,668	3,066	(795)	2,271	(1,754)	8,185
General Fund	-	8,856	(9,374)	(518)	518	-
Graveyard Fund	3,880	8,496	(4,951)	3,545	1,236	8,661
	<u>20,255</u>	<u>27,626</u>	<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>7,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,412</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	29,951	122,453	(148,309)	(25,856)	11,560	15,655
RCB deposit account	137	-	-	-	-	137
Trusts and bequests account	-	11,560	-	11,560	(11,560)	-
	<u>30,088</u>	<u>134,013</u>	<u>(148,309)</u>	<u>(14,296)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,792</u>
Total funds	<u><u>50,343</u></u>	<u><u>161,639</u></u>	<u><u>(168,778)</u></u>	<u><u>(7,139)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>43,204</u></u>

Purposes of Investment Funds

- Income from the RCB Unit Trust bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The use of capital from these holdings is not allowed except by special request and must be approved by Diocesan Council and RCB.
- Income from the Church of Ireland Trustees bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The vestry holds sole authority to use.
- Income from the Central Investment Fund for Charities bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The Vestry holds sole authority to use.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

-Income from the M&G Charifund bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The vestry hold sole authority to use.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

- Organ Fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the organ.
- Scarlett Bequest Fund: This is a discretionary account administered by the Vicar and Church Wardens to support the work of the Parish. Its money is restricted.
- Property fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the Church's properties.
- Trusts and Bequests Fund: This is a fund used to receive the income from the endowment funds and distribute the income according to the instructions of each bequest.

4. Donations and Plate Collections

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
FWO and annual donations	78,932	-	78,932	75,489
Cash collections	2,058	-	2,058	1,902
Gift Aid	16,472	1,089	17,561	16,501
Graveyard fees and donations	1,475	7,407	8,882	11,904
Donations received	-	3,963	3,963	55,426
	98,937	12,459	111,396	161,222

5. Collections for Third Parties

	2024 £	2023 £
Royal Ulster Constabulary GC/ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	530	324
Maridi Bikes	319	-
MS Society NI	1,397	-
Foodbank Ballynahinch	110	190
Planting Fund	1,000	963
SAMS	500	-
DEC Earthquake Appeal	-	1,233
Alzheimers Society	-	2,466
	3,856	5,176

The monies collected for the Maridi Bikes of £319 was rounded up to £400 by the Parish before being distributed.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

6. Transactions with the Trustees

The Parish paid expenses of £3,788 relating to the running costs of the glebe house which is occupied by the rector.

The Parish also paid £8,602 for the renovation of the glebe house in the year.

Three Trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,791 during the year.

The Vicar is paid a gross salary (including expenses and Locomotory Allowance) of £49,950 by the Parish.

No Trustee or a person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

7. Governance Costs

Governance costs of £850 were incurred during the year of which £850 relates to fees paid to the independent examiner. Governance costs are included within Administration costs in the Receipts and Payments Accounts.

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Accounts

Saintfield Parish Church

**Trustees' Annual Report
and
Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

For the year ended 31 December 2023



Charities Number: NIC 101048

Saintfield Parish Church
Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Contents

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References and administrative details of the Charity	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 9
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Saintfield Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Saintfield Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 101048

Contact Address: 43-45 Main Street
Saintfield
Ballynahinch
County Down
BT24 7AB

Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock	Kate Beattie	Bryce Hetherington (Elected 2023)
Judith Stevenson	Craig Weston	Rosemary Armstrong
Dawn Gordon	June Butler	Leonard Hill
Stephen Erskine	Joy Whitley	Caroline Kearney
Linda Bloomer	Craig McCarter	Catherine Griffith
Peter Andrews (Elected 2023)	Carol Andrews (Elected 2023)	Paul Olphert (Retired 2023)
David McCarter (Retired 2023)		

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy:	Rev. Chris Pollock
Hon. Secretary:	Stephen Erskine
Church Treasurer:	Caroline Kearney
Church Warden- Clergy:	Peter Andrews
Church Warden - People:	Carol Andrews
Glebe Warden- Clergy:	Craig Weston
Glebe Warden- People:	Joy Whitley

Independent Examiner

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28 – 30 Old Mountfield Road,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Bankers

Danske Bank
32 Main St,
Saintfield,
Ballynahinch
Co Down
BT24 7AB

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

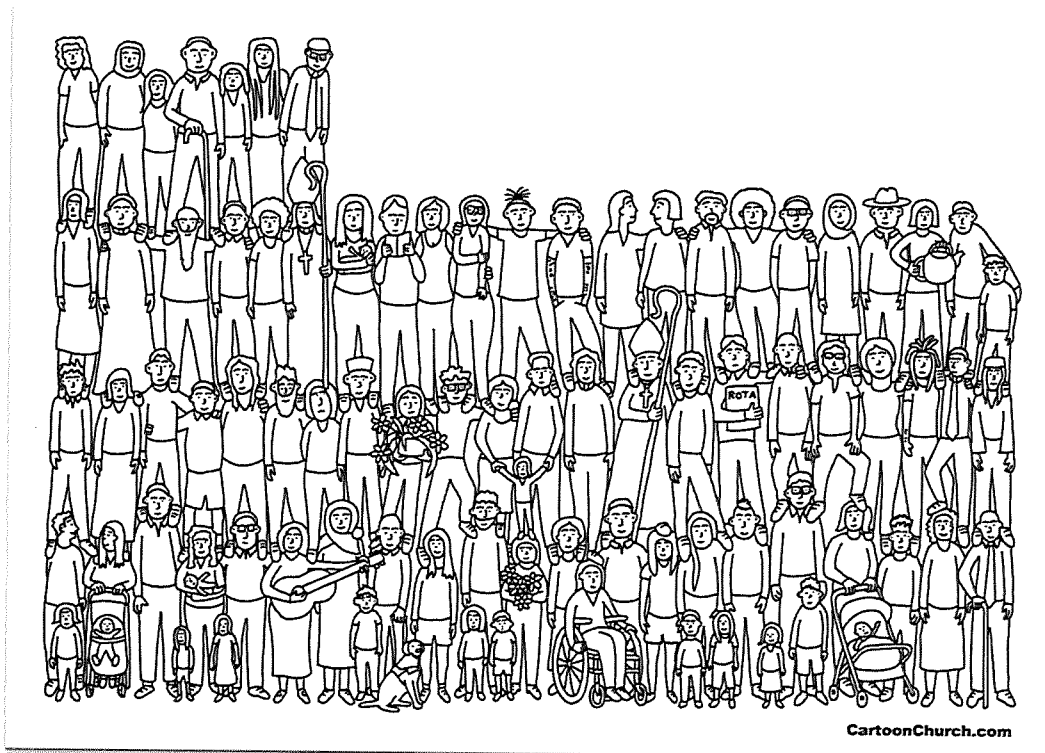
Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit



⁴⁻⁸ Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as living stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. 1 Peter
2:4-8 The Message

I like Dave Walker's cartoons that you will find in the 'Church Times' Newspaper and no more so than the one entitled "We are Church". I have bought the Cartoon Church License to use his cartoons but this one is significant for us now. It shows how alive any Church is in its shape, strength shining outwards when every person is a living stone. When each person offers their 'Christ approved lives to God' then Church becomes authentically. This is the truth that Saintfield Parish has grown through over the past year.

Our shape as a living Church

Coincidentally, Dave Walker's shape of his cartoon Church is identical to the physical shape of our own in Main Street. It's like everyone in Saintfield Parish being joined together in a unique way, held together by those around us through our faith in Jesus. Church is being together, no matter who we are, what we look like, where we have come from, how long Saintfield Parish has been our home or how recent or from when Jesus became our Lord.

So how has our shape changed over the past year? Well, we have the addition of a new partnership with La Redenta Church, La Paz, Bolivia and Pastor David. Through SAMS Ireland, this partnership will be a great encouragement as we will both pray for and encourage each other as we share who Jesus is in our communities. Over the next 5 years, we hope to visit each other through SAMS and their Mission Co-ordinator's Stephen McElhinney's guidance.



Sadly, in the last year our shape as a Church changed a little as we witnessed the passing of folk who have now entered that closer presence of Jesus. The shape of our Church will in the future see such missing spaces, so we always need to invite people back to Church and take up their place with us in regular Worship and Mission.

It has been a blessing in 2023 to welcome Karen, Alice, Liz, Cecil, Margot, Kirsty, Loren, Lucas, Noah, Isla, Adam, Amy, Alice

with Ava who was baptised on Mother's Day 2024.

One loss to us last year was Rose Armstrong as our Youth Worker who moved on in her calling last July to 1st Bangor Presbyterian. Rose exemplifies the great shape of a Jesus' discipleship, prayer, commitment. Her personality and giftings engaged all who met with her. We miss her in her role.

The Vestry have decided to use a period of reflection and prayer before exploring a Youth/Family resource again. The bishop has indicated that he will also seek to identify someone who might be an addition to Saintfield Parish for this ministry.



Our Strength as a living Church

While living stones individually shape how our Parish Church looks, only together in Jesus can we be strong. Each person in our cartoon church supports the other using their own strength to keep everyone in place. Our Church only works best when we too all interlock together in a unique way sharing in responsibilities and to be strong so that we might serve Jesus.

One example of such shared strength is in our FWO giving. The FWO grew last year through the increased generosity of about 1/3 of our parish households. That extra £10 (at least) each month goes a long way to cover the ever-increasing costs of mission, overheads, staffing and the continual maintenance of the graveyard and church buildings.

