

**St Bartholomew's Church,  
Parish of Donaghmore**

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

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Charities Number: NIC103269-0**

# **St Bartholomew's Church, Parish of Donaghmore**

## **Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

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## St Bartholomew's Church, Parish of Donaghmore

### References and administrative details

Charity Name: NEWRY/Aghaderg, Donaghmore & Scarva/St. Bartholomew,  
Donaghmore/Down and Dromore/Church of Ireland

Charity Registration Number: NIC 103269

Contact Address: Neil McKnight  
153 Belfast Road  
Newry  
BT34 1QX

### Trustees

Mrs Gretta Jackson  
Mr John Mayne McClelland  
Mrs Georgina McClelland  
Mr John McGaffin  
Mr Trevor McGaffin  
Mr William Joseph Mathers McGaffin  
Mr Neil McKnight  
Mr Norman McKnight  
Revd Rodney Magennis  
Mr Colin McKnight  
Mrs Emma McGaffin  
Mr Robert Henning (Appointed 16.04.24)  
Mrs Kayleigh Henning (Appointed 16.04.24)

### Principal Office-bearers

Clergy:	Revd Rodney Magennis
Church Treasurer:	Neil McKnight
Assistant Treasurer:	Trevor McGaffin
Church Warden- Clergy:	William J M McGaffin
Church Warden - People:	Gretta Jackson

### Independent Examiner

David Brown  
SD Brown & Co.  
25-27 Edward Street  
Portadown  
BT62 3NE

### Bankers

Danske Bank  
Business Banking  
P.O. Box 183  
Donegal Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS



## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Trustees present the annual report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St Bartholomew's Church, Donaghmore Parish for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

The principal function of St Bartholomew Church, Donaghmore Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Bartholomew Church, Donaghmore Parish, 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 Bartholomew Church, Donaghmore Parish has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage. Maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of St Bartholomew Church, Donaghmore Parish.

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit 2023 (2022 in brackets)**

The Parish continued to have regular Services of Worship throughout the year 2023. This year we continued to meet every Sunday except for one Sunday where the Grouped Parishes of Aghaderg, Donaghmore and Scarva came together to a Joint service and lunch at Donaghmore Church to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Services ceased to be broadcast each week on the Parish Youtube Channel except when specifically requested or a special service was taking place. There were 52 (51) Sunday Services of Worship in 2023 (2022) with an average congregation of 24 (23). The average number of Communicants each month was 15 (18). As well as 7 (6) Occasional Services, 0 (0) Baptisms and 0 (0) Marriage, there was 3 (9) burials (0 Parishioners, 3 Non – Parishioners). On Christmas Eve evening, a service was held in Donaghmore and the attendance was 28 (28).

Pastoral work continued throughout 2023 with very little restrictions due to Covid. The priority of the Minister – In- Charge is the elderly, the sick and the bereaved. Other visiting takes place as and when time permits.

The Parish celebrated the Coronation with a 'Coronation Lunch' as part of the nationwide 'Big Lunch' to commemorate His Majesty King Charles III. A successful application was made to the Department of Communities and a grant of £5,000 was secured to fund this event. This was well attended with Parishioners and Non – Parishioners from across the Grouped Parish and the local community. Marquees and caterers were hired and an approximate number of 180 persons joined us for lunch. Donaghmore Accordion Band provided music as part of the celebrations and there were arts, crafts, 'teddy bear' making activities, facepainting and garden games to entertain all. A tree was planted in the Church Graveyard by the Select Vestry.

A Sunday School has been operating since Autumn 2022 and now meets every Sunday except for the monthly Family Service. The Sunday School teachers have been vetted through Access NI and we have officers in place in line with the Church of Ireland Policy on Safeguarding Trust.

The parish – wide 'Steadfast' Youth Fellowship is continuing and going very well with a regular attendance and everyone is keen to see it progress in future.

In Autumn 2023, a short Bible Study series was introduced and was held in the Rectory. All three parishes in the Group were represented at those meetings and it was a good time spent with others seeking to further develop their faith in Jesus.

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (continued)**

A special service was held in Aghaderg Church, Loughbrickland of 'Royal Hymns' to mark the Coronation of King Charles III with special guests attending and members from each Church taking part.

Repairs and general maintenance were continued on the Church property during 2023.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the actives entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit. The Parish currently provides burial facilities for other Christian Denominations in the area.

### **Financial Review 2023 (2022)**

The Income into the Parish from various sources was £60,361 (£47,164) with outgoings of £55,476 (£44,654) giving a surplus of £4,885 (surplus £2,510). The surplus is from higher bank interest, gift aid rebate and lower Church repairs.

The Bank and Cash in Hand Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £60,034 (£55,149). It is the Trustee's Policy to hold sufficient reserves to cover unexpected emergencies, to build up funds to pay for future maintenance to the Church and grounds and to further the Objectives and Activities of the Church of Ireland.

### **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 ended 2023 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 (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.

#### **Pay and remuneration**

The Revd. Rodney Magennis was appointed as Minister-In-Charge of the Grouped Parishes of Aghaderg, Donaghmore and Scarva in July 2023 and introduced at a special service in September that year where he receives a stipend, office and locomotory allowances directly from the Parishes in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. The Donaghmore Parish pays 10% of this sum.



### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (continued)

The Trustee, Mr Neil McKnight's Business, Silverwood Landscapes, was engaged to maintain the Grave Yard and in 2023, the Parish paid £2,400 for carrying out this work.

The Trustee, Mrs Gretta Jackson acted as Sexton and was paid £750 for carrying out this work.

### Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry comprises a member of the Clergy serving in the Parish, the Church wardens, the Glebe wardens and generally no more than twelve other members of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry Meeting.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the 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 Treasurer, Neil McKnight is responsible for the Current Account and the Building Funds. The Assistant Treasurer, Trevor McGaffin is responsible for the Graveyard Account and The Glebe National School Account.

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 Church wardens.

### 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. As detailed on page 4 above.

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report, 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

Trustee 2

Date 14 October 2024