

Charity number NIC103959

ARMAGH/ST MARKS/ARMAGH/CHURCH OF IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024

ARMAGH/ST MARKS/ARMAGH/CHURCH OF IRELAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

Charity Name : Armagh/St Marks/Armagh/Church Of Ireland
(commonly known as St Mark's, Armagh)

Charity Registration Number : NIC103959

Contact Address :-

St Mark's Church Office,
44 Victoria Street,
Armagh.
BT61 9DT

Trustees :-

Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston
Rev'd Sarah Parkinson
Mrs Lynda Adamson
Dr Bob Brown
Mrs Heather Chambers
Mr Arnold Courtney
Mr Michael Dickson
Mr Ivan Hamilton
Mr Graham Lavery
Mr Gareth Liggett
Mr Donald Maclean
Mr John McCann
Mr Gregory McCarten
Mr Donald McKee
Mrs Florence Magwood
Mr Ian Millar
Mrs Linda Pierson
Mr Mark Speers

Principal Office Bearers :-

Rector : Rev'd Canon Malcolm Kingston
Treasurer : Mr Arnold Courtney
Church Warden (Clergy) : Mr Ivan Hamilton
Church Warden (People) : Mr Gregory McCarten

Independent Examiner:-

Mr Andrew Gilpin FCCA
WHR Accountants Ltd
56 English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LG

Bankers :-

Ulster Bank
7 Upper English Street
Armagh
BT61 7BL

ARMAGH/ST MARKS/ARMAGH/CHURCH OF IRELAND

TRUSTEES' REPORT 2024

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for the Parish of Armagh (St Mark's, Armagh) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The principal function of St Mark's Armagh is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish of Armagh 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.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, St Mark's Armagh 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 the Parish of Armagh.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

St Mark's Armagh has three Sunday Services of Public Worship, as well as Wednesday Evening Services (except July & August). There is also a 'Café Church' Service during one Sunday of each month, as well as a midweek Holy Communion Service on one Tuesday morning of each month. Special additional Services take place during Holy Week, Easter and at Christmas. St Mark's Church is open during the daytime on Week Days allowing parishioners and visitors the opportunity to access the Church building for prayer and silent reflection.

A range of activities are provided by St Mark's Armagh including :- Sunday School, Creche, Youth Fellowship, Glow (Youth Club), Bible Fellowship, Alpha Course (Introduction to Christianity Programme), Home Study Group, Marriage Preparation Course, Marksmen (Retired Men's Group), 1st Thursday Club (Retired Ladies' Group), Alive (Informal Ladies Group), Ladies' Walking Group, Indoor Bowling Club, Parish Choir, The Bereavement Journey (Course for people who have been bereaved) and Café Hope (a drop in initiative for anyone who would like to talk during Wednesday afternoon). During late June / early July, St Mark's brings a group of young people to the Summer Madness Christian festival in Portglenone and during August we offer a week long Holiday Bible Club for children of Primary School age. A voluntary Parish Nurse serves in our Parish and offers additional pastoral support to Parishioners and members of our community.

Our Church Hall (Crozier Hall) is utilised by organisations external to our Parish including a local flower arranging club, the Royal School Armagh for netball, Cub Scouts and Nursing / Residential care facilities for training purposes and for Diocesan Youth and Children's leaders training initiatives.

Our Parish organises special events on an occasional basis such as concerts, coffee mornings and parish barbecues raising funds for the benefit Parish Funds and Charities both local and global. We have a monthly collection for the Armagh Food Bank and an annual Christmas Toy Appeal for distribution via Belfast Central Mission. We also have additional annual monetary appeals for Bishops' Appeal, the Southern Area Hospice and other Charities.

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Trustee Report 31 December 2024 contd/

St Mark's greatly values an ongoing mission partnerships, primarily with Church Mission Society Ireland and the South American Mission Society.

The activities above demonstrate how St Mark's Armagh continues to implement its charitable purposes (i.e the advancement of religion) and meet its public benefit requirements. Benefits to members of the public include contributing to spiritual well being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values.

All of our Services of Public Worship and Parish Activities are publicised on our Website : www.stmarksarmagh.org. Our weekly 10.30am Service is livestreamed on YouTube, as are special additional services.

Safeguarding & Health and Safety

St Mark's Armagh adheres to the Church of Ireland's 'Safeguarding Trust' policy the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Further details about this policy are available from <https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org>

A member of the Select Vestry attended training to assist the Select Vestry with matters of Health and Safety. Appropriate procedures are followed and Health and Safety is a standing item on the Select Vestry Agenda where necessary actions are implemented.

