

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103350

Details

Known as St Mark's, Newtownards

Status Received

Registered 2015-06-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address St Mark's Parish Church
Church Street
Newtownards
Co Down
Northern Ireland
BT23 4an
BT23 4AN

Phone 028 9181 3193

Email office@stmarksnewtownards.org.uk

Website www.stmarksnewtownards.co.uk

Activities

Purposes: The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the 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 is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£273,958	£299,924	£-71,785	4

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Beth Campbell		
Chris		
Dr Dora Armstrong		
Miss Clare Kirkwood		
Miss Jennifer Cochrane		
Miss Pauline Margaret Bell		
Mr Alan Pierce		
Mr Gerald Irvine		
Mr Keith Porter		
Mr Newenham De Coogan		
Mr Paul Beaney		
Mr Samuel Gribben		
Mr William Mccrossan		
Mrs Alison Cochrane		
Mrs Sharon Porter		
Rev Stephen Doherty		
Sam		

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Accounts

St. Mark's Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income					
Donations & legacies	3	181,729	61,415	243,144	294,524
Other trading activities	4	12,299		12,299	18,160
Investments	5	9,463		9,463	9,215
Charitable activities	6	7,116	1,936	9,052	8,896
Total Income		210,607	63,351	273,958	330,795
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	7	232,778	58,065	290,843	342,648
Financial Fees & Charges	8	8,305	776	9,081	22,155
Depreciation	9	0		0	0
Restoration Expenditure				0	0
Total Expenditure		241,083	58,841	299,924	364,803
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before transfers		-30,476	4,510	-25,966	-34,008
Transfers between funds		660	660	-	-
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-31,136	5,170	-25,966	-34,008
Net movement in funds		-31,136	5,170	-25,966	-34,008
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	21	1,470,284	132,336	1,602,620	1,636,628
Total funds carried forward	21	1,439,148	137,506	1,576,654	1,602,620

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

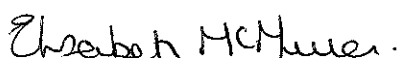
St. Mark's Parish Church

Statement of Financial Position /(Balance Sheet) as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	13	1,276,730	1,276,730
Investment Properties	14	175,000	175,000
Investments	15	48,423	49,099
Total Fixed Assets		1,500,153	1,500,829
Current Assets			
Debtors & Prepayments	16	37,024	58,571
Cash and cash equivalents	17	111,262	122,248
Total Current Assets		148,286	180,819
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accruals	18	9,627	13,510
Bank Loans	19	3,360	2,420
Total Current Liabilities		12,987	15,930
Net Current Assets		135,299	164,889
Long Term Liabilities			
Bank Loans	19	58,798	63,098
Total Long Term Liabilities		58,798	63,098
Total Net Assets		1,576,654	1,602,620
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	21	-12,582	18,554
Designated funds	21	1,451,730	1,451,730
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,439,148	1,470,284
Restricted Funds			
Restricted funds	21	137,506	132,336
Total Restricted Funds		137,506	132,336
Total Charity Funds		1,576,654	1,602,620

The notes on pages 13 to 20 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 20 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 1st May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Elizabeth McMullan
Trustee



Mrs Debra Phillips
Trustee

St. Mark's Parish Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Parish meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Parish generally meets its day to day working capital requirements from its annual income. The Trustees have obtained and reviewed cash flow forecasts for the coming year and based on these are satisfied that the Parish has resources to provide a reasonable expectation that it can continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Income

Plate Collections, Weekly Envelopes and rental of the Parish Hall are accounted for on a cash receipts basis as the amount is collected. Other donations are recognised once the Parish has been notified of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time claim is submitted to HMRC.

Legacies are included within Income under either unrestricted or restricted funds according to the terms under which the donation is made and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. Donations and gifts in kind are brought into the accounts at their fair value to the Parish.

Income arising from the rental of investment properties to third parties is recognised when the parish has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Tangible assets

The assets of the Parish comprise:-

The Church Building
The Parish Centre
The Rectory - Belfast Road
The Curatage - Londonderry Road

The Church Building:

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102).

This accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.6 below.

The Parish Centre and Rectory:

The Parish Centre is recognised at cost. The Rectory is recognised at deemed cost.

No depreciation is provided on these as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

The Curatage

This property was originally used for the residence of the Curate. This property has been let at a commercial rent and has therefore been treated as an investment property. The accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.7 below.

Equipment:

Equipment is included at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

A diminis for capitalisation of £1,500 is applied.

Tangible assets are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected. On disposal, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in the statement of financial activities and included in 'Other operating (losses)/gains'.

