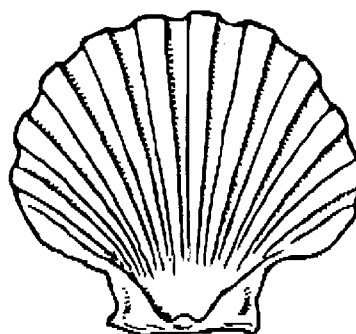
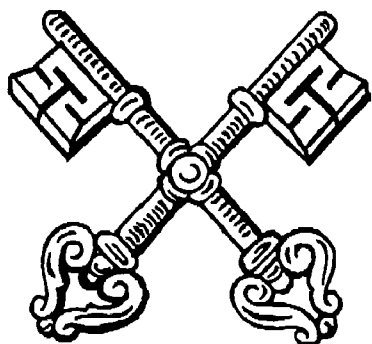


**The Parish of  
St Peter and St James  
Belfast**



**Annual Report  
and  
Statement of Accounts  
for the year  
2022**



Diocese of Connor  
Church of Ireland

## Clergy, Officers, and Representatives (on 31st December 2022)

### CLERGY

Bishop of Connor	The Rt Rev'd George Davison
Archdeacon of Belfast	The Venerable Barry Forde
Rural Dean of North Belfast	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Rector of St Peter & St James, Belfast	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Rev'd Dr Ken Houston
Associate Minister	The Rev'd Andrew Irwin

### SELECT VESTRY

Rector	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Rector's Churchwarden	Daphne McClements
People's Churchwarden	Dora Hanna
Rector's Glebewarden	Victor Davis
People's Glebewarden	Peter Mulligan
Honorary Secretary	Sarah McCusker
Honorary Treasurer	Ashlee McCune
Representative	Adam Alexander
Representative	Noel Beattie
Representative	Jill Bradley
Representative	Peter Coiley
Representative	David Cromie
Representative	Yvonne Crozier
Representative	Matthew Lambert
Representative	Michael Moore
Representative	Quintin Mulligan

### PARISH OFFICERS

Choir Librarian	Noel Beattie
Convenor of St Peter's Bridge Club	Florrie Greer
Convenor of St Peter's Crafty Goodness	Daphne McClements
Convenor of St Peter's Walking Group	Jill Bradley
Coordinator of Church Flowers	Sandra Davison
Coordinator of Groundskeepers	Noel Beattie
Coordinator of Intercessors	Rosemary Johnston
Coordinator of Refreshments	Sandra Hutchman
Coordinator of T.L.G.	Laura Lacey
Coordinator of the Count Team	Hilary Shields
Coordinator of the Pastoral Care Team	Dora Hanna
Free Will Offering & Gift Aid Secretary	Noel Beattie
Ministry Assistant	David Cromie
Organist & Choir Master	Robert Thompson
Parish Administrator	Anne Cromie
Parish Reader	David Cromie

## **SAFEGUARDING TRUST PANEL**

Panel Member	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Panel Member	Florrie Greer
Panel Member	Philip Williamson
Panel Member	David Cromie

## **DIOCESAN SYNOD**

Clerical Synodsperson	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Lay Synodsperson	Aaron Crozier
Lay Synodsperson	Wes Holmes
Lay Synodsperson (<35 years)	Samuel Cromie
Lay Supplemental Synodsperson (1)	Ashlee McCune
Lay Supplemental Synodsperson (2)	Quintin Mulligan
Lay Supplemental Synodsperson (<35 years)	Rebecca Delaney

## **BOARD OF NOMINATION**

Parochial Nominator	Noel Beattie
Parochial Nominator	David Cromie
Parochial Nominator	Rosemary Johnston
Parochial Nominator	Ashlee McCune
Supplemental Nominator (1)	Dora Hanna
Supplemental Nominator (2)	Hilary Shields
Supplemental Nominator (3)	Daphne McClements
Supplemental Nominator (4)	Jill Bradley

# Trustees' Annual Report

## INTRODUCTION

We are the Parish of St Peter & St James, Belfast, and our charity number is 101020. We were formed in 1900 and registered with the Charity Commission in 2014. Our address is St Peter's Church, Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast, BT15 4EB. The governing document of the Church of Ireland is our Constitution, which can be viewed online at [www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution).

