



**Knockbreda Parish Church**

**Annual Report**

**2023**

# Knockbreda Parish Church

## Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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## Knockbreda Parish Church

### References and administrative details

Charity Name: Knockbreda Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC101983

Contact Address: Church Office  
Purdy's Lane  
Newtownbreda  
Belfast  
BT8 7AR

### Trustees

### Principal Office-bearers

Clergy: Canon William Press

Church Treasurer: Heather Elliott

Church Warden- Clergy: Valerie Brown

Church Warden – Peoples' David Spiers (05.05.23-31.12.23)

Glebe Warden-Clergy: Jack Mayes

Glebe Warden-People: Tom Davies

### Select Vestry

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Linda Butterwick       |                     |
| Wilma Chrusciak        |                     |
| Maureen Coulter        | (01.01.23-04.05.23) |
| Heather Elliott        |                     |
| Edward Godfrey         |                     |
| James Gowdy            | (01.01.23-04.05.23) |
| Amy Adcock (née Green) |                     |
| Paul Green             |                     |
| Tom Maguire            | (24.04.23-31.12.23) |
| Judith Thompson        |                     |
| Wesley Thompson        | (24.04.23-31.12.23) |
| Karen Vincent          |                     |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Malcolm Vincent |  |
| Kathleen Wood   |  |

| Independent Auditor   | Bankers   |
|---|---|
| Mrs Lois Kenny<br>Allen Fleming CA Limited<br>Old Bank House<br>161-163 Upper Lisburn Road<br>Belfast<br>BT10 0LI | Danske Bank<br>Lesley Forestside<br>Belfast BT8 6FX |

## **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 is paid a stipend directly by the Parish, in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and also receives office and locomotory allowances.



## **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 or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens.

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

### **Financial Review**

Income for the year was marginally higher than in 2022. Donations and legacies increased as did fundraising income largely boosted by the funds raised from our Pantomime fundraiser in February. Income from other charitable activities and organisations' income decreased, however our rental income from the hall, the car park and the curatage increased.

Income to the General/Unrestricted Fund increased by £1,589 (increase of £1,003 in 2022)

Total Income increased by £22,367 (in 2022 decreased by £546).

Expenditure also increased in 2023. Staff vacancies resulted in a reduction in staffing costs.

Property running costs were slightly higher as were Rates, administration and organisations'

costs. Charitable giving to secular charities increased following our fundraising Pantomime while missionary giving was maintained at a similar level to 2022.

Payments from the General/Unrestricted Fund decreased by £12,790.

Total Payments increased by £4,486.

After transfers from the General Fund for missionary giving and for other contingencies the General/Unrestricted Fund had a deficit of £890. This compares to a deficit in 2022 of

£15,244

At the end of 2023 Overall funds had a surplus of £11,623 compared to a deficit in 2022 of £6,258

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

### **1. Worship**

There are three services on a Sunday: said Communion at 9.00am, the main service at 10.30 am and the evening service. There is also a said service from the Book of Common Prayer at 11.00am on a Wednesday. Mid-week services are held in Holy Week, in collaboration with St Judes and Saintfield Road Presbyterian church. There are also special services and events put on at Christmas time.

We have been able to carry out 2 baptisms this year, welcoming babies and their parents, godparents and wider families into our church family. There were two weddings. Two of our young people and one adult went forward for confirmation.

Sadly, we have an aging congregation, and 17 funerals were conducted throughout the year. Many of these were for members of our congregation but others were requested by those in the wider community who desired a church service to mark the end of a life.

### **2. Growing in Faith**

Our Sunday schools are thriving, with 24 children registered, supported by 12 Sunday School teachers.

Church prayer meetings are held on Tuesday evenings, and there is a Ladies' Prayer Fellowship which meets twice a month. Discipleship groups met to study the book of Hebrews and later Ecclesiastes.

