

## **AGHADRUMSEE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 April 2023**

The trustees' present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Aghadrumsee Parish Church for the year ended 30 April 2023.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

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

The principal function of St Marks Church Aghadrumsee 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 is fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of Aghadrumsee Parish Church.

#### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

Our activities are public worship for all. Services are conducted every Sunday at 12.05 in St Mark's, Aghadrumsee as advertised on our noticeboard. Special services are also conducted at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Sunday School is held in the hall during the Sunday service with the children taking an active part during all age services. Services of baptism, funerals and weddings occur when required. Other activities included celebrating the Queen's Jubilee as part of a service when we took the theme of the Queen's Jubilee, and many hands came together to decorate the church, Dean Raymond Ferguson led and preached on the theme, remembering who it was that the Queen relied upon and who we were really praising, we sang the special Jubilee song and the children received a presentation of Jubilee Bibles. We held a Holiday Bible Club in August. A special Saturday evening was held at the beginning of December that included Dean Raymond leading us with stories of familiar carols, singers from our own parish joined by friends from other local churches and a brass ensemble with singing from the congregation. We had a special Christmas crafts evening and the Sunday School Christmas party with a visit from the man in red who brought a present for each of the children. January brought a fun night with Embrace Social for all ages which was well supported. In March 2023 we had an afternoon Tea Party to raise money for the Turkey/Syrian earthquake through the Bishops Appeal. Then extra to our Easter services we held a Good Friday afternoon of crafts and songs in the hall for children followed by a short service in the church. April was concluded with a special Big Spring Sing which not only included our own choir but also special guests and a speaker. During the year clergy visit those who are sick or request a visit and twice a year at Christmas and Easter Holy Communion is brought to the housebound.

With all of the above the Charity Trustees feel they have complied with their duties in line with the Commissioner's Public benefit statutory guidance to fulfill our statement of Public Benefits.

#### **Financial Review**

Our total income in the year came to £27,754 (2022: £24,258). On the expenditure side we spent a total of £34,119 (2022: £30,463).

### **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 therefore the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Documentation and Constitution of the Charity**

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parish and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry are the Charities 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 3 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 Diocesan assessment was £24,112 for the year.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. The Select Vestry consists of the Church Wardens, Parish Treasurer, Parish Secretary 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 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 Chairperson or the Church Wardens. In the year to 30 April 2023 the Select Vestry met four times during the year and the average attendance was 80%.

#### **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 Trustee's Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's 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 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

  
Mr David Johnston

  
Mr Wesley Elliott

Date: 26/02/24