

Kilbroney Parish Church - Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Kilbroney Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of Kilbroney Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Parish, 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. The activities of the Church are intended to reach out to the wider community, and the Church building is a focal point in the village and provides a meeting place for interdenominational activities as well as religious services. Indeed the link between the Church and the village may be summarised in the following terms '*Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it has prosperity, you will prosper.*'"

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, Kilbroney Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to cultural and religious heritage, both to the local area and beyond. Maintenance of these is undertaken by the Select Vestry of Kilbroney Parish Church.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Parish activities include the following:

- Sunday Morning Worship at 11:30 am, a Healing Service and Compline; special services at Christmas, Easter, Fiddlers Green, Harvest, Remembrance as well as Advent Carols and Carols by Candlelight. There are also occasional Services: Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals.
- In addition, there is a church choir and organist, Sunday School (Explorers), prayer groups (including Prison Fellowship).
- 'The Pointer' parish magazine is circulated widely throughout the year.
- Kilbroney Parish Church also supports cross community activities including
 - the weekly groups of Kilbroney Tower Bell Ringers (visiting bands are also hosted to ring our bells, as is the District Practice for the Irish Association of Change Ringers),
 - Kilbroney Handbellers - a double award winning team at the local Warrenpoint feis,
 - Wednesday Crafters;
 - Ladies Guild meetings.
 - a monthly assembly in the Integrated Primary School. There have also been co-ordinated projects with all three local primary schools.
 - The Rostrevor Children's Choir from the neighbouring 'Star of the Sea' Church are regular visitors in special services, as are many local musicians.
 - The Lecture Hall continues to be used for other activities including the Little Folk play group and the Book Club.

The Trustees are very conscious of their obligations in relation to child protection, and there are designated representatives within the Parish with responsibility for Safeguarding Trust.

Financial Review

The receipts and payments accounts reflect the activities undertaken by the Parish in 2023.

Going Concern

The trustees 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 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 receives a stipend, locomotory and office expenses allowances in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The payments are shared equally between Kilbroney, and the other group Parishes, Warrenpoint and Clonallon.

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, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and not more than twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent. 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.

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 a 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.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



Dr Kennedy Roberts
Hon Secretary

Date 9 APRIL 2024