

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

ST DONARD'S PARISH CHURCH, BLOOMFIELD, BELFAST (NIC 102121)

c/o The Hon. Parochial Treasurer

Mr Michael Carson

32 Holland Gardens

BELFAST BT5 6EG

1 January 2022 until 31 December 2022

Trustees

The Venerable K Higgins, Heather Boyd, Michael Carson, Kenneth Conlin, Fiona Duff, Caroline Fox, John Gilmore, Trevor Matthews, Nev McCormack, Nelson Morrow, William Moore, Rhonda Moroney, Irene Scott, Graeme Smyth, Dianne Vaughan, Keith White, and Hilary Whiteside.

Finance

St Donard's has successfully come through the difficulties of Covid-19, with 2022 being a sound financial year. Freewill envelope (and monthly standing orders) offerings, which fund the day to day running costs of St Donard's Parish were however significantly down in 2022 to £92,596 (2021: £97,392), reflecting the death of several much loved elderly and generous parishioners. Many of the younger parishioners have significant financial commitments at this stage of their lives and give as generously as they can. The £92,596 given in 2022 is below the average (£95,277) for the period 2012 to 2022, although more than the 2018 figure of £91,271. There was a shift from envelopes to monthly standing orders from 2019 and this shift has been key in helping the Parish through the Covid-19 crisis and providing a level of financial certainty going forward. Those who continue to use FWO envelopes continued to give generously. FWO standing orders totalled £51,037, exceeding the £41,559 given using FWO envelopes. Donations to the running costs of the Church totalled £13,464, up from £7,347 in 2021. Of critical importance, £18,320 (2021: £14,630) of Gift Aid was recovered in 2022 from HMRC for freewill and other offerings (including Development Fund offerings). All Gift Aid was therefore recovered promptly for 2022 and was in line with expectations, subject to normal timing delays. In previous years, Gift Aid recovered was impacted by the timeliness of recovery, with a significant increase in 2019 (£32,215), compared to 2018 (£17,137) and 2017 (£19,037). The high figure of £32,215 in 2019 was due to the dedication of the new Gift Aid Secretary and the more timely recovery of gift aid. The Parish is now recovering Gift Aid on a timely and regular basis.

In 2022, legacies totalling £1,830 were received by the Parish (2021: £21,247; 2020: £97,920). Legacy income can vary significantly each year. These significant legacies received over several years, will be used to fund new and ongoing initiatives within the Parish.

Parishioners have also been very generous with their ongoing financial commitment to the costs of the new Parish Centre – with £21,805 giving in 2022 (2021: £23,810; 2020: £26,330) by monthly standing orders and a further £1,855 (2021: £1,776) through the Envelope Scheme. Sadly, money received by standing order has fallen with the death of several highly committed elderly parishioners. Donations to the Development Fund of £1,400 were received in 2022 (2021: £1,974). Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the highly successful car boot sale normally held from April to October, could not be run and is now unlikely to resume. In previous years, the willing band of volunteers who ran the car boot sale enthusiastically raised significant sums, with £12,824 raised in 2019 (2018: £14,094).

Normal Church expenditure is up compared to the previous financial year. Remuneration remains the most significant cost, £76,340 in 2022 (2020: £63,880). Remuneration includes the salary and locum allowance paid to the Rector; the Clergy Pension Fund contribution paid by the Parish to the Diocese; any payments made to other clergy; non-clergy superannuation costs; and the remuneration paid to the Church Organist. Much of the remuneration increase in 2022 is due to higher PAYE payments made to HMRC. Other significant costs included the Parish's contribution to the Diocesan General Fund £11,154 (2021: £11,484); and scheduled interest and principal repayments of £18,986 (2021: £18,986) on the bank loan used to finance

