



St. Brendan's

SYDENHAM

Charities Number: 103265

Trustee's Annual Report

For the Year ended 31 December 2023

St Brendan's Parish is a registered charity: No 103265



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Trustee's Annual Report
For Year Ended December 2023

Charities No: 103265

Charities Name: St Brendan's Church of Ireland Church

Address: 64A Larkfield Road, Belfast, BT4 1QE

Current Trustees:

Chair – Claire Pearson
Beth Ginnett
Claire McBride
Elizabeth Dall
Gillian Gorman
Karen Kane
Lauren Gorman
Laureene Ginnett
Lynda Storey
Margaret Harris
Neil Gorman
Robert Galbraith
Robyn Mann
Ted Ginnett
Cameron Gorman

Treasurer: Lauren Gorman

Hon. Secretary: Lynda Storey

Bank:

Ulster Bank Limited
Connswater Branch
Arches Retail Park
Belfast
BT5 4AF

Independent Examiner:

PGR Accountants Limited
Unit 2 Channel Wharf
21 Old Channel Road
Belfast
BT3 9DE

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For Year Ended December 2023

Trustees who served this charity during the period shown are:

Chair – Claire Pearson (as of 01/10/2022)

Beth Ginnett

Claire McBride

Elizabeth Dall

Gillian Gorman

Hazel Graham

Karen Kane

Lauren Gorman - *Treasurer*

Laureene Ginnett

Lynda Storey – *Hon. Secretary*

Margaret Harris

Neil Gorman

Robert Galbraith

Robyn Mann

Ted Ginnett

Cameron Gorman



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SYDENHAM

Structure, Governance and Management

St Brendan's is a church governed by the Laws of the Church of Ireland and run by a Select Vestry.

Recruiting and Appointing trustees

The select vestry is made up of an Incumbent, or member of the clergy officiating at the parish, the assistant curates.

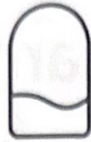
The Church Wardens – One is appointed by the incumbent, and one is voted for by the Select Vestry.

The Glebe Wardens – Again, one is appointed by the incumbent, and one is voted for by the Select Vestry.

Of the remaining General Vestry members, a group shall be selected by votes to act on behalf of the General Vestry, and these shall be the trustees.

At the soonest possible opportunity after the Annual General Meeting, an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed from these.

People may serve as office bearers without becoming Trustees, However, this will mean that they are not voting members of the Select Vestry.



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SYDENHAM

Objectives and Activities

The main aim of St Brendan's Church is to reach the community of Sydenham with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to reach out to the poor and those in need within our community.

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of St Brendan's Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Brendan's Church Sydenham, the whole mission of the Church's pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical values, and motivations. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, St Brendan's Church, Sydenham has custody of the property, and of records, material, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the select vestry of the St Brendan's Church of Ireland.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Our youth group "Urban Saints" grew in number in 2023, with more and more children from the local area joining us on Monday Nights for fun and fellowship. The group runs from P1 – P6 and meets every Monday night from 6.30 – 7.45 pm.

Every Wednesday night from 5.00pm – 6.30pm, the Slimming World group meet in our sports hall and a group from AA meet in our side chapel from 8.00pm – 10.00pm.

Our "H.U.G.S" tots' group has grown significantly, seeing an increased of parents and grandparents also attending church on Sundays. This group has allowed us as a church to support parents and grandparents of Sydenham and develop a relationship with more members of our community.

Café church has continued once a month with numbers continuing to grow each month. This service allows families to feel comfortable to attend a church service which may not be their norm. We have family friendly talks, activities, songs and then lunch is provided after. We hope to see a continuation of growth in café church especially through the link to HUGS.

Our "Women of Worth" (WOW) group met once a month for walks, cookery and craft nights (including a packed out Christmas wreath making evening) and outings such as to Eden Pottery.

The Men's Shed work came to completion with the floor being laid and walls painted. Men from the community have come for football and food nights.



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SYDENHAM

Starting in July, our 'Explore' group has been a great success. This group is run on the second Tuesday of the month and allows believers and non-believers to ask any questions they may have about the faith. Month by month the numbers grow and has encouraged attendance on a Sunday.

During the year, our church has joined with Knocknagoney Parish and Holywood Parish for monthly worship nights. This has been a fantastic opportunity to grow inter-church relationships but also to encourage all local communities to come out and be together. The numbers have increased dramatically from the first worship service to the end of the year. The worship team consists of members of all three churches and continues to expand month on month.

In addition to the ongoing programmes we also ran a number of events including a Coronation event on Sunday 7th May attended by over 200 people in the community. It involved an open air church service, afternoon teas, inflatables, crafts, food, coronation cake and queen Karen!

Coming into the summer there was many events for children, young people and their families including a mobile zoo visit, Urban Saints party, 'wee critters', Springvale farm, sports and fun days, teddy bear picnics and more. After the summer we held a 'back to school' community event along the theme of a funfair that was well attended.

At St Brendan's, Christmas outreach is always a huge date in our calendar. On Saturday 2nd December, we held our Christmas Village at the Church with local craft stalls, a quad train, Christmas food & drink, the salvation army band, and our Christmas tree light switch on. There was a turnout of over 500 people who had a great day. This was followed by 2 nights of our Santa's grotto in the church during the week. Families were able to enter the church for a Narnia themed wonderland. Our team had crafts and Christmas food & drink ready before the journeyed up through the wardrobe and through our light tunnel to see Santa and receive a gift. All slots were filled for this event and had great feedback from the community.

As usual, the generosity of our community was second to none. We were blessed with donations of toys, food and vouchers for those in our area who required a little help or encouragement over the Christmas period. At Christmas, we at St Brendan's strive to show God's love through our acts of service out to the community.

Our Christingle service was held on Sunday 10th December 2023. We held an outdoor carol service on the 17th of December joining with Strand Presbyterian and Sydenham Methodist and our Christmas morning service.



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Services

Rev Claire Pearson lead most services in the year until her maternity leave started mid-April. From here, Andrew Brannigan and Paula McIlwaine took over in a pastoral role for all Sunday services and mid-week activities.

The worship was led by the youth band or on piano by Margaret each week.

Each of the organisations that use our premises, who work with young people, must have a Child Protection Policy in place.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Trustees Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustee's remuneration or benefits for the Year Ended 31st December 2022
There were no trustees' expenses paid for in the Year Ended 31st December 2022.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees were responsible for the preparing of the Trustees Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transaction 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

Name: *Robyn Mann R.uer*

Date: *21/04/24*

Trustee 2:

Name: *KAREN KANE - Karen Kane*

Date: *21/04/24*