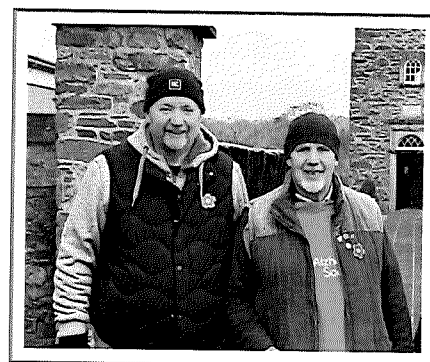
Donna Matchett spiritually leads the 8.30am Holy Communion and Denis (Her dad) is our Church Warden, always on time and organised. Our thanks also Canon Ian McDonald for his deeply appreciated godly assistance in Worship and to Alan Higgins who faithfully every month, to lead and preach and encourage us at our 10.00am Morning Worship. And of course, to Jackie, the hidden PowerPoint man who makes all the slides click even when Chris interferes ☺

Michael Harris as our organist is such a blessing keeping us right with the music, adapting and helping us to grow in our worship. His provision of music for Sunday Worship, Weddings and funerals is deeply valued.



The parish also offers a support structure that employ staff to make us operate efficiently as a charity. Sally Milligan in our Office gives so much assistance to the Vicar and Parish in how she administers all the normal day to day routines. She is a self-starter and a warm welcome to the many who come into Church House. Jean Perrin is invaluable as Assistant Treasurer and with Caroline and Sally, keeps everything paid on time and clearly recorded.

Ian Gordon as Sexton keeps everything in the Parish Hall, Carpark, Church and Graveyard up to a fantastic standard. Through his upkeep of our hall, we have grown the number of community groups over the past year who use it. Ian has everything set up for them and the Church itself is always ready for worship every Sunday. Thank you.



William Drury looks after the Graveyard as Convenor, not just co-ordinating Funeral Services with Norman McBriar and others, but answering any queries the public might have. This is a complex need and William ensures that the Graveyard offers the highest level of care and attention to all. Thank you.

Finally, we are strong together through everything we all give in our own way. Coffee & Tea after Church, those who read the Bible in Church or lead in Church Prayers, Ronnie White and his leadership team arranging Men Alive to clear up the weeds that never stop growing in the Church grounds, Leonard Hill beginning to put together a new magazine and with Muriel, delivering the weekly Newsletters. Badminton and Bowling organised by William and Ian connect us with people in Saintfield in a great way. Then there are those who support the Christmas SITOUT to raise money for charity, the Christmas Street Fair volunteers as well those looking after Pitter Patter (thank you Sarah, David, Valda, Joanne & Dawn). These are hidden jobs that help glue together our Church and Mission, so SPC grows stronger for Jesus and lives for him.

We still however need more volunteers to maintain what we do. More people for youth work, Tea and Coffee, leadership in some organisations that need the injection of your strength that only your individual stone can bring. It doesn't matter what shape or size your life and faith is, our Church can fit what is offered into the shape our Parish Church can become. **Please however, do not wait to be asked to do something.** You might see something that has been forgotten about or only you can do. So step up, volunteer, serve God and Saintfield Parish Church in the way only you can.

Our Shining outwards as a living church.

This might not be obvious from looking at the Church Cartoon. But look!!!
People are shining Jesus outwards through their smile and sense of joy of being together.
They shine Jesus outwards to those not in their Church!!

Our Church also must always shine Jesus outwards. If we stop looking out at the world and Church becomes the place where we only look at ourselves, then our shape and strength becomes irrelevant and we will shrink and die.

Last October, we took the opportunity to shine Jesus outwards through our Church Mission 'FOUND'.

We wanted people to experience Jesus shining into their hearts.

We wanted people to encounter something bigger for life and death.

We wanted people to discover that the darkness of their sin no longer needs control them. Our speakers offered so much and it was a real Jesus' glue for Saintfield Parish Church in its energy and power.

WHY NOT COME ALONG?
INVITE OTHERS. EXPERIENCE FOUND!



FOUND



We plan some more 'shining' in 2024-25. Through our growing partnership with 1st and 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Churches, I have been meeting with both Sam Bostock and John Torrens to explore greater collaboration in Mission and of how we all together can tell Saintfield of Jesus Christ. We can now confirm that Rico Tice from All Souls Langham Place, London will be with us for a Mission Weekend in February 2025.

All three churches in the next months will be meeting together for prayer and preparation for this event so that together we can shine Jesus where each church exists in Saintfield. We hope and pray that together, we will ensure the Gospel message will shine brightly in Saintfield as God calls more people to be added not just to our Churches, but his Kingdom.

We also will be arriving in 2026 at our 250th Anniversary. This is another opportunity to 'shine' as the living stones. We need to pray and fully consider what that these special years might look like. We will need to begin to plan and prepare, for time will go very fast if we are not careful.

When the time
IS RIGHT
I, THE LORD
will make
it happen
Isaiah 60:22

Which leads me to the final truth of what it means to be 'We are Church' for as living stones who have the best shape, offer the truest strength, shine outwardly for Jesus,

We can only do so because

We are sure!!

Together as living stones, we are sure our God is in control. We sleep in peace for ultimately, we know when we wake up, God is in control for Jesus is OUR Living Stone.

We as Saintfield Parish are sure of our Jesus' shape, strength and shining of God's love. We are safe and secure not because of everything we can do to make it work, but what Jesus has done for us and what the Holy Spirit will make happen through the promise of God's Word.

We give thanks for the blessing of being living stones built together and God's blessing that shapes, strengthens and shines upon our Christ approved lives. Let's continue to build Saintfield Parish Church not in our name but in the name of our Lord Jesus. Being and becoming more and more the authentic Church of Jesus with open doors, open hands and open hearts for all. Everyone who God calls ever closer to him, to being known by Him and loved by Him and saved by Him that they too may be the living stones not just of Saintfield Parish but of God's Kingdom here on Earth and for then in Heaven with Him. Amen

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Financial Review

On the Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December 2023, Parish receipts total approximately £337k. This figure includes the sale of Parish unrestricted investment capital of approximately £140k, used to help fund the Vicarage renovation project. We also received an extremely kind donation of £50k towards these costs. The capital was withdrawn from the investments, then transferred to the Parish bank accounts before being paid to the contractors.

We have seen a rise in the number of Parishioners giving their Freewill Offering (FWO) by standing order. Thank you, this helps us to budget and forecast future cash flow. Graveyard income has increased slightly, and we received a kind donation of £1k towards it, to be invested in M&G Investments.

Parish Hall income (rental of premises) has again risen in 2023 as new groups have continued to use the Parish Hall and users increase the number of hours they rent the complex. Long may this continue.

2023 saw the conclusion of the project to refurbish our wonderful Vicarage to bring it up to Diocesan standard and future proof for years to come. The spend was agreed by the Select Vestry Trustees in 2022 and am sure you will agree, was money well spent. However, this upgrade did come at a cost. In addition to £100k that was withdrawn from Parish investments in 2022, a further £55k from RB General Unit Trust (NI) and £85k from M&G Investments was required. This has had a negative impact on the income provided by the investments. In 2023 we received approximately £6,500 less than 2022 as expected. This will continue to be monitored and addressed this financial year. Restricted investments were valued at £65k (approx.) and unrestricted at £291k (approx.). Other fluctuations were due to market performance and conditions.

Running costs for the Parish continue to rise each year. Salary costs are up and most notable are the increases in fuel such as oil and electricity. Essential groundworks at the Hall were carried out in 2023 to fix the outside lighting issue to keep all users safe. As costs remain high, we once again encourage Parishioners to give extra in their monthly FWO.

Saintfield Parish have a dual control mechanism in place for both receipts and payments. Monthly reconciliations are performed and cross-checked ensuring financial allocations are correct. The financial position is presented to Select Vestry at each meeting and examination encouraged.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the Financial Statements for the year ended 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2021.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns.

The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met on 8 occasions. The average attendance was 74%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

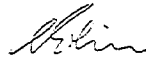
Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock



Date: 28 March 2024

Mr Stephen Erskine



28 March 2024

Mrs Caroline Kearney



28 March 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 11-16.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hamill McIlwaine

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: **26 March 2024**

Saintfield Parish Church
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Receipts</u>						
Donations & plate collection	4	95,376	65,846	-	161,222	107,231
Proceeds from Fund Raising Events		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies		1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Bank & Deposit interest		927	15	-	942	142
Investment income		12,990	9,513	-	22,503	29,035
Rental of premises		9,163	-	-	9,163	6,380
Sale of Unit Trusts		139,926	-	-	139,926	100,000
Grants		-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from General Trustees		-	-	-	-	-
Other Receipts		2,165	-	-	2,165	1,190
Total Receipts		261,547	75,374	-	336,921	243,978
<u>Payments</u>						
Wages and Salaries		67,133	8,906	-	76,039	73,484
Diocesan Costs/Assessment		20,916	-	-	20,916	20,764
Church Running Costs		7,705	4,688	-	12,393	10,477
Rectory / Curacy Costs		4,159	26	-	4,185	3,227
Hall / Property Costs		9,459	-	-	9,459	16,338
Investment Property Costs		7,024	9,671	-	16,695	-
Vicarage renovation expenses		288,352	50,000	-	338,352	-
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of new investments		1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Administration Costs		7,452	-	-	7,452	7,524
Fundraising Costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Donations		65	8,205	-	8,270	7,707
Total Payments		413,265	81,496	-	494,761	139,521
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		(151,718)	(6,122)	-	(157,840)	104,457
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(151,718)	(6,122)	-	(157,840)	104,457

On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock

Date : 28 March 2024



Caroline Kearney

Date : 28 March 2024



Saintfield Parish Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash Funds					
Current and cash Accounts	29,951	19,755	-	49,706	104,229
Deposit Accounts	137	500	-	637	103,954
Total Cash Funds	30,088	20,255	-	50,343	208,183
Investment Assets					
Investments	290,666	64,751	-	355,417	500,914
Total Investment Assets	290,666	64,751	-	355,417	500,914
Assets retained for the Parish's own use					
Vicarage	675,499	-	-	675,499	628,372
Church House	255,422	-	-	255,422	237,602
Total Assets retained for the Parish's own use	930,921	-	-	930,921	865,974