1.6 Heritage assets

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). This asset is not included on the balance sheet as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

1.7 Investment properties

Fixed asset investments comprising investment properties are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the fair value at the beginning and end of the financial year or, if purchased in the year, the difference between cost and fair value at the end of the year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the fair value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year. Both realised and unrealised gains and losses in investments are reported within 'Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments' within the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors - Amounts falling due within 1 year. Loans with a duration of more than 12 months are split between current and long term liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The Parish only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction price and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.10 Taxation

St. Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.12 Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted Funds: The Select Vestry has defined the Restoration Fund as restricted funds as these have been generated through separate donations from parishioners to undertake physical restoration works to the Church and Parish centre.

Endowment Funds: are funds which have been given on the condition that the original capital sum is not reduced, but the income there from is used for the purpose defined in accordance with the objects of the Parish. The Parish has no endowment funds.

Unrestricted Funds: are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the Trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

2. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgments made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgments made in applying the Parish's accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

St. Mark's Parish Church
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Donations and legacies					
Weekly envelopes / FWO	120,071	19,259		139,330	141,807
Gift Aid	25,426	5,831		31,257	53,551
Grants	0	0	-	0	0
Donations	9,211	20,132		29,343	67,508
Glen CC	13,794	14,658		28,452	12,438
WWCC	13,227	1535		14,762	19,220
	<u>181,729</u>	<u>61,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,144</u>	<u>294,524</u>
4. Other trading activities					
Rentals from Parish Centre	12,299			12,299	18,160
	<u>12,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,299</u>	<u>18,160</u>
5. Investments					
The Curatage - rental income	7,567			7,567	6,780
RCB Trust income	795			795	734
Bank interest	331			331	366
Increase in FV of investments	0			0	384
Legacy investment income	770			770	951
	<u>9,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,463</u>	<u>9,215</u>
6. Charitable activities					
Gazette Income				0	135
Events	7,116	1936		9,052	8,761
	<u>7,116</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,052</u>	<u>8,896</u>
Analysis of Expenditure					
7. Charitable Activities					
Salaries and Wages (note 1.1)	117,230			117,230	159,374
Diocesan costs	22,431			22,431	31,463
Premises costs	35,854	54,568		90,422	99,981
General Parish running costs	29,885			29,885	18,459
Charitable donations	15,794			15,794	10,709
Glen CC costs	7,299	3439		10,738	11,188
WWCC costs	4,285	58		4,343	11,474
	<u>232,778</u>	<u>58,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>290,843</u>	<u>342,648</u>
8. Financial Fees & Charges					
Bank Charges and Interest	6,788	100		6,888	6796
Accountancy & IE	1,517			1,517	1,551
Decrease in fair value of investment		676		676	0
Professional fees				0	13,808
	<u>8,305</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,081</u>	<u>22,155</u>
9. Depreciation					
Equipment	0			0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

10 Taxation

St Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

11. Analysis of Staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of Key Management Personnel

Employees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Clergy Stipend and Allowances	29,993	65,027
Clergy Employers NI	2,701	6,152
Staff Salaries	81,640	80,620
Staff Employers NI	1,572	5,905
Nest pension	1,324	1,670
Total	<u>117,230</u>	<u>159,374</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of a head count, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Ministerial support	3	5
Administration	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

There are no employees in receipt of employee benefits in excess of £60,000.

12 Key Management and Trustees

Key management are deemed to comprise the Trustees. The parish paid expenses of £47,704 relating to the running costs, maintenance and improvements of the Rectory house.

During the year the Clergy received stipends and allowances of £29,993 and the ministers for the Church Plants Centre received salaries of £64,799. No other trustee or a person related to a trustee had a personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment	Total
At Cost	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	1,276,730	0	1,276,730
Additions	0	0	0
Revaluation	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2024	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>

Freehold land and buildings consist of the following properties:

Church building - this asset is not included on the balance sheet as the information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the parish. Accordingly the Church building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). (At 31 October 2024, the sum insured for the Church building and contents was £7,552,967).

The Parish Centre and The Rectory are recognised at cost.

No depreciation is provided on these assets as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and their remaining useful life exceeds 50 years.

14 Investment Properties

	Investment Properties	Total
Fair Value	£	£
At 1 January 2024	175,000	175,000
Additions	0	0
Gain / Loss	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31 December 2024	<u>175,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>

The investment property, The Curatage, Londonderry Road, Newtownards, is held to earn rentals. The year end valuation of the property was carried out by the trustees and is based on reference to market evidence of transactions for similar properties in the area.

