

Glenavy Parish Church Trustee's Annual Report

1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

Glenavy Parish Church

2A Belfast Road

Glenavy

Co Antrim

BT29 4LL

NI Charity number: 101737

Trustees

Rev. Linda Cronin

Trevor Wilson

Heather Campbell

Lorna Addis (until 18 April 2023)

Rosemary Taylor

Janet Bell

Jill Wilson

David Steele

Frances Dunlop

Maynard Porter

Valerie Campbell

Jimmy Stewart (from 18 April 2023)

Alma George

Claire Wilson

Stephen Addis

John Taylor

Stephen Campbell

Beth Brown (until 18 April 2023)

Graham Chipperfield (until 18 April 2023)

Sandra Price

Vicki McCullough

Rodney Mairs (from 18 April 2023)

Lyn Cassidy (from 18 April 2023)

Purpose

The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity.

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

Public Benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duties in line with the Commission's Public Benefit statutory guidance. Regular worship and reaching out into the community have been carried out successfully throughout the year to fulfil our statement of Public Benefit.

Achievements

Glenavy Parish comprises three churches - St Aidan's Glenavy, St John's Crumlin and St Andrew's Tunny. Sunday morning services are normally held in each of the three churches on the first, third and fourth Sunday of the month. On the second Sunday, café style church is held in the morning, alternating between St Johns and St Aidans, with a shorter traditional morning service held in the alternate church (no service is held in St Andrew's on the second Sunday of the month). One service (from St Aidan's, Glenavy) is filmed and streamed.

The Vicar provides pastoral care, visiting those in need in their homes, Care Homes and hospital, and giving home Holy Communion for those who cannot come to church. A confidential prayer chain also provides support for those in need.

During 2023 we transitioned our ministry to older parishioners and older people in the local community from the 'Open Door' to 'Coffee and Craic'. 'Coffee and Craic' takes place on the second Tuesday morning of the month. It is a space for people to come together over a cup of coffee or tea with scones and traybakes, to chat, meet with old friends, make new friends and enjoy a short activity or talk.

The Parish walking group continued during the year, providing a valuable opportunity for members to meet together outside, for a walk, friendship and fellowship on a Wednesday morning twice a month.

Several Saturday morning 'pop ups' with a sale and coffee, were organized by the ladies in St John's Church, raising money for charity as well as a social activity for people from the church and the wider community to meet up over a cup of coffee.

At the other end of the age scale, activities are also organized for children and young people. Sunday School (for all children in attendance) meets on a Sunday morning, three Sunday's a month during church services in each of the three churches (on the second Sunday in the month an 'all age' Café Style church is held, alternating between St Aidans, Glenavy and St John's, Crumlin).

The Parish continued to support a Youth for Christ project in Crumlin, including a weekly 'drop-in' hosted in St John's church hall. The church halls are also used by a range of other community groups regularly.

A small number of maintenance and repairs were required and undertaken across all our churches and halls to ensure that all facilities remain safe and fit for purpose.

Safeguarding policy

Staff and volunteers have been given training in the care of under 18s and vulnerable adults, according to the guidance and principles of the Church of Ireland as set out in the policy folder 'Safeguarding Trust'. A dedicated Church of Ireland staff member is available to us for advice by email.

The training includes awareness of both the various physical and behavioural signs which may indicate abuse has taken place; also instruction in keeping appropriate boundaries when interacting with those in their care, in keeping records of incidents or accidents, and in the use of social media and portable devices for communication. Case studies in a group setting have been found to be helpful.

Data Protection

Following the introduction of the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UKGDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Parish continues to ensure that it only collects data that is necessary and takes appropriate measures to safeguard the personal data that is held.

Governance and Organisational Structure

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

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18, who subscribe to the church, in a manner that can be recorded, 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 at the General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry members 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 that may be served.

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 incumbent), the church wardens, glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other elected members. The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent, and meets regularly, at times agreed by the members. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens.

Finance

The church finances are managed by the Hon Treasurer who reports monthly to the Select Vestry.

Closing balance of the church bank accounts at 31 December 2023 were:

General account	£46,188.74
Building account	£47,111.78
Business investment account	£300.80

As well as general wages, Diocesan levies and running costs of the Parish we also regularly give to a number of local and overseas charities chosen by the Select Vestry.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Rosemary Taylor (Hon Secretary)

Heather Campbell (Hon Treasurer)