

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities Inch Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The principle objective of Inch Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion, and the benefits thereof, through its various activities and ministries. Broadly speaking this fall into the following five 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, Inch Parish Church 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 Inch Parish Church.

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. Each Church also 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 provide support and premises for the following organisations: Cubs, Beavers, Scouts, Art Group, Badminton, Bowls and Women's and Men's fellowships.

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.

We are now beginning to recover from the impact of COVID however we still face unique challenges we still seek, wherever possible to fulfil our mission and continue our activities and ministries.

Financial Review

- The accounts show that the Church Operating Account had a surplus of £4,318.29 for the year before transfers. The general fund received £4,573.18 from Inch Community Hall and transferred £8,477.00 to the Building Fund.
- Inch Community Hall made a surplus of £4,318.29 which was transferred to the Church Account and continues to underpin the finances of the Church.
- The Cottage is now being used as part of the Sunday School with consequent charges to the Church account Substantive work was carried out to the Cottage for which the Church received £14,000 from the Priorities Fund
- The Graveyard Fund has decreased by £1,284 during the year as there was costs to maintenance of the wall.
- There were a number of transactions through other restricted funds in respect of one-off events.
- The balance of the Parish's main (No 1 Account) at 31st December 2023 was £22,052.14, an decrease of £1,017.29 from the beginning of the year. The balance includes £6,703.85 in designated, (£11,302.76 in 2022).

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (Cont).

- 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.

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 Rector, the Churchwardens, the Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting.

The select vestry is normally chaired by the Rector.

The responsibilities of the Select Vestry are detailed in the Third Chapter of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, with members being primarily responsible for all matters relating to parochial land, buildings, fabric, fixtures and fittings, the Church Graveyard and ensuring adequate insurance cover of the same. The Select Vestry has responsibility for the management of all Parish's Income and Expenditure.

The Select Vestry also has responsibilities governed by general and Charities legislation.

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 6 times during the year.

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

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.

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.

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

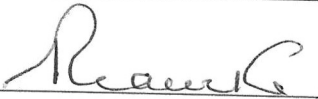
Rev. Adrian Dorian



04/04/2024

Honorary Secretary

Mr. Agnes Peacocke



04/04/2024