

## Seapatrick Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present the annual report and financial statements for Seapatrick Parish for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### *Reference and Administrative Information*

Charity Name: Banbridge/Seapatrick/Holy Trinity and St. Patrick's/Down and Dromore /Church of Ireland (otherwise referred to as "Seapatrick Parish")

Charity Registration Number: NIC101230

Contact Address: Church Square  
BANBRIDGE  
BT32 4AA

#### *Charity Trustees*

Venerable Roderic West – until September 2023

Alison Adams (Mrs)

David Adams

Oonagh Alway (Ms)

Robert Barr

Doreen Cherry (Mrs)

Bill Gault – from April 2023

Freda Gilchrist (Mrs) – from April 2023

Chris Gilmore – until April 2023

Roly Harwood

John Heasley

Paul Humphries

Claire Jones (Ms)

Michael McCarter

Cathy Morton (Miss)

Peter Morton

Diane Ruddock (Mrs)

Nigel Smyth

Basil Stewart

Darrell Stewart

Ruth Taylor (Ms)

Anna Williams (Rev'd)

#### *Principal Office-bearers*

Rector: Venerable Roderic West

Secretary: Mrs Alison Adams

Treasurer: Basil Stewart

#### *Bankers*

Ulster Bank, Bridge Street, Banbridge, BT32 3JT

## **Seapatrick Parish**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### ***Structure, Governance and Management***

##### ***Governing Document***

The Parish is administered in accordance with The Constitution of The Church of Ireland published by The General Synod of The Church of Ireland.

##### ***Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees***

All members of the Church of Ireland who are 18 years or over and are either resident or have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, and have subscribed to parish funds in such a way that they can ask for a receipt, may register as members of the general vestry of the parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the general vestry and to stand for election to the select vestry.

A meeting of the general vestry, known as the Easter vestry, is held each year not earlier than twenty-seven days before, and not later than twenty days after, Easter Day. The general vestry meeting may not be held within the period from the Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) to Easter Day (inclusive).

At that meeting the Rector appoints a Rector's Churchwarden for Holy Trinity and a Rector's Churchwarden for St Patrick's; he also appoints a Rector's Glebewarden. The general vestry elect a People's Churchwarden for Holy Trinity, a People's Churchwarden for St Patrick's and a People's Glebewarden. The general vestry also elect twelve members to serve on the select vestry, with the Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens and Curate Assistant. All members of select vestry are appointed as the charity trustees.

The select vestry, chaired by the Rector, is responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how parish funds are to be applied.

Trustees do not receive remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their Trustee responsibility.

##### ***Objectives & Activities***

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion. The principal function of Seapatrick Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Seapatrick Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, Seapatrick Parish has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the select vestry of Seapatrick Parish.

## Seapatrick Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### *Objectives & Activities (continued)*

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Select Vestry have given careful consideration to The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purpose and to provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries of both the primary and secondary charitable purposes are the general public and no harm flows from its purposes. Any private benefit arising out of the fulfilment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfilment to the purpose of the advancement of religion, but is purely incidental to the purposes of our work.

#### *Achievements & Performance*

Our mission statement; 'Growing in God's Love and Sharing it with Others' underpins all that the Parish seeks to be and to do. We want to be a place where people come to faith and grow in faith as we show and share God's love to all those in the surrounding community – seeking to be the Church at the heart of Banbridge and Seapatrick.

We offer a range of services on Sundays, throughout the week and over the course of the year, some following traditional format and others are of a more contemporary style. All are welcome to attend our services.

We also provide weekly, monthly and annual programmes and activities for people of all ages. These include, Sunday Space/School, Creche, Inspire - Youth Fellowship, Ready, Steady, Go! - Kids Club, Drop-In for those of secondary school age, Parents & Toddlers, Rhyme & Bounce, Tots Get-Together, Who Let the Dads Out?, Connect Groups, Choir, CAP Lifeskills, Scouts and Guides, Men's Football, Bowling Club, Knitting and Crochet Group, Mothers' Union, Ladies' Guild. We also run Alpha Courses and other prayer and outreach initiatives. We have an annual Fete in June, a Community BBQ and Fun Evening in September and a Candle-light Carol Service in December.

We continue to invest resources and staff time into community engagement programmes, including establishing a Christians Against Poverty Centre, a Baby Basics initiative and a number of community-based youth initiatives.

