

Derrygortreavy Parish Church

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

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charities Number: NIC104298

Derrygortreavy Parish Church

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Derrgortreavy Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities.

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

The principal function of the Parish of Derrgortreavy 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 Derrgortreavy 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 Derrgortreavy.

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 Derrgortreavy, was built in the townland of Derrgortreavy 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 Derrgortreavy forms part of a Group of Parishes also incorporating St Patrick's Clonfeacle and Holy Trinity Eglisk ('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 Christmas collection of toys and gifts to the 'Gift Service' in December is an example of this.

Public Worship

St Columba's Church meets each Sunday at 12 noon. The worship schedule includes a Family Service on the first Sunday of each month, the Service of Holy Communion on the third Sunday of each month, and Morning Prayer the remaining Sundays in the month. The lives and faith of the youth and children of the parish are nourished and built up through the weekly Sunday School and a Girls' Friendly Society.

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.

Annually there is a celebration at Harvest with the services held on the last Sunday in October in the morning and evening. The church is tastefully decorated and attracts many visitors to these services.

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.

There is a traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, held the Sunday prior to Christmas which is accompanied by Greystone Silver Band. During the Family service on the first Sunday of December the Sunday school take part and also members of the church are encouraged to provide an unused gift for children which are then given to the Salvation Army for distribution.

The Sunday school, though small, is vibrant, thanks to the energy and commitment of dedicated Sunday school teachers, all of whom are AccessNI checked and approved according to statutory and Church of Ireland safeguarding requirements.

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'.

Sunday School is held weekly between September and June commencing at 11.00am to 11.45am, prior to morning worship at 12 noon. It takes place in the Church mobile, located beside the Church building and is open to all children aged from 4 to 15.

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) met every other Tuesday evening from September to April, 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, craft activities, 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. 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.

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 £27,387 with outgoings of £32,315 resulting in a deficit of £4,928. 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 31st December 2023 were £172,597.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (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 2023 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 Eglish (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. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 3 times during the year and the average attendance was approximately 95%.

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.

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.

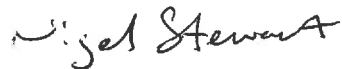
The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking 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

Handwritten signature of Christine Devlin in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Nigel Stewart in black ink.