Church organisations for adults include the Mothers' Union, Men's and Ladies' Bowls and the Badminton Club. There is also a popular coffee morning twice a month, The Hub. For children and young people there are active groups of Boys' Brigade, Rainbows and Brownies, Shake, Rattle and Rhyme for toddlers and X-Ray Youth Fellowship.



### **3. Serving the Community**

The church halls are used by several community groups throughout the week: Irish Dancing, Pilates for Health, Scottish Dancing, Ballroom Dancing and Women's Institute. The Rendezvous Tennis club use our tennis court,

### **4. Pastoral Care**

Many of our parishioners are house bound through illness or infirmity. The Rector and the Lay Visitor visit these parishioners when permitted, or through phone calls.

### **5. Knockbreda in the Community**

The church maintains a Garden of Remembrance for those wishing to inter ashes of loved ones who have been cremated. A new memorial tablet was erected to include more names. Similarly, the church maintains the old churchyard immediately around the church.

Knockbreda Parish Church is asked by the Education Authority to nominate Transferor governors to local schools. During 2021 Wilma Chrusciak was Transferor governor at Knockbreda Primary School and Breda Academy. The Rector is Chair of the Board of Governors at Cairnshill Primary School. The Rector regularly conducts Assemblies at both Knockbreda Primary School and Cairnshill Primary School.

### **6. Evangelism**

The church allocates a percentage of its income to missionary activities and in particular supports CMSI, SAMS and Crosslinks. Through these agencies we have links with missionaries in Sweden and Peru. We also donated funds to the Bird of Paradise mission in Rwanda, the diocesan Church planting fund, Irish Church missions, GAFCON and the Scripture Union.

### **7. Ecumenism**

Knockbreda Parish Church has close links with neighbouring churches. The clergy normally meet their colleagues from other churches in our area regularly: Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church, Cairnshill Methodist Church, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church and St Ignatius Church of Ireland. The Rector is part of the local Church of Ireland Deanery and attends regular meetings with these churches.

### **8. Support for those needing help**

Parishioners were encouraged to support Christians Against Poverty (CAP) by donating money to their bank account and their fuel fund. Parishioners also sponsored the relay team in the Belfast City marathon. A number of our parishioners volunteer as Befrienders for the charity.

## **9. Maintaining the cultural and religious heritage of Knockbreda Parish Church**

Knockbreda Parish church is a listed building, dating from 1737. It is surrounded by a churchyard which incorporates a Garden of Remembrance. The Vestry appoints two Glebe wardens to oversee the routine maintenance of the church, the church halls, the churchyard and the three properties owned by the church (occupied by the Rector, the Sexton and the Curatage is currently let.

## **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 as well as providing public benefit.

Public worship is open to all and contributes to the spiritual wellbeing of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values through praise, prayer and teaching of the Bible.

Through our activities in the community and our policy of encouraging various groups to use our facilities, we aim to be open to our local community and promote the advancement of the Christian religion. We offer our church to those who wish to thank God and mark the milestones of their journey through life. We baptise children whose parents wish them to be brought up in the church; marry those who want to exchange public vows and ask for God's blessing on their union; and through funeral services we give thanks at the end of a life and commend the departed into God's keeping.

## **Mitigation of Harm**

The Church of Ireland has published guidelines in Safeguarding Trust: A Guide for Parish Panels, Select Vestries and Workers (2008). These state that: 'It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.'

The Select Vestry adheres to these guidelines and Lynda Thompson and Ivor Hickey formed the Panel for Child Welfare, together with the Rector.

The Select Vestry takes its responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation seriously. The Health and Safety committee carries out regular risk assessments to ensure any threats to the safety of those using the church or halls are minimised.

## **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 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**

*Heather Elliott*

**Heather Elliott  
Hon Treasurer**

**Date:** 10 April 2024

**Trustee 2**

*Wilma Chrusciak*

**Wilma Chrusciak  
Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry**

**Date:** 10 April 2024