

DEVENISH 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 for the Devenish Church of Ireland for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Reference and Administration Details

The reference and administration details of Devenish Church of Ireland are as shown on page 1.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principle function of Devenish Church of Ireland 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 activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the 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 the parish.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

Devenish Parish has continued to provide worship and prayer opportunities for its parishioners and any visitors, at its services, every Sunday morning and evening. The Church Choir takes a leading part in all the services throughout the year, with the members giving freely of their time each week at practice to prepare for each of these services. A monthly prayer meeting is held in the parish hall. The provision of pastoral care has been extended through the use of parish visitors, who assist the officiating minister with visiting duties in the parish.

Church activities have now fully resumed post Covid-19. The Church building is now also fully open again, likewise the Reade Hall, for services, activities and meetings.

Several parishioners participated in the Sligo Camino run, to raise monies for charity. A series of fundraising activities would have been organised throughout the year, including a Fun Run/Walk, Table Quiz, Sale and Auction and a Variety Concert. A collection in aid of Charity took place at Church Services, as usual, over the Christmas period.

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

Devenish Parish adheres to Safeguarding Trust, the Church of Ireland Child Protection 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 as well as providing public benefit.

The Trustees of the Parish confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Charity in the year ended 31st December 2023.

Financial Review

The financial performance was in line with the trustees' expectations. The parish remains in a sound financial position at the year end. The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 6 and 7 of the accounts.

Reserves Policy

The trustees do not have a formal reserves policy.

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 31st 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 eighteen 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 members 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 of office which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The Incumbent of the parish stipend is paid in accordance with figures approved by the Clogher Diocese and the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Organisational structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. The Select Vestry consists of the clergy member serving in the parish, two Church Wardens, two Glebe Wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry meeting.

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 Church Wardens.

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' Annual Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and a 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 the safeguarding of the assets of the parish and hence for taking reasonable responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Reverend Sampson Ajuka



Mr Stuart Brooker

Date: 4/07/2024