

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 (the "Financial Statements") for St Michaels Church, Trory ("Trory Parish"/"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 Trory Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Trory 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, Trory 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 Trory Parish.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

Morning Prayer every Sunday consists of confession of sin, giving thanks, praising God, hearing God's word and asking God for spiritual and practical help. The Rector contacts parishioners who have personal, physical or spiritual needs at home, in nursing homes or in hospital and they are prayed for regularly in Morning Prayer. The Parish supports missionary groups and individuals through prayer and donations. The weekly commitment to meeting together for worship demonstrates that God is relevant to everyone and was held in person throughout the year, with some services streamed online. The weekly Christian teaching in Morning Prayer benefits those who attend, their faith is renewed and strengthened to be lights in the community throughout the week by sharing their Christian faith by kindness to the sick and lonely people and other practical help in times of need. The monthly fellowship with a cup of tea after Morning Prayer is a welcome occasion for social interaction and during the year, a Senior Citizens Fellowship group was started within the Parish. The Rector and a number of parishioners have completed safeguarding trust training regarding child protection policy.

Relatives of former parishioners can access Parish records through the Rector, and arrangements can be made through the Rector to access the church property at any time outside church services.

The Select Vestry 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.

Financial Review

Trory Parish is in a sound financial position at the 31 December 2023. The Trustees have reviewed the proposed budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that Trory 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 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.

Pay and Remuneration

The Incumbent of the Parish receives a stipend and allowance in accordance with figures approved by 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 member of the clergy serving in the Parish, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the Select Vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the 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. In 2023 the Select Vestry met five times during the year and the average attendance was 81%.

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.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Trustee 1 *Mark Gallagher*

Trustee 2 *Lisa Cabcart*

Date *24/3/24*