

Armagh/Richhill/St. Matthews/Armagh/Church Of Ireland

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

The trustees present their Annual Report and Statements of Receipts, Payments, Assets and Liabilities for St Matthew's Church, Parish of Richhill, for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Objectives and Activities

The Charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is:

- (i) The advancement of Christian religion, by promoting, through the work of St Matthew's Church, Parish of Richhill the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. St Matthew's is a gospel-centred church reaching out to our community and our world with the love of Christ.
- (ii) 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 purposes of St Matthew's Church, Parish of Richhill, are:-

- (i) Bringing together in a fellowship of loyalty and devotion all who care for St Matthew's Church, Parish of Richhill, and its continuing witness to the glory of God, and
- (ii) Assisting in the maintenance and preservation of the Church and its buildings.

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Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit Activities in 2022

The Parish has continued to meet the public benefit requirement, e.g. Public worship, support for the provision of public worship and other activities through which Christian witness and outreach are delivered.

Towards the end of 2021 we followed the Church of Ireland revised church policies and protocols. The trustees adopted these policies and protocols, when the church was open for worship. The Churchwardens also undertook a track and trace system recording the contact details of those parishioners who attended public worship each Sunday.

The Covid 19 risk assessments continued to be reviewed throughout the year and as restrictions continued to ease more parishioners began returning to church. The dedicated team of leaders and volunteers who had worked face to face with the various church groups and organisations while some had returned others were making tentative preparations to do so.

All leaders and volunteers of the various organisations are vetted by Access NI.

The benefits of public worship include contributing to spiritual wellbeing of participants, and reinforcement of Christian values. Sermon podcasts were available. The Church has also a Facebook page.

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.

During the course of the year the Trustees continued their usual support to St Matthew's, while, the parishioners continued their support for the parish through their Free Will Offering also, and the Craigavon Foodbank and the Salvation Army Christmas toy appeal.

As we look to the future, we want to continue to live out our Mission Statement – that, St Matthew's is a Gospel-Centred Church reaching out to our community and our world with the love of Christ.

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Financial Review

Year ended 31 December 2022

Total Income: £71,270.55

Gift Aid Refund outstanding £7,000.00

The principal source of income was from freewill offering by parishioners, some gift-aided.

Total Expenditure: £96,236.93

The principal expenditure was Diocesan Charges.

Diocesan Charges £60,255.88

Donations to Charities £1165.50

Repairs to Church property £10,919.56

Insurance £3,615.88

Sexton's Fees £4,286.04

Organists' Fees & Expenses £2,595.00

Stationery and printing £2,005.67

Light and Heat £6,274.61

Rates £1,526.24

Sundry Expenses £3,172.10

Bank charges £420.45

The Select Vestry regard their funds as being available for the support of St Matthew's Church in accordance with the constitution of the Church of Ireland. The Annual expenses include fees to the Organists and Sexton and have no other financial outlay other than the overheads of the day to day running of the Church, and have ongoing liabilities to cover.

1. Closing balance in bank includes £8,425.27 collected for Paraguay trip.

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2. Closing balance in the bank includes provision for £14,000 to be received from HM Revenue and Customs in respect of gift aid refunds for 2 years.

3. Closing balance in the bank provides for an amount of £36,402.14 due in respect of Diocesan Charges not paid at the year end.

The members of the Select Vestry see their main challenges as the need to manage the Church's finances in order to maintain the fabric of the Church buildings and pay increased running costs. The Covid-19 virus has had a tremendous impact in so many ways, not least on our health and wellbeing. Charities and the economy have suffered. Church attendance and fundraising events have been impacted and this has had a knock-on effect on the parish's income. Our current financial position is still challenging. Having been so reliant on, fundraising events, and activities previously, then came Covid 19 lockdowns meaning that such events couldn't happen. The Select Vestry have written to all parishioners, highlighting our position, seeking to increase our freewill offerings. We pray that the Lord will provide and multiply, just as he took those two small fish and five small loaves of bread and supplied more than enough for many hungry people.

As we look to the future, we want to continue to live out our Mission Statement – that, St. Matthew's Church is a Gospel-centred church reaching out to our community and our world with the love of Christ. It can be easier to see the challenges and difficulties and wonder how we can do it. May we continue to see the Lord at work, in us and through us, as he continues to build the church up.

At frequent intervals the Trustees will review the budget for the year ahead and trust that there will be adequate funds generated to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities.

Included is the financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2022.

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Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter 111 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)

Vestry members: In pursuant to Chapter 3, part 1, Section 3 of the Constitution, the General Synod requires that any member of the Church of Ireland over the age of 18 years registered or claiming to be registered as a resident or an accustomed member, and must be an annual subscriber of a sum not less than £50 per annum. Contributions made through an envelope system are deemed to be qualifying subscriptions to the Sustentation Fund of the parish of which he or she wishes to be a vestry member. Allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the general vestry and to stand for election to the select vestry. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which they may serve.

Pay and remuneration- The incumbent of the Parish receives a stipend paid via the Diocesan Office together with telephone and locomotory allowances as 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, which consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, who is Chairperson of the Select Vestry, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the vestry elected at the General Easter Vestry.

Structure, Governance and Management continued

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent or another 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 agreed by the members. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the Rector's warden. In 2022 the Select Vestry met 12 times during the year, with an average attendance of approximately 97%. The General Easter was held on Wednesday 6th April 2022.

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.

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Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees (Select Vestry members) are responsible for the 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

Trustee 1 

Trustee 2 

Date 25th October 2023