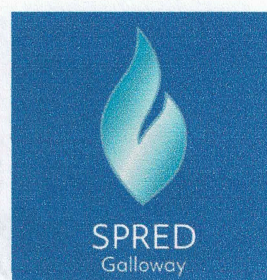


SPRED Galloway Trustees' Annual Report January 1st 2023 – December 31st 2023

The Board of Trustees of SPRED Galloway is made up of volunteers, people from the local community who work together to make SPRED Galloway a source of support in the community.

It is the full Board of Trustees which has legal duties and powers, and all trustees share in that corporate responsibility.



We are companions on the Journey



B.M. Welle 26.9.24.
S O'Hare



SPRED GALLOWAY

Scottish Charity Number: SC028764

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SPRED TRUSTEES

Charles Douglas - Chairperson

Hilary McKenzie – Secretary

Robert Mackie – Church Representative

Scott O'Hare – Friends Representative

Marie Wilkie – Faith Companions Representative

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

SPRED Galloway is charity offering people with learning disabilities and/or special needs support in their spiritual and personal development. It is faith based as members recognise that each one of us is on our own faith journey. As we journey together we nurture each other in our own faith. Please be aware that, as expressed in our constitution, SPRED Galloway is open to all faiths and to none.

At SPRED Galloway our **primary mission** is to promote our three core values:

- Friendship i.e. a meaningful, valued relationship with a person willing to share their life experiences.
- Inclusion within a small, mixed group of learning disabled people, known as Friends, and volunteers from the local community, Faith Companions.
- Belonging to a local community where a person's particular gifts are recognised and they are respected.

We also firmly believe that all SPRED's work is to be done with joy and delight.

We meet in **small local groups** and during 2023 these groups prepared sessions and met regularly in church halls. During times when sessions are not held members met for social events and for SPRED masses. Social events included an Easter Celebration on the 10th of April held in St. Quivox Church Hall, Prestwick and in December a (near champion!) SPRED table at a Quiz Night in St. Paul's Church Hall, Ayr. A regular weekday social meeting was trialled in Ayr, members and staff met in Weatherspoons at first and then moved to the Tesco Community Room. It is important that SPRED offers members time to engage in social events so that all abilities and talents may be encouraged and supported.

In 2023 SPRED Galloway offered a spiritual programme for adults.

SPRED is a faith community, working in small groups, using symbolic catechesis. This method asks people to respond to a symbol that evokes a memory of something they have experienced in their lives. The group shares what they have recalled using this lived experience to open them to the spiritual in their lives.

There are two types of session; a preparation session involving the volunteers (also known as faith friends) who get ready for the second, combined session, by studying the relevant text in our handbook, and exploring their life experiences as called up by the content of that text. In the **community session** the faith friends facilitate a response to the message and theme of the session. There is a period of quiet activity, a welcoming by name, a sharing of responses to the symbol, a shared message of love, singing and a sharing of food and conversation to finish. These sessions are full of joy, friendship and laughter. Agape – the sharing of food at the end of the session is a wonderful time for all the group to share news of family, events, and matters of interest. The firmness of SPRED friendships is consolidated in this loving care shared by all.

SPRED MASSES were held in Irvine on the 26th of March at St. Mary's, in Auchinleck at Our Lady & St. Patrick's on the 25th of June and at Our Lady of the Assumption & St. Meddan's in Troon on the 1st of December. We give grateful thanks to the welcome we received in these parishes. A SPRED Advent Service was held on the 11th of December in St. Margaret's Church Hall in Ayr and was very well attended by groups from all parts of Ayrshire. These events provide local parishes with an opportunity to see at first hand the joyfulness and camaraderie that SPRED offers to all who engage with us in our joint faith journey and it gives SPRED members an opportunity to engage with people not only from other parish communities but also with friends from other SPRED groups.



All are Welcome in this Place

E.M. Wilkie

26.9.24

SO'Hare

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGERMENTS

SPRED Galloway's Governing Document. SPRED Galloway is an unincorporated charity with a constitution as its governing document.

Linking with SPRED groups outwith Galloway was an important initiative and we held a Zoom meeting with the Chicago SPRED Director, Jo Quane on the 9th of February. A very useful discussion about how we develop our work and resources for our group sessions resulted from this.

As part of our **local community work** a team held special World Book Day workshops at Southcraigs School, Ayr on the 3rd of March and SPRED Galloway had a stall at the Holy Fair on Low Green, Ayr on the 27th of June. SPRED Board members attended a variety of VASA events and workshops designed to assist third sector personnel.

Towards the middle of the year both office staff became unwell and unfortunately this led to their having to resign. Hugh McGuire, a long term SPRED catechist, stepped up and took over as Coordinator thus ensuring continuity and stability. Hugh led the Faith Companions' training event held in St. Joseph's Church Hall, Kilmarnock on the 19th of August. This covered Health & Safety, a safeguarding refresher and work on the songs to be used in SPRED sessions. Our catechists, known as Faith Companions, find that their confidence in what they do at sessions is strengthened by this training as it provides a scaffold for developing their knowledge, ability and skills. He also compiled the SPRED Galloway Sessions resources, in particular the Book that groups use. SPRED is a small charity that relies on its staff, volunteers and friends to be an effective organisation. The **Diocese of Galloway** also plays a major role in helping, primarily financially but equally important is the wholehearted offering of regular opportunities for worship in local parishes.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are volunteers recruited from people resident in Galloway.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In 2023 SPRED Galloway offered its programme to adults. One group, Kilmarnock, was renewed. There are active groups in the Northern part of the Diocese. These groups held regular meetings through the year and participated together in Masses and group services. A particularly popular event was the Advent service in December. All volunteers have received safeguarding training relevant to their role. The members with disabilities continue to find great enjoyment in coming to SPRED Community Sessions and other events. The SPRED Galloway approach uses scripture in symbolic catechesis that is very powerful in this ministry of friendship.

SPRED Galloway Trustees would like to thank:

Everyone who helped SPRED Galloway in 2023. A special thanks to the following:-

- The Diocese of Galloway for its generous contribution to our work.
- Streamline Cabs of Prestwick.
- The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- All the parishioners and clergy of Galloway Diocese for their help and financial support