

**St. Mary's Parish Church
Ballybeen**

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charities Number: NIC102199

Trustees annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

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St Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen

References and administrative details

Charity Name: St Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen

Charity Registration Number: NIC102199

Contact Address: Craigleith Drive, Dundonald, Belfast BT16 2RY

Trustees

Jim Cheshire	Noel Gordon
Rector's Church Warden:	Brian Dawson
Rector's Glebe Warden:	Chris Adair
People's Church Warden:	Tommy Burns
People's Glebe Warden:	Dawn Ferguson
Eva Cheshire	David Manning
Simon Edwards	Ruth Manning
Elaine Edwards	Jim Myles
David Haaijer	Karen Myles
John Harris	Timothy Pitt
Jon Judge	Joanne Rice

Principal Office-Bearers

Clergy:	Ven J Cheshire (Rector); Rev Noel Gordon (NSM Curate)
Honorary Secretary:	Ruth Manning
Honorary Treasurer:	David Manning
Church Warden- Rector's:	Brian Dawson
Church Warden – People's:	Tommy Burns

Independent Examiner

GMcG Portaadown
17 Mandeville Street
PORTADOWN
BT62 3PB

Bankers

Ulster Bank
Connswater (E) Branch
Arches Retail Park
Belfast
BT5 4AF

St Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for the St. Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of St. Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St. Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen 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, St. Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen 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 St. Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

St Mary's Church achieves its purposes through varying activities including public worship, prayer, provision of pastoral care, mission and outreach, parish groups and special events.

The following are some of the activities carried out over the course of this year.

2024 At A Glance

Over the past year, St. Mary's experienced significant growth, ministry expansion and community impact. We strengthened our staff team with new pastoral and operational roles, hosted key diocesan and community events including evangelism training, youth and children's ministry showcases, uniformed organisation displays, and a wide range of seasonal services and outreach programmes. Through the Alpha Course we continue to see people coming to faith, and through our ongoing ministries we have also seen increased attendance and giving across the parish. Our partnerships with initiatives such as Redeeming Our Communities' School Uniform Project and other local charities, such as the Dundonald Foodbank, enabled us to bless hundreds of families at their point of need. With thriving prayer ministries, well-supported discipleship activities, and a growing number of new members, this has been a year marked by God-given growth and momentum.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Public Worship

We strive in the leading of our public worship to create an environment where all are welcome. We provide an opportunity where a wide range of people may encounter and worship God. Our main Sunday morning service welcomes people of all ages and this is complemented in the evening by courses, events and services geared towards evangelism, discipleship, and worship. Special services are held leading up to Easter and at Harvest and Remembrance Day, and at Christmas our Nativity and Carol Services attract additional visitors. We value the involvement and leadership of many people, including welcome teams, musicians, Sunday School and Youth Leaders, Readers and Intercessors. We pray regularly for our community and those in need. We have experimented with different evening service formats.

Pastoral Work

We seek to offer care to parishioners of all ages and to support people at significant points in their lives. Clergy and our pastoral teams visit vulnerable and older people who are in care homes, assisted housing or who are less able to attend church to provide pastoral and spiritual support. Visits are made to parishioners in hospital and in preparation for baptisms and weddings. We also conduct funerals for church members as well as for the local community. Contact and care for one another also takes place informally across the parish.

Parish Groups

In addition to those mentioned above, parish groups meeting this year included Silver Threads (a weekly club for senior citizens), a Men's Fortnightly Bible Study, a monthly meeting for over 60s, Beenies (weekly toddler's group), Kids' Church and Youth Fellowship as well as Life Groups. There are also well attended GB and BB uniformed organisations.

Local community

We are involved in the local community through membership of the local Ballybeen Improvement Group (BIG), involvement with our local Primary School, as well as in organising a Holiday Bible Club (under normal circumstances), and working together with local churches to organise joint services and outreach where possible.

Social Outreach

The parish has undertaken to engage with the wider society, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, through social outreach activities. In the past year this has taken the form of:

- Foodbank - ongoing collection, sorting and delivering of foodstuff, clothes and household items in
- Partnership with the Dundonald Foodbank, supporting people in need in the Dundonald area.
- Financial assistance to missionary and humanitarian organisations working in other countries - especially the 3rd World.
- Partnership with Redeeming our Communities, Northern Ireland in Ballybeen
- Partnership with the Ballybeen Improvement Group

Public Benefit

The Trustees have 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. Regular worship, outreach into the community and beyond, fundraising efforts and pastoral care, particularly for the sick and elderly help us to meet our public benefit responsibilities. Our church hall is used by a variety of organisations during the week. Access to Church properties is restricted for public safety to key holders and St Mary's Church mitigates potential harm from activities by implementing Safeguarding Trust, the Church of Ireland's Child Protection Policy.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Financial Review

In summary

- We finished the year with
£51,176 (2023: £31,014) in our General Fund
£ 4,311 (2023: £5,342) in our Development Bank account
and loans of £128,160 (2023: £165,310) for our refurbishment programme.
- We are grateful for the grant of £15,000 received from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for the toilet and group room refurbishment project. We also received a grant of £15,955 from the Diocese to employ staff to release Jim for some time to fulfil his role as archdeacon.
- In total we had spent £592,113 on the extension and refurbishment. In 2021, we borrowed £210,000 from the Ulster Bank with repayments over 15 years. In 2024 we made additional capital repayments of £13,000, and with our regular payments that has brought the loan down to £128,160 (2023: £155,310).

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 31st December 2021 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

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 Rector receives a stipend and office and locomotory allowances in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and pension contributions and Employees National Insurance are paid in accordance with Diocesan recommendation.

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 Glebewardens 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

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

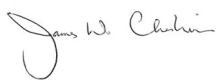
The law applicable to charities in the Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards 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.

On Behalf of the Trustees



Rev J Cheshire



Rev N Gordon

6 April 2025