

Eglish Parish Church

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

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Charities Number: NIC104303

Eglish Parish Church

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

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Eglish Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: Armagh/Eglish/Holy Trinity/Armagh/Church of Ireland

Charity Registration Number: NIC104303

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

Trustees

Revd S Cousins, Mr Maurice Knipe, Mr Gilbert Neville, Mr Andrew Neville, Ms Lorna Rangasany, Mr Ken Redpath, Mr Charles Livingstone, Mr Trevor Knipe, Mrs Patricia Cochrane, Mr Jack Cochrane, Mr Johnston Irwin, Mrs Audrey Lester, Mr George Faulkner, Mrs Margaret Knipe, Mrs Laura McMaster, Mr Carson White, Mrs Heather Mann and Mrs Maisie Wilson.

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy: Revd Suzanne Cousins

Church Treasurer: Mrs Heather Watson

Church Secretary: Mr Maurice Knipe

Church Warden- Clergy: Mrs Margaret Knipe

Church Warden - People: Mr Jackie Cochrane

Independent Auditor

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

Bankers

Danske Bank
78 Scotch Street
Armagh
BT61 7DJ

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Eglish Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Objectives and Activities.

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

The principal function of the Parish of Eglish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Holy Trinity 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 Eglish 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 Eglish.

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. This will include its purposes, achievements, beneficiaries, etc.

Holy Trinity Church, Eglish Parish, was built in the downland of Drumsallan in 1821 and is set in beautiful natural grounds, five miles from the centre of the city of Armagh. Around the building is a quite extensive graveyard, with graves dating back to 1820s, serving the community, not just Church of Ireland parishioners. There are ruins of the previous building close to the village of Artasooly, dating back to the 16th century. This site also houses ancient standing crosses, which attract attention from many historical groups. This site also hosts a pre-Reformation graveyard, with many local family graves being traced to this location. The parish can trace its roots back to the fifth century, making it one of the oldest parishes in the diocese.

Our parish is mainly rural, covering a large area in County Armagh. Our mission is to explore and grow in our faith, love and worship of God, and to extend a hand of welcome and love to others in our community. We do this through regular public worship, community outreach, and offering help and facilities to the community.

The parish belongs to a group of parishes which includes Clonfeacle and Derrygortreavy Parishes.

Public Worship

The congregation of Holy Trinity Church, Parish of Eglish (known as 'Drumsallan' due to its location) meets each Sunday morning at 9.30am. The monthly worship schedule comprises services of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays, and Morning Prayer or A Service of the Word on the third and fourth Sundays. All services are for all ages and all are welcome.

Gathering for worship was severely disrupted in 2020 by Covid-19, so many of our services were recorded and posted online for parishioners and others to avail of from their homes. Nevertheless, we were able to provide online services, prayer meetings and Bible studies, online, including during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and an online Sunday school and some Youth online events. We were glad to be able to reopen the church and its sister churches in the parochial group on 30th September 2020. The recorded online services, along with live online prayer and Bible studies and other planning meetings for parish-related affairs, involved the contributions of many parishioners, of all ages, and there was a sense of solidarity and mutual support between parishioners as a result.

Traditionally the parish holds an Annual Harvest Weekend on the second weekend in October, comprising a Friday Evening Prayer service at 8pm, a Sunday morning Harvest Family Service at 9.30am, and a Sunday Evening Prayer service at 7pm. This was scaled down in the circumstances of a pandemic to a single service and the Harvest Supper in the Parish Hall that traditionally takes place after the Friday evening service did not take place for reasons of covid safety and prevention.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

The same (pandemic) circumstances meant that, as with other churches attendance at services dropped, and the participation of our children and young people in services such as the Nativity service in December was curtailed. Nevertheless, the parish families were still able to contribute generously with gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on Sunday 20th December, minus the usual tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

We observed Lent 2020 largely online of necessity, with a series of pre-recorded Lenten reflections and live online (via Zoom) meetings each Wednesday evening, with Lenten reflections and Bible studies and services of Compline or A Late Evening Office, culminating in online Holy Week services.

