

CLERGY, OFFICERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES (on 31st December 2023)

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 (comprising Senior Officers and Representatives)

Rector	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Rector's Churchwarden	Daphne McClements
People's Churchwarden	Margaret McKenna Black
Rector's Glebwarden	Victor Davis
People's Glebwarden	Michael Moore
Honorary Secretary	Yvonne Crozier
Honorary Treasurer	Ashlee McCune
Representative	Adam Alexander
Representative	Noel Beattie
Representative	Jill Bradley
Representative	David Cromie
Representative	Dora Hanna
Representative	Sandra Hutchman
Representative	Matthew Lambert
Representative	Sarah McCusker
Representative	Quintin Mulligan
Representative	Clodagh Webb

SAFEGUARDING TRUST PANEL

Panel Member	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Panel Member	Clodagh Webb
Panel Member	Philip Williamson

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 the Count Team	Hilary Shields
Coordinator of Church Flowers	Sandra Davison
Coordinator of Groundskeepers	Noel Beattie
Coordinator of Intercessors	Rosemary Johnston
Coordinator of Refreshments	Sandra Hutchman
Free Will Offering & Gift Aid Secretary	Noel Beattie
Organist & Choir Master	Robert Thompson
Parish Administrator	Anne Cromie
Parish Reader	David Cromie
Parish Reader (in training)	Dora Hanna

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Clerical Synodsperson	The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Lay Synodsperson	Sarah McCusker
Lay Synodsperson	Quintin Mulligan
Lay Supplemental Synodsperson (1)	Michael Moore
Lay Supplemental Synodsperson (2)	Clodagh Webb

BOARD OF NOMINATION

Parochial Nominator	David Cromie
Parochial Nominator	Dora Hanna
Parochial Nominator	Noel Beattie
Parochial Nominator	Ashlee McCune
Supplemental Nominator (1)	Jill Bradley
Supplemental Nominator (2)	Yvonne Crozier
Supplemental Nominator (3)	Adam Alexander
Supplemental Nominator (4)	Michael Moore

REGISTERED MEMBERS (as recorded on 20th February 2023)

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

TRUSTEES' 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.

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.

MINISTRY

There were two baptisms, one wedding, and seven funerals.

Our Bible Fellowship met on Thursday evenings, discussing Matthew's Gospel. In September, two new groups were formed, each meeting monthly: The Discipleship Group – which was open to members of our neighbouring parishes as well as our own - met to learn about the theory and practices of Christianity, and a Bible Study Group met on the last Wednesday morning of each month, following our mid-week Holy Communion, at which we studied the Book of Micah. In addition, on several occasions during the year, a short service of prayers, Bible reading, and reflection, was delivered online using ZOOM.

Our Bereavement Group, which met once a week during March and April, provided a safe and supportive space for those who were mourning to talk through their feelings.

Four parishioners were involved in the "Transforming Lives for Good" project, which supported children in local primary schools with their emotional wellbeing. This project came to an end in July.

In August, our Prayer Group completed their training with the Acorn Healing Academy, which had been conducted online once a month for a year. There were four Healing Services in church, and private prayer was offered after most services.

Our Community Larder in the halls provided essential food and hygiene products for those from our local community who were struggling financially, and we made donations of such items to both the North Belfast Food Bank and the Welcome Organisation.

Recognising that we are limited in what we can do ourselves, we also raise funds to support other charities which help people at their point of need, whether at home or abroad. In May, a sponsored walk raised funds for Christian Aid. During the Autumn, we took part in the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. In addition, our Bridge Club donated to Marie Curie and Lighthouse, and our Charities Action Group donated to ChildAid. Over the course of the year we raised funds for the Friends of the Cancer Centre, Air Ambulance NI, Prison Fellowship NI, Sands NI (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death), and Tearfund. We also supported the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, and the Bishop's Appeal. A fundraising concert was held in St Peter's on 1st December by the Cavehill Community Choir, which was very well attended.

WORSHIP

Our main act of worship was at 11am on Sundays throughout the year, with our praise beautifully amplified by our robed choir. These services followed a pattern of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays, and Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays.

