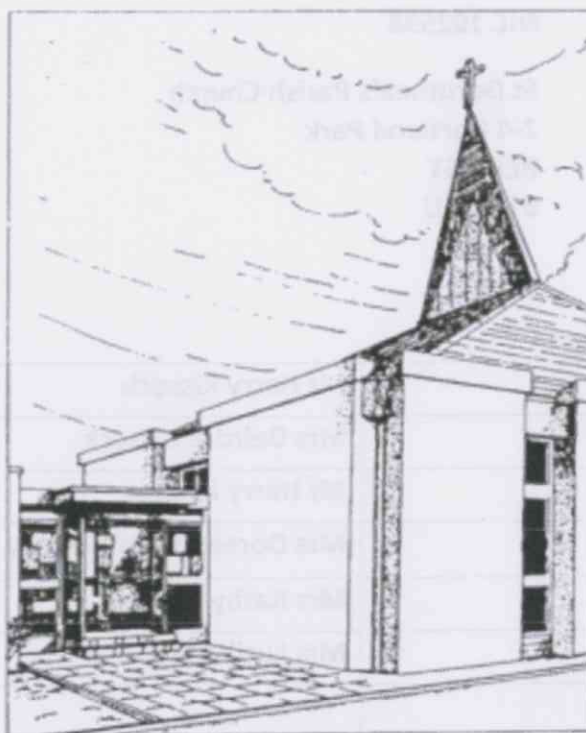


***St Dorothea's Church
Parish of Gilnahirk***



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

For the period:

1 January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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
Mr Philip Osborne	Mrs Deirdre Kissock
Mrs Margaret Murphy	Mr Harry Lennox
Mrs Sheenagh Johnston	Mrs Doreen Montgomery
Mrs Marilyn McBride	Mrs Kathy Hale
Mr David Jackson	Mrs Lucille Crossley
Miss Honor Craig	
Miss Kathryn McBurney	
Mrs Jackie McBurney	

Principal Office-bearers:

Clergy: **Rev. Ken McGrath**

Diocesan Lay Reader **Wendy Jenkins**

Lay Readers **Margaret McNulty**

Petrina Kendall

Sam McBurney

Annette McGrath

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
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Bankers	First Trust Bank 11-15 Donegall Square North BELFAST BT5 5GB
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Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

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 2024.

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, Alpha Course.

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 July and August):

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

January:

14th – Pulpit swap for Christian Unity week. Drew Steele preached at the 10.15am service.

21st – Bloomfield Presbyterian worship team joined us for our 10.15am service

22nd – 26th – local Clergy and Church workers (Gilnahirk & Braniel) were involved in 3 assemblies at Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock (OLSPCK). We also had some opportunity to join RE classes.

24th – Rev Ken McGrath was in Gilnahirk Primary school (GPS) to take both junior and senior assemblies – great to be involved and welcome in our local schools.

31st – Parish Quiz in aid of Light the Way

February:

11th – Pancake Sunday (pancakes served after morning service)

11th – Wholeness and Healing service at 7pm

March:

2nd – Collection at CIYMS Rugby Club in aid of Light the Way

17th – Lighting the Beacon (along with all parishes in the Diocese)

24th – Palm Sunday breakfast at 9am

28th – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

29th (Good Friday) – Tenebrae service

31st (Easter Sunday) – Holy Communion services

April:

5th – Fashion Show in aid of Light the Way

14th – Annual General Vestry meeting

May:

12th – 18th – Christian Aid week (parishioners took part in door-to-door collections)

19th – Bap brunch after morning service in aid of Christian Aid

June:

9th – Sunday School Prize-giving and refreshments after morning service to raise funds for young parishioner to travel to Camp America as a volunteer

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

June/July:

Light the Way - Work carried out in parish halls, stage, office and storage room to update electrics and replace ceilings in both halls.

August:

31st – Summer Fête

September:

15th – Alpha Course begins

22nd – Youth organisations' service

October:

13th - Harvest Service and Lunch (with proceeds going to The Suitcase Project). Non-perishable food and toiletry items were collected and then donated to Dundonald Foodbank. Also start of the £10 scheme to raise funds for Light the Way.

28th - 30th Oct - 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:

3rd – collection of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse

10th - 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.

16th – Craft Fair

17th – Bishop David preaching at morning service

29th – Film Night in aid of Light the Way and Black Santa Appeal

December:

1st – Advent Carol Service

7th – NI Patchwork Guild meeting (in Minor Hall)

11th – Carols in the Community (carol singing around the neighbourhood)

13th – Play it by Ear Panto (in conjunction with Messy Church)

22nd – Nine Lessons and Carols (by candle-light)

24th – Holy Communion at 11.15pm

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 four funerals during 2024.

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 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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 2024 to 31 December 2024 can be signed off as a "going concern"

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 (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 2024 the Select Vestry met 14 times during the year and the average attendance was 77%.

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

Honor Craig

Trustee 2

Doreen S. Montgomery

Date

2/6/25'

