

THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S, STONEYFORD

Charity registration number: NIC101441

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST December 2023

Rector – Rev. John Farr



Rector's Churchwarden

Mr Desmond McCourt

Peoples' Churchwarden

Mrs Annie McDonald

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Jennifer Kennedy

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Jason McCourt



STONEYFORD PARISH ST JOHN'S CHURCH

9th April 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Last summer Angela and I were at a Johnny Cash Tribute Concert at the Sheddings, Glenarm (My Birthday present). During his introduction the main act was saying how good it was to be back performing after being off for 2 years. Angela whispered, 'I wonder why he was off for 2 years???' . 'Erm Hello! everybody was off for 2 years! Covid !!!'

It is easy to forget however, Lockdowns, Social distancing, Masks, Travel and activity restrictions, working from home are more or less gone. Hand sanitizers' lie empty and unused. Covid seems like a long-forgotten nightmare. Unless of course you have been badly affected by or lost a loved one to the virus!

Or indeed you are a Church who has seen Congregations, numbers and income failing to recover from the lockdowns. While Stonyford's finances are holding firm our weekly Sunday attendances have dropped especially with regard to the Sunday School.

This does not bode well for the long-term future of Stoneyford Parish. Plans and actions are underway to connect with and encourage involvement of Parishioners who have become disconnected from the Church and indeed wider members of the Community. We are certainly not alone in this phenomenon in St Johns, and it is a worry for many Parishes.

On a more positive note, we do have good numbers tuning into our services online, a valuable resource for those unable to get to Church for Sunday services, Funerals and Weddings. I would like to thank all those who have made this continuing ministry possible, in particular, Jason, Jennifer, Laura, Lyndsey, Sarah, Claire, Dessie and Rebecca for their time and talents. We are open to more Volunteers for these jobs, so if anyone is available, please let me know.

We welcome new members Jakob, Rose and Hugo to the Church by Holy Baptism in the past year.

We also celebrated the Marriage of Stephen McCarrigher and Rachel Berry.

On a sadder note, the Stevenson family have been particularly hard hit in the past year with the loss of Gary and Nell. Their families are still very much in our thoughts and prayers. We also remember the McCourt family as both George and Tilly were interred in the Churchyard last year.

I would like to thank the congregation for your continuing support over the past year as Priest-in-charge of St John's.

I would especially like to thank the wardens, Zelda, Annie, Terence and Dessie, Treasurer Jason, Secretary Jennifer and all the members of the Select Vestry who have been instrumental in building and sustaining the Church here in Stoneyford and our Organist Rosemary for leading us in our Praise. We welcome Lucy Steele to support Rosemary in this Ministry going forward. Lucy will be completing her Organ Scholarship next year.

The 'Lawn Rangers' headed up by Vicar's Glebe Warden Zelda and her team of volunteers have continued the maintenance of the Church grounds for the past year. A fantastic Ministry which all can appreciate and an opportunity for everyone to get involved in serving in the church.

St John's continues to work with Mission Partners Christian Aid, CEF, Crosslinks and CMS to share in the wider work of Christ's church incarnate here on earth.

I would like to thank the Sunday school teachers, Abbie, Nichola, Jenny and Molly for all their hard work in what has been a difficult year for the Sunday School.

It just leaves me to wish you all a blessed year to come in St John's, Stoneyford.

***Jesus said 'upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'* Matthew 16v18**

Yours in Christ,



**Reverend John Farr, 60 Belfast Road, Glenavy, Co. Antrim, BT29 4HR
J20far@hotmail.com Tel.: 07808 399579**

The Parish of St John Stoneyford

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	NOTE	2,023 £
INCOME		
Freewill Offering	£	34,386
Weekly Plate Collection	£	958
Tax Refund- Gift Aid	£	6,032
Tax Refund- Gift Aid Small donations	£	1,960
Easter Gift Day	£	612
Childrens Day	£	437
Harvest Thanksgiving	£	1,174
Investment income dividends	£	1,495
Use of Church Hall	£	-
Gift Aid envelope	£	-
Rent of Rectory	£	8,351
Appeals	£	3,026
Graveyard	£	180
Terence Smyth- Glebe Rent	£	600
Fundraising	£	-
Misc. Income	£	234
	£	59,444

The Parish of St John Stoneyford

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

NOTE 2,023

EXPENDITURE

Stipend, etc

Clerical Stipend

£ 32,148

Diocesan Support - Clergy Pension Fund

£ 4,414

Visiting Clergy

£ 270

£ 36,832

Organist(s) Fee

Organist(s) Fee

£ 2,440

Diocesan Levy (ies)

Diocesan General Fund

£ 4,757

Rectory Costs

Rectory Expenses

£ 4,035

Premises etc

Insurances

£ 2,195

Light & Heat

£ 1,486

Church Expenses

£ 2,384

Church Hall Expenses

£ 130

Church Activities

£ 290

General Expenses

£ 387

Presents

£ 100

Donations

£ 5,665

£ 12,637

Miscellaneous

Accountancy Fee

£ -

Stationery and Postage

£ 230

Sunday School

£ 547

Bank Fees

£ 340

£ 1,118

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£ 61,819

SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

-£ 2,375

The Parish of St John Stoneyford

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	2022	2023
INVESTMENTS		
St James Place Wealth Management	£ <u>79,611</u>	£ <u>85,602</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors & Prepayments		£ -
Ulster Bank Ltd		£ 25,333
Ulster Bank Ltd - Big Account		£ 13
Cash on hand		£ -
		<u>£ 25,346</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals		£ 600
Diocesan General Fund		£ -
		<u>£ 600</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS / LIABILITIES		<u>£ 24,746</u>
NET ASSETTS		<u><u>£ 24,746</u></u>
REVENUE RESERVE		
Brought forward		£ 27,121
Surplus/deficit for year		<u>-£ 2,375</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED		<u><u>£ 24,746</u></u>


These Financial statements on pages 1-4, were approved at a meeting of the Select Vestry held on 9th April 2024 and where signed on its behalf by:-



Mr, J. McCourt

Honorary Treasurer

Rev. John Farr



Chairman