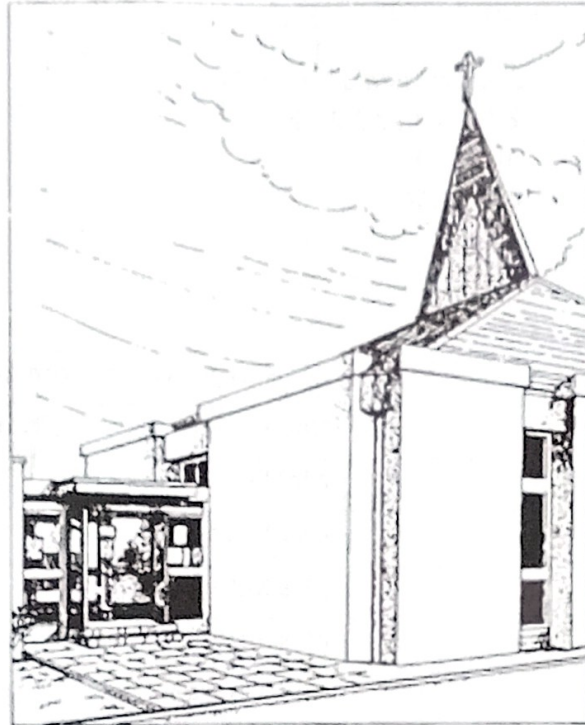


St Dorothea's Church
Parish of Gilnahirk



Trustees' Annual Report
and Statement of Receipts & Payments
& Assets and Liabilities

For the period:
1 January 2023 – 31st December 2023

Charities Number: NIC102538

St Dorothea's Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name: St Dorothea's Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: NIC 102538

Contact Address: St Dorothea's Parish Church
2-4 Gortland Park
BELFAST
BT5 7NU

Trustees

Rev. Ken McGrath	Mr Harry Kissock (from 16.04.23)
Mr Philip Osborne	Mrs Deirdre Kissock (from 16.04.23)
Mrs Margaret Murphy	Mr Harry Lennox (from 16.04.23)
Mrs Sheenagh Johnston	Mrs Doreen Montgomery
Mrs Marilyn McBride	Mrs Kathy Hale
Mr David Jackson	Mrs Suzanne Shepherd (resigned on 16.04.23)
Miss Honor Craig	Mrs Maureen Hunter (resigned on 16.04.23)
Miss Kathryn McBurney	Mrs Julie Ryan (resigned on 04.09.2023)
Mrs Jackie McBurney	

Principal Office-bearers:

Clergy: Rev. Ken McGrath

Diocesan Lay Reader Wendy Jenkins

Lay Readers Margaret McNulty

Petrina Kendall

Hon. Secretary Honor Craig

Hon. Treasurer: David Jackson

Church Warden- Rector's Phillip Osborne

Church Warden – People's: Maggie Murphy

Glebe Warden – Rector's:

Sheenagh Johnston

Glebe Warden – People's:

Marilyn McBride

Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mr Joe Crowe

Bankers

First Trust Bank
11-15 Donegall Square North
BELFAST
BT5 5GB

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the St Dorothea's Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

(the wording supplied for Charitable Objectives and Activities were approved by General Synod in 2015.)

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

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

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

The parish continues to use its buildings and resources to serve the youth and adults in the local community in many ways, including each night of the week, in the name of promoting the Christian religion and its values among people from all walks of life:

Sunday

Morning services are at 8:30am and 10:15am.

The 8:30am service is almost always Holy Communion Form 1 BCP

The 10:15am service follows a cycle of service styles. All-Age service; Morning Prayer BCP; Morning Worship Informal but liturgical and Holy Communion Form 2 BCP. If a fifth Sunday occurs usually it will be Morning Prayer BCP. A Sunday School is provided at most of our 10:15am services

Evening service has stabilised at 7:00pm. A range of different expressions have been included: Taizé, Informal Worship, Jesus Lifestyle Course, Wholeness and wellbeing.

Wednesday

Each Wednesday at 10:30am a Holy Communion (Form 1) service is held.

