

*St. John's, Drumgath Parish, Rathfriland  
Down & Dromore Church of Ireland*

Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the  
year ended:

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Charity Registration Number: NIC 103478



*St. John's, Drumgath Parish, Rathfriland*

## Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

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## *St. John's, Drumgath Parish, Rathfriland*

### **References and Administrative details:**

**Charity Name:** St. John's, Drumgath/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

**Charity Registration Number:** NIC 103478

**HMRC:** XT36536

**Contact Address:** The Rectory  
29 Cross Rd  
Hilltown  
Co Down BT34 5TF

### **Trustees:**

Mr Craig Orr	Rev Ian Linton
Mr Richard Magennis	Mrs Irene Magennis
Mrs Rachel Brashaw	Mr George Brashaw
Mr Joe Magennis	Mrs Hilda Donaldson
Mr Adam Loughlin	Mrs Noreen Smith
Miss Sandra Linton	Miss Nicole Donaldson
Mr Gordon Bennett	Mr Timothy Donaldson
Mr Neil Magennis	
Mrs Shirley Bennett	

**Rector:** Rev Ian Linton

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs Shirley Bennett

**Hon. Secretary:** Mrs Irene Magennis

**Church Warden - Rector:** Mr Adam Loughlin

**Church Warden – People:** Mr Craig Orr

### **Independent Examiner:**

E. Gerald Lunn FAIA ATT  
The Association of International Accountants  
2 Charnwood Grange, Portadown, Co Armagh, BT63 5TU

### **Bankers:**

Ulster Bank  
14 Church Square, Rathfriland, Co Down BT34 5PT

# *St. John's, Drumgath Parish, Rathfriland*

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Charitable Purpose**

The principal function of the Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and ecumenical care. All the functions of the Parish relate to the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating with and caring for parishioners of all ages especially the sick and elderly and others in our community. The activities of the church are intended to reach out to the wider community to instil Christian principles and to encourage mutual understanding and respect for others. The Parish have custody of many historical records and items which are invaluable and as such we maintain these. We also have within our custody various buildings which we undertake as a secondary charitable purpose.

### **Activities**

At the heart of St John's, Drumgath Church is a desire to glorify God and to demonstrate the power and importance of his love. Morning Prayer is held at 12.00 noon each Sunday. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month. A family service is held on the third Sunday of every month, using modern music, our Praise Group and Praise Band – this gives wider appeal to our younger generation. Our Worship is led each month by the Organist and Choir. Special services are held throughout the year that focus on the wider community and encourages attendance. A Bible Study Group meet each week which further advances the understanding and teaching of faith.

St John's Drumgath Parish recognise that there are many issues around sickness, bereavement, the elderly, house bound and those receiving medical treatment or care in hospital and local nursing homes. We are committed to helping these people in need with empathy, love and compassion.

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

St John's Drumgath Parish Church has in the past year fulfilled its purpose as a Charitable Organisation. It has encouraged its congregation in the teaching of the Bible and the application of God's love to its Church family and the wider community. It has clearly demonstrated that it can be of great benefit to those in the surrounding area by reaching out spiritually and through its acts as a means of advancing the word of God.

Regular services in the church offer its own members a means of maintaining and deepening their faith. Children and young people are an important part of our church. We hold Sunday School, Children's Church where our children partake in crafts and bible stories and Creche within our Church. We also hold Youth Fellowship every other Saturday evening. This we believe helps to impress in the young people the importance of community cohesion, as well as sound Christian values that are a great benefit to the public.

St. John's Drumgath's other organisations include Mothers Union, Choir, Bible Study, Praise Group and Youth Fellowship. All these groups offer friendship, support, and encourage respect and tolerance to everyone in our community. Various activities are shared with other churches in our community throughout the year.

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.

Money has been raised for the Bishop's Appeal for the disadvantaged worldwide.

The Trustees have put in place policies to prevent any potential harm to anyone partaking in Church Activities and have a child protection policy in place under the control of our Safeguarding Trust committee. Our Trustees ensure that the buildings are well maintained and meet the required safety standards.

### ***Financial Review***

Our Trustees decided that our Harvest Donations go to our Building Account.

All other invoices were paid when received and in full.

### ***Statement of Assets and Liabilities***

The Assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise:

- Church Building and Graveyard
- Old Church Building, Hilltown
- Church Hall (currently under construction and refurbishment) Rectory and 27 acres of land.

The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). These Heritage assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the parish.

The Church Hall and Rectory are ascribed a value based on the insurance valuation. These assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over twenty five years.

The Rectory Lands (27 Acres) are ascribed a value based on the current value of farming land.

### **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 St. John's Drumgath Parish can continue its activities and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity  
Chapter VIII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisations. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)**

All members of the Church of Ireland which 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 stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held 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 is paid a stipend, locomotory allowance and office expenses 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. It consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, the churchwardens and 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 the Diocesan Synod. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and special meeting 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 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 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.

At the year end the balances on our accounts are:

General Account:	£71,954.53
Building Account:	£32,908.86
Hilltown Parish Account:	£11,790.92
Rectory Account:	£ 5,866.14
Rectors Account:	£ 909.44

The security and safeguarding of all monies is important to the Trustees and all money is counted by a team and taken to the bank under dual control.

### ***Transactions with the Trustees***

Our Rectors Stipend is split 50/50 with our sister Church in Ballyward. Figures below are our share.

Name	Stipend, Locomotory & Office Allowance	Pension	Rectors NIC
Rector	£25,565.03	£5424.00	£2988.00

### ***Reimbursement of Expenses paid to Trustees***

DATE	Trustee Name	Amount	Reimbursement of Expenses
10.01.23	Rev. Linton	£66.12	Candles, Christmas Bags etc.
18.01.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£122.64	Disposable coffee cups, Messy Church food for crafts
13.02.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£599.00	Grant Aided Laptop
01.03.23	Rev. Linton	£105.97	Confirmation Bibles & Nua Workbooks.
11.04.23	Rev. Linton	£265.05	Airtastic for Youth & Stamps
11.04.23	Rev. Linton	£225.44	Reimbursement for Bible Club Event 2022 not paid.
05.06.23	Rev. Linton	£191.00	Sandwiches for Confirmation service
26.06.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£168.00	Wedding Gift for Rev R. Magennis
26.06.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£61.66	Food for Soma BBQ, Youth Kilbroney and Confirmation
05.07.23	Rev Linton	£128.93	Kilbroney Youth Trip Supplies for BBQ

DATE	Trustee Name	Amount	Reimbursement of Expenses
30.08.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£60.94	6 x Bottles Communion Wine
25.09.23	Rev. Linton	£614.81	Sports Equipment Grant Aided for Youth Group
26.09.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£90.92	Flipcharts, Banquet Roll, cold packs etc.
03.10.23	Rev. Linton	£125.00	Sports Equipment Grant Aided for Youth Group
18.10.23	Mr Gordon Bennett	£57.60	Bulbs etc purchased from PW Sales for Church
27.10.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£166.09	Speaker for Sunday School. Disposable spoons, bowls and communion glasses
01.12.23	Mrs Shirley Bennett	£136.93	2 x GV for Organists, PVA Glue & 2 x Glitter
18.12.23	Rev. Linton	£154.56	Advent Calendar, hooks, selection boxes etc

No Trustee or a person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contracts or transactions entered into by the charity during the year.