

**TYRONE PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY**

**Charity Commission**

**TRUSTEES REPORT**

**2023 - 2024**

# TYRONE PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY

(Established – 26<sup>th</sup> October 1843)

President: - **The Duke of Abercorn K.G.**

Northern Ireland Charity Number (NIC): 101594

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## **Charity Trustees**

Mr Robert Scott LL; OBE; JP

Mr Desmond Scott

Mr William Stewart

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## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT** for the period **1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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(1) **Approval** – This report was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Society held in Barons Court Castle, Newtownstewart on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

(2) **Rules of the Charity** – contained in the 179<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

1. The Society shall be called the TYRONE PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY and be managed by representatives of the Church of Ireland for the benefit and welfare of Church of Ireland orphans residing in County Tyrone.

2. All meetings of the Society shall open and close with a prayer or reading from Scripture

3. The Society shall be managed by a Committee comprising at least 12 members, representative of clerical and lay persons to be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Committee shall then elect a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The

AGM shall ensure that 3 Trustees are appointed.

4. Fourteen days' notice of the AGM shall be given to all Parishes in County Tyrone and shall be accompanied by the agenda of the AGM. The Secretary will keep minutes of the AGM. There must be at least 7 members present at the AGM for the meeting to be quorate. Each parish will have a maximum of 2 votes at the AGM.

5. The Committee shall be authorized by the AGM to fill interim vacancies and to amend the Rules of the Society as deemed necessary.

6. The Committee shall ordinarily meet in March and September of each year with the AGM held immediately after the Committee Meeting in September, or in conjunction therewith. At the Chairperson's discretion, extraordinary meetings may be scheduled to address any urgent business.

7. The Committee is empowered to raise funds, distribute and invest such funds on behalf of the Society. The Trustees of the Society shall be responsible for the management of the Capital Investment Portfolio.

8. The Society shall maintain a register of eligible orphans, referred to as the "Roll of the Society" (Roll).

9. Any child under the age of 18 years resident in County Tyrone and a member of the Church of Ireland, whose parent/parents is/are deceased, and is in need of financial support, shall be eligible for election to the Roll.

10. Every application for election of an orphan to the Roll shall be made on the designated form and signed by the Rector of the Parish, making the application, and countersigned by another member of that Parish and submitted to the Treasurer.

11. All applications will be considered for approval by a Sub-Committee of the Society, comprising the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. If approved, the applicant will be admitted to the Roll forthwith, and a grant payment issued expeditiously. This will be the only payment made in that calendar year.

12. Orphans accepted on to the Roll will be supported financially by the Society up to the age of 18 years unless the circumstances of the orphan have materially changed and as confirmed by the Rector of the Parish. Consideration will be given, in exceptional cases, to continue support beyond the age of 18 years, where there is proven hardship and financial need, and as endorsed by the Rector of the Parish. Approval for such provision must be given by the Committee of the Society.

13. The amount paid to an orphan on the Roll and the maximum payment to a family unit shall be determined by the Committee. The Committee may, in exceptional circumstances, provide additional support, notwithstanding the provisions in Rule 12.

14. A single annual payment shall be made to each orphan on or before the first of December with a receipt to be signed by the Rector of that Parish and returned to the Treasurer. For those orphans reaching the age of 18 years, then the payment will be pro-rata to the date of the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

15. All contributions to the Society should be forwarded to the Treasurer, who will notify the Chairperson and Secretary. Bequests made to the Society, and not specifically defined by the donor, shall be placed in the Capital Account of the Society.

(3) **Public Benefit:** - The direct benefits, which flow from this purpose include improving the financial position in the lives of beneficiaries. The direct benefit is by providing funding, which will, inter alia, relieve the financial pressure and stress, which the beneficiaries are enduring, and will further improve the quality of life for the beneficiaries. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from the parent/guardian of the beneficiary orphans and from the Rectors of Parishes, who have parishioners in receipt of assistance.


(4) **Report:** - In the year past, 34 orphans received significant and meaningful support from the Charity, which has been confirmed by feedback from the recipients and Clergy of the respective Parishes.

*The Trustees confirm compliance with the statutory requirement of the Charity Commission to provide Public Benefit as described in (3) above.*

In the year from May 2023 to April 2024, the Charity received income of £22,894-17 from donations and investment interest, whilst the outgoings for beneficiary grants and routine expenses were £34,327-93.

**The Society confirmed the following: -**

- 1.** On a case-by-case basis, the Committee can apply **Rule 12** of the Society, with regard to financial support for third level education, also for orphans over the age of eighteen and, who are in proven financial hardship. However, any such support **MUST** be endorsed by the Parish, either in writing or by representation.
- 2.** An awareness initiative throughout the Church of Ireland Parishes in County Tyrone to ensure that Clergy are fully cognisant of the qualifying criteria for an orphan.
- 3.** A continuing overall review of the "purpose and benefit" of the Society in the twenty-first century.
- 4. Purpose of the Charity:** - Promoting the benefit and welfare of orphans (children of one parent or none), who are members of the Church of Ireland and who reside in County Tyrone and who are in financial need.



Robert Scott LL OBE JP  
**Chair of Trustees**

Date: **10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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Desmond Scott – **Trustee**

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William Stewart - **Trustee**

