

**CHURCH OF IRELAND  
DIOCESE OF DERRY & RAPHOE  
ST. LURACH'S PARISH OF MAGHERA  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

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

**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 - resigned 10.04.24	Stephen Drennan	Anne Crooks - appointed 10.04.24
Elizabeth Davison - resigned	Hilary McKenzie	Shirley Kirkpatrick - appointed 10.04.24
David Montgomery - resigned 10.04.24	Robert Rainey	Des McCready - appointed 10.04.24
Elizabeth Montgomery	Alistair McKinley	Heather O'Malley - appointed 10.04.24
Adeleine Selfridge	Mervyn Hutchinson - resigned 10.04.24	
Nigel Selfridge	Noel Booth	
Pearl Moore	Alan Workman - resigned	
Alana Shiels - resigned	Rev Jonathan Brown	
William Kirkpatrick	Philip Montgomery - resigned 10.04.24	
Jacqueline Moore	Aileen Riddle	

<b>Accountants</b>	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 January 2024, when we held a 'learning to pray' course for those wanting to learn where to begin with prayer. Additionally, we ran a 'pre-marriage course' for those thinking about getting married. In February, we both commissioned a new 'Parish Reader', Mrs Hilary McKenzie, and celebrated 25 years of faithful parish ministry by Miss Pearl Moore.

During Lent, we started with a special lunch in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support which raised £1000. Recognising the suffering and hurts which cancer and life can inflict, we then sought to 'wrestle with God' and all the big questions through evening services during Lent on the Psalms. As we neared Easter, the Parish held special services in both churches including a non-traditional "Messy Good Friday" event for children and families. Along with participation in school assemblies, our spiritual care and nurture for children has been a vital ministry and public benefit to our community. As we moved from Easter towards the summer, we held a "Discipleship Explored" course for anyone seeking to understand the basics of Christian living. Then as the first half of 2024 was drawing towards a close, in June we had a special "Children's Day" with BBQ, along with a "Vintage Car" rally for the community.

During the summer, mindful that the Olympics were being held in Paris this year, we held a children's holiday bible club called "Run the Race" and then we 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 with 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 held a special 'back-to-school' service for children, parents and those working in education called the "Blessing of the Bags". We invited them to bring their school bags or briefcases and during the service we prayed blessing upon them and all that this year (and their bags!) would hold. 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 and the theme of 'Remembrance', we held a special service for 'Baby Loss Awareness Week', and traditional services on Remembrance Sunday for the Parish as well as hosting one for the Royal British Legion (Upperlands Branch).

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 with all the good work done and completed by the end of 2024. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to all that 2025 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 8 October 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Rev. Jonathan Brown  
Trustee

William Kirkpatrick  
Trustee

Rev. J. Brown

William Kirkpatrick