As a Christian Church, the purpose of our parish is to worship the Triune God, to proclaim the Good News of our salvation by and through our Lord Jesus Christ, to teach the Bible and Christian theology, to pray for the world and ourselves within it, to equip people for Christian ministries, to care for people in need, and to form supportive and encouraging friendships.

Many people are involved in our worship, in our mission and ministries, in the management of our resources, in the care of our buildings and grounds, in organising activities and events, and in representing us. We are grateful for each other. Recognising that we are limited in what we can do, we also raise funds to support other charities which help people at their point of need, whether at home or abroad.

## WORSHIP

Throughout the year, our main act of worship was at 11am on Sundays, alternating between Holy Communion (Choral Eucharist) and Morning Prayer (Choral Matins). With the exception of the months of January, July, and August, there were also services at 10am on Sundays: Family Service on the first Sunday of each month, a celebration of Holy Communion on the second Sunday, and Morning Prayer on the remaining Sundays. From September, there was Choral Evensong at 6pm on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, there was Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10:30am, with additional mid-week services in Advent, Lent, and on Ascension Day. We were extremely blessed to have an exceptional parish choir leading praise at many of our services, directed by Robert Thompson (Organist & Choir Master). In October, we launched a choral bursary scheme to encourage newcomers to the choir. In addition to the Rev'd Brian Lacey (Rector), services were regularly led by David Cromie (Parish Reader), and by Graham Chipperfield (Diocesan Reader), the latter of whom was on a training placement in St Peter's from February until June.

## MINISTRY

In June, the Rev'd Brian Lacey (Rector) was additionally licensed as Priest-in-Charge of our neighbouring parish of St Paul & St Barnabas in order to foster closer cooperation between the two parishes. At the same time, the Rev'd Andrew Irwin was licensed as Curate Assistant of St Paul & St Barnabas and appointed Associate Minister of St Peter & St James. In December, clergy and representatives from the three parishes of St Peter & St James, St Paul & St Barnabas, and St Katharine, met together to begin a conversation on the sustainability and growth of the Church of Ireland in north Belfast.

We organised both regular and one-off events to teach the Christian faith: Our Bible Fellowship met on most Thursday evenings throughout the year, exploring the meaning of several books from both the Old and New Testaments. During Lent, we held a series of weekly meetings to learn about the basics of Christianity. In September and October, our Bereavement Support Group met for six consecutive Wednesdays, providing a safe

space for those who are grieving to share their thoughts and feelings. From November, parishioners were invited to attend small group discussions on the Holy Spirit. During term time, Kids' Church was held in the halls at 10am on Sundays.

We supported people in need, both locally and around the world: Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in January, we raised funds and donated products to support refugees who were forced to leave their homes. In May, our annual Christian Aid walk raised £1,050 towards climate justice. From September, our Community Larder provided essential food and hygiene products, which could be taken – no questions asked – by anyone in the local community. As part of our Harvest Thanksgiving in October, we donated tinned goods and hygiene products to the Welcome Organisation for the homeless. In November, parishioners took part in the Shoebox Appeal for Blythswood Care, primarily supporting those affected by the war in Ukraine. We also made donations to support other charities, including the Salvation Army, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Christians Against Poverty, the Samaritans, and Alzheimers Research. Additionally, £470 of our Benevolent Fund went to help individuals in financial need.

We had a Pastoral Care Team, consisting of five lay members of the congregation, who kept in contact with parishioners by telephone, which included the offer of prayer. Four volunteers from the parish also provided therapeutic support to young people in Lowwood Primary School and Ballysillan Primary School through the Transforming Lives for Good (T.L.G.) Early Intervention Scheme. Since November, the Rector and three members of the congregation have been trained by the Acorn Healing Academy in healer-prayer ministry.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We organised social events to foster friendship and to engage with our local community: The Men's breakfast was held on three Saturdays during the year. In addition, a breakfast was served to visiting post-graduate students from Goodenough College, London, when they met with local politicians and community leaders to study societal changes in North Belfast over the past several decades. Our Walking Group met weekly on Mondays, and Crafty Goodness on Tuesdays. On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a lunch in the halls, and on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, we had lunch in the Lansdowne Hotel as part of our Petertide celebrations, marking the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the consecration of our church building. Throughout June, our Friendship Club met in the parish halls on Wednesday lunchtimes, providing lunch and various activities for anyone from the local community. Also from June, the Bridge Club resumed meeting again every Wednesday. From September onwards, soup and sandwiches were provided every Wednesday in our Friendship Café in the church. On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, we hosted Afternoon Tea in the church, and children's parties were held in the halls several times during the year, to which anyone from the area was invited.