15 Investments

	Listed Investments £
Fair Value	
At 1 January 2024	49,099
Increase/(decrease) in fair value	-676
At 31 December 2023	<u>48,423</u>

16 Debtors & Prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors	30,856	53,551
Prepayments	6,168	5,020
	<u>37,024</u>	<u>58,571</u>

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	111,262	122,248
Notice deposits (less than 30 days)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>111,262</u>	<u>122,248</u>

18 Creditors & Accruals

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors	1,410	2,232
Accruals	8,217	11,278
	<u>9,627</u>	<u>13,510</u>

19 Bank Loans

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within 12 Months	3,360	2,420
Due after 12 Months	58,798	63,098
	<u>62,158</u>	<u>65,518</u>

20 Retirement benefit schemes

The parish operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the parish in an independently administered fund.

21 Funds of the Parish

	At 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Building fund	53,109	25,090	50,288		27,911
RJ Coulter Trust	49,099		676		48,423
Stained glass window fund	3,720		4,380	660	0
Jigsaw	5				5
Projects - various		22,068			22,068
GCC EA Youth grant fund	1,128		1,567		-439
GCC Childrens & Orphans	4,145				4,145
GCC Priorities Fund		12,000			12,000
GCC Ark Housing		1,000	990		10
GCC project funds		1,658	882		776
WWCC Childrens & Orphans	9,208				9,208
WWCC Priorities fund	5,213				5,213
WWCC Mind Matters	2,188				2,188
WWCC Ark Housing		1,000			1,000
WWCC project funds	4,521	535	58		4,998
	<u>132,336</u>	<u>63,351</u>	<u>58,841</u>		<u>137,506</u>
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General fund	18,554	210,607	241,083	-660	-12,582
Designated funds					
Property fund	1,276,730				1,276,730
Investment property	175,000				175,000
Equipment Fund					
Building Fund	0				0
	<u>1,470,284</u>	<u>210,607</u>	<u>241,083</u>		<u>1,439,148</u>
Total funds	<u><u>1,602,620</u></u>	<u><u>273,958</u></u>	<u><u>299,924</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,576,654</u></u>

Purpose of restricted funds

These funds are to support specific projects as noted above for which funds were given and restricted in their use to those projects.

Purpose of designated funds

Property fund: this fund is in relation to the Parish Centre and the Rectory.

Investment fund: this fund is in relation to the investment property The Curatage, Newtownards.

Building fund: this fund is in relation to building development projects.

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Accounts

St. Mark's Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income					
Donations & legacies	3	251,509	43,015	294,524	319,790
Other trading activities	4	18,160		18,160	20,384
Investments	5	8,831	384	9,215	8,332
Charitable activities	6	8,896		8,896	9,013
Total Income		287,396	43,399	330,795	357,519
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	7	294,384	48,264	342,648	303,027
Financial Fees & Charges	8	22,155		22,155	20,211
Depreciation	9	0		0	0
Restoration Expenditure				0	0
Total Expenditure		316,539	48,264	364,803	323,238
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before transfers		-29,143	-4,865	-34,008	34,281
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-29,143	-4,865	-34,008	34,281
Net movement in funds		-29,143	-4,865	-34,008	34,281
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	21	1,499,427	137,201	1,636,628	1,602,347
Total funds carried forward	21	1,470,284	132,336	1,602,620	1,636,628

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

St. Mark's Parish Church


Statement of Financial Position /(Balance Sheet) as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	13	1,276,730	1,276,730
Investment Properties	14	175,000	175,000
Investments	15	49,099	48,715
Total Fixed Assets		1,500,829	1,500,445
Current Assets			
Debtors & Prepayments	16	58,571	45,958
Cash and cash equivalents	17	122,248	165,474
Total Current Assets		180,819	211,432
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accruals	18	13,510	7,311
Bank Loans	19	2,420	2,000
Total Current Liabilities		15,930	9,311
Net Current Assets		164,889	202,121
Long Term Liabilities			
Bank Loans	19	63,098	65,938
Total Long Term Liabilities		63,098	65,938
Total Net Assets		1,602,620	1,636,628
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	21	18,554	47,697
Designated funds	21	1,451,730	1,451,730
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,470,284	1,499,427
Restricted Funds			
Restricted funds	21	132,336	137,201
Total Restricted Funds		132,336	137,201
Total Charity Funds		1,602,620	1,636,628

The notes on pages 13 to 20 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 20 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Rev Canon Gill Withers
Trustee


D Phillips
Trustee

St. Mark's Parish Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Parish meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Parish generally meets its day to day working capital requirements from its annual income. The Trustees have obtained and reviewed cash flow forecasts for the coming year and based on these are satisfied that the Parish has resources to provide a reasonable expectation that it can continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future . Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Income

Plate Collections, Weekly Envelopes and rental of the Parish Hall are accounted for on a cash receipts basis as the amount is collected. Other donations are recognised once the Parish has been notified of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time claim is submitted to HMRC.