For much of the year, there were also services at 10am on Sundays, with a Family Service on the first Sunday, Holy Communion on the second and fourth, and Morning Prayer on the third. During that time, our Kids' Church met in the halls, providing age appropriate praise and learning for children. There was also a traditional service of Choral Evensong at 6pm on the first Sunday of most months.

In addition to our regular mid-week services on Wednesdays at 10:30am, evening services were held throughout Holy Week and in the run up to Christmas – including our service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is always popular with members of our local community.

Our guest preachers were the Rev'd Brian Courtney, the Rev'd Andrew Irwin, the Rev'd Mellisa Jeffers, the Rev'd Alan Millar, the Rev'd Clifford Skillen, and Mr Graham Chipperfield. Continuing our tradition of providing Student Readers, Parish Readers, and Diocesan Readers with training placements in a liturgically traditional and choral setting, we were joined by Mr Jonny Watson, a second year Student Reader at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, from January until April.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Every week, our Walking Group met on Monday mornings, Crafty Goodness met on Tuesday mornings, and the Bridge Club met on Wednesday afternoons.

Our parish halls were also used by various community organisations and businesses, including: Baby Sensory, Brownies, Glandore Dog Training Club, Guides, Little Kickers, North Belfast Historical Society, PhysioPilates, Priory Singers, Rainbows, Unislim, and the Belfast School of Speech and Drama.

On 18th May, St Peter's was used as a polling station for the Northern Ireland Assembly elections.

A Men's Breakfast was organised on 11th March, and lunches open to the local community were organised on one Wednesday of each month. We invited young people from our local primary school to children's parties on 21st January and 30th September.

There were celebratory lunches in the Lansdowne Hotel on Petertide Sunday on 25th June, and again on 16th December in the run up to Christmas.

St Peter's was open to the public two days each week for private prayer or tourism, and we were delighted to welcome students from Goodenough College on two occasions.

Both St Peter's and St James' have featured as locations in television and film productions in recent years. In February 2023, the BBC drama "The Woman in the Wall" was filmed in St Peter's. For exterior shots, the adjacent road was renamed "*Bothar an Mbuilinn*" (Mill Road) to reflect its fictional location in the Republic of Ireland. At the same time, scenes of the film adaption of the Niall William's novel "Four Letters of Love" were filmed at St James.

We were very grateful to various teams organised by the Probation Board, who tended the grounds at both St Peter's and St James as part of their Community Service.

MANAGEMENT

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 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, Margaret McKenna Black (*from April*), Jill Bradley, Peter Coiley (*until April*), David Cromie, Yvonne Crozier, Victor Davis, Dora Hanna, Sandra Hutchman, Matthew Lambert, Daphne McClements, Sarah McCusker, Michael Moore, Peter Mulligan (*until April*), Quintin Mulligan, and Clodagh Webb (*from April*).

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

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 20th February. There were 111 members.

The General Vestry met on Sunday 23rd April 2023 to receive the financial accounts for 2022 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 Trustees who approved this report on Monday 18th March 2024 were the Rev'd Brian Lacey, Noel Beattie, Jill Bradley, Dora Hanna, Matthew Lambert, Daphne McClements, Ashlee McCune, Sarah McCusker, Michael Moore, and Clodagh Webb.

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 18th March 2024 by

Brian Lacey

Ashlee McCune

Rev'd Brian Lacey, *Rector*

Ashlee McCune, *Honorary Treasurer*

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

OVERVIEW

We ended 2023 with a **deficit of £7,517** (compared to a deficit in 2022 of £17,067). Our assets at the end of the year amounted to £241,441 (compared to £248,958 in 2022). They are comprised of fixed assets of £114,636 and net current assets of £126,804.

It is positive that planned giving in the form of FWO and standing orders (which forms the core of our income) remained stable, and that our income was boosted by increased hall hire and the award of grants but the fact that our income still fails to meet our day to day running costs remains an ongoing challenge.

INCOME

Total income in 2023 amounted to £138,927 compared to income in 2022 of £115,120.

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 £56,847 in 2023. We are pleased to report that this is an increase of £2,140 compared to the previous year. We are very grateful for your contributions and also thank you for giving generously to the Harvest Special Collection in October 2023 which raised £1,640 for general funds. The financial stability of our church is inextricably tied to our generosity as believers and it is our hope that such generosity is founded on joyful gratitude for God's provision and the recognition that all we have comes from and belongs to Him. In this spirit of gratitude, may we all review what we are comfortably able to contribute, especially if it has been some time since we last considered any increase.