In addition to acts of worship, our church building was open to the public two days each week for private prayer or tourism; this included European Heritage Open Day on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September. Various community organisations also used our premises, including: Baby Sensory, Speech & Drama, the North Belfast Historical Society, Weight Watchers, PhysioPilates, the Priory Singers, and Drama Time. Our halls were also used as a Polling Station by the Electoral Office.

## MANAGEMENT

Any adult who subscribes financially to the parish, in such a way that their donation can be recorded against their name, is entitled to register as a member, enabling them to participate at the General Vestry, with the right to vote for – and stand for election to – our Select Vestry. The list of Registered Members was revised on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February. There were 123 members.

The General Vestry met on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April to receive the financial accounts for 2021 and to elect a new Select Vestry. The members present appointed David Hunter (of D. Hunter & Co., Chartered Accountants) as their Independent Examiner for this report.

The Rector is responsible for managing worship, mission, and ministries in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of Ireland. In addition to officiating and preaching at regular and occasional acts of worship, he conducted baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and provided pastoral leadership.

The Senior Officers of the parish were the Rev'd Brian Lacey (Rector), Daphne McClements (Rector's Churchwarden), Dora Hanna (People's Churchwarden), Victor Davis (Rector's Glebewarden), Quintin Mulligan (People's Glebewarden until April), Peter Mulligan (People's Glebewarden from April), Yvonne Crozier (Honorary Secretary until August), Sarah McCusker (Honorary Secretary from August), and Ashlee McCune (Honorary Treasurer).

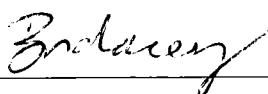
The Select Vestry is responsible for the management of our human, physical, and financial resources, and the implementation of civil and canon law. It met nine times during the year (once a month, except during July, August, and December). Its members, who are deemed Trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, were the Rev'd Brian Lacey, Adam Alexander, Noel Beattie, Jill Bradley, Peter Coiley, David Cromie, Yvonne Crozier, Victor Davis, Olivia Dornan (until April), Dora Hanna, Rosemary Johnston (until April), Matthew Lambert, Daphne McClements, Sarah McCusker, Michael Moore (from April), Peter Mulligan (from April), Quintin Mulligan, and the late Geraldine Amruth (from April until June).

Although the parish is predominantly a voluntary organisation, we employed four members of staff: Anne Cromie (Parish Administrator), Robert Thompson (Organist & Choir Master), David Cromie (Ministry Assistant), and Laura Lacey (Coordinator for Transforming Lives for Good).

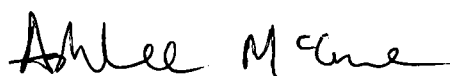
The Trustees who approved this report on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, were Adam Alexander, Noel Beattie, David Cromie, Yvonne Crozier, Victor Davis, Dora Hanna, the Rev'd Brian Lacey, Matthew Lambert, Daphne McClements, and Ashlee McCune.

In the production of this report, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended).

Signed on behalf of the Select Vestry on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 by