On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Vicar



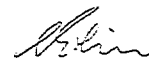
Date : 28 March 2024

Mrs Caroline Kearney
Hon Treasurer



Date : 28 March 2024

Mr. Stephen Erskine
Hon Secretary



Date : 28 March 2024

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

(b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise: -

- Church Building and Graveyard
- Parish Hall
- Vicarage
- Church House

- The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102)
 - These Heritage assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

- The Parish Hall
 - Was built / acquired in 1971. There are no reliable records of the cost of this construction/ acquisition and valuation approach for such a building lacks sufficient reliability. As a result, this building is not recognised in the Parish statement of assets and liabilities. (Insurance values reconstruction at £1,208,148)

- The Vicarage is recognised at its insurance value of £675,499. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

- The Church House is recognised at its insurance value of £255,422. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

ii) Investments

Fixed asset investments comprising investments in M&G Charifund, NICIFC , investments in equities (ordinary shares) and investment in RCB/CIT Unit Trusts are stated at fair value at each year end date.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at Beginning of the year	208,183
Receipts for the Year	336,921
Payments for the Year	(494,761)
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	<u>50,343</u>

3. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Movement £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
Restricted funds						
Organ fund	4,354	422	(110)	312	-	4,666
Scarlett bequest	9,148	6,450	(12,058)	(5,608)	-	3,540
Property account	3,818	65	(3,382)	(3,317)	-	501
Trusts and bequests account	6,646	2,841	(224)	2,617	(1,595)	7,668
General Fund	-	55,175	(55,658)	(483)	483	-
Graveyard Fund	2,411	10,421	(10,064)	357	1,112	3,880
	<u>26,377</u>	<u>75,374</u>	<u>(81,496)</u>	<u>(6,122)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,255</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	81,670	192,925	(257,635)	(64,710)	12,991	29,951
RCB deposit account	100,136	55,631	(155,630)	(99,999)	-	137
Trusts and bequests account	-	12,991	-	12,991	(12,991)	-
	<u>181,806</u>	<u>261,547</u>	<u>(413,265)</u>	<u>(151,718)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,088</u>
Total funds	<u>208,183</u>	<u>336,921</u>	<u>(494,761)</u>	<u>(157,840)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,343</u>

Purposes of Investment Funds

- Income from the RCB Unit Trust bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The use of capital from these holdings is not allowed except by special request and must be approved by Diocesan Council and RCB.
- Income from the Church of Ireland Trustees bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The vestry holds sole authority to use.
- Income from the Central Investment Fund for Charities bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The Vestry holds sole authority to use.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

-Income from the M&G Charifund bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The vestry hold sole authority to use.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

- Organ Fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the organ.
- Scarlett Bequest Fund: This is a discretionary account administered by the Vicar and Church Wardens to support the work of the Parish. Its money is restricted.
- Property fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the Church's properties.
- Trusts and Bequests Fund: This is a fund used to receive the income from the endowment funds and distribute the income according to the instructions of each bequest.

4. Donations and Plate Collections

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
FWO and annual donations	75,489	-	75,489	72,982
Cash collections	1,902	-	1,902	333
Gift Aid	15,260	1,241	16,501	15,046
Gifts received	-	-	-	-
Graveyard fees and donations	2,725	9,179	11,904	10,333
Donations received	-	55,426	55,426	7,027
Covid donations	-	-	-	1,510
	95,376	65,846	161,222	107,231

5. Collections for Third Parties

	2023 £	2022 £
Royal Ulster Constabulary GC/ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	324	435
Boring Wells Charity	-	80
Christian Aid	-	200
Foodbank Ballynahinch	190	280
Planting Fund	963	-
Made for More	-	1,546
Bishops Appeal	-	241
Ukraine Appeal 2022	-	3,430
DEC Earthquake Appeal	1,233	-
Alzheimers Society	2,466	-
	5,176	6,212

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

The monies collected for the Alzheimers Society of £2,466 was rounded up to £2,500 by the Parish before being distributed. Similarly, the monies collected for the Planting Appeal of £963 was rounded up to £1,000 by the Parish before being distributed.

6. Transactions with the Trustees

The Parish paid expenses of £4,185 relating to the running costs of the glebe house which is occupied by the rector. The Parish also paid £338,352 for the renovation of the glebe house in the year.

Four Trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £5,186 during the year.

The Vicar is paid a gross salary (including expenses and Locomotory Allowance) of £47,727 by the Parish.

No Trustee or a person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

7. Governance Costs

Governance costs of £862 were incurred during the year of which £862 relates to fees paid to the independent examiner. Governance costs are included within Administration costs in the Receipts and Payments Accounts.

Easter General Vestry List 2024

Aldworth Mrs D	Hill Mr L	Perrin Mrs J
Andrews P Mr	Jennings Mr C	Pollock Mrs W
Andrews C Mrs	Jennings Mrs C	Rea Mrs A
Armstrong Mr J	Johnston Mr C	Ritchie Mr H
Armstrong Mrs R	Jordan Mrs H	Ritchie Mrs J
Babes Mr D	Kearney Mrs C	Rodgers Mrs S
Barnes Mrs J	Kerr Mrs J	Rooney Mrs A
Barnes Mr M	Lilley Mrs E	Ross Mrs C
Barrett Mr R	Logan Mrs A	Ross Mrs A
Barrett Mrs N	Logan Mr I	Rountree Mr J
Bateman Mrs E	Loney Mr D	Saville Mr H
Beattie M Mr	Loney Mrs M	Saville Mrs H
Beattie K Mrs	Lowry Mrs R	Shannon R Mrs
Bloomer Mrs L	Magwood Mr C	Shaw Mrs G
Brooks Mr MJ	Magwood Mrs J	Shaw-O'Doherty Mrs J
Brooks Mrs H	Matchett Ms D	Smyth Mrs E
Butler Mrs J	Matchett Mr D	Smyth Mr M
Cannon Mr W	Matchett Mrs B	Smyth Mr R
Cannon Mrs F	McCarter Mr C	Smyth Mrs V
Cathcart Mrs W	McCarter Mr D	Stephens Lord WB
Cathcart Mr A	McCarter Mrs S	Stevenson Mr N
Drury Mrs M	McCarter Mrs V	Stevenson Mrs J
Drury Mrs A	McClurg Mrs A	Stevenson Miss H
Drury Mr S	McCullough Mr B	Todd H Mrs
Drury Mr W	McCullough Mrs G	Todd J Mr
Edwards Mrs M	McDonald I Canon	Trethowan Mr J
Erskine Mr S	McDonald B Mrs	Wadsworth Mr H
Erskine Mrs S	McGowan Mr J	Wadsworth Mrs S
Fry Mr J	McKelvey Miss D	Weston Mr C
Fry Mrs M	McKelvey Dr J	Weston Mrs S
Getty Mr A	McMillan Mrs I	White Mrs P
Getty Mrs J	McMillan Mr T	White Mr R
Gordon Mrs D	McNamara Mr G	Whiteside Mrs P
Gordon I Mr	McNamara Mrs P	Whitley Mrs J
Griffith Mr M	Morris Mrs J	Wilkinson Mr A
Griffith Mrs C	Morris Mr WH	Woodrow Mr D
Harvey Mr I	Morton Mr J	Woodrow Mrs E
Hetherington B Mr	Peak Mrs L	Young Mrs H
Hill Mrs D	Perrin Mr G	Young Mr B

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Annual report

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

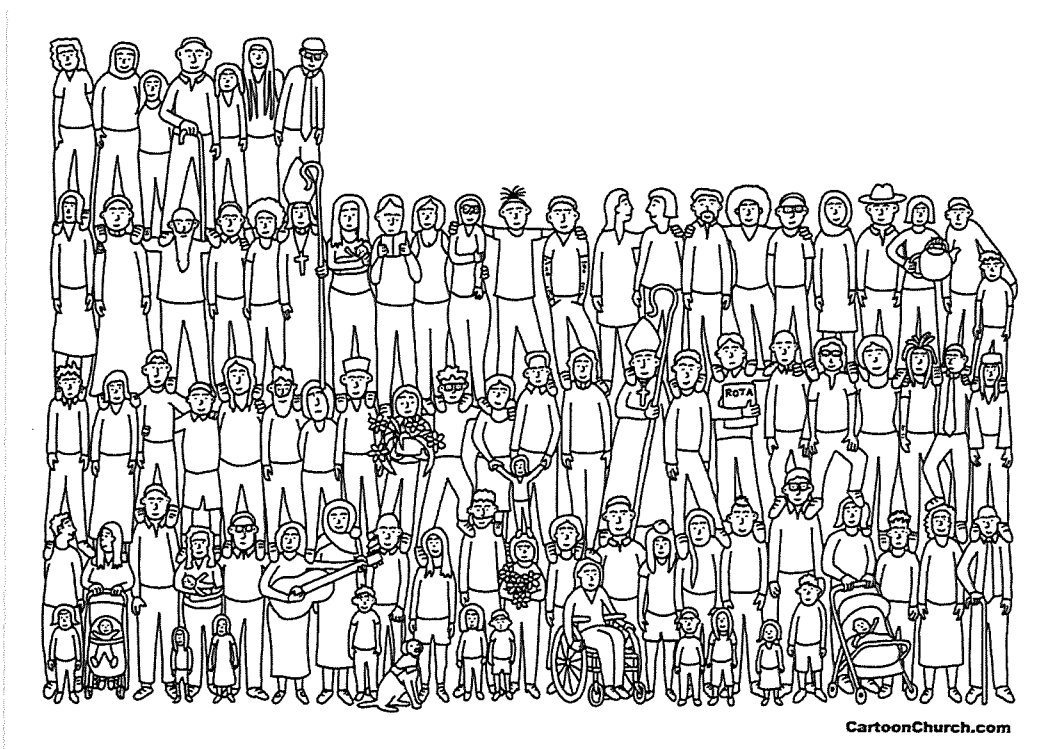
Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit



⁴⁻⁸ Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as living stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. 1 Peter

2:4-8 The Message

I like Dave Walker's cartoons that you will find in the 'Church Times' Newspaper and no more so than the one entitled "We are Church". I have bought the Cartoon Church License to use his cartoons but this one is significant for us now. It shows how alive any Church is in its shape, strength shining outwards when every person is a living stone. When each person offers their 'Christ approved lives to God' then Church becomes authentically. This is the truth that Saintfield Parish has grown through over the past year.