Monday-Friday

The youth organisations meet during weekday evenings and Messy Church is held once a month on the second Friday at 3pm, with a break during the summer months.

Our Knit and Natter group met each month on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday afternoons.

Mothers' Union met each month on 2nd Wednesday afternoon

Our Prayer Focus Group and Bible Study Group met on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.

At other times, the parish halls and Gortland Room are available to use for occasional community events and occasions.

January to December (except June, July and August):

1st Sunday – refreshments were provided after the 10.15am service on the first Sunday of each month

January:

15th – Pulpit swap for Christian Unity week. Rev. Stephen Moore of Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church preached at the 10.15am service.

Also during Christian Unity week local clergy take a week of assemblies in Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock. There is also a chance to join some RE classes.

March:

1st – Parish Quiz (proceeds split between church funds and Missions to Seafarers)

3rd - World Day of Prayer service hosted by St Dorothea's

April:

2nd – Palm Sunday Breakfast at 9am

2nd – Palm Sunday Prayer walk with the joint churches group in Gilnahirk and Braniel

16th – Annual General Vestry meeting

May:

14th – 20th - Christian Aid week (parishioners took part in door-to-door collections)

21st – Service to mark end of Christian Aid week with guest speaker Ruth Cooke

June:

4th – service with uniformed youth organisations

In conjunction with other church leaders and SUNI help present "It's your move" to P7 pupils in Gilnahirk Primary School.

Urban Saints – Gilnahirk use St. Dorothea's grounds for their Saturday night programme.

September:

2nd - Summer Fête

3rd - Worship Band from Bloomfield Presbyterian joined Richard Ryan (organist) to lead the music at a Sunday morning service

10th - Sunday School re-started

17th – Official launch of Light the Way fundraising project to rewire the church buildings by Lord and Lady Eames.

Tullycarnet Church Plant use Gortland room for weekly bible study meetings

October:

1st - Harvest Service and Lunch (with proceeds going to our linked Diocese of Bukavu in Democratic Republic of Congo). Non-perishable food and toiletry items were collected and then donated to Dundonald Foodbank.

15th – Gift Day for Light the Way

30th Oct.-1st Nov. - A 3 Day Bible Club was held during the half-term break. Drama Group "Playit Byear" took a lead in this outreach activity and were supported by some of our Messy Church team.

November:

5th – collection of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse

12th - Remembrance Service at 10.15am attended by the uniformed youth organisations, each of which provided a colour party. There was a retiring collection for the Royal British Legion.

18th – Craft Fair

24th – Bangor Ladies Choir concert

December:

2nd – NI Patchwork Guild meeting (in Minor Hall)

3rd – Advent Carol Service

8th – Play it by Ear Panto (in conjunction with Messy Church)

17th – Nine Lessons and Carols (by candle-light)

24th – Christingle Service at 10.30am

24th – Midnight Holy Communion at 11.15pm

25th – Holy Communion at 8.30am

25th – Family celebration at 10.30am

Other Mission and Outreach to the Community throughout the year

Parishioners receive collection boxes for the Church Missionary Society, which are collected once a year and the money sent to CMSI.

A foodbank box is situated in the church porch, to which parishioners and others contribute items of food and household goods. This is emptied regularly by Dundonald Foodbank.

There is a loose change collection throughout the year, with the proceeds going to the Diocese of Bukavu, DR Congo.

There were eight funerals and one baptism during 2023.

Rev. Ken McGrath carries out a systematic visitation of the parish, with priority given to the elderly, housebound and the sick.

This overview of the parish activities for the year in no way does justice to the army of volunteers who work hard to make things happen in the parish.

Financial Review

The accounts have been prepared for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

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 period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 can be signed off as a "going concern"

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (continued)

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, and who contribute to parish funds, 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

Rev. Ken McGrath served as Bishop's Curate and received a stipend in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland including office expenses 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 Annual General Vestry meeting (commonly called the Easter 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. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 12 times during the year and the average attendance was 85%.

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 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 law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of 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 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

Deirdre Kisson

Trustee 2

KMHale

Date

8/4/24.