

Church of the Ascension, Cloughfern Parish
126 Doagh Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT37 9QR

Trustees' Annual Report Year Ended 31st December 2022

Charity No: NIC103261

Trustees

Between 1st January and 31st December 2022, the following held a position of Trustee:

Rev Tim Close (Chair), Jennifer Boyd, Clare Campbell, Joanne Dickenson, Jane Dunn, Norman Dunn, David Garland, Diana Harrington, Sandra Harvey, Christine Hunter, Billy Ingram, Tanya Kay, Kerry McIlwaine, Alan McNiece, Karyn McNiece, Elizabeth McWatters, Irene Orr, Caroline Tares, Barbara Turkington and Gillian Webb.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective of the Church of the Ascension, Cloughfern Parish, is to support the advancement of the Christian faith by promoting, through its work, the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Fundamental to the practical delivery of Christianity is being open to, and engaging with, society as a whole and offering support to those who need it.

Cloughfern Parish has custody of property and records pertaining to cultural and religious heritage, maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the church.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

The year 2022 marked not only the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II, but that of our own church, which was dedicated on 24th May 1952. To mark these landmark events, a special service was held on 3rd June, and we had a jubilee lunch in the church hall on 4th June. Thanks to obtaining a local Council grant, current and former parishioners, their family and friends, and community were able to attend free of charge.

Although Covid is still with us, restrictions have been eased, and church services, youth organisations, clubs, groups and social meetings are all taking place as normal – but we continue to be vigilant. Home visits have also resumed, and information/support is also still available via telephone, our parish website, and our Facebook page.

All charities continued to feel the effects of the pandemic on their fundraising. In spite of this, enabled by the financial support of its parishioners, we were able to support international charities such as the Church Missionary Society and the Samaritans' Purse, as well as a number of charities specifically for Ukraine (the Bishop's Appeal for Ukraine, the Disasters Emergency Committee, and Belfast Cathedral Fund for Ukraine). We also supported local charities by donating to the Royal British Legion, UNICEF, Shelter NI, Crossroads Care NI, Parkinson's UK in NI, and Dementia NI. We continue to support our local foodbank, both with food items and monetary donations, which is ongoing. This winter we also provided practical help by distributing blankets to help those struggling with utility bills in the current cost of living crisis.

Our Charity Shop opens two days a week, and continues to be very popular and well supported both by parishioners and the wider community. It has been able to make charitable donations to: Transforming Lives for Good, St. Anne's Cathedral (including the Black Santa Sit-out), the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Hope House, The Welcome Organisation, and Alzheimer's NI, as well as providing a vital source of funds for our Church.

During the year, our coffee morning supported MacMillan Cancer Care, and Christian Aid.

Financial Review

The Parish began the year with a balance from 2021 for Cash in Hand and Bank of £37534.11. Total Receipts for 2022 came to £87177.36, which is up by £6402.55 on previous year. This was mostly due to the successful fund raising of the Charity Shop.

Total Resources Expended came to £93891.90, a significant increase of £19884.72 on the figure for 2021. This was mainly due to the cost of repair of the Church bell tower (£7776); replacing lights in the Church (£3120); the services of a tree surgeon (£2791.50); and necessary clearance and gardening work in spare ground on our property, which was a safety hazard. The remainder were costs of general repairs to fixtures/fittings, general grounds maintenance, and increased energy costs.

At the end of 2022 the balance for Cash in Hand and at the Bank was £30721.80.

Pay and Remuneration

On the Schedule of Approved Stipends set by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, Minimum Approved Stipend is £31,100 per annum. Our Priest-in-Charge was appointed on the understanding that he would work 5 days instead of the usual 6, and would therefore be paid pro-rata. General Synod also give a guide value for Expenses of Office Allowance of £800 per annum and locomotory allowances of £6590 per annum. The Parish contribution to the 'Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme' (including the "Per Cure" element of £336.92) was £6634.68 for the year 2022.

Management

Members of the Select Vestry (who are also the Charity Trustees) are elected annually at the Easter General Vestry. They are responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish, and for deciding on matters of general concern and importance, including how parish funds are to be applied. The finances are managed by the Honorary Treasurer, who reports to the Select Vestry at monthly meetings. Special meetings can be convened between scheduled dates, if necessary. Records of meetings are kept by the Honorary Secretary.

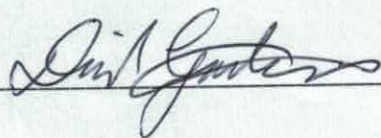
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that show and explain the Parish's transactions, and disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the assets and liabilities of the Parish.

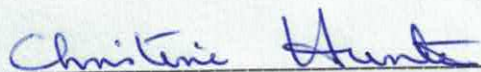
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report, together with the Statement of Receipts and Payments, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities, in accordance with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Trustee 1:



Trustee 2:



Date:

23/7/23