Our shape as a living Church

Coincidentally, Dave Walker's shape of his cartoon Church is identical to the physical shape of our own in Main Street. It's like everyone in Saintfield Parish being joined together in a unique way, held together by those around us through our faith in Jesus. Church is being together, no matter who we are, what we look like, where we have come from, how long Saintfield Parish has been our home or how recent or from when Jesus became our Lord.

So how has our shape changed over the past year? Well, we have the addition of a new partnership with La Redenta Church, La Paz, Bolivia and Pastor David. Through SAMS Ireland, this partnership will be a great encouragement as we will both pray for and encourage each other as we share who Jesus is in our communities. Over the next 5 years, we hope to visit each other through SAMS and their Mission Co-ordinator's Stephen McElhinney's guidance.



Sadly, in the last year our shape as a Church changed a little as we witnessed the passing of folk who have now entered that closer presence of Jesus. The shape of our Church will in the future see such missing spaces, so we always need to invite people back to Church and take up their place with us in regular Worship and Mission.

It has been a blessing in 2023 to welcome Karen, Alice, Liz, Cecil, Margot, Kirsty, Loren, Lucas, Noah, Isla, Adam, Amy, Alice

with Ava who was baptised on Mother's Day 2024.

One loss to us last year was Rose Armstrong as our Youth Worker who moved on in her calling last July to 1st Bangor Presbyterian. Rose exemplifies the great shape of a Jesus' discipleship, prayer, commitment. Her personality and giftings engaged all who met with her. We miss her in her role.

The Vestry have decided to use a period of reflection and prayer before exploring a Youth/Family resource again. The bishop has indicated that he will also seek to identify someone who might be an addition to Saintfield Parish for this ministry.



Our Strength as a living Church

While living stones individually shape how our Parish Church looks, only together in Jesus can we be strong. Each person in our cartoon church supports the other using their own strength to keep everyone in place. Our Church only works best when we too all interlock together in a unique way sharing in responsibilities and to be strong so that we might serve Jesus.

One example of such shared strength is in our FWO giving. The FWO grew last year through the increased generosity of about 1/3 of our parish households. That extra £10 (at least) each month goes a long way to cover the ever-increasing costs of mission, overheads, staffing and the continual maintenance of the graveyard and church buildings.

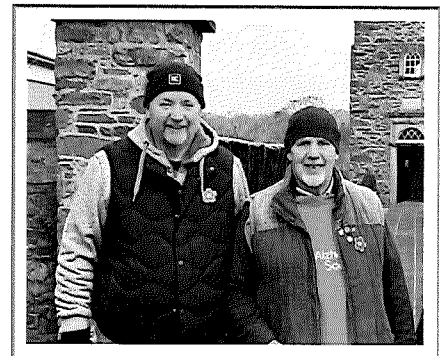
Donna Matchett spiritually leads the 8.30am Holy Communion and Denis (Her dad) is our Church Warden, always on time and organised. Our thanks also Canon Ian McDonald for his deeply appreciated godly assistance in Worship and to Alan Higgins who faithfully every month, to lead and preach and encourage us at our 10.00am Morning Worship. And of course, to Jackie, the hidden PowerPoint man who makes all the slides click even when Chris interferes ☺

Michael Harris as our organist is such a blessing keeping us right with the music, adapting and helping us to grow in our worship. His provision of music for Sunday Worship, Weddings and funerals is deeply valued.



The parish also offers a support structure that employ staff to make us operate efficiently as a charity. Sally Milligan in our Office gives so much assistance to the Vicar and Parish in how she administers all the normal day to day routines. She is a self-starter and a warm welcome to the many who come into Church House. Jean Perrin is invaluable as Assistant Treasurer and with Caroline and Sally, keeps everything paid on time and clearly recorded.

Ian Gordon as Sexton keeps everything in the Parish Hall, Carpark, Church and Graveyard up to a fantastic standard. Through his upkeep of our hall, we have grown the number of community groups over the past year who use it. Ian has everything set up for them and the Church itself is always ready for worship every Sunday. Thank you.



William Drury looks after the Graveyard as Convenor, not just co-ordinating Funeral Services with Norman McBriar and others, but answering any queries the public might have. This is a complex need and William ensures that the Graveyard offers the highest level of care and attention to all. Thank you.

Finally, we are strong together through everything we all give in our own way. Coffee & Tea after Church, those who read the Bible in Church or lead in Church Prayers, Ronnie White and his leadership team arranging Men Alive to clear up the weeds that never stop growing in the Church grounds, Leonard Hill beginning to put together a new magazine and with Muriel, delivering the weekly Newsletters. Badminton and Bowling organised by William and Ian connect us with people in Saintfield in a great way. Then there are those who support the Christmas SITOUT to raise money for charity, the Christmas Street Fair volunteers as well those looking after Pitter Patter (thank you Sarah, David, Valda, Joanne & Dawn). These are hidden jobs that help glue together our Church and Mission, so SPC grows stronger for Jesus and lives for him.

We still however need more volunteers to maintain what we do. More people for youth work, Tea and Coffee, leadership in some organisations that need the injection of your strength that only your individual stone can bring. It doesn't matter what shape or size your life and faith is, our Church can fit what is offered into the shape our Parish Church can become. **Please however, do not wait to be asked to do something.** You might see something that has been forgotten about or only you can do. So step up, volunteer, serve God and Saintfield Parish Church in the way only you can.

Our Shining outwards as a living church.

This might not be obvious from looking at the Church Cartoon. But look!!!
People are shining Jesus outwards through their smile and sense of joy of being together.
They shine Jesus outwards to those not in their Church!!

Our Church also must always shine Jesus outwards. If we stop looking out at the world and Church becomes the place where we only look at ourselves, then our shape and strength becomes irrelevant and we will shrink and die.

Last October, we took the opportunity to shine Jesus outwards through our Church Mission 'FOUND'.

We wanted people to experience Jesus shining into their hearts.

We wanted people to encounter something bigger for life and death.

We wanted people to discover that the darkness of their sin no longer needs control them. Our speakers offered so much and it was a real Jesus' glue for Saintfield Parish Church in its energy and power.



We plan some more 'shining' in 2024-25. Through our growing partnership with 1st and 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Churches, I have been meeting with both Sam Bostock and John Torrens to explore greater collaboration in Mission and of how we all together can tell Saintfield of Jesus Christ. We can now confirm that Rico Tice from All Souls Langham Place, London will be with us for a Mission Weekend in February 2025.

All three churches in the next months will be meeting together for prayer and preparation for this event so that together we can shine Jesus where each church exists in Saintfield. We hope and pray that together, we will ensure the Gospel message will shine brightly in Saintfield as God calls more people to be added not just to our Churches, but his Kingdom.

We also will be arriving in 2026 at our 250th Anniversary. This is another opportunity to 'shine' as the living stones. We need to pray and fully consider what that these special years might look like. We will need to begin to plan and prepare, for time will go very fast if we are not careful.

When the time
IS RIGHT
I, THE LORD
will make
it happen
Isaiah 60:22

Which leads me to the final truth of what it means to be 'We are Church' for as living stones who have the best shape, offer the truest strength, shine outwardly for Jesus,

We can only do so because

We are sure!!

Together as living stones, we are sure our God is in control. We sleep in peace for ultimately, we know when we wake up, God is in control for Jesus is OUR Living Stone.

We as Saintfield Parish are sure of our Jesus' shape, strength and shining of God's love. We are safe and secure not because of everything we can do to make it work, but what Jesus has done for us and what the Holy Spirit will make happen through the promise of God's Word.

We give thanks for the blessing of being living stones built together and God's blessing that shapes, strengthens and shines upon our Christ approved lives. Let's continue to build Saintfield Parish Church not in our name but in the name of our Lord Jesus. Being and becoming more and more the authentic Church of Jesus with open doors, open hands and open hearts for all. Everyone who God calls ever closer to him, to being known by Him and loved by Him and saved by Him that they too may be the living stones not just of Saintfield Parish but of God's Kingdom here on Earth and for then in Heaven with Him. Amen

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Financial Review

On the Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December 2023, Parish receipts total approximately £337k. This figure includes the sale of Parish unrestricted investment capital of approximately £140k, used to help fund the Vicarage renovation project. We also received an extremely kind donation of £50k towards these costs. The capital was withdrawn from the investments, then transferred to the Parish bank accounts before being paid to the contractors.

We have seen a rise in the number of Parishioners giving their Freewill Offering (FWO) by standing order. Thank you, this helps us to budget and forecast future cash flow. Graveyard income has increased slightly, and we received a kind donation of £1k towards it, to be invested in M&G Investments.

Parish Hall income (rental of premises) has again risen in 2023 as new groups have continued to use the Parish Hall and users increase the number of hours they rent the complex. Long may this continue.

2023 saw the conclusion of the project to refurbish our wonderful Vicarage to bring it up to Diocesan standard and future proof for years to come. The spend was agreed by the Select Vestry Trustees in 2022 and am sure you will agree, was money well spent. However, this upgrade did come at a cost. In addition to £100k that was withdrawn from Parish investments in 2022, a further £55k from RB General Unit Trust (NI) and £85k from M&G Investments was required. This has had a negative impact on the income provided by the investments. In 2023 we received approximately £6,500 less than 2022 as expected. This will continue to be monitored and addressed this financial year. Restricted investments were valued at £65k (approx.) and unrestricted at £291k (approx.). Other fluctuations were due to market performance and conditions.

