

The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

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

The Trustees present the Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Objectives and Activities *(the wording supplied for Charitable Objectives and Activities were approved by General Synod in 2015.)*

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore 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, The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore 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 The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

During the reporting period, No.32 Church Street, the neighbouring property to the Clayton Memorial Hall, was purchased and the front façade painted. This has secured the boundary of church properties situated next to No.32.

The exterior of the Rectory was painted in order to improve the appearance of the property and make it more watertight.

The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer is situated in the heart of the town of Dromore and seeks, through all of its activities, to have the town of Dromore, and its inhabitants, at its heart.

Principally, this has been achieved under the following headings:

Pastoral Care

The provision of funeral services for those who have been bereaved. The ladies of the Parish provide funeral teas when requested by bereaved families.

The delivery of pastoral support for those who have been identified as in need or have presented themselves as being in need of pastoral support. A structured model of visitation to those with more acute needs continued during the reporting period.

Staffing

During the reporting period, our Sexton left on 6th January 2023 and a new Sexton was appointed on 10th May 2023. A new Organist was appointed on 1st October 2023.

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Worship Services

Regular Sunday services were held at 8.30am, 10.00am, 11.30am and 6.00pm. Services were also held on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday evenings throughout the season of Lent and each evening in Holy Week.

A monthly service in the Mountvale Nursing Home, was held on the first Thursday of each month for the benefit of all residents and their family members.

During the reporting period, a monthly service on the first Friday of each month was commenced in the Beeches Fold for the benefit of the residents.

In addition to the foregoing, a number of more occasional services were hosted, namely a service of Installation of new Archdeacon to the Cathedral Chapter, Thanksgiving Service celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Girls' Brigade and Community Carol Service.

A 'Big Sing' Service of music themed on kingship and a Garden Party were held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

During the reporting period, a service of Praise, Prayer & Testimony was held on the 1st Sunday evening of each month, something which has been a great source of encouragement and blessing to all in attendance.

Services for Children and Young People

The Parish provides weekly instruction in the Christian faith through the provision of Sunday School and Girls' Brigade. Both groups are open to the whole community, Sunday School meeting on a Sunday morning during the 10.00am service and Girls' Brigade meeting on a Tuesday evening.

A Holiday Bible Club was held for a week in August for children of primary school age.

PULSE – A Youth Fellowship for teenagers, from both the church and community, met on a Sunday evening.

Bible Study

On a monthly basis, a Parish Bible Study enabled participants to learn more about the Christian faith and assisted them in their personal development.

Life Group

During the year, a morning Life Group was held where adults were able to consider the Christian faith, through a variety of material.

Grace Course

A morning and evening Grace course was held during the reporting period, with opportunities for the wider community to deepen the Christian faith.

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Prayer Course

A morning and evening Prayer course was held during the reporting period where people could grow and deepen in their prayer lives.

Men United

A Men's Group was established for men of all ages within the Church to meet monthly for fellowship.

Mothers' Union, MATCH, JOY, Craft Class and History Reading Group

These groups continued to meet during the reporting period.

Outreach and Mission

During the year, the Parish furthered the social aspect of the Gospel through support, both financial and practical, for the work of other Christian agencies, namely Via Wings and Youth for Christ in Dromore and our link Diocese of Maridi in South Sudan.

Throughout the season of Lent, parishioners were encouraged, through the "Jar of Grace", to give, pause and pray; the proceeds of the Jar of Grace were forwarded to the Diocese of Maridi to support the work and ministry of Bethsaida Clinic through the provision of basic equipment.

Additionally, substantial financial support was given to the Diocese of Maridi in South Sudan as they responded to the pandemic in their context with very limited resources.

SOMA Mission - During the reporting period a weekend of Mission was held with various activities and services to present the gospel to attendees. These activities were facilitated by an international organisation called SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad).

Support for other Charities

In September, the Parish hosted a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

On Saturday 30th September 2023, the Dean was accompanied by ten other parishioners on a sponsored cycle from Dromore to Newry in support of the work of Southern Area Hospice, Newry.

On Friday 9th December 2023, the Dean led a sit-out in the town in aid of the work of the Southern Area Hospice, Newry.

On Sunday 10th December 2023, the Cathedral hosted a community Carol Service with singers from all of the schools in the town participating as well as the Parish Choir and SOMA. The offering received at this service was given to the work of the Southern Area Hospice, Newry.

Ukrainian Refugee Family

The Cathedral Church family continued to provide a range of practical, financial and emotional support to the family who came from Ukraine to Dromore in November 2022.

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The Dignity of the Person

Through everything the Parish is involved in and delivers, the dignity of each individual is recognised and respected. This is specifically upheld through the Church's Safeguarding Trust Policy and the provision of an environment which reflects each person's value in God's sight.

Cathedral Open Days

The opening of our historic Cathedral to anyone in the community during July, August and December did not resume during the reporting period.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Financial Review

General Account. The main sources of income are derived from General and Freewill Offertories, Harvest Gift Day and Gift Aid Tax Refunds. The total of these decreased by 4.34% over the previous year.

Overall Cash Position. The Church has a number of Bank Accounts with an aggregate credit balance at the end of the year.

Cash Reserves Policy

The Trustees' policy relating to cash reserves is that sufficient funds should be held in reserve to finance foreseeable Capital and Ministry projects.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)

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, 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. 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 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.

Pay and Remuneration

The Trustees confirm that the Incumbent is paid directly by the Parish and receives Stipend, Locomotory Expenses and Office Allowance in accordance with the figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The Curate Assistant receives payment in accordance with the rates approved by the Diocesan Council.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the Clergy serving in the Parish, the Curate Assistant, the Church Wardens, the Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Incumbent or other member of the Clergy officiating in the Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied.

The Select Vestry meets at times fixed by the members. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Church Wardens subject to adequate notice being given. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 11 times during the year and the average attendance was 86%.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to Charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a Statement of Income and Expenditure and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year.

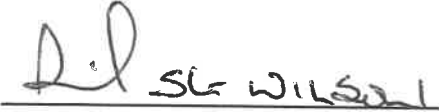
The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the Assets and Liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the Assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, S M Vint & Co, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their re-appointment was passed at the Annual General Vestry Meeting.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S G Wilson', written over a horizontal line.

Very Revd S G Wilson



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S P Cochrane', written over a horizontal line.

Mr S P Cochrane

Date: 19th August 2024