

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. 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. Fourteen members of the Select Vestry are 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 elected Select Vestry members form the Charity Trustees, along with the current clergy, who are automatically members and two people appointed to specialist roles by the rector under the rules set out by the Church of Ireland constitution.

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

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.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Children and Youth work: Parents and Toddlers, Sunday School (P4 to P7) and Sunday Night Youth (Y8+) running regular formal and informal gatherings and additional irregular events. Scouts (all sections from Beavers to Explorers) also have regular use of Cathedral facilities for weekly meetings.

Prayer: Parish prayer time, prayer ministry, parish prayer chain, prayer appointments. Monthly Prayer and Praise event on Sunday evenings.

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.

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

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 2024 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, now lead by a full time Pioneer Minister appointed in September, have also been working with children and young people through a mentoring scheme in partnership with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) facilitated through and in conjunction with the local primary school.

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 Friday mornings.

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.

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.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

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 2024 for our Parish:

- In 2024 we saw our staff change with reductions in our paid youth staff and the move of our part time minister in South Lisburn to a full time position.
- Building maintenance continues to be a notable ongoing cost, as is expected with an estate containing buildings dating from the 1600s, 1800s and 1900s.
- The planned fundraising to support remedial work on the hall is an ongoing project and as part of this we have received and spent grant funding from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to replace the windows in the hall. Additional funds have also been donated, however further substantial funds are needed before new work can be started.
- Our rental property, previously Gardner & Allen Opticians, has remained available for rent throughout the year. Like many properties in Lisburn there has been no demand for this unit. This has resulted in some additional costs in rates and maintenance, compounding the loss of rental income. Further options for the use of this space are currently being reviewed by the Select Vestry.
- During the year ended 31 December 2024, Total Expenditure was £399,526 and Gross Income was £451,852. 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 maintained in 2024.

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

Name as shown on the Charity Commission website

Lisburn/Lisburn Cathedral(Blaris)/ Cathedral of Christ Church, Lisburn/Connor/Church of Ireland

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Principal address

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

Trustees

Very Rev. Sam Wright
Rev. Peter Meenagh
Rev. Lee Boal

Miss Grace Broddle
Mr David Davidson
Mr Tam Dikibo
Mr Rodney Dowling
Mr Timothy Flanigan
Mrs Heather Gibson (until 14/04/2024)
Mr Kenneth Gibson
Mrs Julie Harper (appointed 14/04/2024)
Mrs Hayley Howe
Mrs Joanne Irwin

Mrs Pam Irwin (appointed 14/04/2024)
Mrs Jill Lester (appointed 14/04/2024)
Mr Martin Lester
Mr Michael McCune (until 14/04/2024)
Mrs Rachel McIlwrath (until 14/04/2024)
Mr Steve Martin (until 14/04/2024)
Mr William Moore
Mr Richard Norris
Mr Simon Sellars
Mr Richard Thompson

Independent Examiner

John McCleary FCA
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

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Office Bearers

Dean - Very Rev. Sam Wright

OLM (Ordained Local Minister)/Church Plant Leader - Rev. Pete Meenagh

Curate - Rev. Lee Boal

Honorary Secretary - Mrs Jill Lester (appointed 14/04/2024)

Honorary Treasurer - Mr Richard Thompson (reappointed 14/04/2024)

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

Rector's Church Warden - Miss Grace Broddle (until 14/04/2024)

Rector's Church Warden - Mrs Julie Harper (appointed 14/04/2024)

Rector's Glebe Warden - Mrs Heather Gibson (until 14/04/2024)

Rector's Glebe Warden - Mr Tam Dikibo (appointed 14/04/2024)

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Lee Boal

Rev Lee Boal