Legacies are included within Income under either unrestricted or restricted funds according to the terms under which the donation is made and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. Donations and gifts in kind are brought into the accounts at their fair value to the Parish.

Income arising from the rental of investment properties to third parties is recognised when the parish has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Tangible assets

The assets of the Parish comprise:-

The Church Building
The Parish Centre
The Rectory - Belfast Road
The Curatage - Londonderry Road

The Church Building:

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102).

This accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.6 below.

The Parish Centre and Rectory:

The Parish Centre is recognised at cost. The Rectory is recognised at deemed cost.

No depreciation is provided on these as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

The Curatage

This property was originally used for the residence of the Curate. This property has been let at a commercial rent and has therefore been treated as an investment property. The accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.7 below.

Equipment:

Equipment is included at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

A diminution for capitalisation of £1,500 is applied.

Tangible assets are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected. On disposal, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in the statement of financial activities and included in 'Other operating (losses)/gains'.

1.6 Heritage assets

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). This asset is not included on the balance sheet as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

1.7 Investment properties

Fixed asset investments comprising investment properties are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the fair value at the beginning and end of the financial year or, if purchased in the year, the difference between cost and fair value at the end of the year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the fair value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year. Both realised and unrealised gains and losses in investments are reported within 'Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments' within the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors - Amounts falling due within 1 year. Loans with a duration of more than 12 months are split between current and long term liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The Parish only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction price and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.10 Taxation

St. Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.12 Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted Funds: The Select Vestry has defined the Restoration Fund as restricted funds as these have been generated through separate donations from parishioners to undertake physical restoration works to the Church and Parish centre.

Endowment Funds: are funds which have been given on the condition that the original capital sum is not reduced, but the income there from is used for the purpose defined in accordance with the objects of the Parish. The Parish has no endowment funds.

Unrestricted Funds: are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the Trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

2. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgments made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgments made in applying the Parish's accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

St. Mark's Parish Church
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total 2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Donations and legacies					
Weekly envelopes / FWO	124,510	17,297		141,807	142,184
Gift Aid	38,233	15,318		53,551	41,187
Grants	0	0	-	0	0
Donations	57,108	10,400		67,508	73,686
Glen CC	12,438	0		12,438	25,470
WWCC	19,220	0		19,220	37,263
	<u>251,509</u>	<u>43,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>294,524</u>	<u>319,790</u>
4. Other trading activities					
Rentals from Parish Centre	18,160			18,160	20,384
	<u>18,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,160</u>	<u>20,384</u>
5. Investments					
The Curatage - rental income	6,780			6,780	6,439
RCB Trust income	734			734	699
Bank interest	366			366	669
Increase in FV of investments	0	384		384	0
Legacy investment income	951			951	525
	<u>8,831</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,215</u>	<u>8,332</u>
6. Charitable activities					
Gazette Income	135			135	160
Events	8,761			8,761	8,853
	<u>8,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,896</u>	<u>9,013</u>
Analysis of Expenditure					
7. Charitable Activities					
Salaries and Wages (note 11)	159,374			159,374	171,267
Diocesan costs	31,463			31,463	39,394
Premises costs	63,381	36,600		99,981	48,958
General Parish running costs	18,358	101		18,459	20,091
Charitable donations	10,709			10,709	1,851
Glen CC costs	5,333	5,855		11,188	12,899
WWCC costs	5,766	5,708		11,474	8,567
	<u>294,384</u>	<u>48,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>342,648</u>	<u>303,027</u>
8. Financial Fees & Charges					
Bank Charges and Interest	6,796			6,796	5,250
Accountancy & IE	1,551			1,551	1,440
Decrease in fair value of investment				0	8,454
Professional fees	13,808			13,808	5,067
	<u>22,155</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,155</u>	<u>20,211</u>
9. Depreciation					
Equipment	0			0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

10 Taxation

St Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

11. Analysis of Staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of Key Management Personnel

Employees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Clergy Stipend and Allowances	65,027	81,505
Clergy Employers NI	6,152	7,886
Staff Salaries	80,620	74,579
Staff Employers NI	5,905	4,651
Nest pension	1,670	2,646
Total	<u>159,374</u>	<u>171,267</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of a head count, was as follows:

	2023	2023
	Number	Number
Ministerial support	5	5
Administration	1	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

There are no employees in receipt of employee benefits in excess of £60,000.

