

**Derrygortreavy Parish Church**

**Trustees' Annual report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities**

**For the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Charities Number: NIC104298**

**Derrygortreavy Parish Church**

**Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022**

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## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Derrigortreavy Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Objectives and Activities.**

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

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

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

Below you will find a summary of the main activities undertaken by the parish to carry out its charitable purposes for the public benefit and the main achievements during the year. This will include its purposes, achievements, beneficiaries, etc.

St Columba's Church Derrigortreavy, was built in the townland of Derrigortreavy in 1815 and is set in beautiful natural grounds, five miles from the centre of the city of Dungannon. Around the building is a well-kept graveyard, with graves dating back to the 1820s. As a pre-disestablishment graveyard, it serves not just Church of Ireland parishioners but other families in the community. St Columba's Derrigortreavy forms part of a Group of Parishes also incorporating St Patrick's Clonfeacle and Holy Trinity Eglis (Drumsallan.)

Our parish is mainly rural, covering a large area in County Tyrone. Our mission and purpose is to explore and grow in the Christian faith and our love and worship of God, and to extend a hand of friendship, welcome and love to others in the community. We do this through regular public worship, community outreach, and offering help, facilities and support in the community as needs and opportunities arise. The annual Harvest 'Foodbox to Foodbank' collection of non-perishable foodstuffs and essential toiletries for donation to the foodbanks in Dungannon or Armagh are practical examples of our faith in action.

### **Public Worship**

St Columba's Church meets each Sunday at 12 noon. The worship schedule includes The Service of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, and Morning Prayer or A Service of the Word on the second and fourth Sunday. All services aim to include items of interest and relevance for children and young people and their full participation in the life of the parish is encouraged. Church is for them. The lives and faith of the youth and children of the parish are nourished and built up through the weekly Sunday School, a Youth Fellowship Group which includes young people from the other parishes in our parochial group, an occasional Kids' Club for the grouped parishes, with e.g., Messy Church and Muddy Church, a Girls' Friendly Society, Confirmation classes and occasional outings.

Each Wednesday morning there is (for all in the grouped parishes of Derrigortreavy, Clonfeacle and Drumsallan), A Service of Holy Communion with Prayers for the Sick, at 10.30 a.m. in St Patrick's Church, Clonfeacle (Benburb) or occasionally A Service of Healing and Wholeness.

Each year services are held on many of the "high days and holy days", that is, the Principal Feast Days in the Church calendar, including on Ash Wednesday and through Holy Week, on Easter Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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

Worship services follow a regular pattern of worship, following the Revised Common Lectionary for our service themes and readings, with hymns, a short children's talk and a sermon appropriate to the theme for the week. The church draws on local organists who share the normal pattern of services during the month.

Services and activities during Advent and Christmas 2022 involving the children through music and drama were curtailed, but we did succeed in holding the traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, albeit without the usual contribution of the Greystone Silver Band. We made up, to some extent, for the depletion of our programmes and gatherings, through the distribution of Bible story books and token Christmas gifts to the children of all the parish families associated with Derrygortreavy. We also provided Christian books to support teenagers and help them understand and negotiate the upheaval to their lives caused by the pandemic, and we provided (and continue to provide most weeks) video-recorded services (uploaded to Facebook or Youtube), a phone-in recorded service on a dedicated number, and we posted devotional booklets and leaflets for all parishioners to encourage and support them in their mental and spiritual health and faith. These efforts were greatly appreciated by parishioners.

### **Community Outreach**

All people in the wider community are welcome at any or all of our services and activities. Our Churchwardens welcome visitors and regular attendees to the church, and newcomers are made particularly welcome. We seek not only to offer a welcome but to encourage integration into the church family and community for those who wish to make St Columba's Derrygortreavy their spiritual 'home'.

Each Sunday morning from September to May/June, there was a Sunday School gathering for the children during the church service and this was open to all children aged from 4 to 15.

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) met every other Tuesday evening from September to May, as is the pattern over many years. GFS provides an opportunity for young girls to come together each week, to enjoy learning new life skills and to study the Bible. The activities ranged as usual from games, art and craft, drama, poetry reciting, jewellery-making, and listening visiting speakers present on areas of interest. There were also outings to GFS Fun Evenings, Festivals and Carol services.

The Mothers' Union normally meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month, inviting special guests to come and speak and/or demonstrate on a subject of interest. Mothers' Union meetings are open to all women (and to men too). Some meetings are designated "Visitor evenings" to encourage wider community involvement. Normally the 'Young Members' meet on the third Wednesday evening of each month from September to May. Meetings of the Mothers' Union are monthly, either in Derrygortreavy or Benburb.

Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study groups - to strengthen our praying and fellowship and to enrich our understanding of the Holy Scriptures - previously held in the Rectory, moved online in 2020, and these Wednesday evening meetings (from 8.00 -8.40 p.m.) have proved to be both popular and important in strengthening the bonds of fellowship and love in the life of this parochial group.

### **Public Benefit**

The charitable purpose of Derrygortreavy Parish is the advancement of religion. This is achieved through Christian witness and outreach, and delivered through the provision of public worship and our ongoing outreach programme as described above.

### **Financial Review**

The Parish Income for the year was £25,329 with outgoings of £33,464 resulting in a deficit of £8,135. The main sources of Income are from our free will offering donations.

The Trustee's Policy on holding reserves is to retain surplus unrestricted funds for any unexpected major maintenance problems and for the on-going running costs of the Parish. The Bank balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were £177,525.

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

### **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 the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 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, 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 members 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 a member may serve.

#### **Pay and remuneration**

Revd Cousins, the Rector (Incumbent) serves the Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglis (Drumsallan) Group of Parishes. The Rector is paid a stipend, locomotory allowance and 'expenses of office' by the Church of Ireland, in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The proportion paid by Derrygortreavy is by way of assessment through the Diocese of Armagh.

#### **Organisational Structure**

Derrygortreavy Parish Select Vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the parish, that is, for its finances, buildings and their fabrics and furnishings, and for its compliance with law. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, two church wardens, one glebe warden and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the annual General Vestry meeting.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Incumbent. 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.

Select Vestry meetings are convened by the Chairperson or in special circumstances by the Rector's Churchwarden, or at times fixed by the members or by the Diocesan Synod.

#### **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.

#### **Statement of Trustee's 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.

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

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: Christine Devlin, Hon. Secretary to the Select Vestry**



**Trustee 2: Nigel Stewart, Hon. Treasurer to the Select Vestry**

