

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for Drumcree Parish Church for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of Drumcree Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Drumcree 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 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, Drumcree Parish Church 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 the Select Vestry of Drumcree Parish Church.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

For over a year we have been using the Church Hall as our Church due to the church building not being fit for purpose at the present time. This has been difficult as our Church Hall is used regularly throughout the week. It has been a huge commitment for those having to set up and take down all the equipment every week.

It will probably be just over another year before we can move back into the church.

The church continues to invest into technology so as to allow its services to benefit those who are house bound, in nursing homes or who simply could not be there in person and it also affords them an opportunity to watch the service at a time which is convenient for them. This is proving to be a great opportunity to reach people with the Gospel and we give thanks to God that people around the world can be with us on Sunday morning. We have also been installing technology equipment in the Church hall, which will be available for all organisations.

The church is also investing heavily in upgrading its premises and has put together a plan for a welcome area (a social gathering area), this is at a significant cost. There are also plans to upgrade the church and bring it up to a standard of "fit for purpose" for the times which we live and minister in. We are hoping by this time next year, the work will have commenced and what a difference it will make for all who come together.

We have been greatly blessed during the year by the ministry of our children's worker and it is hoped that over the next number of months we will be able to appoint a youth/evangelistic worker within the parish. It has also been encouraging to see new people joining us from all walks of life, and it is our hope and prayers that this will continue well into the future.

It was also such an encouragement to have our annual fete up and running once again and what a success, never before had we seen such numbers, running into thousands and this was coming from all of the community, what an event and to those that organise and ran it, what an achievement.

There is no doubt we live in challenging times and we continue to reach out to those both within and outside the Parish. We have provided financial help and assistance where required and helped with practical issues. We see this as an opportunity to reach out with the love of Christ to those for whom Christ died. As a Christian organisation we have been called to serve and may we continue to do that through love no matter what we face in the days that lie ahead.

In all the challenges that we as a church face, it is wonderful to know that we have a God who continues to look after our needs, provides in such a way that only He can do and to have people within the church who give in such a Godly way. We thank God first for His provision and all those who carry His heart within them. May we all continue to be a blessing to others, whatever background they may come from.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Under Chapter 12 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Safeguarding Trust is implemented and adhered to by Drumcree Parish Church in order to protect young people, leaders and vulnerable adults.

Access to Church records is provided to any member of the public requiring information for research and genealogical purposes. This access is provided free of charge. The Parish maintains artefacts, materials and historic building for the benefit of the public and in particular for those appreciative of longstanding Christian heritage. The Parish restricts access to Church properties for public safety reasons. Any visitors who wish to access same for viewing purposes are accompanied by a member of staff.

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.

Financial Review

The income in the Parish from various sources was £177,038, with outgoings of £168,837, giving a surplus of £8,201 before unrealised loss in value of RCB investments of £1,177. The overall surplus was £7,024.

The Trustees are deeply grateful to the Parish for their financial support during 2022.

The Bank and Cash in Hand Balance as at 31 December 2022 was £410,937 (of this balance £133,169 were unrestricted funds). It is the Trustees' Policy to hold sufficient reserves to cover unexpected emergencies, to enhance funds to pay for future maintenance to the Church and ground and to further the Objectives and Activities of the Church of Ireland.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed Drumcree Parish Church's 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 2022 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 and have paid a minimum of £50.00 per annum into the Sustentation account, 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.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

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 generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent 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 or the churchwardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met 14 times during the year and the average attendance was 71%.

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 the 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 (FRS102)" 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- 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 provision 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.

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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 company's examiner is unaware, and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's examiner is aware of that information

Independent Examiner

The examiner, Arnold Jackson of McAleer Jackson Ltd, has indicated his willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning his reappointment was passed at the Select Vestry Meeting following the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Trustee 1 *G Galway*

Trustee 2 *Brian Ruddell*

Date *27/10/23*