12 Key Management and Trustees

Key management are deemed to comprise the Trustees. The parish paid expenses of £5,788 relating to the running costs of the Rectory house which is occupied by the rector.

During the year the Clergy received stipends and allowances of £65,027 and the ministers for the Church Plants Centre received salaries of £61,472. No other trustee or a person related to a trustee had a personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment	Total
At Cost	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	1,276,730	0	1,276,730
Additions	0	0	0
Revaluation	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2022	<u>1,276,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,276,730</u>

Freehold land and buildings consist of the following properties:

Church building - this asset is not included on the balance sheet as the information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the parish. Accordingly the Church building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). (At 31 October 2023, the sum insured for the Church building and contents was £7,193,302).

The Parish Centre and The Rectory are recognised at cost.

No depreciation is provided on these assets as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and their remaining useful life exceeds 50 years.

14 Investment Properties

	Investment Properties	Total
Fair Value	£	£
At 1 January 2023	175,000	175,000
Additions	0	0
Gain / Loss	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31 December 2023	<u>175,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>

The investment property, The Curatage, Londonderry Road, Newtownards, is held to earn rentals. The year end valuation of the property was carried out by the trustees and is based on reference to market evidence of transactions for similar properties in the area.

15 Investments

	Listed Investments
Fair Value	£
At 1 January 2023	48,715
Increase/(decrease) in fair value	<u>384</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>49,099</u>

16 Debtors & Prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	53,551	41,416
Prepayments	<u>5,020</u>	<u>4,542</u>
	<u>58,571</u>	<u>45,958</u>

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand	122,248	165,474
Notice deposits (less than 30 days)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>122,248</u>	<u>165,474</u>

18 Creditors & Accruals

	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors	2,232	2,681
Accruals	<u>11,278</u>	<u>4,630</u>
	<u>13,510</u>	<u>7,311</u>

19 Bank Loans

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due within 12 Months	2,420	2,000
Due after 12 Months	<u>63,098</u>	<u>65,938</u>
	<u>65,518</u>	<u>67,938</u>

20 Retirement benefit schemes

The parish operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the parish in an independently administered fund.

21 Funds of the Parish

	At 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Building fund	15,694	37,415			53,109
RJ Coulter Trust	48,715	384			49,099
Stained glass window fund	34,720	5,600	36,600		3,720
Jigsaw	106		101		5
GCC EA Youth grant fund	1,128				1,128
GCC Childrens & Orphans	10,000		5,855		4,145
WWCC Childrens & Orphans	10,000		792		9,208
WWCC Priorities fund	8,517		3,304		5,213
WWCC Mind Matters	3,800		1,612		2,188
West Winds project fund	4,521				4,521
	<u>137,201</u>	<u>43,399</u>	<u>48,264</u>		<u>132,336</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	47,697	287,396	316,539		18,554
Designated funds					
Property fund	1,276,730				1,276,730
Investment property	175,000				175,000
Equipment Fund					
Building Fund	0				0
	<u>1,499,427</u>	<u>287,396</u>	<u>316,539</u>		<u>1,470,284</u>
Total funds	<u><u>1,636,628</u></u>	<u><u>330,795</u></u>	<u><u>364,803</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,602,620</u></u>

Purpose of restricted funds

These funds are to support specific projects as noted above for which funds were given and restricted in their use to those projects.

Purpose of designated funds

Property fund: this fund is in relation to the Parish Centre and the Rectory.

Investment fund: this fund is in relation to the investment property The Curatage, Newtownards.

Building fund: this fund is in relation to building development projects.

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Annual report

St. Mark's Parish Church
Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charities Number: 103350

St. Mark's Parish Church
Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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St. Mark's Parish Church
Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Legal and Administrative Details

Charity Name:	St. Mark's Parish Church Down & Dromore, Church of Ireland	
Charity Number:	103350	
Contact Address:	Parish Office Church Street Newtownards BT23 4AN	
Trustees during the year:	Rev Canon Chris Matchett Rev Peter Hilton Rev Stephen Doherty Mrs Elizabeth McMullan Mrs Lorraine McCullough Mr Matthew Morrison Mrs Alison Cochrane Mr Tom Quinn Mr William McCrossan Mrs Anne Drysdale	Mr Tim Reid Mr Paul Hawkins Mrs Gillian Morrison Mrs Cathy Allen Mrs Debbie Phillips Mr Paul Pierce Mr Michael O'Brien Mrs Beth Campbell Mrs Doris Thompson Mrs Hilary Stephens
Principle Office Bearers during the year:	Clergy: Church Treasurer: Church Secretary:	Rev Canon C Matchett Rev P Hilton Rev S Doherty Mrs D Phillips Mrs E McMullan
Independent Examiner	Guardian Chartered Accountants 2 William Street Newtownards BT23 4AH	
Bankers:	Danske Bank Belfast Business Centre PO Box 183 Donegal Square West Belfast BT1 6JS	

