

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Downpatrick/Bright Parish Church/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Charity Registration Number: NIC 103716

Trustees

Mrs M I Edgar - (Rector's Warden)
Mr A Edgar - (People's Warden)
Mrs L McGaw - (Honorary Treasurer)
Mrs W Edgar - (Honorary Secretary)
Mr Morris Edgar
Mr J Edgar
Mr A Edgar
Mrs M Edgar
Mrs F Edgar
Mrs Jennifer Edgar
Mr V Edgar
Mrs J Law
Mr W Milligan
Mrs S McGaw
Mr J Strain

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for **Bright Parish Church, Downpatrick, Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland** for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The principal function of Bright Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Bright Parish Church the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support to 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, Bright Parish Church has custody of property and records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the select vestry of Bright Parish Church.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Bright Parish Church is one of a group of churches under the umbrella of LAMP. As a joint parish we seek to pursue the mission of the Church: evangelical, ecumenical, pastoral and social under the rules of the Church of Ireland. We provide weekly and occasional services of Morning Prayer, Holy Communion, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, including pastoral support, hospital visitation and home visitation of the elderly, the sick, the bereaved and the infirm. We support and provide premises (Church Hall) for weekly Sunday School for Children and meetings. We seek to be welcoming to all people. We are involved in the community and work with other churches in the broader area.

We raise funds and donate monies from our own resources to local charities like Bishops Appeal, Royal British Legion, national and international charities through CMS Ireland.

Financial Review

The Parish accounts for year ending 31st December 2023 closed with cash funds of £27,144.12 in the current account, £75.93 in the Business Reserve Account and £32,356.81 invested in United Trust Bank.

The church is aware of increasing costs with steady or declining general income but with continued fund raising etc are satisfied there are sufficient funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities in the future.

The Rectory has since been sold and the proceeds are lodged with Representative Church Body, these proceeds are being used to finance major refurb work of Bright Parish Church to future proof it for generations to come..

The Church Building and Graveyard are deemed to be Heritage assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). The 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 likewise is not recognised in the parish statement of assets and liabilities.

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 Organisations. 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 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 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 Parish contributes a monthly sum of £1,100.00 to Lecale Churches for Ministry and Pastoral care. A monthly amount also goes to the Diocesan Office for expenses/pensions.

Organisational Structure

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the parish and 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 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 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.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs L McGaw

Lorraine McGaw 28/3/2024

Honorary Secretary: Mrs F Edgar

F. Edgar 28/3/2024.