Rev'd Brian Lacey, *Rector*



Ashlee McCune, *Honorary Treasurer*

## Registered Members (on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

Max Abbott	Rebecca Delaney	Eileen Jeffers	Peter Mulligan
Hilary Adams	Julie Douglas	Brian Johnson	Quintin Mulligan
Adam Alexander	Olivia Dornan	Vi Johnson	Anne Noblett
Geraldine Amruth	Betty Frazer	Rosemary Johnston	Bertie Nulty
Kenneth Archer	Joan Gallagher	Jane Keyes	Karl O'Connor
Olabimpe Archer	Peter Gallagher	Jim Knowles	Caroline O'Kane
Annette Beattie	Albert George	Janice Knowles	Meta O'Neill
Noel Beattie	Paul Gibson	Laura Lacey	Forde Patterson
Colin Bell	Janice Gibson	Gareth Larmour	Karen Patterson
Moya Bell	Frances Gooding	Matthew Lambert	Margaret Patterson
Roy Bell	Derek Graham	Joan Lawther	Mary Anne Quigley
Jill Bradley	Lovelle Graham	Dorothy Logan	Anne Roberts
Marie Burrowes	Barbara Greenlees	Garnet Maguire	Enid Saunderson
Brian Callaghan	Michael Greenlees	Hazel Maguire	Eileen Sharpe
Alan Campbell	Florrie Greer	Anna McAlpine	Norleen Sharpe
Tom Campbell	Valerie Guest	Pamela McCamley	Hilda Sherwood
Vivien Clarke	Adrian Hall	Dorothy McCausland	Hilary Shields
Billy Clarke	Dora Hanna	Daphne McClements	Colin Stark
Michelle Cole	Kathryn Hennessy	Ashlee McCune	Vivien Stark
Peter Coiley	Carolyn Hilditch	Sarah McCusker	Joyce Sterling
Margi Crawford	Wes Holmes	Beryl McDowell	Anne Stewart
Anne Cromie	Ken Houston	Margaret McK Black	Ernie Stewart
David Cromie	Patricia Houston	Ivor Millar	Heather Swan
Samuel Cromie	Joyce Hunter	Lila Millar	Eileen Taylor
Thelma Cross	Cheryl Hurson	Ann Mitchell	Jaqueline Thompson
Aaron Crozier	Jane Hurst	Harold Mitchell	Joan Walker
Yvonne Crozier	Sandra Hutchman	Florence Moore	Adele Watt
Victor Davis	Sam Hutton	Michael Moore	Clodagh Webb
Brian Davison	Harold Jacobs	Edith Morrow	Philip Williamson
Sandra Davison	Basil Jeffers	Margaret Mulligan	

## Honorary Treasurer's Report

### OVERVIEW

We ended 2022 with a deficit of £17,067 (compared to a surplus in 2021 of £47,471). Our assets at the end of the year amounted to £248,958 (compared to £266,025 in 2021). They are comprised of fixed assets of £114,307 and net current assets of £134,651.

At first glance, it might appear that our fortunes have taken a drastic turn in 2022. However, our income in 2021 was significantly boosted by proceeds from filming projects which took place at St Peter's and St James. This income stream is, by its nature, variable and sporadic and whilst it continued to provide revenue in 2022, smaller projects meant less income. In 2021, we were the grateful recipients of a substantial gift of £10,000 from one of our subscribers but income from such singular gifts will also vary from year to year and we did not receive substantial gifts or bequests in 2022. However, it is positive that planned giving in the form of FWO and standing orders, which forms the core of our income, increased and remained a stable income source.

### INCOME

Total income in 2022 amounted to £115,120 compared to income in 2021 of £189,850.

Our main sources of income remained the same: contributions from members of the congregation, donations from parish organisations, proceeds from filming that took place on church premises, various grants, rental income, and distributions and interest from investments.

FWO envelopes, standing orders and annual subscriptions amounted to £54,707 in 2022. I am pleased to report that this is an increase of £2,329 compared to the previous year. We are very grateful for your contributions and also thank you for giving generously to the special collection in November 2022 which raised £2,760 for general funds. We also thank the Bridge Club and Crafty Goodness for their contributions.

The church makes use of Gift Aid (the legitimate recovery of tax from HMRC on certain types of financial income) which enabled us to reclaim almost £18,000. This will continue to be an important source of income to the parish and it is particularly important for those who give regularly to the parish to declare Gift Aid wherever it is legitimate to do so. Please contact Noel Beattie should you require a form.

Filming on church premises generated £2,600. This money has been classified as designated funds and has been added to film income from the previous year. The Select Vestry will determine its investment and allocation on the advice of the Finance Committee in the coming months.

Grants continued to be important in funding mission projects. We were fortunate to receive £1,200 from Belfast City Council which provided the catering and supplies for the Friendship Club. Further engagement with the local community was facilitated by grant of £300 from TLG which funded a children's party. We received £8,320 from the St James' Endowment Fund which covered the costs of employing our two ministry assistants, David Cromie and Laura Lacey, throughout 2022.

It is pleasing that income from hall hire has returned to pre-pandemic levels and brought in £8,709 from a wide range of users from the well-being, political, youth and leisure sectors (as detailed in Note 19 to the accounts).

