

St.Patrick's Church, Broughshane

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 St Patrick's Church, Broughshane for the year ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable purpose is the expression of the precepts of the Christian religion through engagement with the general public and in particular, with the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young as a public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

These can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching.

The beneficiaries are the general public, and the public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance and willingness to support through contributions, the continuing witness of the Church. The wider benefit to the public will outweigh any detriment arising in the course of Christian outreach.

The direct benefits flowing from this purpose include the provision of archive records, public enjoyment of cultural and historic buildings and artefacts such as church plate, furnishings and materials as well as an overall improved appreciation of longstanding Christian heritage. This is demonstrated through on-going provision of access to records and the use made of these records in, for example, research and genealogy, through conservation efforts in respect of records, property and artefacts and the subsequent and continued requests for access and use of our materials by wider society.

There is no harm arising from the purpose. The beneficiaries are the general public. No private benefit is received by trustees fulfilling their trustee responsibilities in respect of these records, buildings or artefacts, but in the course of conservation and to make these accessible to the public, the engagement of professional staff and services is essential but incidental to the fulfilment of the purpose.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity Trustees have complied with their duties in line with the Commission's Public Benefit statutory guidance. Regular worship and reaching out into the community as well as other activities both social and fundraising have been carried out through the year to fulfil our statement of Public Benefit.

St Patrick's Church Broughshane facilitates and enables Christian worship and discipleship within the Anglican Tradition. This is done through various models, including traditional and contemporary expressions twice a month (second and fourth Sundays), blended worship twice a month (first and third Sundays), a weekly Mid-week communion service and monthly prayer meetings. This is supplemented by various community formulation events such as lunches, men's breakfasts, Stitch, Knit, and Natter Craft Group, and an annual Easter Egg hunt. Seasonal events include but are not limited to Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Carol Services, Weekly Coffee morning (following midweek service) and Easter Services. A weekly Sunday Club caters for children and teenagers through a Youth Fellowship/Bible Study and Youth Club. Additionally, partnership with Scouts and Girl Guides allows us to offer further Youth and Children's work.

In 2019, we committed ourselves to the vision statement:

“People who share God's love with the community. By welcoming those who come through the door and serving those outside it.”

And we have sought to fulfil this vision since.

St.Patrick's Church, Broughshane

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The freewill and loose offerings which are reported in the General Account for 2023 show a slight decrease on those reported in 2022. The General Account closing balance at the end of the year was £54,548 which was an increase on the previous year of £10,667

The financial accounts of the parish also include two smaller accounts which are the Building Fund and Choir Accounts. These accounts are set aside for the maintenance of the church and the operation of the choir respectively. The choir account was closed during 2023.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees have reviewed the finances 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 31st December 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 normally held once a year (commonly known as "the Easter Vestry"). 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 Rev. Campbell receives a stipend in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Any private benefit arising out of the fulfilment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfilment of the purpose of the advancement of religion. With the exception of the clergy, no Trustee receives remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their Trustee responsibility.

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 other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

St.Patrick's Church, Broughshane

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 on a monthly basis. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens.

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.

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.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf:


Mr Steven Ewing
Trustee

Date: 3/10/2024


GERALDINE WINFORD
Trustee

Date: 3/10/2024