

## **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 Leckpatrick 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 Leckpatrick Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Leckpatrick 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, Leckpatrick 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 Leckpatrick Parish Church.

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

The church has achieved its objectives by the holding of regular religious services and also holding various youth and other activities for the benefit of the local community. The church holds regular public worship services on Sundays and also on Wednesdays and Fridays during other periods within the Christian liturgical calendar. As part of the Church's pastoral care to each church family, Sunday School is held each Sunday during school terms. The Trustees have a child protection policy in place under the control of a Safeguarding Trust Committee.

Outside of the worship services, the church normally engages in several outreach programmes into the local community, through organisations such the luncheon club (for the senior citizens of the parish), pastoral visitations are carried out by the Incumbent and trained pastoral visitors to the infirmed, elderly and bereaved. Visits are also made to nursing homes where prayers are held, hymns sung and bible readings narrated.

The Church also organises an annual fundraising event which is open to everyone in the local community.

The Church Hall is provided for use by other community groups such as Girl Guides, Women's Institute, Mothers' Union and bowling club.

The minister may serve on the Board of Governors for Artigarvan Primary School, this is covered by one of our Safeguarding Trust panel members.

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.

Rev Canon Paul Whittaker retired in March 2023 and his replacement, Rev. Andrea Cotter, was installed as Incumbent of the Parish on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. In the interim the work of the congregation continued with temporary cover arranged by the Diocese and the Rural Dean, Rev Canon David McBeth.

### **Financial Review**

The Parish had an excess of receipts over payments of £22,271 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Parish continues to be in a healthy financial state as at 31 December 2023 with total cash funds of £189,117.

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

The trustees consider that the unrestricted funds of the church have sufficient resources and assets available which are adequate to fulfil their obligations. A detailed analysis of parish income and expenditure is set out in the notes 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.

### **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**

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's 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. One other Charity Trustee receives a remuneration from Leckpatrick Parish Church for employment duties as sexton.

#### **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.

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 6 times 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.

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

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

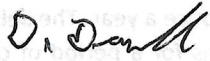
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees 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 Geoffrey Kelly 

Date 3-10-2024

Mr Derick Donnell 

Date 3-10-2024