the building of the new Parish Centre. These bank loan repayments were charged to the Development Fund. All other significant costs were broadly in line with 2021, although in 2022 £7,740 was spent on pew cushions; £5,269 was spent on sound/video equipment; and our utility bills increased from £4,562 in 2021 to £6,517 in 2022. The Parish appointed a Family Worker in August 2021, with his remuneration £18,563 (2021: £7,927) charged to the Development Fund. The Parish has agreed to part-fund the rent of a missionary family who returned to Northern Ireland and who are undertaking work for the Diocese and also for this Parish. Our contribution of £425 per month commenced in October 2021 and this cost is met from the Development Fund. In 2022 this contribution was £6,200 (2021: £1,700). Note that in both 2022 and 2021 additional loan repayments (principal) of £50,000 were made from the Parish's Development Fund. The costs incurred (between 2014 and 2018) in building the new Parish Centre totalled £957,814, with all but £361,535 of this being funded from investments; generous donations; and Parish income. Despite these significant costs, the Parish still contributed £14,648 (2021: £20,215) to other charities including, for example: £3,013 to Christian Aid; £2,825 to CMS Ireland; £1,500 to the Marie Curie Hospice; £1,202 to the Leprosy Mission; and £1,100 to the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. During 2022, £2,418 was raised to support CMS Ireland in future years – the closing CMS Ireland balance at 31 December 2022 now stands at £9,411. This money is held in the St Donard's General Account.

During 2021, as a result of receiving significant legacies in 2021 and 2020, £136,000 was transferred from the General Fund to the Development Fund. This money has been used more generally by the Development Fund and since 2021 has helped the Parish fund a Family Worker, assist with the rent of a Missionary family (who are undertaking work for the Diocese and also this Parish), and repay an additional £100,000 (£50,000 in 2021 and the same in 2022) of the loan used to build the new Parish Centre.

At 31 December 2022 we had an outstanding loan of £24,698 (2021: £91,663; 2020: £156,035; 2019 £165,943; 2018: £247,125; 2017: £296,143; 2016: £355,535) now with the Community Finance Ireland (Ulster Community Investment Trust); £92,291 (2021: £98,191) in our General Bank account; £61,690 in our Development Fund account (2021: £127,244); and £553 (2021: £553) in our Business Reserve account. In addition, the market value of our Parish Endowment Funds totalled £50,789.11 (2021: £57,530). These Funds have fallen due to challenging stock market conditions during 2022.

In 2022 our financial statements included the individual accounts of our normally active Church Groups: The Women's Focus Group; Parent & Toddler Group; and Badminton Club. Other than the Parent & Toddler Group, due to Covid-19 restrictions, these groups have not operated since the first lockdown in March 2020. Due to Covid-19, other than the Parent & Toddler Group, none of the remaining groups had any income or expenditure. The Parent & Toddler Group's income and expenditure was less than £1,000. Re-establishing the remaining Church Groups will be one of the areas of focus in 2023.

Looking forward to 2023, the financial position remains sound. However, the income (FWO – envelopes and Standing Orders) received from Parishioners will be kept under review given the significant fall in 2022. Cash balances held in excess of our reserves policy and anticipated future routine expenditure, are now to improve our family outreach work and work with younger people. As noted above, our loan for the new Parish Centre has now been significantly reduced and in 2023 the Parish will fully repay this loan in line with the normal monthly scheduled repayments.

Management

The Finances are managed by the Treasurer who reports to the 16 Trustees at a Vestry meeting every two months, or more frequently if necessary. Select Vestry members are elected each year at the Easter General Vestry.

Purpose

The principal function of St Donard's Parish, Bloomfield, is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by advancing the work of the Parish and the whole mission of the Church, which includes pastoral,

social and ecumenical outreach. All the activities of the Parish relate to the promotion of religion through holding regular Worship Services; caring for parishioners of all ages, especially the sick and elderly; and also working with around 150 young people within our community. To enhance our outreach work to families and young people, the Parish appointed James Armstrong as a Family Worker in August 2021.

The Parish Church is a historically Listed Grade 2 building and the Parish works to maintain this building to a high standard.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of St Donard's Parish have complied with all their duties in line with the Commission's Public Benefit statutory guidance.

Regular worship and reaching out into the community, both to the elderly and the young, with very varied activities, on a social and fundraising level, have been carried out throughout the year to fulfil our Statement of Public Benefit.

The Parish has regular Food Bank collections to help the needy within our area. Money has been raised towards the work of the Barnabas Organisation; Christian Aid; Church Missionary Society Ireland; Leprosy Mission; Overseas Missionary Fellowship; and South American Mission Society – all for the disadvantaged in various countries of the world. Some of the other charities supported by the Parish included the Christians Against Poverty, Church Ministry of Healing, and Marie Curie Hospice. A total of £14,648 was donated to charities in 2022 (2021: £20,215). In 2021, the Select Vestry further increased Parish donations due to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on those in need.

Our Church premises and halls are used regularly by the community and well in excess of 350 people would normally use the premises each week.



Hon. Parochial Treasurer

20th October 2023



Hon. Secretary to Select Vestry

20th October 2023