



**Parish of Ballynafeigh**

**St Jude's Church**

**NIC 102378**

Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ending

**31 December 2023**

**St Jude's Parish Church  
Trustee annual report  
for the year ended 31st December 2023  
Charity Number: NIC 102378**

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## **Our Vision**

St Jude's Church, in the Parish of Ballynafeigh, is situated on the Ormeau Road, a busy arterial route 2 miles from Belfast city centre. We are a Christian church within the Diocese of Down and Dromore in the Church of Ireland and are part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Our Vision Statement is: 'We are a church committed to Christ, welcoming people from all nations.'

We seek to fulfill this objective, by the conduct of public worship in the Anglican tradition and as a visible presence in the local community through outreach and by making the Church and Hall a welcoming environment.

## **Church Anniversary**

This year marked 150 years of being a Parish Church. St Jude's was planted by neighbouring Knockbreda Parish Church who had the vision to build a new church within their growing parish on the Ormeau Road, Belfast. It was completed in 1873 and was the first Church of Ireland church to be built after disestablishment. The first service was held on Sunday, March 30, 1873. Unusually, the Church was not consecrated until just over four months later on Thursday, August 7, 1873.

This year to mark St Jude's Sesquicentennial (150 years) we held a Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication on Saturday 20 May 2023. We welcomed Bishop David McClay and Canon William Press from Knockbreda Parish as the Guest Preacher. The special service was attended by parishioners past and present and members of the congregation. After the service people enjoyed viewing the historical exhibition inside the church along with generous slices of anniversary cake! The evening also premiered a short film, *The Life of St Jude's* now on our YouTube channel.

We used the year to be thankful for the past and hopeful for the future. We had a number of other special events including a Lego Exhibition Fundraiser, Kerygma Gospel Choir Concert and a Harvest Thanksgiving Lunch.

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## **Community Engagement**

We continued to serve our local community by engaging in a number of outreach programs. The various activities listed below provide opportunities to connect with new people and build relationships and then invite them to church services and ministries.

**Toddlers' Group:** Meeting every Monday morning at our Halls this has been a great entry point to the church as we have connected with parents, grandparents and carers of pre-school children. It has served an on going need attracting local people both cross-community and from different nations. We have seen a few attend church services having first attended this group.

**Craic with a cola can:** This happens outside on our church grounds where people of all ages and backgrounds can drop by for a drink and chat. It's a chance to be a physical presence on the Ormeau Road and build bridges between the church and community. We serve seasonal refreshments: hot chocolate when its freezing or ice lollies when its hot! It's a simple way of being good neighbours, showing kindness and connecting with those in the Ormeau area who would otherwise just pass by the church.

**Cosy Hubs:** As churches and community hubs on the Ormeau Road, we are aware of the rising costs of food and heating and of the challenges this poses to each of us in winter. We are especially concerned for the elderly, the isolated and the vulnerable in our community. Cosy Hubs are a simple way of coming together to ensure that on every weekday, at least one place on the road will be offering both warmth and an unconditional welcome to any who might appreciate it. Last winter we helped pilot this scheme and this winter plan to scale up the project by providing a hot meal once a week.

The above are examples of how the Select Vestry have met the Public Benefit requirement of an organisation that has charitable status.

## **Renewable Energy**

Both the Church and Church Hall have had solar panels installed, these provide the electricity with any surplus returned to the electricity grid.



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Ms K McMillan

Mrs E Stanex

Dr M Taggart

Mr G Thairu

Signed by trustees on behalf of all trustees

Signature

Print name

Date

Peter Bourke

Peter Bourke (Chair)

10 March 2024

Andrew Boal

Andrew Boal (Treasurer)

10 March 2024