

**St Marks Church of Ireland, Augher**

**Trustee's Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Charities Number: NIC105366**

**Reference and Administration Details**

Charity Name: St Marks Church of Ireland Augher  
Charity Registration Number: NIC105366  
Contact Address: The Rectory  
10 Augher Road  
Clogher  
BT76 0AD

**Trustees:**

Reverend Olivia Downey	Mr D Morgan	Mr Clive Montgomery
Mrs C Egerton	Mr Norman McFarland	Mrs Lisa Wright
Mr John Egerton	Mrs Ruth McKeown	Mr Roy Wright
Mrs Ann Graham	Mrs Judith McLaren	
Mrs D Morgan	Mr Desmond Millar	

**Principal Office-bearers**

Rector:	Reverend Olivia Downey
Rector's Churchwarden:	Mr Roy Wright
People's Churchwarden:	Mr John Egerton
Rector's Glebwarden:	Mr Clive Montgomery
People's Glebwarden:	Mr Desmond Millar
Church Secretary:	Mr Norman McFarland
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Lisa Wright

**Independent Examiner**

Allan Montgomery & Company  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
100 Main Street, Fivemiletown, BT75 0PW

**Principal Bankers**

Ulster Bank Ltd  
55 Main Street  
Clogher, BT76 0AA

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St Marks Church of Ireland Augher for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

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

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

St Marks Parish Church of Ireland herein called 'St Marks COI' seeks to fulfil its purpose in support of weekly services on Sunday morning's comprising of a mix of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Family Service and Baptism together with various other special services during the year e.g. Lenten, Harvest Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Pastoral care is provided for all parishioners and those in the wider community.

During 2022, there was one Baptism and one Funeral.

With COVID-19 vaccines making way for non-existent recommendations around social distancing and masking, many congregations have been able to get back to normal operations again. It is noted that some are not rushing to return to how things were.

Several parishioners have gotten used to the convenience of online worship or have simply checked out altogether and the immediate challenge is to get people to see the church as a community requiring their involvement.

St Marks has identified a vital role to play in the post pandemic recovery, expanding their contribution as an important community hub that is a key place of comfort and refuge in times of crisis.

A range of other activities are usually provided by St Marks COI either by the church directly or through various church organisations e.g. Annual Harvest weekend with supper, Sunday school, Knit Stitch & Natter, Mothers Union and Choir.

A service of Thanksgiving to mark Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee was held on Sunday 5 June 2022 followed by a special tea and cake to mark the occasion.

Arrangements are always made to ensure that all Sunday school youth received a pastoral gift at Christmas time which include a social gathering.

The annual Carol service was held in the morning, on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, afterwards parishioners enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Reverend Olivia Downey holds the position of Chairperson to the Board of Governors of the local primary school and a number of members of the Parish serve on Board of Governors as well as PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends, Association) which supports and encourages the work of the local school, helping to maintain good standards and practices. In addition, Reverend Olivia continued to partake in regular assemblies in our local schools.

St Marks COI supports the work of other charities and missionary work by either making donations or holding special collections in respect of the same. UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) Ltd, The Poppy Appeal and other charities receive financial and prayerful support from the Parish.

The activities outlined above demonstrate how St Marks COI continues to implement its charitable purposes (i.e. the advancement of religion) and meets the public benefit requirement. Benefits to members of the public include contributing to spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values.

St Marks COI outreach extends widely and is particularly effective through Rites of Passage ceremonies such as baptism, marriage and burial which often extend into wide areas of the local community. All are opportunities to reinforce Christian values and aspects of good citizenship. The Rector has a sensitive involvement in the local community.

The Trustees' (who have a responsibility for the upkeep of Church, Church property, Graveyard, Rectory and Church Hall), continue to exercise their stewardship by ensuring the necessary remedial repairs to the surrounds of the Parish Church and rectory are regularly maintained. As part of that stewardship, the Trustees' address any necessary repairs as required to the hall, to ensure that all facilities are welcoming, safe and usable by members and the wider public.

St Marks COI has mitigated any potential harm from the activities through the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Policy. The parish has undertaken, with guidance from the Church of Ireland, to implement GDPR in accordance with current legislative requirements.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidelines on public benefit to ensure that the aforementioned activities, as described, prove evidence of how St Marks COI continues to implement its charitable purposes, the advancement of religion, and meets the Public Benefit requirement.

## **Financial Review**

- The principal source of income of St Marks COI continues to be from Donations and Plate Collections.
- The principal expense of St Marks COI is in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Costs/Assessment.
- St Marks Parish excess of receipts over payments for the year ended December 2022 was £2,867.
- St Marks Parish Church continues to be in a satisfactory financial state as at 31 December 2022 with total cash funds of £57,828.
- St Marks Parish Church aim to retain sufficient reserves to meet its expected future expenditure requirements as well as potential future capital projects.

## **Going Concern**

The Trustees have reviewed its planned expenditure 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 2022 can be signed off as a going concern.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **- Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity**

As outlined in Chapter III of the Church of Ireland Constitution which 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 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.

### **- Organisational Structure**

The responsibilities of the select vestry include that day to day management of activities and decision-making within the Parish.

The Select Vestry consists of a member of the clergy serving the Parish, Churchwardens (known as the Rector's Churchwarden and the People's Churchwarden), the Glebewardens and up to 12 additional

parishioners who are registered members of the general Vestry for the Parish and elected to the Select Vestry at the General / Easter Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by Clergy within the Parish. Select Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Church / Parish including how funds are to be applied.

The Select Vestry meet at times fixed by Clergy / Members. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the Chairperson of the Churchwardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met many times during the year and the average attendance was excellent. Additionally, minor select vestry business / notification was carried out via WhatsApp.

**- 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 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 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**     *O Dooney*  
**Rector**

**Trustee 2**     *L Wright*  
**Church Treasurer**

**Date**            **19 August 2023**