

**Ardstraw Parish Church**  
**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Charities Number: NIC104677**

**Ardstraw Parish Church**

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

**Contents**

	Pages
References and administrative details of the Charity	2
Trustees' report	3 - 6
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees	7
Receipts and payments account	8
Statement of assets and liabilities	9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 12

## **Ardstraw Parish Church**

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

#### **References and administrative details**

Charity Name: Ardstraw Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC104677

Contact Address: The Rectory

2 Bunderg Road

Newtownstewart

Co Tyrone

BT78 4NQ

#### **Trustees**

Rev. Ivan Dinsmore

Mr Andy Buchanan

Miss Dorothy Crawford

Mr Emerson Donnell

Mr Ian Donnell

Mr Ronnie Hill

Mr James Jamieson

Mrs Carol Johnston

Mr Alan Miller

Mrs Dawn Pinkerton

Mr Trevor Pratt

Mrs Irene Spratt

Mr John Wilson

Mrs Helen O'Connor

Mr Colin McClelland

#### **Principal Office-bearers**

Clergy: Rev. Ivan Dinsmore

Church Treasurer: Mrs Dawn Pinkerton

Church Warden- Clergy: Mr Ian Donnell

Church Warden - People: Mr John Wilson

#### **Independent Examiner**

McFarland Arnold & Co

8 Main Street

Newtownstewart

Co Tyrone

BT78 4AA

□Ardstraw Parish Church

#### **Bankers**

Danske Bank

5-7 Market Street

Omagh

Co Tyrone

BT78 1BN

## **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 Ardstraw Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **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*

The Incumbent of the Parish stipend is paid directly by the Diocese, which is in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland together with approved office and locomotory allowances.

#### *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 Easter Vestry.

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 2023 the Select Vestry met 3 times during the year and the average attendance was 67%.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

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

### **Ardstraw Parish Church**

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

The principal function of Ardstraw Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Ardstraw 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, Ardstraw Parish Church 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 Ardstraw Parish Church.

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

The Parish of Ardstraw exists for the purpose of the advancement of the Christian religion in the Newtown Stewart area. To implement this purpose, we provide many services to our local community. The main function of the Parish is to provide opportunities for parishioners and other members of the

community to worship God, Sunday by Sunday. To this end, the Parish provides a regular Sunday morning worship service each Sunday at 11.00am. This enables members of the community to partake in the sacrament of Holy Communion which is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and to be taught from the Bible every Sunday. Of course, our worship is open to anyone who wishes to come, from all backgrounds and all faiths or none. In recent times we have welcomed not only people from a Christian background, but also those of other faiths including Baha'i, Buddhist and those who have no belief at all. We are, of course, welcoming to those of all races, genders and orientations. In practice the vast majority of our worshippers are from a Church of Ireland background, but our Church welcomes all to the Lord's Table in the sacrament of Holy Communion. On other Sundays the main service is "Morning Prayer" which is a more simplified service of readings, hymns and prayers.

Pastoral care is provided by the Rector, assisted by the parishioners. This includes home visits, hospital visits, counselling where needed, and a listening ear where someone just needs to talk. Parishioners and others are regularly remembered in prayer. Pastoral care is provided at times of difficulty e.g. bereavement and at times of celebration e.g. a marriage or baptism. Our Church has an open, welcoming non-judgemental attitude to baptism in that we welcome all who come to be baptised and refrain from attaching conditions to their participation in the sacrament, as some Churches do.

Mission and outreach include a Youth Fellowship group which meets on Thursday evenings during term time and is open to the entire community and is geared towards teenagers. Usually around a dozen young people attend this group each week. There is also a Confirmation class, which is held on Thursday evenings. A similar number of young people attend this group.