Running costs for the Parish continue to rise each year. Salary costs are up and most notable are the increases in fuel such as oil and electricity. Essential groundworks at the Hall were carried out in 2023 to fix the outside lighting issue to keep all users safe. As costs remain high, we once again encourage Parishioners to give extra in their monthly FWO.

Saintfield Parish have a dual control mechanism in place for both receipts and payments. Monthly reconciliations are performed and cross-checked ensuring financial allocations are correct. The financial position is presented to Select Vestry at each meeting and examination encouraged.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the Financial Statements for the year ended 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2021.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns.

The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met on 8 occasions. The average attendance was 74%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

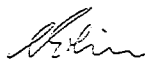
Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock



Date: 28 March 2024

Mr Stephen Erskine



28 March 2024

Mrs Caroline Kearney



28 March 2024

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Annual return

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 11-16.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Hamill McIlwaine

Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: 26 March 2024

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Accounts

Saintfield Parish Church

**Trustees' Annual Report
and
Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

For the year ended 31 December 2022



Charities Number: NIC 101048

Saintfield Parish Church

Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Saintfield Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Saintfield Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 101048

Contact Address: 43-45 Main Street
Saintfield
Ballynahinch
County Down
BT24 7AB

Trustees

Rev. Chris Pollock
Judith Stevenson
Dawn Gordon
Stephen Erskine
Joy Whitley
Linda Bloomer
Craig McCarter

Kate Beattie
Craig Weston
June Butler
David McCarter
Caroline Kearney
Robert Edwards (decd)
Catherine Griffith

Paul Olphert
Rosemary Armstrong
Leonard Hill
Adam Getty (elected Apr 22)

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy:	Rev. Chris Pollock
Hon. Secretary:	Stephen Erskine
Church Treasurer:	Caroline Kearney
Church Warden- Clergy:	David McCarter
Church Warden - People:	Linda Bloomer
Glebe Warden- Clergy:	Craig Weston
Glebe Warden- People:	Joy Whitley

Independent Examiner

Hamill Mcllwaine
Chartered Accountants
28 – 30 Old Mountfield Road,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Bankers

Danske Bank
32 Main St,
Saintfield,
Ballynahinch
Co Down
BT24 7AB

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

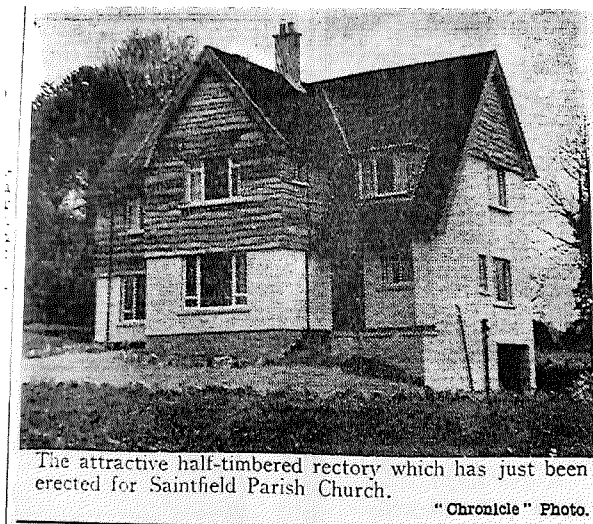
Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit



Someone today posted on Facebook a photo of the Saintfield Parish Vicarage when it was first built. The age of the photo doesn't really do justice to a building that in the late 1950's was very ahead of its time. The size of the building, the dark wood and white paint finish, the setting of the house just close enough to the Parish Church to feel connected and walkable to, and yet just far enough outside the village to have some sense of separation, is a powerful testament to the then Select Vestry and congregation who in faith, chose to make this happen.

Such vision and commitment to the future of their Parish was far reaching. It recognised the Vicarage not just as a place that would be a family home to Rev Donnelly and subsequently Canon Woodrow, Rev Delemere and latterly myself and our family, but to identify it as a place of service and blessing for everyone who would enter it.

Over the 70 years, this Vicarage had some physical additions as well as inner enhancements, but the past year has witnessed a major renovation planned for and now in full flow since Nov 2022. The essential work clarified by the Diocesan Council was developed through the Select Vestry's choice to: expand the living, kitchen, utility and bedroom areas; widen the entrance to the driveway; remove the outside cladding; replace all the windows as well as insulate the building more efficiently. Seeing our Select Vestry and congregation step out in faith is once again a testament to a vision for Saintfield Parish's future, providing not just a family 'home' but a place of service and blessing for all.

In many ways, this vision coming after the renovation of Parish Hall has been empowering. It reflects the simple belief that as God amazingly provided enough for the Parish 'Hall for All' project, that God always does provide where there is need. He never lets us down in making our vision a reality and answering need. For my Annual Review, I want share four lessons from our Vicarage renovation that aptly reflect the spiritual renovation of our Parish over the past 12 months from April 2022 – March 2023 that will lead us on in our journey into the years ahead.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

1. The Vicarage tells us that nothing ever stays the same.

Our Vicarage in its original shape, decor, and function in 1950's was such a blessing for the parish and its subsequent vicars, but the truth is 'that nothing ever stays the same'. Change had to happen to the building to ensure that both inside and outside would be fit for purpose for now and what the future Parish needs the Vicarage to be.

In our Church mission and ministry, we also have discovered (and no more so than over the past 3 years) 'that nothing ever stays the same'. COVID dramatically re-shaped our mission and ministry, congregational worship, community service and our place within the Saintfield community. It accelerated the trend of disengagement amongst youth and young families that were already impacting our growth and everything came to a stop!! It was a stop that could not be reversed and highlighted the powerful truth that 'nothing ever stays the same'.

Over the past year, we have gradually, slowly, prayerfully been on the journey of renovating our spiritual parish life. We have asked God to help us see such change as greater opportunities for the present and future, rather than being a source of fear and stagnation.

To initiate spiritual renovation amongst youth, the Select Vestry prioritised a part-time youth ministry position. After a thorough recruitment process, Rose Armstrong arrived. Rose has brought so much to us in her skill-set, energy, personal engagement and a vibrant Christ like faith. Through her development and leadership of REFRESH on Sunday Mornings at 11.00am, youth discipleship of Form 1+ on Sunday nights, her involvement and partnership with Saintfield High School and Academy Primary School, Rose serves and blesses us and our community. Our Jesus family has grown bit by bit and the potential development of the youth role is being further explored.

We are very thankful for Rose, but we must address the lack of volunteers. We need many more people of all ages who will invest a little more of their time to help grow the future generations of our Saintfield Parish family. Rose then can continue to grow God's vision for us, expanding her influence, commitment and availability to all young people both in the Parish and the community. Thank you so much to all our present young leaders and to the invaluable help of Sarah, Craig and Wenda, without whom, our spiritual renovation work with Rose would be very much less than what it is at present.

Renovation of our Sunday Worship has settled into a new pattern and gradually and slowly, bit by bit more people are coming back to their spiritual home. It is hard and I know for quite a few folk, it has been a real stepping out to re-start church. So thank you for making that decision. We have also (with permission from the Diocese) just introduced the common chalice again at Holy Communion. We have a good balance between using it and/or the small plastic cups of wine. People in Communion can choose their preference. Services at 10.00am are now recorded and edited but there isn't a great number viewing them online. However, those who do watch them, find connection to the Saintfield Parish Jesus family and that is a blessing and worth all the effort.

Other changes have grown specific roles such as the 'Parish Visitor'. Dawn Gordon is now engaging with people on behalf of the Vicar (not to replace his pastoral responsibility, but to add to regular contact). This offers another real blessing and ensures that in our 'family', people know they are not forgotten.

Our Vicarage renovation reveals 'that nothing ever stays the same'. For our future Jesus mission and ministry, such change caused by COVID is the greatest opportunity to rebuild who we are in Christ. This is the opportunity for them to know that we as a Jesus family, exist as a place and people of service and blessing for them no matter who they might be. Let our spiritual renovation as a Church and Jesus family continue in 2023 and beyond.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

2. The Vicarage tells us that renovation relies on 'hidden' work to achieve results.

Look at a recent photo of the front of the present Vicarage and while you see work happening, the real work is at the back and within, hidden from sight. Mission and ministry in Saintfield Parish over the past year has demonstrated the same. So much happens that isn't seen just by looking at the front of our Church and its position on the Main Street. So, for example:



You don't see out front Pitter Patter on Mondays with Sarah McCarter and her team making young babies and carers welcome and included, to the point they have a waiting list;

You don't see easily Wednesday Welcome being a place of connection and belonging with the commitment of its leaders offering support and friendship to so many;

You don't see all the hidden work of Sally, Ian, and William in the Church Office and yet without their personal abilities and attention to administration, the church and hall premises as well as the parish graveyard, everything would be so much harder to keep going;

You don't see the hidden Select Vestry at monthly meetings in discussion to arrive at important decisions to serve and bless as a parish. The hidden figures of Caroline as Hon. Treasurer (with Jean as Assistant Treasurer) and of Stephen as Hon. Secretary, all work hard to keep the information up to date, making it understandable to empower the Select Vestry to achieve results as Trustees.

You don't see the hidden Select Vestry Safeguarding team led by Kate. This work is sensitive and necessary and we are fortunate to have such people who are committed to its role and confidentiality.

You don't see the Church Wardens setting up early the Worship every Sunday. Linda and David have been super and dedicated over 4 years, along with Donna assisting/leading at 8.30am and Denis always opening church for everyone. We are also thankful for Canon Ian McDonald and Alan Higgins who come to regularly share God's Word for us and lead worship;

You don't see Michael up in the organ loft or Jackie on the PowerPoint (fighting with the Vicar in controlling the slides 😊)

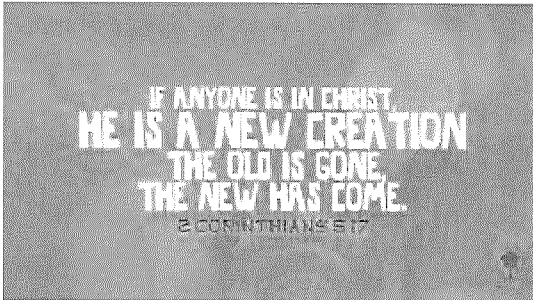
What else do you not see, hidden but working to renovate our Saintfield Parish mission and ministry?

