

## **Urney Parish**

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

The Trustees' present their Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Urney Parish 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 Urney Parish 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 are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of the activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, Urney Parish 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 Urney Parish.

#### **Achievements, Performance and Public Benefits**

Urney Parish provides services of worship each Sunday at 8.30am and 10.00am in The Church of the Good Shepherd and 11.30am in Christ Church. Visitors are always welcome to join. Holy Communion services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month, and a family service every second Sunday in which children are encouraged to participate through readings, praise and prayers. Both Churches come together for special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Parish provides pastoral office as required for baptisms, weddings, funerals and confirmation. Pastoral care is provided throughout the year.

The Parish offers a range of other activities either run directly by the church or through church organisations including Sunday Club, confirmation preparation classes and the Bowling Club.

Whilst a number of fundraising events are run by the Parish, the highlight each year is the Strawberry Fair in June which is enjoyed and well supported by the whole community.

The Parish supports the work of local and global charities by making donations and/or holding special collections or events in respect of the same.

Urney Parish has mitigated any potential harm from the activities through the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Policy.

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.

## Urney Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Achievements, Performance and Public Benefits (continued)

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

#### Financial Review

The Parish is a charitable organisation with their main source of income deriving from members' freewill offerings. Total donations received from freewill offerings in 2023 was £41,150 compared to £45,558 in the previous year. Overall income decreased by £24,362 due to a reduction in fundraising income and grants. Expenditure increased by £8,092 mainly from a rise in assessment costs. Overall results for the year show a deficit of £34,009 [2022: £1,555].

The Trustees' continue to monitor the level of reserves held by the Parish and are actively taking steps to increase the reserves in order to meet any unforeseen expenditure incurred.

#### 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 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.

## Urney Parish

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

##### Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the clergy serving in the Parish, any curate assistant, 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 clergy. 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 eight times and the average attendance was 67%.

##### 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 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.

This report was approved by the Trustees' and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Rev Jonathan McFarland

  
.....  
Mr Ronald Patton

...Oct - 2024.....