

PARISH OF ST. PAUL AND ST. BARNABAS, BELFAST

Trustees' Annual report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charities Number: 102654

PARISH OF ST. PAUL & ST. BARNABAS
Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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References and administrative details

Charity Name: Parish of St. Paul & St. Barnabas

Charity Registration Number: 102654

Contact Address: 182 Skegoneill Avenue
Belfast
BT15 3JS

Trustees

The Rev'd Brian Lacey, the Rev'd Andrew Irwin, Mrs Kate Crothers, Mr Stephen Graham, Mr Robert Hargrove, Mrs Kathleen Herbison, Mrs Zara Kerr (*until June 2025*), Mr Alan McIntosh, Mrs Frances Mills, Mr John Nelson, Mrs Irene Taggart, Mrs Joan Turkington (*until May 2025*), the Rev'd Alan Millar (*from May 2024 until May 2025*), Mr Alistair McGrath (*from May 2024*), the late Mr Martin Reid (*until October 2024*), Ms Sarah Kaburuk (*from May 2025*), Ms Lisa Jameson (*from May 2025*), Mr Dennis Spiers (*from May 2025*) and Mr Stephen Tweedie (*from May 2025*).

The following Trustees approved these accounts on 16th September 2025: The Rev'd Brian Lacey, the Rev'd Andrew Irwin, Mrs Kate Crothers, Mrs Kathleen Herbison, Mr Alan McIntosh, Ms Sarah Kaburuk, Ms Lisa Jameson, and Mr Dennis Spiers.

Principal Office-Bearers at 31st December 2024

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev'd Brian Lacey

Curate (Ministry Lead): The Rev'd Andrew Irwin

Incumbent's Churchwarden: Mr Robert Hargrove

People's Churchwarden: Mr Stephen Graham

Incumbent's Glebewarden: Mr Alan McIntosh

People's Glebewarden: Mrs Joan Turkington

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Zara Kerr

Honorary Treasurer: Mr John Nelson

Independent Examiner

CG Taggart Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor
17 Cypress Crescent
Donaghadee
Co Down
BT21 0QG

Bankers

Ulster Bank
York Street Branch
202-206 York Street
Belfast
BT15 1HY

PARISH OF ST. PAUL & ST. BARNABAS Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Parish of St. Paul & St Barnabas for the year ended 31 December 2024.

a) Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of the Parish of St Paul & Barnabas is in line with the objectives and aims of the Church of Ireland. Specifically, the advancement of the Christian religion through the progress of the mission of the Church through pastoral care, community engagement, Sunday Worship, ministries of mercy and the practical sharing of the Christian faith.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish of St Paul & St Barnabas has custody of the property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance or which is undertaken by the select vestry of the Parish of St Paul & St Barnabas.

b) Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit

All the functions of the Parish pertain to the objectives and aims of the Parish, specifically the advancement of the Christian religion as understood and passed down by the generations before in the Church of Ireland. The Parish exists for Christ and the city of Belfast and makes our faith known and felt by various means:

Sunday Worship

In 2024 our parish continued to centre its life on Sunday worship at 10:30 AM. Services were conducted in an accessible and welcoming style, with strong emphasis on biblical preaching, prayer, and congregational participation. We gave particular attention to building up new members, as well as encouraging long-standing parishioners in renewed discipleship and witness. Special services included baptisms, remembrance, carol services, and community family worship.

Youth and Children's Ministry

This year we built on the growth of Sunday School and youth engagement. Volunteers developed new resources for teaching the Bible in creative and age-appropriate ways. We also reconnected with local schools, opening our halls for activities and deepening relationships with pupils and staff.

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer

Our weekly Bible study and prayer gatherings became a consistent feature of parish life. Meeting every Wednesday evening, these gatherings created a space for fellowship, discipleship, and intercession, strengthening the spiritual core of our community.

Community Engagement & Pastoral Care

In 2024, the parish expanded its community outreach. Working with Redeeming Our Communities (ROC), we delivered a Winter Coat Project which provided warm clothing for families in need across North Belfast. We also prepared for the launch of regular weekly community drop-ins to offer support, conversation, and hospitality in our refurbished lounge. Alongside this, the parish hosted seasonal Community Fun Days, creating opportunities for local families to gather, enjoy activities, and build relationships with the church. Pastoral care remained central, with ongoing support for individuals and families navigating personal and practical challenges.

Hope Counselling Service

Hope Counselling continued to offer professional and confidential counselling to the local community. The service engaged with a wide range of needs, including addiction, trauma, and family stress, and remained financially supported through grants and parish fundraising.

Church Partnerships

We maintained strong collaboration with other local congregations, joining in prayer walks, community festivals, and the Lantern Parade. These partnerships have helped to witness to the gospel publicly in North Belfast and to demonstrate visible Christian unity.

Community and Charitable Support

Throughout the year, special collections were made for local and global needs. In addition to financial giving, parishioners contributed time, skills, and hospitality in service of others. These efforts reflect our commitment to live out the public benefit of the gospel through both word and deed.

c) Financial Review

The Finances are managed by the Honorary Treasurer who presents a detailed report to all the Trustees at the Select Vestry meetings on a monthly basis.

Following all these transactions the accounts at the end of the year were as follows:

Current Account: -	2024: £16,241	(2023: £14,307)
Regeneration Account: -	2024: 4,195	(2023: £11,201)

The receipts and payments account shows an unrestricted deficit for the year of £31,560 (2023: deficit £34,870), and a restricted surplus for the year of £26,489 (2023: deficit £3,513) before transfers. Following the transfer of £26,250 of restricted to unrestricted funds, the closing balance was £5,200 in unrestricted funds, and £15,236 in restricted funds.

Historic holdings in CIT and RCB units increased in value in the year from £10,192 to £10,416.

The security and safeguarding of all monies are important to the Trustees and all money is counted and taken to the Bank under dual control.

d) 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 for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts and the financial statements for the year ended 2024 can therefore be signed off as a going concern.

e) 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.

f) 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.

g) Pay and Remuneration

The parish has a part-time Priest-in-Charge, who is the rector of the neighbouring parish of St Peter & St James, providing administrative support. He is paid £2,080 per annum, which is reimbursed by St Peter's & James.

The parish also has a full-time Curate who is responsible for worship, pastoral ministries, and mission. He received payment of his services totalling £46,112 (2023: £41,500) which were made by the Diocese of Connor and then reimbursed by the parish. The Curate's housing expenses of £10,400 (2023: £10,200) were also paid directly by the parish during the same period.

h) Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. The Select Vestry consists of the Priest-in-Charge, the Curate, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens, and not more than twelve other registered members of the parish elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Priest-in-Charge, or in his absence the Curate or a Churchwarden. 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 nine times during the year.

i) 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 purpose and objectives, as well as providing public benefit.

j) 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 on 16th September 2025:



Rev'd Brian Lacey, Chairman



Mr John Nelson, Treasurer

