

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

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

During the year the parish provided the advancement of religion through the provision of weekly public worship, sunday school for children and other activities through which Christian witness and outreach were delivered. The benefits of public worship contributed to spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values. All sunday school teachers have been appropriately trained under Safeguarding Trust regulations and the parish has an elected Safeguarding Trust panel.

Financial Review

The parish's financial position at the year end was satisfactory. The parish has achieved an operating surplus in the period which has increased reserves. The trustees are going to focus on additional fundraising for the coming year in order to continue achieving an operating surplus and avoid having to deplete reserves.

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.

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

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 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. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 7 times during the year and the average attendance was 83%.

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 actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

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

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

Margaret Porter
Mrs M Porter

Hilda Lucy
Miss H Lucy

Date: 15 Oct. 2024