At in-church services, which resumed on 30th September 2020, we continue to maintain a regular pattern of worship, following the Revised Common Lectionary for service themes and readings and hymns appropriate to the readings and theme for the week. Holy Trinity Church has a well maintained pipe organ and two organists who share the normal pattern of services during the month. Prior to the pandemic, an Occasional Choir comprising enthusiastic parishioners of all ages, contributed at Harvest and Carol services, and at other special services throughout the year. We hope in time to be able to resume this aspect of the church and parish's life.

All members of the wider community are welcome at any or all of our services. Our Churchwardens and stewards welcome all attendees and visitors to the church at each service, and visitors and any newcomers are given any help or welcome they need to feel 'at home'.

Community Outreach

Each Sunday morning between September and May, under non-pandemic circumstances, there is a Sunday School during the morning service, from 9.30am to approximately 10.30am. This is held in the Parish Hall, located directly across the road from the Church building. The children are included in every service and are present either at the start of the Service of Morning Prayer, or at the end of the Holy Communion Service. Sunday school is open to all children aged 4 to 16, whether parishioners or otherwise. Under non-pandemic circumstances, the senior class (ages 11-16) study Bible passages each week, based on the lectionary readings being following in Church that Sunday. The Sunday School children are regularly invited to assist in services in appropriate ways, and occasionally perform simple dramas, readings or prayers, and, again, under non-pandemic circumstances, sing at the Christmas Nativity service. They also participate in the annual Children's Day and Prizegiving service in May. In 2020 this service was took the form of a simple pre-recorded service which was published online.

Since the onset of the pandemic, all families in the parish, and others who have responded to the offer, are provided weekly with Bible teaching resources via email or by post as requested. This outreach ministry is continuing even after the churches have reopened for in-church worship.

The grouped parishes have a Youth Fellowship called 'Time Out' which prior to the first covid lockdown met monthly in either Eglisli/Drumsallan Parish Hall or Clonfeacle/Benburb Parish Hall, usually on a Sunday evening, for games, crafts, social time, the learning of bowls as a sport/game, Bible teaching, music and food. Funds were raised by the three parishes via a 'cash-for-clobber' clothes-donation effort to provide the young people with a hoodie embossed with a specially-designed Time Out logo. Completion of this project is to be completed and it is our hope to resurrect this Time Out youth ministry in the year ahead.

Prior to the disruption caused by Covid-19, the Mothers' Union met on the third Tuesday evening of each month, inviting speakers to come and speak and/or demonstrate a subject of their choice. MU is open to everyone - men and women - and regularly holds "Visitor evenings" to encourage a wider community involvement.

Prior to the disruption caused by Covid-19, a weekly Bowls Club met in the Parish Hall, or occasionally travelled to other venues for matches. It is also open to all, and has members from 16 - 80 years old. They host local competitions within the club, and compete as part of the local Bowls League. A Badminton Club has met on a Monday evening for many years. Again, all local people are encouraged to attend, and are welcome. Again, it is our hope to resurrect these social groups and clubs as we are able.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Prior to the disruption caused by Covid-19, the Parish Hall was also made available to the community for various informal uses, such as the hosting of birthday celebrations, fundraising table quizzes, and for several functions for the local Women's Institute. The Hall was also available for teas following funerals, weddings, etc.

Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of Eglisk 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 £37,862 with outgoings of £38,560 resulting in a deficit of £698. 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 2020 were £111,251.

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 2020 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 serves the Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglisk Group of Parishes where she is paid a stipend, locomotory allowance and expenses of office, in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The proportion paid by Eglisk is by way of assessment through the Diocese of Armagh.

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.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

The select vestry is chaired by the incumbent or other member of the clergy 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 2020 the Select Vestry met 8 times during the year and the average attendance was 75%.

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 and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The trustee's are responsible for preparing the Trustee's 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:	Trevor Knipe	
Trustee 2:	Maurice Knipe	