These programmes and activities provide an opportunity for people to come together, enjoy each other's company and relax in a friendly environment, to develop and enrich friendships, to build community and a sense of belonging. They provide opportunities for people to come to faith, grow in faith and be encouraged to live out their faith in daily life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We also provide pastoral care and support to people of all ages and at all seasons of life, especially in times of illness, bereavement, challenge or distress.

Mission and outreach are central to our life and existence. We engage with a wide range of people through a variety of activities in order to reveal God's love through teaching and in caring and practical ways.

## **Seapatrick Parish**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### ***Achievements & Performance (continued)***

The Rector issues a monthly letter to every family within the Parish. This letter, together with the Website, social media, provides information to parishioners and others about church life, ministry and mission activity and information about Parish activities and organisations.

We've also developed links and partnerships locally, nationally and internationally. This has included giving £2,500 to the Southern Area Hospice, £1,250 to New Wine Ireland, £5,200 to CMSI – Church Missionary Society Ireland, £1,000 to SAMS -South American Mission Society, £1,250 to Fields of Life, £1,000 to NI Children's Hospice and £1,000 to B Positive.

#### ***Financial Review***

The Parish's principal source of income is from envelopes and standing orders. During 2023 we received two legacies totalling £45,000.

The Curatage at Bannview Heights was sold in June 2023. The net sale proceeds of £186,000 are invested with RCB.

Reserves, both unrestricted and restricted, continue to be in surplus with an adequate level of net current assets for the continuation of operational activities.

There are no areas of financial concern noted by Select Vestry.

#### ***Reserves Policy***

The Select Vestry's policy is to retain a level of free reserves or general reserves which matches its needs at the current time and in the foreseeable future. Free reserves are those unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets, which are available for general use.

## Seapatrick Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### *Reserves Policy (continued)*

The main reason for holding reserves is to ensure that the charity has enough resources to fund its programmes and to hold sufficient resources to meet its commitments. The Trustees believe that our reserves policy is both responsible and prudent, but have not specified a particular level of reserves to be held.

At 31 December 2023 the Parish held unrestricted funds of £293,546 representing more than 9 months expenditure which is in line with what is regarded as an appropriate level.

The Parish also held £877,991 of restricted funds which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 16.

#### *Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others*

There are no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

#### *Plans for future periods*

The Select Vestry intend to:

- carry out significant repairs to the organ in Holy Trinity Church
- carry out necessary repairs and refurbishments to church property.

The Select Vestry continue to support the development of the 'Christians Against Poverty Centre', the 'Baby Basics' project and 'Who Let the Dads Out?' project.

The Select Vestry also continues to support the development of initiatives in the parish and the local community, as we seek to be the Church at the heart of Banbridge and Seapatrick.

## Seapatrick Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Payments to Charity £
<b>Mission and Charity Payments</b>	
CMSI Kiwoko	1,200
CMSI - Maridi	4,000
Bishops Appeal – Turkey & Syria Appeal	2,155
Bishops Appeal – Libya Appeal	524
Bishops Appeal	500
Middle East Relief Fund	485
Bishop's Ministry Fund	81
D & D Rejuvenation Fund	1,250
D&D Church Plant	1,250
Tearfund	1,250
Christian Aid	400
Christian Pastoral Aid Society	250
Church Army	1,000
Crosslinks	300
Earl Haig Poppy Appeal	277
Fields of Life	1,250
Church of Ireland & Methodist Centre in Queens	300
Intercontinental Church Society	100
South Amercian Mission Society	1,000
Board of Education	100
New Wine Ireland	1,250
Summer Madness	200
Church Ireland Orphans & Childrens Society	300
Air Ambulance	850
St Johns Ambulance	300
Love for Life	1,000
Kilbroney Centre	500
Southern Area Hospice	2,500
NI Childrens Hospice	1,000
VIP Club	150
B Positive	500
Banbridge High School	500
U M	250
Habitat for Humanity	250
PIPS	200
Aware NI	200
Childrens Cancer	500
	<hr/>
	<b>28,122</b>

## Seapatrick Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### *Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities*

The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 requires charity trustees to ensure that accounting records are kept which are sufficient to show and explain all the charity's transactions, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to prepare statement of accounts which complies with regulation under the Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

Approved by the charity trustees and signed on their behalf by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T J B Stewart', with a date '12/12' written below the first few letters.

T J B Stewart  
Treasurer