

St Michaels Parish Church of Ireland Sixmilecross

Trustees' Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the parish is the advancement of religion.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

Sunday Worship

Services of worship are held every Sunday at 10.30am. Times change to 11am in July and 9.30am in August. Services of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and Family Service take place every month. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month there is a service of Wholeness and Healing.

Pastoral visiting

Visits to hospitals, care homes and to parishioners at home are available on request. Hospitals and Care homes are open to visits, though some still require a phone call to make an appointment.

Upkeep of Grounds and Buildings

- The grounds of the rectory and the church graveyard are maintained by a professional garden maintenance company, under the supervision of the Glebe wardens.
- The Rectory is in good condition. Some repair work and decoration has been carried out this year.
- The church remains in good condition, as does the church hall.

Bible Study

A bible study was held during Lent. This was held on Wednesday evenings, alternating between Sixmilecross and Termonmaguirke parish halls. It was, as in previous years, well attended.

Drop-in

The Wednesday morning weekly drop-in has continued in Termonmaguirke church hall for parishioners from both Sixmilecross and Termonmaguirke. It has been well attended by up to 14 people per meeting, where a chat with tea, coffee and snacks are enjoyed. There is no formal programme, and the mostly retired members seem to enjoy this informal approach.

School contacts

The Rector carries out school assemblies in Cooley Primary School, Sixmilecross on a monthly basis, during school term.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

There were four funerals and three baptisms in 2023. There was confirmation this year.

Mission activity

The parish continues to support Cross-links Mission agency. We have a link with Andrew and Eunice Moody who work in Uganda, supporting the Church across the border in South Sudan. We also support a local young person, Andrew Livingstone who is now working in a Baptist run youth and conference centre in France. We support several local good causes such as a food bank in Omagh and children's charities, with food collections and toy collections at Christmas.

Child Protection

The parish follows the Church of Ireland child protection policy, Safeguarding Trust.

Financial review

- As of December 2023, the parish is in a good position, free from debt and with a balance of £30,414 in our general account and £46,890 in the fabric account.
- The trustees hold reserves in the general account to ensure that obligations to the RCB and every day running costs can be met. The fabric account is maintained to cover the maintenance costs of the grounds and buildings. With historic buildings, it is necessary to make provision for eventual substantial maintenance costs, particularly for our 19th century church building.

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 the parish can continue its activities and that the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity is Chapter 111 of the constitution of the Church of Ireland Governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation.

The Select Vestry members, who are the Charity Trustees, and who served during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

Rev A Barr
Mr R Anderson
Mr R Anderson
Mr L Anderson
Mr D Armstrong
Mrs C Armstrong
Mr C Armstrong
Mr I Armstrong
Mrs R Beacom
Mr D Kwasniewski
Mrs A Lyons
Mr D Jefferson
Mr A Managh
Mr J Managh
Mr C McLaren
Mr R Oldcroft
Mr J Sawyers
Mrs B Thompson

Recruitment and appointment of Select Vestry

The select vestry is recruited and appointed at the Annual Easter Vestry according to the rules of the Church of Ireland.

Pay and remuneration

The incumbent of the parish is paid a stipend, locomotory allowance and office expenses in accordance with figures approved by the general synod of the Church of Ireland.

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 as well as providing public benefit.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Barr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev Alan Barr (Chair)

Date: 17/4/2024