

**Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish  
Diocese of Connor**

**Trustees' Annual report  
Independent Examiners Report  
and Statement of Receipts and Payments**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Charities Number: NIC103118**

**Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

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**References and administrative details:**

Charity Name: Toomebridge/Drummual, Duneane & Ballyscullion/Duneane Parish Church and Ballyscullion Parish Church/Connor/Church of Ireland-2004232

Charity Registration Number: **NIC103118**

**Trustees:**

*Rev Derek Kerr, Kenneth Faloon, James Bovill, Ian Bovill, Mary Bovill, Stanley Bovill, Ivan Bond, Victoria Walker, Andrew Moore, Hugh McBride, Neil McBride, David Gordon, Margaret Hill (from Easter 2023), Sandie Clyde, Thomas Kilpatrick, Tracy Kilpatrick, Noel McCullough, Carol McCullough, Eileen McCullough, Richard Marks, and Andrea Marks.*

**Principal Office-bearers: (elected at Easter vestry 2023)**

Clergy: Rev Derek Kerr  
 Honorary Secretary: Sandie Clyde  
 Honorary Treasurer: Mary Bovill  
 Assistant Treasurer: Tracy Kilpatrick

Church Warden- Clergy:	Andy Moore	Thomas Kilpatrick
Church Warden - People:	Sandie Clyde	Noel McCullough
Glebe Warden- Clergy:	Kenneth Faloon	Tracy Kilpatrick
Glebe Warden- People:	Victoria Walker	Carol McCullough

**Independent Auditor:**

Mrs E Nicholl, Accounts Manager, 84b Garvaghy Road, Portglenone, Co Antrim

**Bankers:**

<b>Duneane</b>	<b>Ballyscullion</b>
Danske Bank	Barclays Bank PLC
Antrim	Belfast/On-line

## **Trustees' report**

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments for Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish church for the year 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023.

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

The principal function of Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish church, 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, Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish church 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 Duneane & Ballyscullion Parish church.

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

Traditional Church services continued weekly for worship, fellowship and support to parishioners and visitors. Special services for Harvest and Christmas were held, where members of the local community were welcomed. Encouragement and support were offered to members of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion parishes, as a declaration of their Christian faith. Pastoral care was provided to members of the parish and their families by the incumbent; this contributed to the spiritual well-being of the parishioners.

A fund-raising event took place in Ballyscullion Parish Hall raising £1925 for Air Ambulance (and further donations were sent directly to the charity). A representative from Good News for All (formerly Gideons), spoke at a service and a donation of £170 was given towards their work.

We also donated funds for charitable organisations such as CMS, SAMS, Crosslinks, and the Church of Ireland Student Hub at Queens University with collections also taking place for NI Children's Hospice and Bishops Appeal (Turkey Earthquake).

Food Awareness (for Church catering) training was offered by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council with some parishioners attending and obtaining their course certificate.

Reverend Andy Moore (Ballymena Parish) conducted some defibrillator training in Ballyscullion Parish Hall, this was well attended and very informative.

All activities were carried out under Safeguarding Trust principles.

### **Acting Chairperson's Report**

Rural Dean – Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth given at the Annual Easter Vestry meeting

As the Rural Dean covering the vacancy of the incumbent, I want you to consider the importance of our annual meeting. What is its purpose? Some consider it to be a process of election of individuals to office, and that is it, but hopefully you will see something different which I hope is refreshing. For me, an Easter Vestry is an opportunity to thank God for his provision and his guidance in the year that has passed, and to seek his direction for the year to come. When you met here on the 13/14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, you had your rector, Canon Derek Kerr overseeing all aspects of the meeting. And now a year on, you begin a new chapter. Your rector has sensed the call from God toward Tynan, Aghavilly and Middletown. And now for you all, in the hands of your parochial nominators, you begin the process of discerning what God has planned for Drummaul, Duneane & Ballyscullion. It is a daunting period, and yet very exciting.

You might wonder what as a Church community you should be doing through this period of waiting. For some people, a period of waiting can seem very uncomfortable and weary. I know personally I found waiting extremely frustrating, I generally want to get on with things, and don't have the patience to consider that waiting is a process in itself.

You may know a little about Joshua in the Old Testament. He would be Moses' successor. He would lead God's people across the River Jordan onto the land that God had promised them. Let me read to you from the opening chapter of Joshua and let's then consider what we can learn from it during the period of waiting.

Joshua 1:1-9

I wonder have you noticed that God said to Joshua 3 times in the passage, "Be strong and courageous". He reassured them of his faithfulness throughout all their time – "as I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave nor forsake you....the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go". The road ahead for the people was uncertain, and yet God assured them of a total reliance that he would be faithful. For the parish, during the vacancy hold on to that promise, that God is always faithful – trust in him to guide you, be strong and courageous.

Part also of Joshua's success was his obedience to God. Joshua faithfully listened to God. He knew that obedience is the pathway to God's presence. Jesus himself said to his followers, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Likewise God commanded his people to keep scripture always on their lips – to meditate on it day and night; and to be careful to do everything written in it. Therefore during this vacancy, the leadership and all people in these churches need to meditate on God's word. We need to all train ourselves to draw closer to God. I would encourage you to put into place a frequent gathering to pray. If you want to have a new rector who desires after God's heart and loves God's people, then it starts with you seeking after God in prayer. I would encourage the parochial nominators to initiate this and I am happy to help you.

Finally, it is important to note that as the people depended and trusted in God, it was clear that God took his time in leading them to the promised land. We all know the period the people waited with Moses in the wilderness as 40 years, but now as they approach with Joshua God has more waiting for them to do. When Joshua said it would be 3 days to enter into the land, it actually took about 7. It probably took days for all the people to cross the Jordan. They would have also waited while all 12 tribes could build memorials recognising what God had done.

