

Donacavey Church of Ireland
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 Donacavey Church of Ireland 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 Donacavey Church of Ireland Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Donacavey Church of Ireland, 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.

Donacavey Church of Ireland 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 Donacavey Church of Ireland.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Donacavey Church of Ireland has weekly services on Sunday mornings comprising of a mix of Holy Communion, Family Services, Baptism, Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline, Late Evening Office, the Litany with various other special services during the year e.g. Marriages, Funerals, Confirmation, Lenten, Harvest Thanksgivings, Advent and Christmas. Pastoral care is provided for parishioners and those in the wider community.

A range of other activities are provided by Donacavey Parish either by the church directly or through various church organisations e.g. Sunday School, Carers and Toddlers' Group, Mothers' Union, and a range of children's groups including Girls Friendly Society. Other groups regularly hire the church parish center for Bowls, Women's Institute and Auctions. The parish hall is given free of charge to all children's groups and also the Senior Citizens.

The Parish has a well organised and enthusiastic catering committee who provide funeral teas and refreshments after special services. In general, the catering committee use their proceeds to help maintain and improve the Parish Hall. The catering committee also provided a harvest supper during the harvest celebrations and refreshments during the parish sale and auction. Proceeds from these fund-raising events went to general church funds.

A number of parishioners serve on the Board of Governors of the local primary school and the Rector leads assemblies on a regular basis.

The activities outlined above demonstrate how Donacavey Parish continues to implement its charitable purposes (i.e. the advancement of religion) and meets the Public Benefit requirement by providing the Parish Hall free of charge to local community groups, contributing to the spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values.

The Trustees have put in place policies to protect anyone partaking in church activities and have implemented 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.

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

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 end 31 December 2024 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 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 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, any curate assistant ("the curate"), 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.

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Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioner for Northern Ireland's guidance on the 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' Annual 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.

On Behalf of the Trustees

Rev John Woods

Rev John Woods
Trustee

John Booth

Mr John Booth
Trustee

Date : 31st October 2024