

As 2021 - 2022 re-opened Church, we as a Select Vestry, made important decisions concerning our future church vision and needs:

1. To invest in youth ministry through the appointment of a part-time youth colleague;
2. To renovate the vicarage according to Diocesan requirements, upgrading it to meet the Church of Ireland recommendations of size for the kitchen, utility area, family living space, an upstairs bedroom en-suite and widen the entrance to the vicarage driveway. The final cost is £261K and the work begins on Nov 21st lasting 6 months;
3. We made a difficult prayerful decision to set this amount aside from our unrestricted cash reserves. We are utilising about 50% of them and losing about 30% of our dividends that normally add to our yearly income.

However, the impact of the cost of living is also apparent.

- The Church of Ireland has raised the stipend of Ordained Ministry by 9%.
- Overheads of oil, electric and maintenance have risen and will rise even more in 2023.
- A trend of FWO decline is present as many faithful people can no longer give being now in residential care, or have sadly passed away. Their giving is not being replaced and this loss is noticeable.

Taking all this into account, we will experience a £12,000 deficit in 2023 and each year after. This is £1,000 per month.

So, together we can turn this around through a simple but generous additional

£10
per month

We need at least £10 each month from as many as possible to raise the necessary £1000 FWO per month to sustain our parish G.I.F.T. vision.

Please act now and give generously through either:

- Setting up a donation as a first time giver;
- Increasing your existing standing order;
- Putting £2 extra into your weekly envelope;
- Adding £120 to your Annual Donation.

Then, we will stand together as a church with our generosity reflecting both God's generosity to us and the future sustainability of Saintfield Parish.

Thank you for your support.

W hat to do next???

Pray first. Then respond &

Go online to begin or increase your giving

Name: Saintfield Parish Church

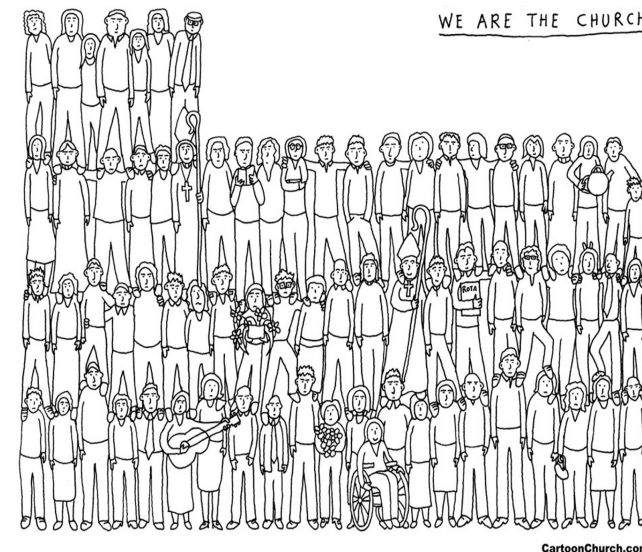
Sort Code: 95-04-34

Account Number: 51006312

Go to your Bank Branch if you are unsure and let them help you.

Talk to Chris or Sally for more info.

Saintfield Parish



G.I.F.T.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Growing God

Investing Wisely

Fuelling Church

Transforming Saintfield

Dear Friends (From Select Vestry)

We hope this finds you well and ask that you would take a few moments to read through this introduction to our church vision of

G.I.F.T.



It is the way forward that we, the Select Vestry, are committed to as we take our first steps of empowering vision beyond Covid.

We are seeking to build upon the generosity of faithful past generations so that moving forward we ensure the future witness and sustainability of Saintfield Parish.

This is part of a three phase strategy from 2018-2026

1. To renovate the parish hall in all its facilities and open it up even more to all the community;
2. To renovate the vicarage for any clergy family.
3. To renovate the parish church building by 2026.

Covid

Over the time of Covid however, so much changed.

With everything ceasing, people no longer being able to be together, the church and its facilities being closed, much of what we took for granted abruptly stopped. We thankfully had been able to complete the parish hall renovation, but everything else was put on hold.



Your Generosity

Throughout Covid, your generosity made all the difference. Many switched from envelopes to standing orders which offered constant income. (Those who still used envelopes were very faithful in regular giving).

We were also able to obtain some support from the Government for staffing costs and witnessed a large drop in our running costs as we were not using our facilities. This created an artificial surplus in 2020-2022.

We built up our current account and prepared for when the Church would re-open and start to grow again.