

St Mark's Church, Dundela, Belfast

Charity Trustees' Annual Report

for the Year ended 31st December 2022

Charity Registration Number NIC102090



St Mark's
Parish of Dundela

St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela

References and administration details

Charity Registration Number NIC102090

Contact Address St Mark's Parish Office
Heyn Hall
2 Sydenham Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2DR

Charity Trustees

Dr Sarah Bass
Dr Ann Clark
Mrs Emma Dale
Ms Laura Hillis: Glebe Warden People
Mr Michael Newman
Mrs Lynn Wilson: Glebe Warden Clergy
Mrs Lesley Donaldson
Mr Robert McBride
Mrs Joan Atkinson
Mr Don McClean
Mr John Campbell
Miss Heather McKaig

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy (Rector)	Revd Canon Helene T. Steed
Church Hon Secretary	Mrs Hannah Nelson
Church Hon Treasurer	Mrs Lucy McIlwaine
Church Warden Clergy	Mr Michael Newman
Church Warden People	Mrs Heather Ellison

Independent Examiner

Mr Mark Eakin

Bankers

Danske Bank
520 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast. BT4 3HD

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Charity Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31st of December 2022.

The Charity Trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Liabilities for St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Objectives and Activities

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

As a Church of Ireland parish, the principal function for St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela is to adhere to and promote the charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland. The mission of our parish is to provide divine worship; pastoral care; nurturing of faith; charitable (outreach) and social activities; and ecumenical involvement in East Belfast. St Mark's Parish engages with the local community through activities and events.

As part of our objective in pursuit of the advancement of religion, St Mark's Parish has custody of property, records, and artefacts of significant importance to the cultural and religious heritage. This is maintained by the Select Vestry.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

As a Parish church, with a clear Anglican identity, St Mark's Parish aims to be the spiritual home for all our parishioners regardless of age. To achieve this, we try to offer a wide variety of services and activities.

During 2022, St Mark's Parish divine worship was at the core of our parish activities, we held more than 183 services. Our services ranged from the traditional to the contemporary, from the choral to the meditative and hence offers a wide variety of devotional options. Due to Covid Restrictions easing the majority of services were conducted in the Church and also through broadcast services live via Facebook. In addition, we have, and offered opportunities to participate via Zoom.

The public benefit associated with St Mark's Parish, in addition to divine worship, is through the many weekly group activities that takes place throughout the year. These groups cater for all ages and many different interests. Singing, our Open Choir is growing in numbers; studying (faith formation); and social events take place on a regular basis. In addition, we have specific outreach ministries: *Mums and Chums*: ministry to pre-school children and their parents (or careers). The group meets weekly during term time in the Heyn Hall for a morning of play, fun and singing. During the summer months we have offered readings on the lawn as a community activity. As part of our service to the community we hosted a garden party to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. This event included planting an orchard and a concert. Other activities during 2022 included Choir Cubs (children's choir), handbell ensemble and towerbell ringing, Art and Chat, Creative Stitching, Cooking classes, Children's Easter Camp and a Youth Fellowship programme.

St Mark's Parish is strongly committed to an open ethos. We do all we can to make sure that our premises are accessible. Both the Church and the Heyn Hall are disability friendly. We have a very effective district wide communication policy which informs and encourages every home within our parish boundary, approx. 5,000 homes, to participate in the wide range of religious and social activities held on our premises. We also host local housing and charitable groups for meetings and activities. In 2022 we opened a Warm Hub, enabled people of all ages to meet in a heated environment with Coffee and Soup provided at no charge.

St Mark's Parish is involved in various fundraising activities which are for the benefit of our own charitable ministry, as well as supporting other charities in the local community, and also at national, and international level. Supporting humanitarian initiatives is a long-standing tradition in the parish. As part of this ministry every year we send approx. 35 Christmas presents ('shoe-boxes') to children in need. In 2022 funds were raised for the local foodbank *The Larder* and CSMI and the Poppy Appeal.

St Mark's Church was designed by the renowned Victorian architect William Butterfield, his only parish church on the island of Ireland. This makes our Church unique and as custodians of this gem, the Select Vestry is particularly focussed that it is cared for according to the highest possible heritage praxis. In addition, the Church and Parish have a strong historical link with the life of the theologian, poet and novelist C. S. Lewis, whose maternal grandfather; Revd Thomas Hamilton was the first rector of the Parish. To make this cultural and architectural heritage accessible to the public, the Select Vestry offers open days, guided tours and participates annually in the C. S. Lewis Festival and Heritage Open Days.

The Parish is affiliated with and have a very longstanding cooperation with the Girl Guiding movement. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet weekly in the Heyn Hall and draw members from all denominations and none.

The Heyn Hall is also regularly used by community organisations, including Root Soup and the L'Arche Community, Scottish Dancing classes, Resident AGM Meetings, flexibility exercise classes and birthday parties. Due to lifting of Covid restrictions in 2022 there was an increased use of the Hall and Church premises with new exercise classes offered, BBC radio performances and the Drama group play.

Finance

The Charity Trustees consider the financial results for the year ending 31st December 2022 and the financial situation at that date to be good, this has been helped due to the lifting of Covid Restrictions and successful fundraising activities such as October 2022 Gift month appeal, Open Garden and Jubilee event.

Management

St Mark's Parish, as a Parish in the Church of Ireland is governed by Chapter three of the Constitution for the Church of Ireland. Members of the Select Vestry are elected as stated herein. The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of St Mark's Parish in terms of finance, fabrics and furnishing. The finances are managed by the Hon. Treasurer in conjunction with the Select Vestry.

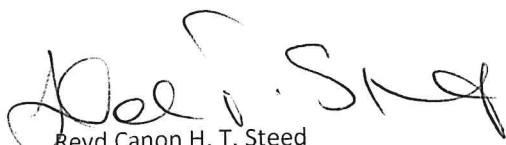
Acting in her role as Incumbent and Rector of St Mark's Parish, the Revd Canon H. T. Steed receives a stipend, locomotory and office allowances in accordance with the figures approved of the General Synod for the Church of Ireland. No other Trustees receive any remuneration from St Mark's Parish.


St Mark's Parish adhere to the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have 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 St Mark's Parish objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees, 12th April 2023


Revd Canon H. T. Steed
Rector


Mrs Lucy McIlwaine
Hon. Treasurer

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