



**THE FRIENDS OF ARMAGH CATHEDRAL**

**Trustees' Annual Report**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Charities Number: NIC100129**

# **THE FRIENDS OF ARMAGH CATHEDRAL**

## **Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

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## THE FRIENDS OF ARMAGH CATHEDRAL

### References and administrative details

Charity Name: The Friends of Armagh Cathedral  
Charity Registration Number: NIC100129  
Contact Address: c/o Armagh Robinson Library  
43 Abbey Street  
ARMAGH  
BT61 7DY

### Trustees

The Very Revd Shane Forster (*Chairman*)  
Mrs Mary Caldwell (*Hon. Secretary*)  
Mr David Hamilton (*Hon. Treasurer*)  
Mr Brett Hannam (*Membership Secretary*)  
Dr John Faulkner (*Joint Editor of 'Cathedra' – retired April 2023*)  
Dr Gill Faulkner (*Joint Editor of 'Cathedra' – retired April 2023*)  
Dr Stephen Day (*Joint Editor of 'Cathedra' – from April 2023*)  
Mrs Carol Day (*Joint Editor of 'Cathedra' – from April 2023*)  
Lady Sheil (*representing the Cathedral Chapter*)  
Mrs Ann Cassidy  
Mr Tommy Reddick (*retired April 2023*)  
Mr Andrew White  
Mrs Sylvia Phillips  
Mr Robert Somerville  
Mrs Fiona Cleland (*resigned April 2023*)  
Mr Donald Kerr  
Mrs Angela Kerr (*co-opted April 2023*)

### Principal Office-bearers

Chairman: The Very Revd Shane Forster, Dean of Armagh  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Mary Caldwell  
Hon. Treasurer: Mr David Hamilton

### Independent Auditor

Arnold Courtney, FCA  
William Courtney & Co  
26 The Square  
Moy  
DUNGANNON  
Co Tyrone  
BT71 7SG

### Bankers

Primary Account:  
  
Bank of Ireland  
Beresford House  
11a Upper English Street  
ARMAGH  
BT61 7BH

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The trustees present the annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Charity's objectives are:

- (i) the advancement of religion, and
- (ii) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.

The purposes of the Friends of Armagh Cathedral are:

- (i) bringing together in a fellowship of loyalty and devotion all who care for the ancient foundation of the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh and its continuing witness to the glory of God, and
- (ii) assisting in the maintenance and preservation of the Cathedral.

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

#### ***Activities in 2023***

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the Friends Annual General Meeting was held in Armagh Masonic Hall and was followed by a dinner. The Dean chaired the meeting and provided an overview of the past year in the life of the Cathedral.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Friends Annual Service took place in St Patrick's Cathedral at 3.15pm. The preacher was the Very Reverend Kenneth Hall, Dean of Clogher and Rector of St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen.

The Autumn Event was held in the Armagh Masonic Hall, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Guest Speaker was Dr Stephen Timpany, Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral. His chosen subject was music and in particular the workings of the Cathedral's three manual organ.

The editorial team of Drs John and Gill Faulkner produced the sixteenth issue of the Friends' magazine '*Cathedra*'. After reviews of the life of the Cathedral, of the work of the Friends, and of the music of the Cathedral, this issue contained a special article on '*The Parish Churches of Armagh City*' written by Canon W.E.C. Fleming. '*Cathedra*' was distributed free-of-charge to all members of the Friends. Copies of '*Cathedra*' were also made available at the Diocesan Synod and on the Cathedral website as well as being posted to members at a distance. '*Cathedra*' conveys to members of the Diocese and to all those who are interested in church life on the Hill of Armagh, something of the yearly services, events and activities in and associated with the Cathedral.

The Friends Christmas card this year featured a picture of the Cathedral's Christmas tree, lectern and organ pipes. Cards were sold as part of a fundraising venture for the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Shop is operated by members of the Cathedral staff and volunteers. In 2023, the Friends provided stock for the shop, which made a gross profit of £597.79.

Payments for admission to the Cathedral made through the shop's card reader were forwarded to the Cathedral Treasurer.

### ***Benefits Provided***

In the course of the year, the Friends continued their usual support of the Cathedral. They paid for the Cathedral's Wi-Fi broadband account. They also provided certain consumables, such as Advent and votive candles, candle oil and Communion wafers.

### **Going Concern**

The trustees have reviewed the resources for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the organization can continue its activities and that the financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

### **Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity**

The Friends of Armagh Cathedral are governed by their own governing document, known as the Constitution. It was last revised at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, when the number of lay members to be elected at the AGM to the Management Committee each year was increased from one to three.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Management Committee (Trustees)**

The Dean of Armagh, who is ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee, is appointed by the Archbishop of Armagh.

The Representative of the Cathedral Chapter is one of its members, appointed to the Chapter by the Archbishop of Armagh. The Chapter appoints its representative at one of its meetings, held approximately quarterly, when a vacancy occurs.

The Representative of the Cathedral Board is one of its members, usually but not necessarily one of its lay members, appointed at one of its meetings, held quarterly in the year.

The six lay members of the Friends, the Honorary Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer are elected for a two-year term at the annual general meeting of the Friends, half being elected in alternate years.

The Editors of '*Cathedra*', being members of the Friends, are members of the committee by virtue of his or her office.

The Constitution of the Friends also allows for the co-option of up to four people, to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, and without prejudice to their being co-opted again. In the case of the joint editorship of '*Cathedra*' by Drs John and Gillian Faulkner, one of these is regarded as having been co-opted.

### **Pay and remuneration**

No member of the Management Committee receives any remuneration for work on its behalf. Out-of-pocket expenses may be reclaimed on production of receipts, as arising.

## Organisational Structure

The management of the Friends of Armagh Cathedral is vested in its Management Committee, constituted as above. The Management Committee is chaired by the Dean.

The Committee meets as required by the programme of activities. In the year 2023, the Management Committee met in person and online via zoom.

## Compliance with Public Benefit

The Trustees have 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 organization's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

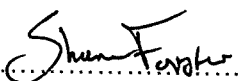
## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

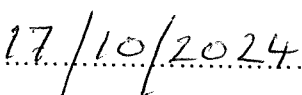
The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the organization's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its assets and liabilities. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organization and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee 1...  .....

Trustee 2...  .....

Date...  .....