

**St Molua's Parish Church. Stormont  
Trustees' Annual report and Statement of Receipts and  
Payments and Assets and Liabilities  
For the year ended December 2022**

**Northern Ireland Charities Number: 102374**

Worshipping GOD  
Building the CHURCH  
Reaching the PEOPLE



**St Molua's Parish Church. Stormont**

**Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

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## **St Molua's Parish Church. Stormont**

### **References and administrative details**

Charity Name: **St Molua's Parish Church. Stormont**

Charity Registration Number: 102374

Contact Address: St Molua's Rectory  
3 Rosepark  
Belfast  
BT5 7RG

### **Trustees**

Revd Emma Rutherford  
Mrs Helen Poots  
Mrs Audrey Healey  
Mrs Edwina Tester  
Mrs Heather Loughridge  
Mr David Beck  
Mrs Sharon Beck  
Mr David Watkins CB  
Mrs Melanie Carmichael  
Mrs Frances Hastie  
Mr Denis Hill  
Mrs Jean Hill  
Mrs Winnie Hill  
Mr Malcolm Stanley  
Ms Margaret Turner

### **Principal Office-bearers**

Clergy: Revd. Emma Rutherford

Church Treasurer: Mr David Beck  
Church Warden- Clergy: Mr Malcolm Stanley  
Church Warden - People: Mrs Winnie Hill

### **Independent Auditor**

Ms Susan Hunter

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St Molua's Parish Church, Stormont for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

The principal function of St Molua's Parish Church, Stormont is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Molua's Parish Church, Stormont 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, St Molua's Parish Church, Stormont 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 St Molua's Parish Church, Stormont.

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

#### *BUILDINGS*

The 1960's Church building and front boundary wall of St Molua's Church are listed by the Department for Communities as being of architectural interest.

Over the last 20 years, a considerable amount of work has been carried out on the refurbishment of the church. Whilst the Select Vestry believes the building now to be sound and watertight, regular ongoing maintenance is essential to ensure that it remains so. Health and safety regulations now recommend the installation of a fire alarm and emergency lighting in the building, which will be addressed when finances permit. The parochial hall, another unique style of building, sits behind the church. It consists of a large main hall with stage, a small minor hall, committee room, kitchen and toilets.

The Rectory is located around the corner from the church in Rosepark and is in a good state of repair, having undergone substantial refurbishment over the past few years. The installation of a new kitchen and downstairs WC, refurbishment of the rear patio area (with an exterior ramp offering access into the public reception room) meet accessibility requirements.

#### *WORSHIP*

In the advancement of the Christian faith we focus on worship by offering two services each Sunday and a service midweek. We also hold special services during Holy Week & Easter, Harvest, Advent & Christmas, all of which engage more widely with our local community. We also include an annual service to support the bereaved.

After our church services, refreshments are available which helps to reinforce a sense of community and belonging.

In November 2022 we held a special service and lunch as we commemorated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the church building.

Our services are mainly traditional Anglican worship, but our evening service is 'Cafe Church', which is a more informal style of worship when we meet in the Parish Hall over refreshments. The use of the hall enables us to use multimedia equipment and allows for more flexibility of changes of format.

Messy Church has grown and developed, and we now partner with our neighbouring Presbyterian Church to provide this on a monthly basis. This partnership is invaluable as we seek to reach out



## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Contd)**

and engage with our local community by providing an informal 'church' gathering that is accessible to all, focusing on fun, friendship and hospitality.

We work alongside other churches in the Deanery & Diocese and in the local area through the Belmont Churches to deliver special services, activities and outreach from time to time.

Our Rector regularly meets with other clergy as a member of the Belmont Churches ecumenical group, and three ecumenical services are held each year.

We continue to livestream our main Sunday service each week, which is then uploaded to our website. Our 'dial-in' phone line service continues for those people who have no internet access. Many people have recognized the benefit of these services as we have been able to reach many more people than those who would have attended 'in-person' services in the past, and it has been an invaluable 'outreach' to the elderly and housebound.