Both of these groups are aimed at outreach to teenagers and young people in order to share the faith with them and encourage them in this important stage of their life. The Mother's Union is an outreach group comprised of the ladies of the Church (although it is open to men also). In practice our branch in common with most branches has an entirely female membership. As well as supporting the families of the parish, the Mothers' Union supports the wider community in various ways. Members knit "Trauma Teddies" for use when children are admitted to hospital. A child is

**Ardstraw Parish Church**

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

given one of the teddies and this can be a comfort to a scared and ill or injured child in the strange and intimidating environment of a hospital ward. Kit bags are also collected and distributed to hospitals containing emergency supplies of necessary items such as toothpaste, soap, etc. These are given to people who have been admitted to hospital suddenly and do not have such items with them. In addition, the Mothers' Union fundraises in support of mission at home and abroad. They provide a contact centre where children of estranged parents can meet with the parent whom they no longer live with in a safe and comforting environment. Mothers' Union provides "Away from it all" breaks or days out for families whose family life is going through a difficult period. The Parish supports a number of orphans financially as part of the Tyrone Protestant Orphan Society. This provides "no strings attached" financial assistance for children who have lost one or both parents. Grants are usually received in August and before Christmas.

Several times each year, the Parish provides a free lunch for seniors and those who are prevented from attending Church due to illness or advancing age. Transport is provided to and from these events free of charge by Church members.

Since Easter 2020 we have been financially supporting the community of San Jorge in Cebu City, Philippines, by providing donations to enable food to be purchased and distributed among poor families in Cebu.

The Parish operates a Charity Shop in partnership with Cancer Focus. This provides many services to the community, not least in providing a place where unwanted items can be reused and resold to the benefit of others. It provides opportunities for people to volunteer their time and talents in the service of the wider community. It also provides a place for people to come and chat and meet other people. And not least, of course, the shop raises a substantial amount of money which supports the work of Cancer Focus.

The Parish is very conscious of the duty of care that we have to those who participate in our events and use our premises. We have a strict safeguarding policy in place which protects our Children's Ministry. This is regularly reviewed and training is frequently available in the Parish. The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed every three years by the Diocesan authorities to ensure that our young people can participate in all Church activities confident of the protection they deserve.

In addition, several community groups not affiliated with the Church use the Parish Hall throughout the week. These include the Day Care Centre on Wednesdays and the local branch of the Women's Institute who meet in our building once every month.

A significant number of people request access to the Parish Records each year. These are held in the Parish Office and can be accessed free of charge by appointment with the Rector. Church buildings can also be accessed at any time by appointment with the Rector or a member of the congregation.

## **Ardstraw Parish Church**

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

#### **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 in whatever way we can. We hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

#### **Financial Review**

Total income of the Parish during the year was £61,045 (2022: £68,032) and total expenses were £64,555 (2022: £77,750) leaving a deficit of £3,510 for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Parish continues to be in a healthy state as at 31 December 2023 with total cash funds of £31,842.

A detailed analysis of parish income and expenditure is set out on page 8 to the financial statements.

#### **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.


#### **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**

  
Mr John Wilson

  
Mrs Dawn Pinkerton

Date 29/10/2024

Date 29/10/24

## **Ardstraw Parish Church**

### **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Ardstraw Parish Church**

We report on the financial statements of Ardstraw Parish Church for the year ended 31 December

2023 which comprise statement of financial activities, statement of assets and liabilities and the related notes.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is our responsibility to:-

- Examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

We have examined your charity financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008 and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (NI) 2008. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008.
2. That the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act (NI) 2008 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

**Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*McFarland Arnold & Co.*

**Chartered Accountants**

**Dated:** *30 October 2024*

Ardstraw Parish Church

**McFarland Arnold & Co**

**Chartered Accountants**

**8 Main Street**

**Newtownstewart**

**Co Tyrone**

**BT78 4AA**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricte d Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations & plate collection	42,259	1,993	-	44,252	43,719
Proceeds from Fund Raising Events	1,393	-	-	1,393	100
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,000
Bank & Deposit interest	121	43	-	164	26
Investment income	500	-	-	500	479
Rental of premises	5,165	-	-	5,165	2,715
Grants	-	1,843	-	1,843	-
Other Receipts	7,268	-	-	7,268	10,480
Receipts from Parish Organisation's	460	-	-	460	513

