

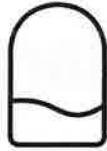
St. Brendan's
SYDENHAM

Charities Number: 103265

Trustee's Annual Report

For the Year ended 31 December 2024

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



St. Brendan's

SYDENHAM

Trustee's Annual Report

For Year Ended December 2024

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
Matthew Herron
Paul Bradley

Treasurer: Lauren Gorman

Hon. Secretary: Lynda Storey

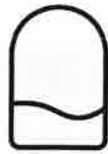
Bank:

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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Trustee's Annual Report
For Year Ended December 2024

Trustees who served this charity during the period shown are:

Chair – Claire Pearson
Beth Ginnett
Claire McBride
Elizabeth Dall
Gillian Gorman
Hazel Graham (*Resigned April 2024*)
Karen Kane
Lauren Gorman - *Treasurer*
Laureene Ginnett
Lynda Storey – *Hon. Secretary*
Margaret Harris
Neil Gorman
Robert Galbraith
Robyn Mann
Ted Ginnett
Cameron Gorman
Matthew Herron (*Joined April 2024*)
Paul Bradley (*Joined April 2024*)



St. Brendan's
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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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" continued to grow in popularity in 2024, 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.

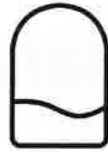
Every Wednesday night from 5.00pm – 6.30pm, the Slimming World group meet in our sports hall and a group from AA meet in our side chapel from 8.00pm – 10.00pm.

Our "H.U.G.S" tots' group continues to grow and show increasing favour in the community, seeing an increase 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 structure welcomes families and allows them to feel more 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 and recently some fitness Zumba nights.

The Men's group have been on multiple outings this year to both mini golf and bowling. Our men's group continues to grow in size as they plan future events.



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Our bible study group 'Explore' has continued to be 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.

Our Joint worship nights with Knocknagoney Parish and Holywood Parish for monthly worship nights have been so encouraging. This year we have seen numbers grow to between 90-100 people at some evenings. This has been hugely encouraging to growing the inter-church relationship and also to our surrounding communities. The worship team consists of members of all three churches and continues to expand month on month. We hope to expand this relationship into more of our ministries

In addition to the ongoing programmes, we also ran a number of events including a our back to school Funday at the end of August attended by over 400 people in the community. We had bouncy castles, BBQs, slush puppies, face painters and plenty of fun.

Coming into the summer, we held Saturday morning breakfast clubs. This provided a space for families to come free of charge, to have a good breakfast and take part in activities such as messy art, petting zoos, 'wee critters' and a trip to happy town at the end of the summer.

Christmas is our favourite time of year at St Brendan's. This year we had our Christmas light switch on right after our Christingle service on 1st December 2024. This drew out great numbers of the community as we took a collection in aid of 'Brain Waves NI'.

The week following this, we had over 600 members of our community show up for the second year of our fabulous Santas Grotto Event. Our theme was 'Nativity' with a live farm in the stable! Our team provided crafts, hot Christmas drinks and treats for the community before they journeyed up through the stable doors and through our light tunnel to see Santa and receive a gift. The event was sold out and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Santa Paws was held on the Saturday afternoon, where people booked in to get photos of their pets with Santa, all in aid of the BARN Animal Rescue Sanctuary Newtownards.

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.

During the year, we were able to support multiple charities with fantastic causes, including the Maridi bike appeal held by the Diocese of Down and Dromore. We were able to purchase 10 bikes for the clergy in Maridi to aid their pastoral work in their area.



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Services

Andrew Brannigan and Paula McIlwaine continued their pastoral roles for all Sunday services and mid-week activities until Rev'd Claire Pearson returned from Maternity in April 2024. Andrew Brannigan and Paula McIlwaine resumed their position from December 2024, as Rev'd C Pearson went on maternity leave.

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 2024. There were no trustees' expenses paid for in the Year Ended 31st December 2024.

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 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

Name:

Date:

Lynda Storey (SEC)
LYNDA STOREY
6/3/25

Trustee 2:

Name:

Date:

PAUL J. BRADLEY (TRUSTEE)
Paul J. Bradley
6/3/25