### **PASTORAL**

Pastoral visitation is undertaken by the Rector and a small pastoral visiting team to those from our community that are housebound, in nursing homes or in hospital. During COVID lockdowns certain restrictions were in place, but the rector continued to be available when required.

### **MISSION, OUTREACH & COMMUNITY**

The Parish undertakes a wide range of activities.

Information on services, parish events etc. is provided through a regular parish magazine 'Contact' which is delivered to approximately 200 households and is also available to view on our website [www.stmoluaonline.com](http://www.stmoluaonline.com)

Our website continues to be regularly updated and is an invaluable means of communication. All services and activities are also promoted through the use of weekly news sheets, the parish website, Facebook and word of mouth. We have a large visible noticeboard which has been very beneficial given the situation of our church on a main arterial route.

During 2022 we embarked on a Church Plant partnership with the diocese as we endeavour to reach out into our local area. A full time Church plant leader is employed by the diocese and works within the large housing estates located in our parish.

In 2022 (in partnership with the Church Plant) St Molua's ran its first 'Alpha' course which was well attended by a considerable number of people both from the church and local community. A number of other 'follow on' courses have continued to run during the 'Café Church' Sunday evening slot.

In partnership with The Churches' Ministry of Healing, St Molua's run a monthly Healing Service which is open to everyone, and these have been very well received locally.

As Messy Church & Muddy Church have grown and developed, we see these as a primary means of connecting with local families and residents in the provision of fun activities and a family meal.

In Sept 2022 we started Stormont Community Choir, an outreach activity which has been well supported locally. Community choirs have long been recognized for the positive mental health benefits for those involved, and the choir continues to grow. This endeavour has also given a St Molua's a new means of connecting with residential homes in the parish area as the choir have started to arrange performances and sing along activities.

In 2023 we hope to increase our community outreach further through the provision of new groups for men, and for young parents and children.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Contd)**

Our church and halls are used by both parish and local organisations. Regular activities include Sunday School, Ladies' Guild, Knit & Natter, 'Sole Mates' walking group, badminton club, Crafty Folk craft group, Parish choir and bible study groups. We also use the church hall for church social and fundraising events and have a very creative fundraising committee. Regular events have included coffee mornings, soup lunches, cake competitions, a barn dance, 'Breakfast with Santa', St Patrick's Day lunch, and family quiz evenings to name a few. Local community organisations which meet on our premises include Dundonald Arts Club and a Zumba class.

Walking groups from around the province have been able to avail of our provision of morning coffee as they explore the nearby Stormont Estate.

We remain a popular concert venue for local choirs, who value the amazing acoustic of our church building. In 2022 St Molua's was the venue chosen for recording a 5 part weekly TV series broadcast on TBNUK. Our Church Hall is used as a polling station at election time.

We have run free community fun days for local children; and our annual Christmas tree lights 'switch on' and Carol Singing event is an open invitation to the local community at which free refreshments and entertainment are provided.

Members of our parish are active in our local community; we serve as one of the collection points for Dundonald Food Bank. Dundonald Foodbank is one of over 400 Foodbanks throughout the UK, and is run as a joint initiative between seven local churches. In the last 12 months Dundonald Foodbank has helped over 750 people who have found themselves in financial difficulty through no fault of their own.

St Molua's are active and committed to mission in our support of many charities both at home and overseas. The charitable allocation of Parish income is decided at an annual meeting.

We regularly have guest speakers in church services and at Ladies' Guild meetings from various Christian charities, which have raised awareness and encouraged support from parishioners for these organisations.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

In all of our activities designed to reach out to families, children and young adults the Parish adheres to the Church of Ireland's child protection policy: Safeguarding Trust.

Information on services, parish events etc. is provided through a regular parish magazine 'Contact' which is delivered to approximately 200 households and is also available to view on our website [www.stmoluasonline.com](http://www.stmoluasonline.com)

### **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.

### **Financial Review**

2022 has been a year of recovery after the challenges we have faced from Covid-19. Church services have gradually been re-introduced so that by the end of the year we were operating, more or less, as normal. Attendance is gradually being restored to previous levels and some fund-raising activities, including the hire of the hall, are also building up again. Nevertheless, like many other charitable organisations it will take some time to get back to where we once were.



## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Contd)

In the previous year (2021) income from various sources was £113,176 – if the ring-fenced Mission Grant which was transferred straight back to the Diocese is taken from this the actual income in 2021 was £100,176. The income for 2022 was £99,825, only a slight decrease on the previous year. In fact, in 2021 we were the recipients of a very generous one-off gift of £6,000, if this too is taken off the total income for the year the overall income would be £94,176. The income for 2022 therefore increased by just over £5,500. However, the key point to highlight is the overall trend in income over the pre-covid years. The income in 2019 – the last 'normal' year – was over £120,000 and in 2018 it was nearly £128,000. We will have some work to do if we are to fully recover to pre-covid levels.

In 2021 the freewill offering donations had increased slightly but this year it fell by £940 to £64,391.25. In 2019, pre-covid, this figure was £72,796 – so the income from free-will offering and plate collections, our main source of income, has fallen by £8,405 since pre-covid times – a decrease of 11.5%.

Some of the shortfall has been addressed by the uplift in income from other sources as the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 have gradually been relaxed. The income from the hire of the hall increased significantly from £740 in 2021 to just under £4,000 in 2022. The most positive aspect of this is the fact

that this is also an increase on the pre-covid figure in 2019 which was £2,414. In 2019 however £13,569 was raised through fund-raising events, this year it was just £2,015.

In 2020 the outgoings were reduced slightly due to savings in utility costs as the halls and church were not in use for prolonged periods and the Diocese reduced their charges; however, in 2021 some of these costs rose once again. This has continued into 2022 where the utility costs were £1,631 higher than 2021 – not unexpected given the increased use of the hall and the associated lift in heating costs. Overall, the cost of utilities was £4,584 in 2022, a figure that is likely to increase substantially in 2023. In 2021 we made a conscious decision to increase our charitable donations in spite of the church's reduced income and reduced capacity for retiring collections – this year we dropped to the more normal level of charitable giving and donated £3,427 to local and international charities representing approximately 5% of our freewill offering.

This year the income from the Gift Aid Scheme was similar to 2021 at £16,708 indicating that parishioners are still gift-aiding their donations – each year this element of our income becomes more important.

This year a number of long-awaited maintenance tasks were conducted in the church and rectory including the replacement of the rectory boiler and installation of AV equipment in the church, as part of which the facilities to record and live-stream our services on-line have been greatly enhanced. This is a developing aspect of the outreach and mission work of the church and makes the services available to a wider population, including those who are unable to attend in person for one reason or another. However, a number of maintenance issues still remain to be addressed, the most obvious of which are the pillars of the church hall which require significant remedial work. We do have some funds in the repair and maintenance account which at first glance appears to be very healthy showing a balance of £28,510. However, much of this money can only be used for specific projects. For example, some funding is by way of a grant from the Diocese specifically for mission and outreach work for children and young families – they cannot be used for maintenance. In addition, £6,000 was money donated in 2019/2020 for the Flower Festival and will be needed for the operating costs of the rescheduled festival in May 2023.

It has been a blessing to return to a more normal set of circumstances after the challenges presented by the pandemic over the past two years. However, we have further challenges ahead our outgoings on salaries and utilities will necessarily increase, we will therefore have to ensure that our income will be similarly increased.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Contd)**

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 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 rector receives a stipend and office and locomotory allowances in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and details of office and locomotory allowances.

The organist, who is also the director of music receive salaries commensurate with her role and experience.

#### ***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, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The select vestry is chaired by the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the 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.

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 churchwardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met 10 times during the year, at times remotely via Zoom.

#### **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.



## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Contd)

### 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

Trustee 1



Revd Emma Rutherford (Chair)

Trustee 2



F Hastie (Secretary)

Date 10/8/2023