

St. Guaire's Annual Report 2024

I want to begin this report thanking the members of the Select Vestry for all their work this past year. You are an outstanding group of people who have worked very well together, even when difficult things need to be discussed.

The Tower

Repairs to the Church Tower has been the concern for a number of years now, we have been making applications for grants for this work and we hope with the help of the Conservation Architect Mr. Des Cairns, we have employed that this work will, we hope, commence early 2025.

We researched grants for work needing to be done in additional help from Mr. David Knox, Springmount Consulting. We have of course been hosting fund raising events all through the year, and will continue to do so to help with the repairs. The cost of the Church Tower repairs are very considerable.

Most people don't like to talk about money - and too often you will hear people speak about churches negatively, "they are always on the lookout for more money"! St. Guaire's income derives from free will offerings, donations, Gift Aid; interest and rent from the glebe land. From this income we pay sustentation to our Diocese, plus the usual costs for utilities, insurance, events, etc.

Trustees

The Trustees are a team of people work tirelessly and are too modest to seek any recognition, but I want to acknowledge their tremendous contribution.

Our Church Calendar is made up of many festivals and it is only right that we celebrate them, these events of course are a blessing for us as a community, everyone is invited to join us for anything we hold. In common with many churches and organisations we have still a way to go to be pre-Covid attendance.

Coffee Evening

We hosted our annual Coffee Evening in September. Volunteers worked brilliantly together to entertain and feed people, and we had a cake stall and arts and craft tables. We have such creative people in the parish and we thank God for their many gifts.

Who does what in church?

The Churchwardens, Michelle and John welcome you to church each week. Rozzy is Secretary who keeps the minutes of each meeting. Anne is the Treasurer. Robert and Andrew are the Glebewardens, and our graveyard and property are kept in good order. Bonnie and her team keep the church and halls so clean and tidy. Jack and Ian work the Powerpoint and PA system for the services and events.

We have church services at 11am every Sunday and Sunday School classes at the same time. We have excellent teachers and helpers, Zephryn (Superintendent), Deborah, Jane, Chloe, and Aimee, this work involves teenagers and is a great opportunity for them to hone their already existing skills and learn new ones. Mothers' Union meets each month under the care of Gill, and we have a Thursday Craft Group led by Hazel McG.

Bible Study Group Wednesday 10.30am and 7.30pm, Men's Monthly Meeting, we have Guides and Rangers, Friday nights, Rozzy.

Safeguarding Panel

We have a team of trained people to advise on matters concerning the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

Team: David Anderson, Rozzy Skuce and the Rector.

In 2025...

We have plans for a Concert and a Christmas Tree Festival and the annual Coffee Evening, these are great ways of getting together, having fun and raising money for all we need to do.

The purpose of all our groups is friendship, outstretched hands, coming together, building relationships, hope, joy, laughter, love,

in step together, stepping out together, hands of friendship,
binding and building bridges stronger together!

In coming together we see that we are a part of something beyond ourselves, we are connected to others on this journey of seeking God. We are less likely to give up, less likely to turn around, because others beside us are striving toward the same goal. God has intended us to be in community with others, together seeking Him.

Rev. Louise Crawford-McCafferty
Rector
Chair of Trustees