You don't see fully the Mothers' Union with Marion and her committee serving and blessing its members and the greater community as well as their support of people like June as All Ireland President of Mothers' Union. You also don't see the new Men Alive group as it grows connection amongst all men in the church and the community, the dedication and hard work that seek to renovate relationships.

So yes, our Vicarage is being renovated through people whose work cannot openly or fully be seen. Contractors working hidden within the building or behind the front of it through ME Crowe, as one big team, changing the Vicarage according to one big plan. You don't see them at work and yet the results are there.

Saintfield Parish is likewise being renovated as a Jesus family to offer Christ like people of service, blessing and love. But the scale of the work is immense and hidden from so many. To all those who work as one big team in the Parish, to those who also pray hard for all this work for maybe they cannot physically be involved as they once were, to all of you, thank you! And to those who are being stirred by God to become more involved in whatever way, join the team!!

3. The Vicarage tells us that renovation reveals that something 'new' is happening.



It is interesting the number of people who have commented to me on what 11 Lisburn Road is beginning to look like.

Despite all the mess, they see a 'newness' happening that doesn't take away from what the Vicarage originally was, it only adds to it. The original shape of the Vicarage stays the same. Its site remains unchanged looking towards Saintfield through the same vantage point. The driveway although clabbered with mud and muck is still there and will be used again in the same way to approach the Vicarage.

The garden will become 'new' as grass (and moss) will naturally grow again. Even the bare stripped Vicarage walls will look as 'new' when repaired and painted with slightly new colour defining and freshening their appearance.

The point is, that when people see our Vicarage and it's 'newness', their curiosity is aroused. Does such curiosity change their lives and their eternal destination? Probably not. (Hopefully they keep their eyes on the road 😊)

As our Parish spiritual renovation progresses to serve, bless and love others in a very different way to that of the world, I wonder if we can pray that it might cause more people to see and need something new for themselves? That something more needs to be found for their life and death? That their hearts need renovation?

As much as the Vicarage may make people in cars slow down and look as they pass by, when it comes to our Jesus' mission and ministry, others in your family, friendship groups, workplace, place of education will also only slow down and look if they see something new of Jesus and his Holy Spirit in you and me. Only if they see and experience a discernible newness in our own Jesus faith, will their curiosity stop and ask you 'why?'

Why do you go to worship regularly rather than just at Christmas or Easter? Why is your heart's renovation not just concerned with 'religion' or 'church going' but seems to make your life alive with a joy and freedom that serves, blesses and loves? Why can they not know such renovation as well? Why can their life not be found in the same way?

As part of our future spiritual renovation, I am planning and praying for a parish mission in October 2023 with Rev Willie Nixon from Drumbeg. The Mission is named 'FOUND', for in Jesus, being found is freedom, hope and where renovation begins. Willie and I are in conversation as to what this might look like with different people sharing over 4 days in October what being 'FOUND' in Jesus has changed in them, renovating their hearts for God.

It is my deepest hope and prayer that 'FOUND' will both deepen our Jesus faith and commitment as well as empower us to invite others to let God become more for their life and death. COVID raised so many questions and many are seeking renovation. 'FOUND' will be the opportunity to share answers that we as Jesus Family believe and trust in as our story. Please pray for this time, for me and Willie as we move things on.

In September, there will be a course to help us talk about our faith, its newness and power and the answers of God's plan for a hopeless world. Answers that offer 'new' things to happen for life, death and beyond. I hope as many people as possible will sign up and take part.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

4. Finally, the Vicarage tell us that renovation reveals there is always a bigger plan.

So, nothing ever stays the same. What is hidden always achieves results. Newness will let make people stop, look, wonder and ask questions. All of this happens because there is a bigger plan in place. A plan that amazes those who are found by it. A bigger plan that makes sense of it all. Our Vicarage will be finished at the end of June. The bigger plan will produce the result. The Vicarage will not be totally perfect, but it is our perfect gift to the present Clergy family and the ministers who will follow. More than that, it is the best gift we can offer to God and the future generations of Saintfield Parish.

It is however only part of an even bigger plan of a Jesus renovation for the heart of our parish and for Saintfield's transformation.

The Vicarage renovation in a powerful way, tells the story of this bigger plan of God for us as a Jesus family, people or person. It is a plan that your £10 extra a month or that one off gift is now making real, not just to see the vicarage re-born, but our own church life and witness. Please offer this £10 a month if you haven't already. The bigger plan cannot happen unless we sacrifice so that we can do good and please God.(Hebrews 13:16). We together can provide a secure future for Saintfield Parish and the generation to come, who in 65 years from now, will thank you as much as we thank the people of faith from 65 years ago, who chose then to not just provide a new vicarage, but a new future that has blessed us now.

I can't thank you enough for the new Vicarage. We as a family will be blessed to live in it and enjoy. But as much as we as a Parish have been empowered to bring about such earthly things, I can't thank you enough for your commitment to spiritually renovating our mission and ministry for the things of Heaven and of Jesus.

Let 2023 offer us as Saintfield Parish the greatest opportunity to grow our Jesus family, serve more completely the whole community and bless unconditionally all who today need to be 'FOUND' through God's loving compassion and mercy. Let us allow the even bigger plan to make God even more real in our hearts renovated for him, that our Jesus family can be the renovated heart for all Saintfield and beyond. Amen

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Financial Review

Parish receipts remained at a similar level to 2021 and totalled £143,978. The Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31 December 2022 shows £100k more, however this is the divestment from RB General Unit Trust (NI) for work on the Vicarage. Free Will Offering has been comparable and we continue to see a small rise in Parishioners giving through standing order. This helps with our budget and to forecast future cash flow. Graveyard income has remained steady at £10k approx.

Parish Hall income has again risen in 2022 by £1250. We have seen several new groups over the last year and slots are continuing to fill up. This is very encouraging.

Investment valuation remained steady in Q1 of 2022 but took a dive in Q2 and Q3. Thankfully they regained some value during Q4. The value of the Parish investments closed at £601k - an overall loss of £38k approx. from December 2021. Similarly, to the receipts above, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2022 on the accounts show a closing value of £501k. The difference is the divestment for the vicarage. This was transferred to an RCB deposit account in December 2022. We do not include this £100k divestment for the comparison as it was done so late in the year. We did not withdraw any capital during the year, nor did we add to it. Any fluctuations were due to market performance and conditions. Income from these investments amounted to £29,035 which has kept the Parish in an operating surplus. We will monitor the level of the dividend decrease throughout 2023 as capital from the investments is used for essential investment in the Vicarage refurbishment.

Total payments for the year have risen substantially. Salary costs being the biggest increase, the Employment Allowance credit has been depleted therefore we have been paying over PAYE and NI. We have also taken on our youth worker and are not receiving any COVID furlough receipts as we had in 2021. The cost-of-living crisis has had a negative effect on our energy costs as everyone is aware of. As costs remain high we encourage Parishioners to give extra in their monthly giving.

Saintfield Parish have a dual control mechanism in place for both receipts and payments. Monthly reconciliations are performed and cross-checked ensuring financial allocations are correct. The financial position is presented to Select Vestry at each meeting and examination encouraged.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the Financial Statements for the year ended 2021 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2021.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns.

The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met on 8 occasions. The average attendance was 73%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



Rev. Chris Pollock



Mr Stephen Erskine



Mrs Caroline Kearney

Date: 20 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 11-16.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: 30 March 2023

Saintfield Parish Church

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts						
Donations & plate collection	4	92,604	14,627	-	107,231	98,169
Proceeds from Fund Raising Events		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Bank & Deposit interest		136	6	-	142	622
Investment income		19,771	9,264	-	29,035	27,484
Rental of premises		6,380	-	-	6,380	5,130
Sale of Unit Trusts		100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Grants		-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from General Trustees		-	-	-	-	-
Other Receipts		1,190	-	-	1,190	4,049
Total Receipts		220,081	23,897	-	243,978	135,454
Payments						
Wages and Salaries		63,712	9,772	-	73,484	55,030
Diocesan Costs/Assessment		20,764	-	-	20,764	20,786
Church Running Costs		5,969	4,508	-	10,477	8,897
Rectory / Curacy Costs		3,202	25	-	3,227	2,948
Hall / Property Costs		11,055	5,283	-	16,338	10,373
Investment Property Costs		-	-	-	-	-
Hall renovation expenses		-	-	-	-	10,322
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of new investments		-	-	-	-	-
Administration Costs		7,524	-	-	7,524	6,310
Fundraising Costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Donations		78	7,629	-	7,707	1,320
Total Payments		112,304	27,217	-	139,521	115,986
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		107,777	(3,320)	-	104,457	19,468
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		107,777	(3,320)	-	104,457	19,468

On Behalf of the Trustees



Rev. Chris Pollock
Date : 20 March 2023



Caroline Kearney
Date : 20 March 2023

Saintfield Parish Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds					
Current and cash Accounts	77,270	26,959	-	104,229	94,766
Deposit Accounts	100,136	3,818	-	103,954	8,960
Total Cash Funds	177,406	30,777	-	208,183	103,726
Investment Assets					
Investments	435,650	65,264	-	500,914	638,167
Total Investment Assets	435,650	65,264	-	500,914	638,167
Assets retained for the Parish's own use					
Vicarage	628,372	-	-	628,372	584,532
Church House	237,602	-	-	237,602	221,025
Total Assets retained for the Parish's own use	865,974	-	-	865,974	805,557

On Behalf of the Trustees



Rev. Chris Pollock
Date: 20 March 2023



Mrs Caroline Kearney
Date : 20 March 2023



Mr. Stephen Erskine
Date : 20 March 2023

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

(b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(i) *Assets retained for the Parish's own use*