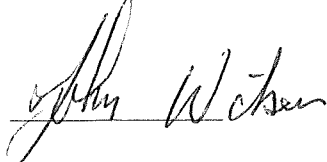
<b>Total Receipts</b>	57,166	3,879	-	61,045	68,032
<b>Payments</b>					
Diocesan Costs/Assessment	34,173	-	-	34,173	31,972
Church Running Costs	8,406	-	-	8,406	9,696
Rectory Running Costs	9,910	-	-	9,910	15,459
Parish Hall Running Costs	5,585	-	-	5,585	8,702
Organ Refurbishment Costs	1,000	-	-	1,000	8,000
Administration Costs	3,418	-	-	3,418	3,106
Charitable Donations	-	2,063	-	2,063	815
<b>Total Payments</b>	62,492	2,063	-	64,555	77,750
Net receipts / (payments)	(5,326)	1,816	-	(3,510)	(9,718)
Transfers between funds	1,773	(1,773)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(3,553)	43	-	(3,510)	(9,718)
Funds brought forward	19,595	6,596	9,161	35,352	45,070
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	16,042	6,639	9,161	31,842	35,352

□Ardstraw Parish Church

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>					
Current Accounts	16,042	3,160	-	19,202	22,755
Deposit Accounts	-	3,479	9,161	12,640	12,597
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	16,042	6,639	9,161	31,842	35,352
<b>Investment Assets</b>					
Equity Investments			-	-	-
Other Listed Investments			-	-	-
Investments in RCB / CIT Unit Trusts			20,874	20,874	20,242
Investment Properties			-	-	-
<b>Total Investment Assets</b>			20,874	20,874	20,242
<b>Assets retained for the Parish's own use</b>					
Church and graveyard			1,486,873	1,486,873	1,301,991
Parish hall			672,305	672,305	625,400
Rectory			719,021	719,021	509,948
<b>Total Assets retained for the Parish's own use</b>			2,878,199	2,878,199	2,437,339

On Behalf of the Trustees





Date 29/10/2024.  
 Ardstraw Parish Church

Date 29/10/24

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### (a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

#### (b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

##### (i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The Parish owns the following premises and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery which have insurance values as follows:

	£
Church and graveyard Main Street, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone, BT78 4AA	1,486,873
Parish hall 55 Dublin Street, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone, BT78 4AQ	672,305
Rectory 2 Bunderg Road, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone, BT78 4NG	719,021
	<u>2,878,199</u>

##### ii) Investments

Fixed asset investments comprising investment in RCB/CIT Unit Trusts are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each year end date.

Ardstraw Parish Church

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

### 2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total Cash Funds at beginning of the year	35,352
Receipts for the Year	61,045
Payments for the Year	<u>(64,555)</u>
Total Cash Funds at end of the year	<u>31,842</u>

### 3. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2023 £	Incoming Resource s £	Outgoing Resource s £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Mehaffy, Hamilton & Gurney Bequests	9,161	-	-	-	9,161
	<u>9,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,161</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Sunday School Fund	6,596	43	-	-	6,639
General Fund	-	3,836	(2,063)	(1,773)	-
	<u>6,596</u>	<u>3,879</u>	<u>(2,063)</u>	<u>(1,773)</u>	<u>6,639</u>

**Unrestricted funds**

General Fund	19,595	57,166	(62,492)	1,773	16,042
	<u>19,595</u>	<u>57,166</u>	<u>(62,492)</u>	<u>1,773</u>	<u>16,042</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>35,352</u></u>	<u><u>61,045</u></u>	<u><u>(64,555)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>31,842</u></u>

**Purposes of Restricted Funds**

– Sunday School Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for use by the Sunday School.

**Ardstraw Parish Church****Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)****4. Collections for Third Parties**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bishops' Appeal	625	210
Royal British Legion	357	501
CMS	81	104
Tyrone Protestant Orphan Society	<u>930</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>1,993</u></u>	<u><u>815</u></u>

The above amounts have been included in Receipts for the Year under “Donations and plate collection” and in Payments for the year under “Charitable donations”.

**5. Transactions with the Trustees**

The parish paid expenses of £9,910 relating to the running costs of the rectory. No trustee received any remuneration for being a charity trustee.

No trustee or a person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

**6. Governance Costs**

Governance costs of £500 were incurred during the year which relates to fees paid to the Independent Examiner. Governance costs are included within Administration costs in the Receipts and Payments Accounts.