

St Clement's Parish Church Trustees Report of 2024 (NIC102370)

2024 was a challenging year financially again for St.Clement's but God has been so good to us in many ways. Looking forward we will be exploring different ways to increase our income.

At the beginning of 2023 we appointed a part-time Parish worker, and she has been a great addition to the staff here in St.Clement's. Angela does a variety of things in her role including leading Sunday School, pastoral visits, cleaning the church, making the teas and coffee and sweet treats for after our Sunday service and her ladies group every other Thursday. Angela has been greatly encouraged by the number of people who come along on Thursday afternoons and how God is bringing that group of ladies together as they sing a hymn to begin, pray then listen, chat, support and encourage each other. The group has welcomed in ladies who didn't initially belong to St.Clement's but who have since become members of the church. Angela firmly believes that this is part of God's plan for St.Clement's and is expectant of God continuing to move amongst the ladies as they gather together.

We have another ladies group who meet on the last Thursday of the month and we have a weekly Bible Study that continues to flourish and grow.

Our Lent appeal last year was for NI Childrens Hospice and as a Church we raised over £1700 and we had the privilege of welcoming a rep from NI Childrens Hospice to St.Clement's in June to present them with a cheque and we had our Kids gift day that day also.

On a sadder note we lost members of our congregation through bereavement in 2024 who were much loved, respected and valued by us all here in St.Clements. Our continued prayers are with their families.

As we looked forward to the season of Christmas we had our Christmas Fayre at the end of November and we were really blessed by God at this as we had people through our doors who don't attend church and the atmosphere and sense of community was tangible and we were able to raise some funds for the church. We were also blessed by our Christmas services, our children's nativity and our nine lessons and carols especially. 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.

Colin Birnie

(Ordained Local Minister – St Clement's Parish Church, Templemore Avenue, Belfast)

April 2025