Rooms in the former St James' church continued to be hired by St Stephen's Coptic Orthodox Church who also covered the cost of their utility bills. Rental income generated £1,800.

We hold investments with M&G Charifund, the Progressive Building Society, the RCB (cash on deposit and in the General Unit Trust) and in unit trusts with the Church of Ireland Trustees. You will find the income from these investments detailed in Note 4, and various distributions deducted from the expenses to which they pertain under expenditure. The investments themselves are laid out in Note 12.

## **EXPENDITURE**

Our expenditure in 2022 totalled £132,187.

No significant works in the church were undertaken in 2022 but expenditure beyond general repairs and maintenance included roof repairs of £660, an asbestos survey at £390 and new blinds for the hall at a cost of £370. You will find our general running costs detailed in Notes 7-9 to the accounts. The most significant costs for St James were legal fees of £1,200 as we seek to resolve the issues involving title to the property.

Rectory garden repairs of £1,196 were covered by the restricted funds of the Covid 19 Charities grant we received in 2020 for that purpose, and other small maintenance works at the Rectory totalling £398 came out of general funds.

The Diocese receives the bulk of its income through the General Fund assessment on all parishes and we paid our share of £9,523 in 2022 in full.

Clergy expenditure (including relief clergy and pension contributions) was £53,890 (an increase of just over £1,050 compared to 2021). The Rector received a stipend and office and locomotory expenses in accordance with figures provided by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

We believe in the importance of using our resources to support good causes beyond the mission of St Peter's and our parish boundaries and we were pleased to support North Belfast Salvation Army, Motor Neurone Disease Association NI, Christians Against Poverty, Belfast Samaritans, and Alzheimer's Research UK with donations of £300 each (as detailed in Note 19 to the accounts). Parishioners also generously donated £1,706 to provide relief for the victims of the war in Ukraine in addition to the funds donated by the Charities Action Group of £3,325.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank you for your continued support, especially as we are all still navigating the effects of the pandemic whilst also facing significant increases in cost of living expenses. It might seem more prudent to talk of tightening our belts rather than loosening our purse strings but it is our hope that we view giving as a privilege in grateful recognition of everything that God has done for us. Planned giving lies at the heart of our financial security but it currently fails to meet our everyday expenses and we simply ask that you review what you are able comfortably to contribute. We acknowledge too that giving takes many forms and appreciate the time and effort given by so many of our members.

We are very grateful to all those involved in collecting, counting, and administering church funds, and we thank David Hunter for his assistance and the preparation of the Independent Examiner's Report.

## Annual Subscriptions (received by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022)

#	£	085	384.00	165	116.00
001	50.00	086	470.00	169	250.00
002	920.00	087	720.00	171	700.00
003	300.00	089	120.00	174	1,200.00
004	1,200.00	090	120.00	177	660.00
007	550.00	091	480.00	184	720.00
008	240.00	092	540.00	185	740.00
012	480.00	094	850.00	186	400.00
014	1,000.00	096	430.00	187	600.00
016	815.00	099	620.00	190	2500.00
017	300.00	100	500.00	196	240.00
018	650.00	105	720.00	197	1,280.00
023	480.00	107	600.00	201	30.00
026	1,750.00	109	612.00	202	700.00
028	1,010.00	110	100.00	203	100.00
032	675.00	112	120.00	204	160.00
034	20.00	113	250.00	209	930.00
037	780.00	114	100.00	211	1,800.00
038	180.00	115	250.00	217	700.00
042	1,040.00	116	500.00	218	1,490.00
044	980.00	117	300.00	221	430.00
047	660.00	118	200.00	223	159.00
048	510.00	121	500.00	224	250.00
052	620.00	124	440.00	226	120.00
057	720.00	125	180.00	228	305.00
060	1,700.00	126	330.00	235	690.00
062	640.00	127	480.00	237	120.00
063	320.00	128	600.00	238	495.00
066	350.00	131	300.00	239	225.00
069	520.00	136	520.00	243	746.00
070	1,642.00	139	360.00	244	1,100.00
072	495.00	142	166.50	245	110.00
075	240.00	153	380.00	247	40.00
077	250.00	155	240.00	248	201.00
078	625.00	156	510.00	252	300.00
082	480.00	162	600.00	254	960.00