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise: -

- Church Building and Graveyard
- Parish Hall
- Vicarage
- Church House

- The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102)
 - These Heritage assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

- The Parish Hall
 - Was built / acquired in 1971. There are no reliable records of the cost of this construction/ acquisition and valuation approach for such a building lacks sufficient reliability. As a result, this building is not recognised in the Parish statement of assets and liabilities. (Insurance values reconstruction at £1,123,859)

- The Vicarage is recognised at its insurance value of £628,372. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

- The Church House is recognised at its insurance value of £237,602. No depreciation has been provided on the Vicarage as the current estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

ii) Investments

Fixed asset investments comprising investments in M&G Charifund, NICIFC , investments in equities (ordinary shares) and investment in RCB/CIT Unit Trusts are stated at fair value at each year end date.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at Beginning of the year	103,726
Receipts for the Year	243,978
Payments for the Year	<u>(139,521)</u>
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	<u><u>208,183</u></u>

3. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Movement £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2022 £
Restricted funds						
Organ fund	4,160	409	(215)	194	-	4,354
Scarlett bequest	7,190	6,160	(4,202)	1,958	-	9,148
Property account	8,960	6	(5,148)	(5,142)	-	3,818
Trusts and bequests account	5,642	2,760	(206)	2,554	(1,550)	6,646
General Fund	-	6,212	(6,746)	(534)	534	-
Graveyard Fund	3,745	8,350	(10,700)	(2,350)	1,016	2,411
	<u>29,697</u>	<u>23,897</u>	<u>(27,217)</u>	<u>(3,320)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,377</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	74,029	100,174	(112,304)	(12,130)	19,771	81,670
RCB deposit account	-	100,136	-	100,136	-	100,136
Trusts and bequests account	-	19,771	-	19,771	(19,771)	-
	<u>74,029</u>	<u>220,081</u>	<u>(112,304)</u>	<u>107,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,806</u>
Total funds	<u><u>103,726</u></u>	<u><u>243,978</u></u>	<u><u>(139,521)</u></u>	<u><u>104,457</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>208,183</u></u>

Purposes of Investment Funds

- Income from the RCB Unit Trust bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The use of capital from these holdings is not allowed except by special request and must be approved by Diocesan Council and RCB.
- Income from the Church of Ireland Trustees bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The vestry holds sole authority to use.
- Income from the Central Investment Fund for Charities bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The Vestry holds sole authority to use.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

-Income from the M&G Charifund bequests is used for various purposes and is distributed according to the Terms of Trust on the Trust Distribution Report. The capital within these holdings can be used within the restrictions of the bequests. The vestry hold sole authority to use.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

- Organ Fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the organ.
- Scarlett Bequest Fund: This is a discretionary account administered by the Vicar and Church Wardens to support the work of the Parish. Its money is restricted.
- Property fund: This is a fund to provide for the upkeep of the Church's properties.
- Trusts and Bequests Fund: This is a fund used to receive the income from the endowment funds and distribute the income according to the instructions of each bequest.

4. Donations and Plate Collections

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FWO and annual donations	72,982	-	72,982	71,990
Cash collections	333	-	333	385
Gift Aid	14,105	941	15,046	15,257
Gifts received	-	-	-	-
Graveyard fees and donations	2,924	7,409	10,333	10,537
Donations received	750	6,277	7,027	-
Covid donations	1,510	-	1,510	-
	92,604	14,627	107,231	98,169

5. Collections for Third Parties

	2022 £	2021 £
Royal Ulster Constabulary GC/ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	435	139
Boring Wells Charity	80	390
Christian Aid	200	-
Foodbank Ballynahinch	280	-
PIPS	-	1,863
Made for More	1,546	-
Bishops Appeal	241	134
Ukraine Appeal 2022	3,430	-
	6,212	2,526

The monies collected on Remembrance Sunday of £435 was rounded up to £485 by the Parish before being distributed. Similarly, the monies collected in December on the street for 'Made For More' of £1,546 was rounded up to £1,600 by the Parish before being distributed.

Saintfield Parish Church

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

6. Transactions with the Trustees

The Parish paid expenses of £3,227 relating to the running costs of the glebe house which is occupied by the rector.

Two Trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £408 during the year.

The Vicar is paid a gross salary (including expenses and Locomotory Allowance) of £44,226 by the Parish.

No Trustee or a person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

7. Governance Costs

Governance costs of £768 were incurred during the year of which £768 relates to fees paid to the independent examiner. Governance costs are included within Administration costs in the Receipts and Payments Accounts.

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Annual report

Saintfield Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of Saintfield Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Saintfield Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Saintfield Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Saintfield Parish.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit



Someone today posted on Facebook a photo of the Saintfield Parish Vicarage when it was first built. The age of the photo doesn't really do justice to a building that in the late 1950's was very ahead of its time. The size of the building, the dark wood and white paint finish, the setting of the house just close enough to the Parish Church to feel connected and walkable to, and yet just far enough outside the village to have some sense of separation, is a powerful testament to the then Select Vestry and congregation who in faith, chose to make this happen.

Such vision and commitment to the future of their Parish was far reaching. It recognised the Vicarage not just as a place that would be a family home to Rev Donnelly and subsequently Canon Woodrow, Rev Delemere and latterly myself and our family, but to identify it as a place of service and blessing for everyone who would enter it.

Over the 70 years, this Vicarage had some physical additions as well as inner enhancements, but the past year has witnessed a major renovation planned for and now in full flow since Nov 2022. The essential work clarified by the Diocesan Council was developed through the Select Vestry's choice to: expand the living, kitchen, utility and bedroom areas; widen the entrance to the driveway; remove the outside cladding; replace all the windows as well as insulate the building more efficiently. Seeing our Select Vestry and congregation step out in faith is once again a testament to a vision for Saintfield Parish's future, providing not just a family 'home' but a place of service and blessing for all.

In many ways, this vision coming after the renovation of Parish Hall has been empowering. It reflects the simple belief that as God amazingly provided enough for the Parish 'Hall for All' project, that God always does provide where there is need. He never lets us down in making our vision a reality and answering need. For my Annual Review, I want share four lessons from our Vicarage renovation that aptly reflect the spiritual renovation of our Parish over the past 12 months from April 2022 – March 2023 that will lead us on in our journey into the years ahead.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

1. The Vicarage tells us that nothing ever stays the same.

Our Vicarage in its original shape, decor, and function in 1950's was such a blessing for the parish and its subsequent vicars, but the truth is 'that nothing ever stays the same'. Change had to happen to the building to ensure that both inside and outside would be fit for purpose for now and what the future Parish needs the Vicarage to be.

In our Church mission and ministry, we also have discovered (and no more so than over the past 3 years) 'that nothing ever stays the same'. COVID dramatically re-shaped our mission and ministry, congregational worship, community service and our place within the Saintfield community. It accelerated the trend of disengagement amongst youth and young families that were already impacting our growth and everything came to a stop!! It was a stop that could not be reversed and highlighted the powerful truth that 'nothing ever stays the same'.

Over the past year, we have gradually, slowly, prayerfully been on the journey of renovating our spiritual parish life. We have asked God to help us see such change as greater opportunities for the present and future, rather than being a source of fear and stagnation.

To initiate spiritual renovation amongst youth, the Select Vestry prioritised a part-time youth ministry position. After a thorough recruitment process, Rose Armstrong arrived. Rose has brought so much to us in her skill-set, energy, personal engagement and a vibrant Christ like faith. Through her development and leadership of REFRESH on Sunday Mornings at 11.00am, youth discipleship of Form 1+ on Sunday nights, her involvement and partnership with Saintfield High School and Academy Primary School, Rose serves and blesses us and our community. Our Jesus family has grown bit by bit and the potential development of the youth role is being further explored.

We are very thankful for Rose, but we must address the lack of volunteers. We need many more people of all ages who will invest a little more of their time to help grow the future generations of our Saintfield Parish family. Rose then can continue to grow God's vision for us, expanding her influence, commitment and availability to all young people both in the Parish and the community. Thank you so much to all our present young leaders and to the invaluable help of Sarah, Craig and Wenda, without whom, our spiritual renovation work with Rose would be very much less than what it is at present.

Renovation of our Sunday Worship has settled into a new pattern and gradually and slowly, bit by bit more people are coming back to their spiritual home. It is hard and I know for quite a few folk, it has been a real stepping out to re-start church. So thank you for making that decision. We have also (with permission from the Diocese) just introduced the common chalice again at Holy Communion. We have a good balance between using it and/or the small plastic cups of wine. People in Communion can choose their preference. Services at 10.00am are now recorded and edited but there isn't a great number viewing them online. However, those who do watch them, find connection to the Saintfield Parish Jesus family and that is a blessing and worth all the effort.

Other changes have grown specific roles such as the 'Parish Visitor'. Dawn Gordon is now engaging with people on behalf of the Vicar (not to replace his pastoral responsibility, but to add to regular contact). This offers another real blessing and ensures that in our 'family', people know they are not forgotten.

Our Vicarage renovation reveals 'that nothing ever stays the same'. For our future Jesus mission and ministry, such change caused by COVID is the greatest opportunity to rebuild who we are in Christ. This is the opportunity for them to know that we as a Jesus family, exist as a place and people of service and blessing for them no matter who they might be. Let our spiritual renovation as a Church and Jesus family continue in 2023 and beyond.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

2. The Vicarage tells us that renovation relies on 'hidden' work to achieve results.

Look at a recent photo of the front of the present Vicarage and while you see work happening, the real work is at the back and within, hidden from sight. Mission and ministry in Saintfield Parish over the past year has demonstrated the same. So much happens that isn't seen just by looking at the front of our Church and its position on the Main Street. So, for example:



You don't see out front Pitter Patter on Mondays with Sarah McCarter and her team making young babies and carers welcome and included, to the point they have a waiting list;

You don't see easily Wednesday Welcome being a place of connection and belonging with the commitment of its leaders offering support and friendship to so many;

You don't see all the hidden work of Sally, Ian, and William in the Church Office and yet without their personal abilities and attention to administration, the church and hall premises as well as the parish graveyard, everything would be so much harder to keep going;

You don't see the hidden Select Vestry at monthly meetings in discussion to arrive at important decisions to serve and bless as a parish. The hidden figures of Caroline as Hon. Treasurer (with Jean as Assistant Treasurer) and of Stephen as Hon. Secretary, all work hard to keep the information up to date, making it understandable to empower the Select Vestry to achieve results as Trustees.

