

**CHURCH OF IRELAND  
DIOCESE OF DERRY & RAPHOE  
ST. LURACH'S PARISH OF MAGHERA  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Reference and administrative details**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Church of Ireland, Diocese of Derry & Raphoe, St. Lurach's Parish of Maghera
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC104777
<b>Principal office</b>	15 Church Street Maghera Co Londonderry BT46 5EA

**The trustees**

Stephen Richardson	Stephen Drennan
Elizabeth Davison	Hilary McKenzie
David Montgomery	Robert Rainey
Elizabeth Montgomery	Alistair McKinley
Adeleine Selfridge	Mervyn Hutchinson
Nigel Selfridge	Noel Booth
Pearl Moore	Alan Workman
Alana Shiels	Rev Jonathan Brown

<b>Accountants</b>	PFS Accountants and Auditors Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 122 Main Street Dungiven Co Derry BT47 4LG
--------------------	--

**Structure, governance and management**

St. Lurach's Parish of Maghera is a charity managed by the trustees.

**Objectives and activities**

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

The principal function of St Lurach's Parish of Maghera is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Lurach's Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society 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 Lurach's Parish of Maghera 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 Lurach's Parish of Maghera.

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

During the year the charity had receipts of £78,866 this includes monies from offerings, collections, donations, grants and income from investments.

To help achieve the advancement of the Christian religion and provide public benefit, the Select Vestry of St Lurach's, Maghera & Killelagh, continued to share the truth and love of Christ in our community. Our vision statement: "A family that loves Jesus and has his heart for the world" is at the centre of all carried out by the Parish and charity.

During the first half of 2022, we were much in the recovery stage from COVID. Importantly, children's work was focused on continuing to enrich the lives of primary-school aged children. Although adults have suffered from isolation and loneliness throughout the pandemic, children, with as yet undeveloped social and relational skills have perhaps been more greatly impacted than we have realised. As such, our spiritual care and nurture for children has been a vital ministry and public benefit to our community. This was demonstrated and showcased in an "Easter Trail" in April, and a "Children's Day" in May.

Along with this attention to children, in June, multi-generational gatherings were facilitated with a "Bring-and-Share" lunch and setting up a BBQ-stall for a community day at the Maghera Wall Garden.

Our pace quickened as we moved towards the end of the summer. At the beginning of September, we held a "24-Hour Prayer" event, which invited members of the Parish and community to bring all their cares - spiritual, emotional, and practical - to God, for themselves, the Parish, and the community. All were welcome and St Lurach's Church remained open throughout the night to be accessible to everyone in Maghera and beyond. This preceded the launch of a community "Creation Trail" in September in the Rectory Grounds which was very well attended and proved a great success. Additionally, a hardship fund for those in need within the Parish was also established.

Utilising the changing seasons, Harvest was celebrated with a special lunch in October. And as we moved into November, along with welcoming the Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday, we also held a "Remembering our Loved Ones" service on the same evening. The devastation which COVID has caused meant that there have been many bereavements during these last three years which were not properly or normally marked. Restrictions on funerals and the inability to gather together at such a time of loss and grief has created and exacerbated already deep wounds. So, this community service was for all to share their grief together at a special service to receive comfort and strength from one another and from the LORD our God.

Children's ministry continued and increased throughout the year. From the Parish's Sunday School group climbing from 11 to 19 each week, to special events held for primary-age children such as a "Festival of Light" to coincide with All Hallow's Eve. Additionally, we hosted a children's Christmas party and enjoyed the children telling "The Christmas Story" in St Lurach's in early December. Then in later December, there was a special "Christingle" Sunday focused on children and young families as part of our spiritual outreach into the community with the love of God

Along with a return of a Parish Christmas dinner, a special series of events and services occurred during December including Carol Services in both churches, a very successful "Community Carols by Moonlight" held at the Rectory, and a "Five Lessons and Carols" service at "Mullagh Court" sheltered housing.

In spite of the difficult last few years during the pandemic, we believe that the Parish of St Lurach's, Maghera & Killelagh has meaningfully delivered its aims and objectives. The charity listed as "St Lurach's Parish, Maghera" has given careful consideration to the 'Charity Commission for NI' guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the parish objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit to the wider community. All in all, we are pleased that our recovery from the effects and impact of COVID are palpable and we intend to carry forward all the good work done and completed by the end of 2022. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to all that 2023 will hold.

### Financial review

During the year the charity made a net deficit of £4,265. This is shown on page 6 of the accounts.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 17 October 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Rev. Jonathan Brown  
Trustee

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Brown in black ink.

Robert Rainey  
Trustee

Handwritten signature of Robert D. Rainey in black ink.