

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2020

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall, for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall, is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall 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, St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall Select Vestry.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

St Luke's Parish Church is part of the Church of Ireland's Diocese of Armagh which regards worship as a priority for every Christian. Service of Worship takes place each Sunday at 11.45am. A family service takes place on the 4th Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee is provided by volunteers from the Parish before the Family Service which allows a time of fellowship between Parishioners.

Sunday School meets on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month with the children remaining in Church for Family Services where they often take part in the Service by reading lessons, leading prayers, and lifting the collection. Children come to Church for the beginning of the service and leave before the Sermon with their leaders for their own activities in the Church Hall. The Children follow the Go Learn/ Come Teach syllabus with projects from the Board of Missions included as determined by the leaders.

Children and young people from both St Luke's Parish Church and the local area enjoy time spent at the Girls Friendly Society which meets weekly on Monday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.45pm and caters for girls aged 3 years and up. The girls take part in bible study, badge work, craft, cookery, young speakers and games. Over recent years the girls have been very successful at Diocesan level in the Young Speakers Festival and also at both Diocesan and All Ireland level in Bible Study.

A Youth Group which caters for young people post confirmation meets regularly.

The Senior Choir leads the worship weekly and sings at special services throughout the year. The Junior Choir continues to grow in strength and the inclusion of the Junior Choir at Church Services greatly enhances the worship.

An active Mothers Union in partnership with our partner Church St Aidan's, Grange meet on a monthly basis.

The Bowling Club meets weekly and consists of members from a wide area outside the Parish limit. It is invaluable to all age groups and provides entertainment and a sense of well-being for all who partake.

The Parish caters on a regular basis at various events in the Church Hall. On these occasions visitors can access the Church and view the many artefacts relating to its cultural and historical past.

The Cope Primary School and St Luke's Church have had a long association through their founders, the Cope family of the Manor House and Drumilly who promoted education and spirituality in equal measures. This continues to the present day with The Cope Primary School using the Church annually for its Harvest Service and Carol Service. A member of St Luke's Parish Church serves on the Board of Governors of The Cope Primary School, supporting and encouraging the work of the school and helping to maintain good standards and practices. In addition, the Rector of St Luke's Parish Church takes assemblies in the Cope Primary School at regular times throughout the year.

The Orange Order which has its home in the heart of Loughgall together with Summerisland District Royal Black Preceptory use the Church annually for their various parades.

The Church is also open to visitors for European Heritage Open Day and access can be gained to the building at any time by prior arrangement with a member of the Select Vestry.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Daytime Opportunities Group which are a group of adults with learning difficulties, use the Church Hall during the autumn and winter months. The day opportunities program covers four areas of development – recreational, vocational, volunteering and further education. In this case the group use the Church Hall for recreational purposes.

The Loughgall WI and Loughgall Village Improvement Committee use the Church Hall on various occasions throughout the year for meetings and information events.

Due to Covid -19 the church only held one fundraising event which was a fashion show in January.

While St Luke's Parish Church supports the work of other charities and missionary work either by making donations or holding special collections in respect of same, many of the fund raising activities taking place throughout the year have been in aid of the Building Fund for restoration work required to the Church roof and tower.

St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall subscribes to the Church Of Ireland Child Protection Policy Statement: *"It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm"*.

The same policy also applies to those who would be termed vulnerable adults. St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall does this by adopting and implementing the Code of Good Practice "Safeguarding Trust" as issued by the Church of Ireland.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for NI guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives, as well as providing public benefit.

Any private benefit arising out of the fulfilment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the advancement of religion. No trustee received remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their trustee responsibility.

Financial Review - Year ended 31st December 2020

The principal source of income of St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall continues to be freewill offering of parishioners, in weekly envelopes and monthly building fund envelopes, some of which is gift aided.

The principal expense of St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall is in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Charges.

The Trustees' regard their funds as being available for the support of St Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall in accordance with the constitution of the Church of Ireland.

The Trustees' policy on holding reserves is to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to meet on-going costs for a minimum of one year, having regard to increasing costs and declining incomes. No funds were materially in deficit at the year end.

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 Luke's Parish Church, Loughgall can continue its activities and the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 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 govern 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, and who subscribe a minimum of £50 per annum, 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 the 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 (Rector) of the Parish stipend is paid directly by the Dioceses, and receives a stipend in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland together with approved office and locomotory allowances.

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 Glebewardens and generally 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 by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson of the churchwardens. In 2020 the Select Vestry met 5 times during the year and the average attendance was 80%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives, 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

Trustee 1: Alison Sharpe
Mrs Alison Sharpe (Honorary Treasurer)

Trustee 2: Wendy George
Mrs Wendy George (Honorary Secretary)

Date: 27/10/21