We thank our parish organisations, the Bridge Club and Crafty Goodness, for their contributions to general funds which totalled £1,350.

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 £19,000. 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 £7,600. This money has been classified as designated funds and has been added to film income from previous years. 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 total funds of £1,452 from Belfast City Council which funded catering and supplies for the Friendship Club and newly formed "Still Active" group. Further engagement with the local community was facilitated by grant of £300 from TLG which funded a children's party. We received £4,160 from the St James' Endowment Fund which covered the costs of employing our two ministry assistants, David Cromie and Laura Lacey, into early 2023, and we were delighted to receive a further £15,989 towards the ministerial apprenticeship post awarded to Robert Long and various musical applications.

It is pleasing that income from hall hire increased substantially and brought in £15,588 from a wide range of users from charitable, political, educational and leisure sectors (as detailed in Note 20 to the accounts).

Rooms in the former St James' church were hired by St Stephen's Coptic Orthodox Church until September 2023 which generated rental income of £1,350.

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 2023 totalled £146,444.

No significant works in the church were undertaken in 2023 but expenditure beyond general repairs and maintenance included asbestos encapsulation at a cost of £624 as legally required for health and safety purposes, and electrical work at a cost of £598. You will find our general running costs detailed in Notes 7-9 to the accounts (which reflect the impact of rising inflation and utility costs just to keep our church running).

Regarding St James, the most significant cost was £5,580 for the removal of the finial in order to stabilise the spire; this was prudent and necessary to ensure the safety of the building.

Rectory bathroom renovations costing £6,660 were covered by funds received from filming which have been classified as designated funds to include such repairs. Other small maintenance works at the Rectory totalling £1,038 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 £9,686 in 2023 in full.

Clergy expenditure (including relief clergy and pension contributions) was £58,804 (an increase of just over £4,900 compared to 2022). 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 Air Ambulance NI, Friends of the Cancer Centre, Tearfund, Sands NI and Prison Fellowship NI with donations of £323 each comprised of donations from parishioners and the proceeds of the Cavehill Community Concert (as detailed in Note 20 to the accounts). Parishioners also generously donated £267 to the Bishops' Appeal and gave £143 to the Poppy Appeal as well as supporting the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal by filling boxes and making cash contributions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank you for your continued financial support and acknowledge that giving takes many forms; the time, talents and resources given so freely by so many of our members in addition to monetary contributions are much appreciated.

We are very grateful to Noel Beattie for his continued efforts in recording planned giving and claiming the associated Gift Aid and to all those involved in collecting, counting and banking church collections. We thank David Hunter for his assistance and the preparation of the Independent Examiner's Report.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (received by 31st December 2023)

002	£450	086	£500	182	£100
003	£300	087	£720	184	£710
004	£1,500	089	£100	185	£240
007	£560	090	£120	186	£600
008	£220	091	£480	187	£760
012	£480	092	£540	190	£500
014	£1,150	094	£700	196	£240
016	£780	096	£445	197	£1,300
017	£1,100	099	£600	202	£100
018	£850	100	£745	203	£120
023	£480	105	£720	209	£1,160
026	£1,930	109	£732	211	£1,800
028	£870	110	£300	217	£700
032	£760	112	£120	218	£1,560
034	£450	114	£100	221	£510
037	£900	115	£250	223	£169
038	£180	116	£1,000	224	£390
042	£1,160	117	£300	226	£120
044	£1,100	118	£200	228	£350
047	£330	121	£490	234	£1,200
048	£500	124	£480	235	£760
052	£660	125	£180	237	£120
057	£720	127	£480	238	£380
060	£1,300	128	£610	244	£1,310
062	£865	131	£300	245	£220
063	£320	139	£360	247	£300
066	£430	142	£142	248	£235
069	£520	153	£480	251	£1,440
070	£2,440	155	£240	252	£1,200
072	£495	156	£490	255	£205
075	£140	162	£600	256	£910
077	£250	171	£1,280	257	£455
078	£610	174	£1,200		
085	£384	177	£480		