St. Mark's Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Principal objectives and activities

Objects

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

The principal function of St Mark's Parish Church, Newtownards is the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting 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. All functions of the Parish relate to the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating with and caring for parishioners and others in the community.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion St Mark's Parish Church has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry (Board of Trustees) of St Mark's Parish Church Newtownards.

Activities

St Mark's Parish Church, Newtownards seeks to provide a variety of opportunities for worship and prayer that are open to all sections of the community. Our church is a multi-site church family which include St Mark's Church, Glen Community Church (GCC) and West Winds Community Church (WWCC).

At St Marks we offer morning and evening worship on Sundays and a mid-week service on Wednesdays. The church building is open every day for private prayer and reflection.

One of our diocesan readers continues to assist with church services, baptisms and funerals in the Ardkeen Parish Church.

In St Marks weekly Sunday worship takes place at 9am, 11am and 6pm. A robed choir sing at the 11am service with the director of music leading on piano and organ. The choir also sing at special seasonal services and at civic events. There has been a continuing increase in numbers attending services. The morning service is shared on YouTube. Tea and coffee are provided after the morning church service in the Parish Centre and plan to serve tea and coffee after the evening service. Seasonal lunches are provided and money raised donated to charity projects.

A new informal service of word, prayer and worship has been introduced and takes place periodically in the minor hall at the parish centre

Pastoral care is major part of our charitable activities. There are regular visits by the clergy and church members to the elderly and the sick, at home and in hospitals and nursing homes.

Visits are made and preparation time for those who bring children for baptism or for those who come as adults for baptism. Wedding preparation is provided by the clergy and lay. Funeral services are conducted in the church or at an alternative venue as requested by the family.

A catering group made up of church members willingly provide and serve refreshments when requested by families following a funeral or after a wedding ceremony.

The curate-assistant continues to enable strategic outreach to younger parishioners and their families and is helping the church achieve our aims.

The Sunday School meet Sunday mornings with 3 groups meeting with different age groups. We are seeing a growth in young children and their families coming to church. None of this could be done without our growing number of willing volunteers.

The Youth Fellowship for young people aged Primary 6 to year 10, meet Sunday evening 6.30 – 8pm with an epilogue, games, food and special social activities. All assisted with volunteers who are able to take the lead.

Members of the church congregation regularly help in the leading of the church services; we have a Diocesan Reader and 2 commissioned Parish readers. There is a diocesan evangelist who works part-time in the diocesan office and volunteers with the youth of St Marks. There is a diocesan evangelist in training at the Glen Community Church. The further development of the lay people continues to be very evident.

Reaching out to the Community (ROC) is a food bank where dry and tinned foodstuffs are donated by church members and local residents. Food parcels are delivered monthly to identified families in the wider community. We have seen an increased need for help from the foodbank and monthly deliveries in person help us to build relationships in the community.

In providing pastoral care we also seek to respond to situations of need, through practical support, and where financial support is needed, a small donation of money has been provided and accounted for.

We continually seek to extend our outreach to all age groups within our parish boundary which takes in most of the west end of Newtownards, including the town centre.

St Mark's Church and Parish Centre provide a venue for a range of community groups to meet, including the Health and Social Care Trust, a range of groups from the Scouting and Guiding Associations are associated with St Mark's and meet in the Parish Centre to provide associated benefit to children and young people. These groups also are involved in church worship.

There is a range of groups and activities;

- A weekly group for carers.
- A midweek opportunity for parishioners, friends and members of the public, especially those who live alone or are isolated, to enjoy a cup of tea, food and a chat.
- Chest Heart and Stroke Group meet weekly
- A Bocha Group meets weekly

We have a social media presence (Facebook, YouTube) and a website. The weekly service sheet includes details on church services for the following week. Email is sent to keep parishioners advised of what is happening in the church and community.

St Mark's Parish Church offers activities for youth and young people, carried out under the requirements of the Church of Ireland's Child Safeguarding Policy.

There is a weekly drop-in group for adults with special needs meet and enjoy social activity. Supported by Mencap and St Marks volunteers.

The Mother's Union meet monthly and place value on the family in its many forms as a source of love and support for individual and the basis for a caring community. They are an active group of women who organise coffee mornings and an annual cake sale. Work is done within the community to promote family values.

