

# St Canice's Church

## Year Ended 31 December 2023

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present the annual report and statement of receipts and payments and assets and liabilities for St. Canice's Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of St. Canice's Church is the advancement of religion.

The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish 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 is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity.

As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

#### Achievements and Performance

2023 was St Canice's first year since 2020 without any restrictions associated with the COVID pandemic. We were pleased to note that the numbers of people returning to church continued to increase, as did the numbers of children attending Sunday School (JAM). In September 2023, JAM moved to weekly from the fortnightly offering the previous year. We also introduced a Daybreak service once a month, targeted at young families. From 18<sup>th</sup> October, Midweek Holy Communion was reintroduced, designed to be wheelchair accessible and dementia friendly.

It is difficult to offer regular opportunities to be together as a church family when we do not have a usable church hall. However, we held a number of successful events, including a Beetle Drive (January), a Reindeer Drive (December), and a Coronation lunch (May), thanks to the support of the local Orange Lodge who kindly lent us their hall. We also enjoyed our annual parish bus outing in September, and a guided tour of Derry's walls in November. In October, we completed the celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building with the interment of a time capsule in the church grounds, to be opened in fifty years, and the display of a Memory Cloth with parishioners' names embroidered on it.

In terms of outreach to the wider community, we hosted a well-attended event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April examining the Enagh Lough crash during the Second World War. We also held a hugely successful Pets' Service in October, attended by a significant number of well-behaved dogs, a first in the village. A series of Christmas events and carol services allowed us to present over 100 children's presents and £500 to the Salvation Army.

The Select Vestry's business continued to be dominated by the planning for a new parish centre to replace the parish hall which was badly damaged in the 2017 flood. In February, the Rector made a presentation to parishioners about the current position, and continued to update them throughout the year. Significant progress was made during 2023. The asset of the field was sold in December, with legal completion happening by January 2024. The parish, with Diocesan support, undertook enabling works that allowed us to protect our planning permission that had been due to expire in January 2024. This was the single biggest risk to the project's success. We submitted a grant application to the Church of Ireland's Representative Church Body in Dublin, and also secured the offer of a loan from Community Finance Ireland. We worked closely with Diocesan Committees to take the project forward.

## **St Canice's Church**

### **Year Ended 31 December 2023**

#### **Trustees Report 2023 continued...**

Parishioners committed to contribute to the church's Building Fund when it was launched in June 2021. By the end of 2023, the Select Vestry was pleased that parishioners had largely adhered to their pledges, while noting that some contributors had died or left the parish. Nevertheless, the Building Fund remained on target for 2023. An important contributor to the Building Fund is the income received from the parish thrift shop "New Beginnings", which opened in December 2019. As well as bringing much-needed additional income for the church's Building Fund (£48,470 in 2023), the shop has proved to be an important part of St Canice's ministry in the local community. Its success is due to a team of committed volunteers, and the quality of donations received from across the community. The Select Vestry decided in December 2023 to share grants of £500 each to other charities: Foyle Search and Rescue, St Vincent de Paul, Londonderry Orphans' Society, the Methodist City Mission, and the Bishops' Appeal. In this year, the parish also donated to the Bishops' Appeal for the Middle East, the Bishops' Appeal for Libya, and the Earl Haig Fund.

The parish prioritised recruiting a Youth Worker, a post to be shared with the local Presbyterian Church as a means of re-engaging young people. We were delighted in July 2022 to receive a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund. In conjunction with the Presbyterian Church, St Canice's has worked hard to identify a suitable candidate. Although we were unsuccessful in appointing in 2023, we continue to try to fill this important post.

#### **Public Benefit**

The expression of the precepts of the Christian religion through engagement with the general public, and in particular with the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a public benefit. This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching. The beneficiaries are the general public. The public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance, willingness to support through contributions and the continuing witness of the Church. The wider benefit to the public will outweigh any detriment arising in the course of Christian outreach. Any private benefit arising out of the fulfilment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfilment of the purpose of the advancement of religion. No Trustee receives remuneration, reward, or other private benefit for carrying out their Trustee responsibility.

The direct benefits flowing from maintenance of a body or records, materials and artefacts include the provision of archive records, public enjoyment of cultural and historic buildings and artefacts such as church plate, furnishings, and materials as well as an overall improved appreciation of longstanding Christian heritage. This is demonstrated through on-going provision of access to records and the use made of these records in, for example, research and genealogy, through conservation efforts in respect of records, property and artefacts and the subsequent and continued requests for access and use of our materials by wider society. There is no harm arising from the purpose. The beneficiaries are the general public. No private benefit is received by trustees fulfilling their trustee responsibilities in respect of these records, buildings, or artefacts, but in the course of conservation and to make these accessible to the public, the engagement of professional staff and services is essential but incidental to the fulfilment of the purpose.

#### **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.

# St Canice's Church

## Year Ended 31 December 2023

### Trustees Report 2023 continued...

#### Financial Review

Our total income in the year was £151,484 (2022: £176,915) and this consisted of £72,758 (2022: £77,806) in our General Fund (Unrestricted Funds), £74,417 (2022: £92,785) in our Restricted Fund and £4,309 (2022: £6,324) income from Endowments.

Total expenditure for the year was £123,460 (2022: £92,860) of which £85,621 (2022: £84,363) was from General Funds (Unrestricted Funds), and £33,530 (2022: £4,697) was from Restricted Funds and £4,309 (2022: £3,800) was from Endowment Funds.

#### Trustees' policy on holding reserves

It is the policy of the Trustees' that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to three month's expenditures. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that in the event of a significant drop in income, they will be able to continue with current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

#### 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 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. The general vestry meeting took place on 23 April 2023.

##### Pay and remuneration

Payments totalling £5,285 (2022: £5,092) were paid to the incumbent member of clergy who served in the parish during the year for daily running expenses.

##### Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is a body of people elected under the Constitution of the Church of Ireland responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy ("the incumbent") serving in the parish, along with 16 other members. The Select Vestry is responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how parish funds are to be applied. It meets at times fixed by the members. In 2023, the Select Vestry met seven times during the year. Their work was supported by a number of Sub-Committees including a Finance Committee, a Hall Project Group, a Fundraising Committee, and a Parish Development Group.

##### 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.

## St Canice's Church

### Year Ended 31 December 2023

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



Rev. Canon P Hoey  
Trustee

Date: 17/6/2024



Mr. E Moore  
Trustee

Date: 17/6/2024.