Instead of being concerned about rushing to their destination, God took his time to bind his people to himself so they were fully dependent on him. So what do we learn? We learn that we need to see this as a period, however long it needs to be, to not be so concerned about getting to the end but thinking about what God wants to do in all of you during this period. I have already observed in the short time with you that there is a demarcation between Drummaul parish, and Duneane & Ballyscullion, I think that God wants to do a new thing in all of the churches, bringing more unity and cohesion for the future. So be patient – do not rush this process of waiting – consider what God wants to do in and through you so that he receives glory as his Church becomes more united.

### **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.

## Financial Review

### **Duneane**

In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023, the excess of funds from income over expenditure in the basic running account for Duneane parish was £977.09.

Income - The main sources of income continue to be Free Will Offering, Harvest and Plate collections, and Gift Aid & GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme) income. Free Will Offerings and Harvest were relatively comparable with 2022. Gift Day has not yet resumed since Covid pandemic. The only unusual source of income was the support payment from NIE of £600.

Expenditure - Expenditure for 2023 increased slightly from previous year, an increase of £1474.29, with increased expenditure related to heating oil and small increase on insurance. A payment of £200 was given to Drummaul for Children's work, this increased our expenditure however it was from an income of a grant shown in 2022 accounts.

Repairs to a window frame and lights took place in 2023 at a total cost of £700, no other unexpected or capital purchases were required from this main running account. Fees paid to the Diocese for stipend, general fund assessment etc, were in line with previous amounts. No investments were made.

Overall - in the basic account used for managing day-to-day accounts, the total income raised for Duneane was £13087.43, while the expenditure for Duneane for 2023 was £12110.34 with a closing balance of £28701.31. Therefore the trustees believe that the parish has sufficient funds to meet ongoing costs and any further expenditure.

Collections - Collections on behalf of other charity organisations are recorded in income and expenditure of the standard running account.

Accounts held - Main running costs and donations are managed using a current account held with Danske Bank. In order to meet any capital expenditure required, the parish has funds at Danske Bank (known as No2 Repair account), however this is only to be used for these capital expenses. Funds from this capital account purely related to interest, while the only debit was bank fees.

An additional account is held with the Progressive Building Society purely for holding a reserve from a bequest from Mrs Evelyn Hill for upkeep of the graveyard; only interest will be drawn from this at any time, to allow it to continue in perpetuity. No withdrawals took place in 2023; only interest was credited to the account.

### **Ballyscullion**

In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023, the deficit of funds from income over expenditure in the basic running account, for Ballyscullion parish was -£1253.38.

Income - The main sources of income continue to be Free Will Offering and Harvest, and increased from 2022. No Gift Day collections took place as this was still affected by the Covid pandemic. Gift Aid & GASDS continue to be of a benefit to the parish with £2020.19 claimed.

Building Fund FWO Envelopes received £1780 which is lodged directly to the Savings Account, Gift Aid was also claimed on these donations and bank interest received. Donations were also credited to this account £67.83; and a specific donation of £1080 was received for the purchase of a new hall door.

Expenditure - Expenditure was as expected for standard running costs; the main increase relates to electricity and insurance following a revaluation of Church & Hall. The main bulk of expenses relate to similar amounts compared with previous years. Fees paid to the Diocese for stipend, general fund assessment etc, were in line with previous amounts.

A payment of £200 was given to Drummaul for Children's work, this increased expenditure however as per Duneane's accounts, it was an income of a grant shown in 2022 accounts.

Donations to Charities was higher due to fund raising for specific events as detailed in the accounts.

Overall - the total income raised for Ballyscullion was £20886.43, while the expenditure for Ballyscullion for 2023 was £22139.81 with a closing balance of £19263.83.

The savings account had an income of £3441.06, while the expenditure was £1080 (new door on Hall), with a closing balance of £16231.45.

Therefore, the trustees believe that the parish has sufficient funds to meet ongoing costs and any further expenditure.

Collections - Collections on behalf of other charity organisations are recorded in income and expenditure of the standard running account.

*Accounts held* - The parish retains one main account with Barclays which all funds must pass through. A separate savings account, also with Barclays, is held for Savings/Building Fund donations.

### **Going Concern**

The trustees have reviewed the financial position of the parish 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 Dec 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 Incumbent of the Parish's stipend is paid by the treasurer of Drummaul Parish, as part of the Union with Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion parishes as a whole. Duneane & Ballyscullion parish pays one-third of the approved stipend to Drummaul church for the incumbent's stipend. This stipend is in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Duneane and Ballyscullion parishes also contribute to the Incumbents Office and locomotory allowances, heating oil and employers NIC contributions, as part of the group, while General Fund assessment and clergy pension is funded directly from Duneane & Ballyscullion accounts to the RCB.

### ***Organisational Structure***

Duneane & Ballyscullion parish is part of a Group with Drummaul parish, however has its own trustees, and operate and govern itself separately from Drummaul parish. 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 churchwardens, the glebe wardens and other members elected at the General Vestry Meeting.

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 organised by the members. In addition to planned meetings, urgent meetings may be requested by the chairperson or by members of the Select vestry.

The vestry held 4 full vestry meetings, and 1 short meeting after Morning Prayer, during 2023. The average attendance across all 5 meetings was 78%.

Finances are managed by the Honorary Treasurer, with assistance from a parish Treasurer for Duneane; they report back to the trustees as required at Select Vestry meetings.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £500,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments 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**

Trustee: *Thomas Tullybrook*

Trustee: *I Bevell*

Date ..... *9-9-2024* .....