

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 Parish of Christ Church Kilmore for the year ended 31st December 2023

Objectives and Activities

The principle objective of the Parish of Christ Church Kilmore is to support the advancement of the Christian religion, and the benefits thereof, through all its various activities and ministries. Broadly speaking this fall under the following five main categories: evangelical, ecumenical, pastoral, social and charitable. Practically this means that we engage with society as a whole, on a cross-community basis, offering both spiritual and practical support to individuals and families as they have need.

As a result of its activities and pursuant with its mission, the Parish Church of Christ Church Kilmore has custody of property, land and buildings, fabric and furnishings, records and registers, materials and artefacts of significant cultural, historical and religious value, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Parish of Christ Church Kilmore.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Christ Church Kilmore together with Inch Parish Church form a joint parish under the leadership of the Rector. The Rev Stephen Smyth retired on the 31st July 2023 and the joint parishes are under the temporary leadership of the Area Dean the Rev Adrian Dorian. As a joint parish we seek to pursue the mission of the Church: evangelical, ecumenical, pastoral, social and charitable under the aegis of the Church of Ireland.

We provide weekly and occasional services of Morning Prayer, Holy Communion, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and adjunct pastoral support including, the visitation of the sick, the elderly, the infirm and the bereaved. Additionally each Church runs its own Sunday school.

As a joint parish we are involved in the broader community and as part of our mission seek to work alongside all other Civic, Charitable, School and Church organisations addressing local needs and on occasion, worshipping together.

The Rector and two members of Select Vestry serve on the Boards of two local schools.

We raise funds and donate monies from our own resources to local and international charities.

As a joint Parish and on a completely voluntary basis, we operate the Kilmore & Inch Food Bank, which supplies emergency food parcels to both individuals and families. The Food Bank works closely with the following organisations: Christians against Poverty (CAP), St Vincent de Paul (SVP) and Social Services, all of whom refer clients to us.

Financial Review

- The Parish unrestricted main account (No 1 Account) showed a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £1,199.83 before transfers at the 31st December 2023, A transfer of £1,412.66 was made to the Graveyard account to clear a deficit on that account as subscriptions for grave maintenance did not cover the cost of maintenance.
- The Church was carrying excess funds at the bank which were providing a poor return and after reviewing our short to medium needs £64,000 was invested with the Northern Ireland central Fund for Charities to provide a better return.
- The Church Repair and Renewal Fund had a balance of £16,702.91 at 31st December 2023 comparable to that off £15,947.37 as at 31st December 2022.
- The sound system was upgraded a few years ago, the cost to be borne by the church with a commitment that the Eliza Robinson Charity fund would reimburse the church over a number of years.
- There were a significant number of transactions with restricted funds being monies given through the church for other purposes such as the provision of a local foodbank.
- In the absence of the Rector, the Rectory was empty and an opportunity arose to provide a short term tenancy to a family whose home had been flooded. The rental income is being used to meet the costs of items identified by the Diocesan Architect in his vacancy report. The balance on the fund was £1,837.66 at the 31st December 2023.
- The Parish is bound by the Church of Ireland 'Duty of Prudence' for church trustees to ensure that the parish is and remains solvent and by annual accounting principles to remain a going concern. Our aim has been to keep sufficient free reserves to provide, as per good practice guidelines for charities, cover for 6 months in relation to known liabilities. Our present reserves meet this requirement.

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

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 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

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 Parish is jointly responsible, with Inch Parish Church for payment of the stipend, office and locomotory allowances to the incumbent and the incumbent received a stipend of £10,916.50, an office allowance of £233.31 and a locomotory allowances of £2,041.69 from Christ Church Kilmore up to the date of his leaving. The Parish have opted to pay the Incumbents Pension Contributions, the Total Pension contributions for the year were £4,082.10 which included a levy of £2,203.44 from the Representative Church Body.

Organisational Structure

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the parish. The select vestry consists of the incumbent, the churchwardens, 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 of 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 or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 7 times during the year and the average attendance was 75%.

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 actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

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 receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.


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

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.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Area Dean

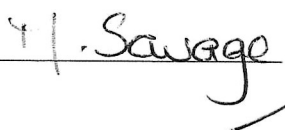
Rev. Adrian Dorian



25/03/24

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. Margaret Savage



25/03/24