

Clonfeacle Parish Church

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

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charities Number: NIC104302

Clonfeacle Parish Church

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

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Clonfeacle Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Dungannon/Clonfeacle/St Patricks/Armagh/Church of Ireland

Charity Registration Number: NIC104302

Contact Address: The Rectory
4 Clonfeacle Road
Dungannon
Co Tyrone
BT71 7LQ

Trustees

Revd Suzanne Cousins, Ms E Chambers, Mr W.J Whittle, Mr J Walker, Mr D Walker, Mr A McKenzie, Mr D Smith, Mr J Robinson, Mrs L Smith, Mrs L Silvey, Mrs S Smith, Mrs J Irwin, Mrs M McFarland, Mr J Irwin, Mr B Robinson, Mrs L McKenzie and Mrs A Edgar.

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy: Revd Suzanne Cousins / Parish vacant from 6th July 2023

Church Treasurer: Mr T James Robinson / Mrs Louise Silvey

Church Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Irwin

Church Warden- Clergy: Mrs Maureen McFarland

Church Warden - People: Mr Jim Irwin

Independent Auditor

Andrew Gilpin
WHR Accountants Ltd
56 Upper English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LG

Bankers

Danske Bank
5 Market Square
Dungannon
BT70 1AB

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 Clonfeacle 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 Clonfeacle is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Patricks 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 Clonfeacle 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 Clonfeacle.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Below is 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.

St Patrick's Church, Clonfeacle Parish, was built in 1618 and is set in beautiful natural grounds in the village of Benburb, Co Tyrone. Around the building is a quite extensive graveyard, with graves dating back to 1660s, and as a pre-Disestablishment graveyard, serving the whole community as well as Church of Ireland parishioners. Clonfeacle Parish forms part of a Group of Parishes, also incorporating St Columba's Derrygortreavy and Holy Trinity Drumsallan.

Clonfeacle parish is mainly rural, covering a large area along the borders of counties Tyrone and Armagh. Our mission is to explore and grow in the Christian faith and in love and worship of God, and to extend a hand of welcome and love to others in our community. We seek to do this through regular public worship, community outreach, and offering help and facilities to the community. Our outreach and mission is guided by the *Five Marks of Mission* of the Anglican Communion. (See <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx> .)

Public Worship

St Patrick's Church congregation gathers for worship each Sunday morning at 10.45am. Our schedule is *Morning Prayer* or *A Service of the Word* on the first and third Sundays of the month, and *A Service of Holy Communion* on the second and fourth Sundays. All services are for all ages – we take an intergenerational approach. Children and young people are particularly welcome and are encouraged to be involved by, e.g., assisting with readings, prayers and occasionally with collections.

Every Wednesday morning we also hold a *Service of Holy Communion with Prayers for the Sick*, at 10.30 am. This is for all of the parishes in our parochial group (Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglisli/'Drumsallan'). In addition to this, we also have services on "High Days and Holy Days", in particular Ash Wednesday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, Easter Day Holy Communion, Christmas Eve Holy Communion, and family-orientated services during Advent and at Christmas. Special services of Wholeness and Healing are held on occasion as well as Remembrance Day Services, Messy Church and Muddy Church and all-age Praise Services. Traditionally we have an Annual Harvest Weekend on the first weekend in October, comprising a Friday evening Harvest Thanksgiving service followed by a Harvest Supper, a Sunday morning Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 10.45am. The first Sunday in November is designated as Hospice Sunday. Children's Gift Day, when families are invited to bring gifts to donate to the salvation Army annual Gift Appeal, is at the beginning of December.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Following the end of Covid-related restrictions and the return to in-person worship we have continued to make video and/or sound recordings of weekly and special services and publishing them online. A great many of our regular services were also video-recorded and the recordings uploaded to social media (- to the Grouped Parishes' Facebook page, 'Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy, Eglis/Drumsallan') to make available some ongoing spiritual care and services of worship for those people (parishioners and others) who continue to shield or for other reasons are unable to attend in-church worship.

Our Sunday school children and young people were able to take part in a Nativity service on the first Sunday in December and to present gifts on Children's Gift Day. We were able to celebrate the Incarnation and Nativity with joy and to deliver a substantial collection of toys to the Salvation Army Christmas Gift Appeal. We were also able to hold the annual traditional *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* and were glad to welcome visitors and returning parishioners.

At each service, we have a regular pattern of worship, following the Revised Common Lectionary for our service themes and readings. The church has a well maintained pipe organ and two musicians who share the normal pattern of services during the month. In addition to the normal pattern of worship, there is an Occasional Choir comprising enthusiastic parishioners of all ages. The choir performs at Harvest and Carol services, and at special services throughout the year.

All people in the community continue to be welcome to join us for worship at any of the church services. We seek to express through our welcome the hospitality, love and welcome of God.

Community Outreach

Events and activities of the following parish ministries, groups and organisations were Sunday school meetings (weekly), The Girls' Friendly Society ('GFS', weekly), weekly Boys' Brigade ('BB') meetings, monthly Mothers' Union meetings and monthly MU Young Members' Group meetings, the weekly Bowls Club, weekly prayer and Bible study meetings and the annual community door-to-door Carol Singing in Benburb, with a collection to benefit the NI Children's Hospice.

Clonfeacle parish has a **Parish Hall** and a former **Primary School** property. These are also available to the community for informal use or hire, when public health circumstances and concerns are not an issue. The 'Old School' was until recently used to host exercise classes, dance classes, birthday celebrations and for meetings of historical groups. The Parish Hall has also been used to host birthday celebrations and for occasional **Messy Church** get-togethers for families and children in the wider community.

During the 2023 year we organized a Gospel Concert, where we enjoyed an evening of music and fellowship, this event was widely supported by members of our local community.

In November 2023, we held a community event Flower Festival and Santa's grotto which was supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, we also had a Christmas Tree light switch on which was supported by the Mid Ulster Council. These events were held throughout the Village of Benburb and were widely supported by our local community. Providing much fun, fellowship and community involvement, we were overwhelmed by the support we received.

All these events were able to take place due to the energy and commitment of dedicated and faithful parishioners.

Church Tourism

Our present church building was designed and built by Sir Richard Wingfield in 1618 replacing the old rundown church in the townland of Clonfeacle. We celebrated our 400th Anniversary of its building five years ago. St Patrick's Church is one of the oldest unchanged buildings in regular use in Northern Ireland. Last year we developed our Church Tourism as a form of outreach and ministry reflecting the welcome and hospitality of God, opening the church to groups for tours.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of St Patrick's 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 £67,049 with outgoings of £52,686 resulting in a surplus of £14,363. 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 £109,911.

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 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

Revd Cousins, the Rector (Incumbent) serves the Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Drumsallen 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 Clonfeacle is by way of assessment through the Diocese of Armagh. The position of Rector was vacant from 6th July 2023.

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 meeting.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

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 9 times during the year and the average attendance was approximately 85%

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 actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, 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: Mrs Louise Silvey 

Trustee 2: Mrs Sandra Smith 

Date 25.10.24