

**St Molua's Parish Church. Stormont
Trustees' Annual report and Statement of Receipts and
Payments and Assets and Liabilities
For the year ended December 2023**

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 31st December 2023

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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. Edwina Tester
Mrs. Heather Loughridge
Mr. David Beck
Mrs. Sharon Beck
Mr. David Watkins CB
Mrs. Frances Hastie
Mr. Denis Hill
Mrs. Jean Hill
Mrs. Winnie Hill
Mr. Malcolm Stanley
Ms. Margaret Turner
Mr. David Blemings
Mrs. Grace Blemings

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy: Revd. Emma Rutherford

Church Treasurer: Mr David Beck
Church Warden- Clergy: Mrs Sharon Beck
Church Warden - People: Mrs Jean 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 31st December 2023

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 31st December 2023.

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 25 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.

Our Sunday morning services are mainly traditional Anglican worship, but our evening service takes the form of '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. Following the success of last year's 'Alpha' course we continue to follow a range of discipleship courses in our 'Café Church' Sunday evening slot.

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.

Our monthly Messy Church has grown and developed through our partnership with our neighbouring Presbyterian Church as we seek to reach out and engage with our local community

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

We continue to work alongside other churches in the Area 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.

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

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, parish Facebook page, 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.

The Diocesan Church Plant partnership continues in the parish, where a full time Church plant leader (who is employed by the diocese) works within the large housing estates located within our parish boundary.

We have increased our community outreach through the provision of a parent & toddler group called 'Little Angels' which started in September 2023. This group for young children and their parents/guardians has been received as an invaluable service to our local community.

Other new outreach activities include the provision of a group for retired men who gather for fellowship and friendship, and 'Souper Saturday' - a monthly soup lunch.

Community choirs have long been recognized for the positive mental health benefits for those involved, and Stormont Community Choir at St Molua's continues to grow. This outreach activity has been very well supported locally, and the connections with residential nursing homes in the parish area have developed and flourished, offering concerts and singalong events. Our Rector takes regular church services in nursing homes, and some choir members have also been engaged in helping to lead worship.

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

Messy Church & Muddy Church have grown and developed and are seen as a primary means of connecting with local families and residents through the provision of fun activities based around a worship theme, followed by a family meal.

Our church and halls are used by both parish and local organisations.

Regular activities taking place include Sunday School, Ladies' Guild, Craft & Chat, 'Sole Mates' walking group, badminton club, 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, curry evening, '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. Our Church Hall is used as a polling station at election time.

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.

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.stmoluaonline.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

2023 has been a year of consolidation now that the impact of the pandemic has lessened. Our income streams are more or less back to normal – in particular we are able to receive income from the hire of the hall and conduct fund raising events in the way we would have done pre-covid. However, with that comes the withdrawal of the Government support we had benefited from over the past three years.

In the previous year (2022) income from various sources was £99,825 the income for 2023 increased to £130,221, a substantial increase. However, the income in 2019 – the last 'normal' year – was over £120,000 and in 2018 it was nearly £128,000. The expenditure for 2023 was also substantially higher at £130,000.

In 2022 the freewill offering donations fell by £940 to £64,391.25 this year it increased slightly to £65,162 an increase of £771. In 2019, pre-covid, this figure was £72,796 – so the income from free-will offering, the main source of income, has not recovered from pre-covid times.

The income from the hire of the hall fell by approximately £800 in 2023 – however this is still an increase of just under £800 on the pre-covid figure in 2019. The key element in this year's income was the money raised through fund-raising activities. In 2019 £13,569 was raised through fund-raising events, (2019 being the last full year such events were possible), this year it was over £19,560. Much of this was raised through the long-awaited Flower Festival. This event alone raised early £15,000 in clear profit after all expenses were deducted. The calendars based on the Flower Festival added a further £1,000 approximately after printing costs.

In 2022 the utility costs were £4,584, this year they doubled to £9,263. These costs should be reduced in the coming year as the price of gas continues to fall. This year we increased our charitable donations to local and

international charities to £5,606 – an increase of £2,200 from the previous year- representing approximately 8.7% of our freewill offering.

This year the income from the Gift Aid Scheme fell slightly to £15,204 – however this should increase substantially in 2024 due to the income from the Flower Festival.

This year on-going maintenance tasks have continued – some unexpected including the leaky roof in the church hall which has already cost the church £3,500 from the general account in the effort to repair this with little success. The repair and maintenance account appears to be healthy, showing a balance of £19,223. However, much of this money is ‘restricted funds’ which means that they can only be used for specific projects and includes the grant from the Diocese specifically for mission and outreach work.

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 31st December 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.

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 receives a salary 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.

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

Emma Rutherford

Rev Emma Rutherford (Chair)

Trustee 2

F Hastie (Secretary)

Date

Frances H. Hastie

5/8/24