The Bowling Club is an active group of men and women who play bowls each Thursday evening and take part in competitions.

We have strong links with local schools and appoint Transferor Representative Governors to several Boards. There they take an active part in the running of the school community thus fostering links between the school and church communities.

Several schools hold their annual carol services in St Mark's church, bringing parents, families and members of the school communities into church as well as being an important feature of the life of these schools.

St Mark's also supports Christian Mission through individual agencies working at home and overseas. In some instances, support is given where possible on an ecumenical basis e.g., through Newtownards Christian Aid committee, and the Link Family & Community Centre. The St Mark's Christian Aid leaders assist with volunteers from St Marks with annual collections in the town and host a yearly quiz to raise much needed funds.

The yearly self-denial Lenten lunch, hosted by the St Marks prayer meeting attendees, is a time for people to get together and share a light meal with monies raised going to an identified charity and this year this was donated to the Leprosy Mission.

Fundraising continues and we have been able hire a stall at the local Saturday market and have two cake sales. We are grateful to those who baked and attended the stall. This gave us the opportunity to be seen in the community and copies of John's gospel were given out. In November we had a Christmas Fair which was well supported by the local community. Monies raised was used to support church funds.

St Mark's is a member of Ards Churches Together, which organises a number of joint prayer and worship events, including an annual Good Friday service in the town centre.

St Mark's Parish Church holds a special place in the local community as building of historical interest with links to the Londonderry family. The church is open every day and a booklet on the history of the church is provided free of charge. The church building is a venue for history walks.

A new stained-glass window is nearly ready and is in the process of being installed in St Marks. This window has been gifted to the church in memory of a beloved daughter. The bishop will be coming in January 2024 to dedicate this new window which shows Christ the Shepherd King.

The church provides access to archive records (births deaths and marriages) for genealogical research.

We believe that our activities have been instrumental in maintaining and developing the lives of our members to the benefit of the community of which we are part.

St Mark's Parish Church Newtownards would not be able to deliver the quality of welcome and fellowship without the many hours of voluntary service given by many volunteers in all aspects of church life.

In order to strategically develop our outreach activities in Newtownards, the congregation of St Mark's has planted two churches, making us a multi-site church. These two church plants serve two of the three largest social housing estates in the town. The Glen estate has approximately 500 households and the West Winds some 1200 households, with each estate remaining within the top 100 small pockets of deprivation in Northern Ireland (NI Census 2021).

The Glen Community Church (GCC) was launched in 2014 and is led by a Diocesan Evangelist under the supervision of an Ordained Local Minister.

West Winds Community Church (WWCC) is led by the Ordained Local Minister and was launched during the summer of 2021.

Busy Sunday mornings in both church plants witness a growing gathering of local people coming together in their respective community centres for a time of informal café style worship and a warm welcome over refreshments, allowing time for fellowship.

At WWCC A monthly new ministry on a Sunday afternoon, forget me not church worship, is where the focus is on residents with dementia and their family and friends can attend. Traditional hymns, a short message, an engaging craft activity and a bible promise are the format of this special service.

Funding applications continue to be submitted and monies received from various organisation e.g. Orphans and Children, Mother's Union etc help these growing churches provide activities to all age groups.

GCC has a Men's Shed that allows men of all ages to come along and learn new skills but also to have the time to chat over a cup of tea. This is so important for their social skills and mental health.

A Knit and Natter group allows, mainly women to come along and have a chat and knit or do craft activities.

The WWCC has a Men's Cave where men can gather and have a chat and play games

Hen's Shed encourages women of all ages to come along learn new skills, enjoy crafts and chat together.

The Community Associations in each estate are very supportive in offering facilities and funding in many instances and the church staff are developing closer relationships with the Neighbourhood Police.

Continuing discipleship includes

- **Bible Study Groups** - each week, the church families have their respective bible study groups, encouraging participants to deepen their faith.
- **Discipleship Courses** - each of the church families host discipleship courses at various times throughout the year including Alpha, Christianity Explored, Grief Course, etc.
- **Prayer Gatherings** - takes place in St Mark's, The Glen and West Winds, each with a passionate group of parishioners with prayerful hearts.
- **Children** - each of our worship family sites host Sunday School provision for primary aged children.
- **Youth** - St Mark's Youth Fellowship meets every week with The Glen and The West Winds engaging with young people from their respective communities.

