

Lisburn Cathedral

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The principal function of this Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the 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.

All functions of the Parish relate to the expression of the Christian religion through engagement with the general public, in particular the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young and is a public benefit.

The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of regular worship, giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups.

In addition to the principal function, the Parish has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of this parish.

Management

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months and who give financially to the parish in an identifiable way, may register as members of the General Vestry of the parish, allowing them to stand for elected office and vote at annual meetings of the General Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry members will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served. The Select Vestry meets monthly with the exception of July, August and December.

The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

No trustee receives any remuneration, reward or private benefit for carrying out their trustee responsibility.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

Lisburn Cathedral seeks to engage with all of our local community through the ministries outlined below:

Regular Activities

Sunday Worship: On Sunday mornings there are normally 2 services (9.30am traditional & 11.00am contemporary). Evening Services are held at key points in the year at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and for specific areas of ministry.

Children and Youth work: Parents and Toddlers, Kidzone youth club (P4 to Yr 8) and Mettle (Y8+) running weekly youth club, bi-weekly football, regular after school drop in and additional irregular events. Scouts (all sections from Beavers to Explorers).

Prayer: Parish prayer time, prayer ministry, parish prayer chain, prayer appointments. Monthly Prayer and Praise event on a Sunday evening, and a monthly Saturday day of prayer.

Lisburn Community Choir & Lisburn Community Children's Choir. The community choir (a separate charity in its own right) meets on a regular basis on a Monday to rehearse in the Cathedral building.

Community Orchestra: We support the community orchestra by allowing the use of our church hall building as their venue to meet and practise.

Mission: South Lisburn Community Church - We have a committed team who work within the Hillhall and the South Lisburn wider community and they continue to expand their efforts through offering fellowship, support, worship and teaching across a range of pastoral and social issues. This work has continued to expand in 2023 with establishment of a regular Sunday worship service and a community hub - Chit Chat Café - for informal social activities and the continued development of a community spirit. The team have also been working with children and young people through a mentoring scheme in partnership with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG).

Pastoral care: Our clergy, along with our team of pastoral visitors, meet people in their homes, and particularly seek to stand alongside those with particular needs, the housebound and the bereaved.

Discipleship and Fellowship: A number of groups meet regularly providing a range of activities for fellowship, community and friendship including Housegroups, Ladies Bible study, GEM (God Enriched Moments) Women's group, Mother's Union, Alpha, Nimble Fingers, Men's Fellowship, Cameo club for our senior citizens.

Coffee Room/Honesty Café: We have a coffee room which enables anyone to come and sit in a beautiful, historic building in warm comfortable surroundings, run by volunteers. The Coffee Room currently operates once a week on a Friday.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt counselling: Lisburn Cathedral has partnered with CAP and other local churches to offer debt counselling in our area. The service we offer is free.

Foodbank: The foodbank is an ongoing project to support people from the Lisburn area whose lives have been affected by the current economic recession which we actively support.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity Trustees feel that the activities entered into during the year have achieved the Parish's objectives, as well as providing public benefit as referred to in the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidelines.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Financial reports are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Select Vestry (Trustees) and are also reviewed on completion of the Annual Accounts. The Select Vestry presents the accounts at the annual meeting of the General Vestry prior to the elections.

Points to note during 2023 for our Parish

- In 2023 we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the establishment of a worshipping community on the site of Lisburn Cathedral. This was marked by a number of events and services that ran throughout the year alongside our normal programmes and services. These were successfully self-funded through various events.
- We had several staff changes through the year, but our overall staffing levels have been maintained.
- A notable amount of substantial maintenance work on our properties was carried out in 2023, aligning with changes in staff and this is reflected in the figures.
- As with everyone in 2023 we have seen costs rise across staffing, fuel, electricity and materials. Ongoing careful management of our available funds by the Select Vestry is an ever present challenge
- We have started to fund raise to support planned remedial work on the hall and as part of this we have received grant funding from Lisburn Castlereagh City Council to be spent in the 2023-24 council financial year.
- With the closure of Gardner & Allen Opticians in September our rental income has dropped. This commercial space in Castle Street is now with McClelland Salter as a commercial letting opportunity.
- During the year ended 31 December 2023, total expenditure was £341,994 and gross income was £351,574. Sources of Income and Expenditure incurred during the year are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- A reserve, equivalent to around 2 months regular spending has been established.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

101233

Lisburn Cathedral

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Principal address

Cathedral Office
24A Castle Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT27 4XD

Trustees

Very Rev. Sam Wright
Rev. Danielle McCullagh (until 14/02/2023)
Rev. Peter Meenagh
Rev. Lee Boal (appointed 01/09/2023)

Mr Blair Austin (until 28/03/2023)
Miss Grace Broddle
Mr David Davidson (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mr Tam Dikibo (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mr Rodney Dowling
Mr Timothy Flanigan
Mrs Heather Gibson
Mr Kenneth Gibson
Mrs Hayley Howe (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mrs Joanne Irwin (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mrs Jill Lester (until 28/03/2023)
Mr Martin Lester (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mr Philip McConnell (until 28/03/2023)
Mr Michael McCune
Mrs Rachel McIlwrath
Mr Steve Martin
Mr William Moore
Mr Richard Norris (appointed 28/03/2023)
Mr Jim Price (until 28/03/2023)
Mr Simon Sellars
Mr Richard Thompson

Independent Examiner

McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TP

Bankers

Danske Bank
62-66 Bow Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1YS

Lisburn Cathedral

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Office Bearers

Dean - Very Rev. Sam Wright

Vicar - Rev. Danielle McCullagh (until 14/02/2023)

OLM - Rev. Pete Meenagh

Curate - Rev. Lee Boal (appointed 01/09/2023)

Honorary Secretary - Mrs Rachel McIlwrath (reappointed 30/03/2023)

Honorary Treasurer - Mr Richard Thompson (reappointed 30/03/2023)

Peoples' Church Warden - Mr Philip McConnell (until 28/03/2023)

Peoples' Church Warden - Mr David Davidson (appointed 28/03/2023)

Rector's Church Warden - Miss Grace Broddle (appointed 30/03/2022)

Rector's Glebe Warden - Mrs Heather Gibson (appointed 18/04/2021)

Peoples' Glebe Warden - Mr Martin Lester (until 28/03/2023)

Peoples' Glebe Warden - Mr Richard Norris (appointed 28/03/2023)

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 12 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Very Rev Sam Wright - Trustee