You don't see the hidden Select Vestry Safeguarding team led by Kate. This work is sensitive and necessary and we are fortunate to have such people who are committed to its role and confidentiality.

You don't see the Church Wardens setting up early the Worship every Sunday. Linda and David have been super and dedicated over 4 years, along with Donna assisting/leading at 8.30am and Denis always opening church for everyone. We are also thankful for Canon Ian McDonald and Alan Higgins who come to regularly share God's Word for us and lead worship;

You don't see Michael up in the organ loft or Jackie on the PowerPoint (fighting with the Vicar in controlling the slides 😊)

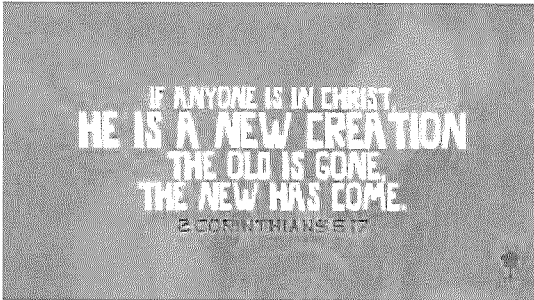
What else do you not see, hidden but working to renovate our Saintfield Parish mission and ministry?

You don't see fully the Mothers' Union with Marion and her committee serving and blessing its members and the greater community as well as their support of people like June as All Ireland President of Mothers' Union. You also don't see the new Men Alive group as it grows connection amongst all men in the church and the community, the dedication and hard work that seek to renovate relationships.

So yes, our Vicarage is being renovated through people whose work cannot openly or fully be seen. Contractors working hidden within the building or behind the front of it through ME Crowe, as one big team, changing the Vicarage according to one big plan. You don't see them at work and yet the results are there.

Saintfield Parish is likewise being renovated as a Jesus family to offer Christ like people of service, blessing and love. But the scale of the work is immense and hidden from so many. To all those who work as one big team in the Parish, to those who also pray hard for all this work for maybe they cannot physically be involved as they once were, to all of you, thank you! And to those who are being stirred by God to become more involved in whatever way, join the team!!

3. The Vicarage tells us that renovation reveals that something 'new' is happening.



It is interesting the number of people who have commented to me on what 11 Lisburn Road is beginning to look like.

Despite all the mess, they see a 'newness' happening that doesn't take away from what the Vicarage originally was, it only adds to it. The original shape of the Vicarage stays the same. Its site remains unchanged looking towards Saintfield through the same vantage point. The driveway although clabbered with mud and muck is still there and will be used again in the same way to approach the Vicarage.

The garden will become 'new' as grass (and moss) will naturally grow again. Even the bare stripped Vicarage walls will look as 'new' when repaired and painted with slightly new colour defining and freshening their appearance.

The point is, that when people see our Vicarage and it's 'newness', their curiosity is aroused. Does such curiosity change their lives and their eternal destination? Probably not. (Hopefully they keep their eyes on the road 😊)

As our Parish spiritual renovation progresses to serve, bless and love others in a very different way to that of the world, I wonder if we can pray that it might cause more people to see and need something new for themselves? That something more needs to be found for their life and death? That their hearts need renovation?

As much as the Vicarage may make people in cars slow down and look as they pass by, when it comes to our Jesus' mission and ministry, others in your family, friendship groups, workplace, place of education will also only slow down and look if they see something new of Jesus and his Holy Spirit in you and me. Only if they see and experience a discernible newness in our own Jesus faith, will their curiosity stop and ask you 'why?'

Why do you go to worship regularly rather than just at Christmas or Easter? Why is your heart's renovation not just concerned with 'religion' or 'church going' but seems to make your life alive with a joy and freedom that serves, blesses and loves? Why can they not know such renovation as well? Why can their life not be found in the same way?

As part of our future spiritual renovation, I am planning and praying for a parish mission in October 2023 with Rev Willie Nixon from Drumbeg. The Mission is named 'FOUND', for in Jesus, being found is freedom, hope and where renovation begins. Willie and I are in conversation as to what this might look like with different people sharing over 4 days in October what being 'FOUND' in Jesus has changed in them, renovating their hearts for God.

It is my deepest hope and prayer that 'FOUND' will both deepen our Jesus faith and commitment as well as empower us to invite others to let God become more for their life and death. COVID raised so many questions and many are seeking renovation. 'FOUND' will be the opportunity to share answers that we as Jesus Family believe and trust in as our story. Please pray for this time, for me and Willie as we move things on.

In September, there will be a course to help us talk about our faith, its newness and power and the answers of God's plan for a hopeless world. Answers that offer 'new' things to happen for life, death and beyond. I hope as many people as possible will sign up and take part.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

4. Finally, the Vicarage tell us that renovation reveals there is always a bigger plan.

So, nothing ever stays the same. What is hidden always achieves results. Newness will let make people stop, look, wonder and ask questions. All of this happens because there is a bigger plan in place. A plan that amazes those who are found by it. A bigger plan that makes sense of it all. Our Vicarage will be finished at the end of June. The bigger plan will produce the result. The Vicarage will not be totally perfect, but it is our perfect gift to the present Clergy family and the ministers who will follow. More than that, it is the best gift we can offer to God and the future generations of Saintfield Parish.

It is however only part of an even bigger plan of a Jesus renovation for the heart of our parish and for Saintfield's transformation.

The Vicarage renovation in a powerful way, tells the story of this bigger plan of God for us as a Jesus family, people or person. It is a plan that your £10 extra a month or that one off gift is now making real, not just to see the vicarage re-born, but our own church life and witness. Please offer this £10 a month if you haven't already. The bigger plan cannot happen unless we sacrifice so that we can do good and please God.(Hebrews 13:16). We together can provide a secure future for Saintfield Parish and the generation to come, who in 65 years from now, will thank you as much as we thank the people of faith from 65 years ago, who chose then to not just provide a new vicarage, but a new future that has blessed us now.

I can't thank you enough for the new Vicarage. We as a family will be blessed to live in it and enjoy. But as much as we as a Parish have been empowered to bring about such earthly things, I can't thank you enough for your commitment to spiritually renovating our mission and ministry for the things of Heaven and of Jesus.

Let 2023 offer us as Saintfield Parish the greatest opportunity to grow our Jesus family, serve more completely the whole community and bless unconditionally all who today need to be 'FOUND' through God's loving compassion and mercy. Let us allow the even bigger plan to make God even more real in our hearts renovated for him, that our Jesus family can be the renovated heart for all Saintfield and beyond. Amen

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Financial Review

Parish receipts remained at a similar level to 2021 and totalled £143,978. The Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31 December 2022 shows £100k more, however this is the divestment from RB General Unit Trust (NI) for work on the Vicarage. Free Will Offering has been comparable and we continue to see a small rise in Parishioners giving through standing order. This helps with our budget and to forecast future cash flow. Graveyard income has remained steady at £10k approx.

Parish Hall income has again risen in 2022 by £1250. We have seen several new groups over the last year and slots are continuing to fill up. This is very encouraging.

Investment valuation remained steady in Q1 of 2022 but took a dive in Q2 and Q3. Thankfully they regained some value during Q4. The value of the Parish investments closed at £601k - an overall loss of £38k approx. from December 2021. Similarly, to the receipts above, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2022 on the accounts show a closing value of £501k. The difference is the divestment for the vicarage. This was transferred to an RCB deposit account in December 2022. We do not include this £100k divestment for the comparison as it was done so late in the year. We did not withdraw any capital during the year, nor did we add to it. Any fluctuations were due to market performance and conditions. Income from these investments amounted to £29,035 which has kept the Parish in an operating surplus. We will monitor the level of the dividend decrease throughout 2023 as capital from the investments is used for essential investment in the Vicarage refurbishment.

Total payments for the year have risen substantially. Salary costs being the biggest increase, the Employment Allowance credit has been depleted therefore we have been paying over PAYE and NI. We have also taken on our youth worker and are not receiving any COVID furlough receipts as we had in 2021. The cost-of-living crisis has had a negative effect on our energy costs as everyone is aware of. As costs remain high we encourage Parishioners to give extra in their monthly giving.

Saintfield Parish have a dual control mechanism in place for both receipts and payments. Monthly reconciliations are performed and cross-checked ensuring financial allocations are correct. The financial position is presented to Select Vestry at each meeting and examination encouraged.

Saintfield Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the Financial Statements for the year ended 2021 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Vicar is paid according to the Diocese of Down and Dromore grading of Saintfield Parish as a 'C' Parish along with the Locomotory and Office expenses as passed by General Synod 2021.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the Parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Easter General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent (Vicar) of Saintfield Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied. They also are responsible in establishing and maintaining the vision of the Parish, counselling the Vicar in regard to spiritual direction as well offering oversight regarding to the management of staff, safeguarding trust and property concerns.

The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met on 8 occasions. The average attendance was 73%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Saintfield Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



Rev. Chris Pollock



Mr Stephen Erskine



Mrs Caroline Kearney

Date: 20 March 2023

Saintfield/Saintfield Parish/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101048

Annual return

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saintfield Parish Church

We report on the accounts of Saintfield Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 11-16.

Respective responsibilities of charity Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's Report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Hamill McIlwaine
Chartered Accountants
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

Date: 30 March 2023