

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for the St Colmanell's Church of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of St Colmanell's is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting 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, St Colmanell's 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 St Colmanell's.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

The church has achieved its objectives by the holding of regular religious services and also holding various youth and other activities for the benefit of the local community. The church holds regular public worship services on Sundays and worship services on Wednesdays and on other occasions associated with Christian festivals throughout the year.

Calendar year 2024 continued on from 2023 with Church services returning to normal based worship on a Sunday. "Normal" services consisted of Sunday morning prayer worship with the fourth Sunday of the month being an all-age service with a more relaxed format. An evening service was also conducted once a month. Sunday morning attendance ranged from 80 to 110 attendees. Sunday School and creche were fully functioning on a Sunday morning.

Outside of the worship services, the church is normally engaged in several outreach programmes into the local community, through organisations such the Knitting Club. Church members continue to engage in outreach programmes by sending cards and/or newssheets at Easter and Christmas. The Church Fete resumed in 2023 along with other successful outreach activities, including a Variety Night and a Pre-loved Clothes Sale.

The Rector and two parishioners from St Colmanell's went on an outreach mission to Ibba in South Sudan to help build relations with the local church. Fund raising and donations from the congregation supported this trip.

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.

Financial Review

The trustees consider that the unrestricted funds of the church have sufficient resources and assets available which are adequate to fulfil their obligations. A detailed analysis of parish income and expenditure is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

General giving has been reviewed by the Trustees, and it is recognised that whilst the level of giving has remained steady, it has not kept pace with inflation and the general increases in the cost of goods and services. Several letters and presentations on giving have been presented to the congregation, with regular givers indicating a willingness to provide additional support if required. The number of givers by monthly standing order had increased to more than 65 by 31 December 2024, which provides a regular income to meet ongoing overheads. During 2024, the Parish distributed 10% of free will offering to Charitable causes across the local and wider community. Distribution to charitable causes will continue in 2025.

Donations to the buildings fund have continued to average £1,500 per month up to the end of December 2024.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

The trustees allocate income specifically designated for building projects to a buildings fund. This is held to provide funds for future building projects as the need arises. Funds are currently being accumulated to assist with the intended future construction of a new Parish Centre. Full planning approval has been granted for the new Parish Centre in 2023. The project to build the new Parish Centre took on a greater urgency during 2024. The inflationary increase in the cost of materials and professional services have resulted in a need to review the plans to explore all options with affordability being the primary consideration. In order to demonstrate stewardship and governance, a sub-committee was formed to focus on the Parish Centre Project and report back to the trustees.

It should be noted as the buildings fund is not a wholly restricted fund, it has been agreed that, if required, funds can be moved to support all costs of the church.

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 31 December 2024 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

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. This allows 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 stipend of the Incumbent of the Parish is paid directly by the Parish in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Organisational Structure

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, any curate assistant ("the curate"), 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 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 fixed by the members or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2024 the Select Vestry had 10 face to face meetings and an Easter Vestry. The average attendance was more than 75%.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in the Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) "and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law) Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Parish will continue as a going concern.

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 financial position of the Parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provision of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

Statement as to disclosure to our Examiners

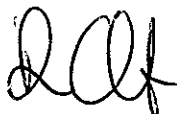
In so far as the trustees are aware at the timing of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiners

The independent examiner, Steven Potter, has indicated his willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning his reappointment will be proposed at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting.

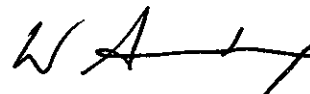
Signed on behalf of the Trustees -



Rev Dennis Christie
Rector



Dr Thomas Moody
Trustee



Mr William Armstrong
Trustee

Date: - 10 March 2025