

**THE PARISH OF ENNISKILLEN**  
**ST. MACARTIN'S CATHEDRAL, ENNISKILLEN**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for The Parish of Enniskillen, St. Macartin's Cathedral for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Objectives and Activities**

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of the Christian faith.

The parish objectives are encapsulated in its vision statement which is "St. Macartin's at The Heart of the Community, Strengthening Commitment, Outreach, Worship and Christian Love". The principal function of St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen 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 engaging with society as a whole.

All activities undertaken further the charity's purpose for the Public Benefit.

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 and Performance**

St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, has a clear Anglican identity and during the year 2023 it held 189 services of divine worship of Holy Communion, Morning and Evening Prayer. In addition, Harvest Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter are celebrated as well as commemoration of significant historical events.

In 2023 the parish held 20 burials, 9 baptisms, 5 weddings and 23 confirmations. Pastoral support to parishioners was provided through the ministry of the Dean and Diocesan Pastoral Assistant.

Public benefit in St. Macartin's Cathedral Enniskillen in addition to divine worship is achieved through a wide variety of activities that take place throughout the year in the Cathedral Hall. The groups which meet cater for all ages and a wide variety of interests. The parish supports those in need with its outreach mission both at home and abroad.

St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen has a strong musical and choral tradition with a large Cathedral choir contributing to the worshiping life of the parish and diocese. The parish provides ministry to young people in Sunday Lights, Sunday Lights Café, Messy Church, and a Confirmation class as well and its Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The Mothers' Union provides a meeting opportunity for the women of the parish. The Bowling Club provides recreation for interested members of the parish and the community. Community outreach is provided to the elderly through the Tuesday Club and to younger members through the Parenting and Wellness Group.

Three Trustees serve on the Boards of Governors of local schools. In addition the clergy lead assemblies in local schools.

The parish enjoys very good community relations with all its neighbouring churches and has a particularly strong link with the local Roman Catholic parish of St. Michael's, Enniskillen and its clergy.

St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen adheres to Safeguarding Trust Regulations, Data Protection Laws and the Church of Ireland Child Protection Policy.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The expression of the precepts of the Christian religion through the engagement with the general public, and in particular with the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a public benefit. This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching. The beneficiaries are the general public, and the public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance and willingness to support, through contributions, the continuing witness of the Church. The wider benefit to the public will outweigh any detriment arising in the course of Christian outreach. Any private benefit arising out of the fulfillment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfillment of the purpose of the advancement of religion. No Trustee receives remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their Trustee responsibility.

The direct benefits flowing from this purpose include the provision of archive reports, public enjoyment of cultural and historic buildings and artefacts such as the church plate, furnishings and materials as well as an overall improved appreciation of longstanding Christian heritage. This is demonstrated through on-going provision of access to records and the use made of these records in, for example, research and genealogy, through conservation efforts in respect of records, property and artefacts and the subsequent and continued requests for access and use of our materials by wider society. There is no harm arising from the purpose. The beneficiaries are the general public. No private benefit is received by trustees fulfilling their trustee responsibilities in respect of these records, buildings or artefacts, but in the course of conservation and to make these accessible to the public, the engagement of professional staff and services is essential but incidental to the fulfillment of the purpose.

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 in the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 31 December 2023.

## **Financial Review**

The Trustees are satisfied that St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, remains in a sound financial position at the year end. The results for the year are set out on page 7 of the accounts.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees do not have a formal reserves policy; however, they must ensure that the church has sufficient resources. It is considered good practice to seek to build financial reserves which will enable the church to meet future commitments or unforeseen expenses without a negative impact on the ability to deliver services in the manner planned. By holding reserves, the church will be able to absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity as well as demonstrate a plan for viability beyond the immediate future and provide reliable services over the longer term.

## **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 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 Organisations. 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 18, contribute a minimum of £50 per annum, 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 Rector and Dean, the Curate and the Pastoral Assistant each receive a stipend in accordance with figures approved by the Clogher Diocese and the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and details of office and locomotory allowance.

### ***Organisational Structure***

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. In 2023 the Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, the church wardens, the glebe wardens and fourteen 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 monthly except in January, July and August. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 8 times during the year. The average attendance was 80%.

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in the Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Parish will continue as a going concern.

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 financial position of the Parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the provision of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

## Statement as to disclosure to our independent examiner

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:


- there is no relevant information of which the independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

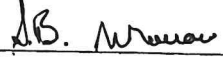
## Independent Examiner

The independent examiner, Hassard McClements Limited have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting.

On Behalf of the Trustee

  
Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall  
Chair

  
Mrs E Hope Kerr  
Honorary Treasurer

  
Samuel B Morrow  
Honorary Secretary

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024