

BORING WELLS
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles and Memorandum of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019) which are prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for the purposes of company as well as charity law.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the charity continued to be that of establishing and maintaining a network of mission shaped communities - focusing primarily on the work of St Christopher's and the community around it. All of this has been achieved by support group meetings and providing premises and facilities to carry this out.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have furthered the Parish's objectives, for the public benefit.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Boring Wells works primarily in inner East Belfast, from its premises, St Christopher's, Mersey Street. This was a "closed" church within the Church of Ireland Parish of Ballymacarrett. There is an active Faith Community that gathers on a Sunday morning as part of the wider community however the main work is around Larder>East, a Community Food Hub.

No charge is made for the use of the building.

Worship

The faith community is an inclusive, progressive, welcoming space, allowing for the exploration of spirituality from a Christian perspective. It hosts a Pride brunch every year as part of Belfast Pride Week and a monthly community meal as well as a regular weekly gathering.

Larder>East Community Food Hub

Larder>East has continued to grow and evolve throughout the year, further embedding itself as a vital, community-led response to food insecurity and nutritional inequality in East Belfast. The hub exists to challenge the systemic barriers to accessing good quality, locally sourced, nutritious food, while promoting dignity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Membership Model

In response to concerns around dependency on food banks and the need for dignity in food access, Larder>East has successfully implemented and expanded its membership model. This inclusive system allows individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds to shop side by side, with tiered pricing made possible through the support of public donors and grant funders. Over 400 households have taken up membership, with 70–80 households accessing the hub weekly for affordable, nutritious food.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

Local Sourcing and Supplier Partnerships

Larder>East continues to prioritise local food sourcing, building strong relationships with suppliers such as Bethany Fruit Market, Four Leaf Farm, Bakari Bakery, Tullyveery Farm Produce, Holywood Co Farm, Allied Bakeries, and Musgrave Cash and Carry. This supports the local economy and ensures a regular supply of fresh produce, bread, dairy, and pantry staples.

Inclusive and Diverse Community

The food hub serves a diverse membership, with members and volunteers representing a wide range of ethnicities, ages, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities and disabilities, and religious or non-religious beliefs. This diversity contributes to a welcoming and inclusive environment where community spirit thrives.

Key Initiatives:

Dinner's Done

A highly valued weekly initiative, Dinner's Done provides meal packs with pre-measured ingredients and simple recipes. Often incorporating produce from the Larder>East garden, this project reduces meal planning fatigue and promotes home cooking skills among participants.

The Kitchen

Every Thursday and Tuesday evening, members are invited to share a simple, nutritious meal prepared on-site. These gatherings foster connection, reduce social isolation, and occasionally feature live music, creating a warm, welcoming community space.

Community Garden

In partnership with Grow NI, the Community Garden is flourishing. With guidance from our part-time gardener and herbalist, volunteers cultivate seasonal fruit, vegetables, and herbs. The garden not only enhances the food supply but also strengthens physical and mental well-being, while offering hands-on learning and social connection. A "Chatty Bench" initiative, supported by East Belfast Community Development Agency, encourages mental health conversations and community engagement.

Herb Church

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, Herb Church is a new monthly programme launched in mid-2024 and is already demonstrating strong engagement and impact. Rooted in nature connection and community healing, this immersive experience brings people together around the healing properties of native Irish plants, incorporating plant identification, foraging, medicine-making, storytelling, and nature-based rituals. Each month, 16+ participants engage in activities that promote personal and collective well-being. The programme launched with a well-attended immersive concert—"A Little Herbal Hymnal"—which drew 80 attendees and helped raise awareness of the project. Using plants often disregarded as weeds, Herb Church communicates a broader message about the value of what society overlooks, aligning with Boring Wells' ethos of inclusion and dignity.

Electric Top-Ups

Thanks to a generous donation from Christian Fellowship Church, Strandtown, electricity top-ups were distributed to families over the Christmas period—providing practical support during a financially challenging time.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

Onsite Advice Services

Through a partnership with Feeding Britain and Advice NI, a trained advisor is present one morning a week to provide free, confidential support on benefits, housing, and other practical issues—ensuring that members have access to holistic care.

Workshops

As part of our ongoing commitment to holistic well-being, sustainability, and community learning, we continue to provide opportunities for engagement with natural remedies, food education, and gardening. Our members benefit from regular access to a herbalist, as well as hands-on experiences in the community garden, where they can learn about growing and using a wide range of herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Activities include the preparation and sampling of medicinal teas, discussions on natural remedies, and the informal sharing of recipes, cooking tips, and new or culturally diverse foods.

Storytelling

This year, in collaboration with EastSide Arts and the Armstrong Storytelling Trust we delivered a series of six storytelling sessions exploring the myths and legends of Ulster. The sessions celebrated the power of oral storytelling, helping to foster a renewed sense of identity and belonging within our diverse community.

Overall, Larder>East Community Food Hub continues to demonstrate innovation and compassion in addressing the root causes of food poverty while building a stronger, more connected local community. The hub has not only grown in numbers but in impact — enabling people to access nutritious food with dignity and purpose.

Other Connections

FARESHARE - Food redistribution project
East Belfast Community Development Agency
East Belfast Mission
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
East Belfast Churches Network
Trussell Trust
Advice NI
Storehouse
Save the Children
Belfast City Council
Together CIC
Food Ethics Council
Connswater (Homes)
In this Together
Glentoran Eastside Partnership
Surestart
CFC East Belfast
Anti Poverty Alliance
St Columba's
Grow NI
Carrick Greengrocers
Feeding Britain
Navigate IFA

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows that the Parish had a net decrease in unrestricted general resources amounting to £8,971 (2023: increase of £27,453), a net decrease in unrestricted designated funds amounting to £2,740 (2023: increase of £3,894) and a net increase of restricted resources of £3,024 (2023: increase of £27,291). At the year-end our total funds amounted to £231,640 (2023: £240,327).

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level. At the year end the unrestricted reserves totalled £200,850 (2023: £212,561). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. We have retained significant reserves for a number of reasons. In principle we retain nine months' operational costs. The premises we use may well be in need of significant maintenance and although we are a tenant the landlord has no resources to do this so it falls to us to enable us to continue our activities. We have a relatively short and uncertain tenancy so we need to maintain significant reserves to enable us to move premises which may happen at short notice. We also are retaining reserves in anticipation of perhaps needing new staff as the charity develops its work.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. However, at the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have established a new company with new memorandum and articles to succeed the present company. The charity originally was a network of different projects but is now one project so its objects needed to be articulated in a different way. These new memorandum and articles have been agreed by the Trustees, the company had been registered and has received final approval from the Charities Commission and HMRC. The new company is "The Larder Belfast", Company number NI715819. The balance of our funds will be transferred to this new charity, in accordance with our present provisions, we hope later in 2025 and the current company will close. The new company will continue the charitable work on an uninterrupted basis. Consequently, the trustees have not adopted the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements but rather an "Orderly Realisation Basis".

The results for the year are set out in the attached financial statements.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association since its incorporation on the 9 June 2009. The charity is registered in Northern Ireland under number NI072847.

The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under the registration number 102637 and accepted by HMRC as a charity under the reference XT13985.

The charity's address is St Christopher's, 70 Mersey Street, Belfast, BT4 1EW, Northern Ireland. This is also the company's registered office address.

Trustees delegate day-to-day management to Mrs M. Louise Ferguson.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Principal Office Bearers

Chairperson:	Mr G McDade
Treasurer:	Mr M McCann
Secretary:	Mrs Alison Craig

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

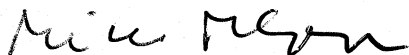
Company law and the law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources including the income and expenditure of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

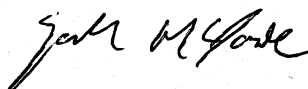
The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mr M McCann - Director

Date.....7/9/25.....



GORDON McDADE - Director

Date.....7/9/25.....