Financial Review

- The principal sources of income for St Mark's Armagh continues to be Donations and Plate Collections
- The principal expenses for St Mark's Armagh is in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Assessment, Staff Salaries and Property Maintenance.
- In 2024 St Mark's Armagh had a deficit of income over expenditure on its General Fund of £23,491.35 and a deficit of income over expenditure on its Fabric Fund (restricted) of £1,297.02.
- St Mark's Armagh continues to be in a healthy financial state as at 31 December 2024 with a total cash funds of £48,651.44
- St Mark's, Armagh aims to retain sufficient reserves to meet its expected future expenditure requirements as well as futures capital projects.
- It has been our custom over many years for all households on our Parish Register to receive a hard copy of our audited Parish Accounts.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed its planned expenditure 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 2024 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 Trust

Trustee Report 31 December 2024 contd/

Recruitment and Appointment of the Select Vestry

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 the meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held at least once per 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.

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 Church Wardens, the Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry Meeting.

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 how Parish Funds are to be applied.

The Select Vestry meets at times assigned by the members or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time chair or the Church Wardens. During 2024 the Select Vestry met eight times.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) "and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the Financial Statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
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Trustee Report 31 December 2024 contd/

State whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Parish will continue as a going concern.

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 financial position of the Parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

Statement as to disclosure to our examiners

In so far as the trustees are aware at the timing of approving our trustees' annual report:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable examiner is aware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant examination information and to establish that the charity's examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiners

The examiners, WHR Accountants Ltd, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their reappointment was proposed at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting.

On behalf of the Trustees

Trustee 1 :- *Michael Kieran*

Trustee 2 :- *Jan Mills*

Date :- 26th October 2025

Armagh/St Marks/Armagh/Church of Ireland

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of
Armagh/St Marks/Armagh/Church of Ireland**

I report on the accounts of St Mark's Armagh for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner:

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report:

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement:

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Andrew Gilpin FCCA
WHR Accountants Ltd
56 English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LG

27th Oct 2025.
Date

Armagh/St Marks/Armagh/Church of Ireland

Statement of Receipts and Payments – Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts				
Voluntary Receipts				
Donations and Gift Aid	163,893	12,346	176,239	175,824
Subscription	-	4,760	4,760	1,624
Legacy	7,581	653	8,234	34,284
Bank Interest	244	771	1,015	795
From Charitable Activities				
Activities	-	-	-	12,468
Other	21,253	2,210	23,463	4,433
	<u>192,971</u>	<u>20,740</u>	<u>213,711</u>	<u>229,428</u>
Payments				
Grants and Donations	8,034	6,722	14,756	12,479
Governance Costs	208,548	15,195	223,743	211,272
Repairs	-	-	-	13,091
	<u>216,582</u>	<u>21,917</u>	<u>238,499</u>	<u>236,842</u>
Net (payments)	<u>(23,611)</u>	<u>(1,177)</u>	<u>(24,788)</u>	<u>(7,414)</u>
(Deficit) for the year	<u><u>(23,611)</u></u>	<u><u>(1,177)</u></u>	<u><u>(24,788)</u></u>	<u><u>(7,414)</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 5th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Malcolm Kingston

Malcolm Kingston
Trustee

Ian Millar


Ian Millar
Trustee

Armagh/St Marks/Armagh/Church of Ireland


Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank and in hand 31.12.23	19,690	53,749	73,439	80,853
(Deficit) for the year	(23,611)	(1,177)	(24,788)	(7,414)
Cash at bank and in hand 31.12.24	<u>(3,921)</u>	<u>52,572</u>	<u>48,651</u>	<u>73,439</u>
 Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank Current Accounts			<u>48,651</u>	<u>73,439</u>
 Investment Funds				
Endowment Funds at valuation			<u>309,101</u>	<u>303,456</u>
 Fixed Assets				
Assets retained for the Church's own use comprise the following properties and are stated at insured values.				
Church Buildings and Contents			8,459,977	8,057,121
Church Hall and Contents			1,400,860	1,334,152
Church Office and Contents			375,890	357,991
Rectory: Portadown Road, Armagh			450,000	395,161
Curatage			270,000	208,013
			<u>10,956,727</u>	<u>10,352,438</u>

Approved by the trustees on 5th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



 Malcolm Kingston
 Trustee



 Ian Millar
 Trustee