

## **St Clement's Parish Church Trustees Report of 2022 (NIC102370)**

Year 2021 had been a difficult year for many churches including ourselves here in St Clement's. Thankfully 2022 we returned to our normal way of worshipping together on Sunday mornings. We were also able, with the help of our PAIS team, start up our meetings for youth and children and prayer nights. We also were able to start our bible study group meeting after not being able to meet for so many months

COVID affected us as a church in many ways – not least our fund-raising efforts. For years 2020 and 2021 we were unable to hold our Annual Christmas Fayre. Thankfully that changed at the end of 2022 when once again we were able to run our Christmas Fayre.

During 2022 we employed a Local Ordained Minister (Full Time), an Outreach Worker (Part Time 30 hours) and an Administrative Assistant (Part Time 8 hours). We also had a team of 3 girls from PAIS. The PAIS team's time with us came to an end in June and they are much missed. We also had to lay off our Administrator in August and our Outreach Worker resigned from his post in August. We began advertising for a Family Worker and that post was filled but not until February 2023.

Our hope of being able to rent a property on Castlereagh Road to enable us to have a Drop In Centre away from the church building was not fulfilled. There was much coming and going between ourselves and the landlord but they never came back with satisfactory answers to our questions. With some of the money we received from Priorities Fund and Belfast City Council we were able to decorate and buy items for our Coffee Bar which allowed us to have our children's work and drop in facility throughout the year. We had to return £5,000.00 of the grant received from Priorities Fund as part of their grant was to cover the cost of the rent and insurance for the property which we are not able to move into.

We look forward to another year with hope – to see our church thrive and grow and to be there for people whatever their need may be.

Alan Higgins

(Honorary Treasurer – St Clement's Parish Church, Templemore Avenue, Belfast)

April 2023

Select Vestry signatories: