

**CHURCH OF IRELAND
DIOCESE OF DERRY & RAPHOE
ST. LURACH'S PARISH OF MAGHERA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative details

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

The trustees

Stephen Richardson	Stephen Dr Stephen Drennan
Elizabeth Davison - resigned	Hilary McI Hilary McKenzie
David Montgomery	Robert Rai Robert Rainey
Elizabeth Montgomery	Alistair Mc Alistair McKinley
Adeleine Selfridge	Mervyn H Mervyn Hutchinson
Nigel Selfridge	Noel Booth Noel Booth
Pearl Moore	Alan Work Alan Workman
Alana Shiels - resigned	Rev Jonath Rev Jonathan Brown
William Kirkpatrick	Philip Montgomery
Jacqueline Moore	Aileen Riddle

Accountants	PFS Accountants and Auditors Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 122 Main Street Dungiven Co Derry BT47 4LG
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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

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.

This vision was expressed during February 2023, when we held a "Bring-and-Share" lunch to foster community relations. While in March we raised £1000 in aid of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake appeal and closer to home held an outside event in the Rectory grounds for families - "Lost sheep scavenger hunt". In the run up to Easter, the Parish organised a well-attended 'Gospel-music' concert, which led into Holy Week events such as a 'Healing and Wholeness' service and traditional Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Additionally, for children and families, we ran a "Messy Good Friday" event as an alternative to the more traditional Easter services. Along with participation in school assemblies, our spiritual care and nurture for children has been a vital ministry and public benefit to our community. The first half of 2023, culminated in a "Coronation Party" celebrating the crowning of King Charles III in May, and our "Children's Day" and BBQ along with a "Vintage Car" rally for the community in June.

During the summer, we held a children's holiday bible club called "Epic Explorers" and then took part in a community day in Maghera Walled Garden by setting up a BBQ stand.

As we kicked off the new church year in September, we did so by setting up a family "Prayer Trail" around the Rectory grounds and 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.

Reaching out with the love of Jesus, we ran an Alpha course in September-October for those who wanted to find out more about Christian faith. Moreover, utilising the changing seasons, Harvest was celebrated with a "Big Breakfast", and special Harvest services in both churches in October. And as we moved into November, traditional services were held on Remembrance Sunday.

Children's ministry continued and increased throughout the year. From the Parish's Sunday School group restarting, 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 a children's Nativity Play.

In December, along with a return of the Parish Christmas dinner, a special series of events and services were held to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The theme was a "Christmas of Carols" during which we took all the favourite carols and used them to explain how they told the Christmas story. Such events included traditional church services, an ecumenical Carol service held in aid of "Cancer Research", a very successful "Community Carols by Moonlight" held in the Rectory grounds, a "Five Lessons and Carols" service at "Mullagh Court" sheltered housing, and a "Parishioner's Favourite Carols" service.

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 2023. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to all that 2024 will hold.

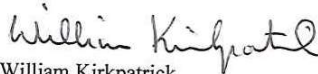
Financial review

During the year the charity made a net deficit of £324. This is shown on page 6 of the accounts.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 17 October 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Rev. Jonathan Brown
Trustee



William Kirkpatrick
Trustee