

ANNUAL REPORT – ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SLOAN STREET, LURGAN
for the year ending 31st December 2023
Charity Number NIC 101225

TRUSTEES

Trustees are members of the Select Vestry and are elected / re-elected each year at the Annual General Vestry meeting.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

Chapter 111 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT VESTRY

All members of the Church of Ireland who contribute to the Parish in a recordable manner, are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the Parish allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. The General Vestry meets once a year and the Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

STRUCTURE

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the serving clergy, the Churchwardens, the Glebewardens and not more than twelve other members elected at the General Vestry Meeting. Vestry Meetings are chaired by the Rector and members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as how parish funds are to be used. Vestry meetings are held on a monthly basis and special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Churchwardens.

PURPOSE

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion. The principal function of St. John the Evangelist is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Parish, the whole mission of the Church.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

St. John's Parish is a vibrant and welcoming church family of different ages and backgrounds seeking to build faith and community in Lurgan. Our weekly service at 11am has children's programmes for both pre-school and primary aged children. We are consistently seeing about 60 people gather for worship each week. We also started a new monthly mid-week praise and prayer evening called Behold.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

During the year we run different activities and programmes for children and families both on Sundays and during the week. Activities during the year include:

- Community Family Fun Day event on St. Patrick's Day
- Messy Easter for families on Good Friday
- Holiday Bible Club for children 24th – 28th July
- 'Play-It-By-Ear' nativity shows for local Primary Schools
- Tots & Co. toddler group on Thursday mornings
- Kids Club for Primary School aged children on Friday evenings
- Kingdom Kids and Little Church during Sunday service

PARISH GROUPS

We provide programmes to encourage members in their faith and give opportunities for social connection. These include Coffee and Crafts, Connect Groups, and Men's FELLA-ship. Our Mother's Union closed in December in order to make space for a new group to better meet the needs of women inside and outside the church.

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

In January this year we employed a part-time Family Outreach Worker to develop our spiritual and practical outreach into the community amongst children and their families. Her role has significantly increased our presence in the community and enabled us to start several new programmes such as Tots & Co., Kids Club and Little Church. We also run a bi-weekly drop-in called the HUB. This new role has also enabled us to expand our compassion ministry through more personal face-to-face contact and support.

In addition to this, we give away 10% of our annual giving to various charities at local, national and global level.

FINANCES

The Finances are managed by the Treasurer who reports back to the Trustees at monthly Vestry Meetings. Security and safeguarding of all monies is important to the Trustees. All money is recorded, counted and banked under dual control.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023 was accepted by the Select Vestry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Charity Trustees have complied with their duties in line with the Commission's Public Benefit Statutory Guidance. Regular worship and reaching out into the community as well as other activities and fundraising have been carried out through the year to fulfil our statement of Public Benefit. Public worship is open to all and our halls are used by a few external groups on a regular basis.

MITIGATION OF HARM

It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. The Select Vestry adheres to the guidelines and a Safe Guarding Trust Panel is in place. All those who come into contact with the children who attend the various organisations have attended Safeguarding Trust training and are subject to Child Protection checks. Responsibility under Health and Safety legislation is taken seriously and measures are in place for the protection of those using the halls. Regular risk assessments are carried out and regular reports made to the Vestry by the Health & Safety Officers.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a Statement of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year.

Trustees are also responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE 1

Carol Kelly

TRUSTEE 2

Boole