Achievements and Performance in our 3 church sites

- Outreach into the community of Newtownards.
- Cross Community Events.
- Lunch time clubs
- Men's Shed and Hens Shed
- Giving to Missions and other charities.
- Continual development of the Glen Community Church. And West Winds Community Church
- Select Vestry (Trustees) continue to meet monthly.
- Ongoing building work and repairs in the church and parish centre.
- The Rectory purchase last year is now vacated and has required refurbishment and this work is progressing under the guidance of the Glebes. A loan continues to be paid to pay for part of the purchase of this house
- Christian resources are available in the parish centre foyer for people to take with them.

- A television screen is in the parish centre hallway and displays details of services and other activities in the church
- Much work has gone into ensuring that as an organisation we are environmentally aware, so we recycle and reuse.
- In the parish centre, LED lights are in place and timer switches used in areas well used.
- Holiday Bible Club in August 2023
- Trip to Kildare shopping centre in November 2023
- Bible study groups
- Prayer groups
- Grief Course
- Preparation for Confirmation

Rector

Revd Canon Chris Matchett was appointed as priest-in-charge of the new Parish Group of Clondevaddock and Mevagh in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe and took up post at the end of September 2023. This has created a vacancy in the St Marks church family. The process of nomination to appoint a new Rector will be guided by the Diocesan Office.

We are fortunate to have a curate-assistant, the OLM and others to minister to our church family and support this multi-site Church all under the guidance of the Archdeacon.

Financial Review

Parishioners have continued to respond generously through their giving. The Parish centre has groups who make a donation and this has given us much needed revenue.

The Trustees are satisfied with the results of the charity during the year together with the financial position at 31 December 2023. The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ending 31 December 2024 and are satisfied that there are adequate funds going to be in place to ensure that the Parish continue its activities during the coming year and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Principal sources of funding

- Freewill Offerings
- Direct Debits
- Standing Orders
- Gifts
- Legacies
- Grants
- Fairs & Cake sales
- In-house catering

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is governed by its Constitution which is logged with the Charities Commission.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

New trustees are elected by members of the church.

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 financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Parish for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

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 financial position of the Parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the provision of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 March 2024.



Reverend Canon Gill Withers (Chairman)

Trustee



D Phillips

Trustee

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Annual return

**St Mark's Parish Church
Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of St. Mark's Parish Church**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 11 - 20.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- * Examine accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- * Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act:
- * State whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed:



Date: 20 March 2024

R Colin Stewart FCA
for and on behalf of
Guardian
Chartered Accountants
2 William Street
Newtownards
BT23 4AH

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Accounts

St. Mark's Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income					
Donations & legacies	3	263,232	56,558	319,790	282,536
Other trading activities	4	20,384		20,384	15,164
Investments	5	8,332		8,332	10,149
Charitable activities	6	9,013		9,013	3,614
Total Income		300,961	56,558	357,519	311,463
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	7	299,450	3,577	303,027	258,434
Financial Fees & Charges	8	11,757	8,454	20,211	3,614
Depreciation	9	0		0	0
Restoration Expenditure				0	0
Total Expenditure		311,207	12,031	323,238	262,048
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before transfers		-10,246	44,527	34,281	49,415
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Income/ (Expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		-10,246	44,527	34,281	49,415
Net movement in funds		-10,246	44,527	34,281	49,415
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	21	1,509,673	92,674	1,602,347	1,552,932
Total funds carried forward	21	1,499,427	137,201	1,636,628	1,602,347

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

St. Mark's Parish Church

Statement of Financial Position /(Balance Sheet) as at 31 December 2022


	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	13	1,276,730	1,200,000
Investment Properties	14	175,000	175,000
Investments	15	48,715	57,169
Total Fixed Assets		1,500,445	1,432,169
Current Assets			
Debtors & Prepayments	16	45,958	4,717
Cash and cash equivalents	17	165,474	179,019
Total Current Assets		211,432	183,736
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accruals	18	7,311	12,182
Bank Loans	19	2,000	1,376
Total Current Liabilities		9,311	13,558
Net Current Assets		202,121	170,178
Long Term Liabilities			
Bank Loans	19	65,938	0
Total Long Term Liabilities		65,938	0
Total Net Assets		1,636,628	1,602,347
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	21	47,697	134,673
Designated funds	21	1,451,730	1,375,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,499,427	1,509,673
Restricted Funds			
Restricted funds	21	137,201	92,674
Total Restricted Funds		137,201	92,674
Total Charity Funds		1,636,628	1,602,347

The notes on pages 13 to 20 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 20 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Peter Hilton
Trustee



D Phillips
Trustee

St. Mark's Parish Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Parish meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Parish generally meets its day to day working capital requirements from its annual income. The Trustees have obtained and reviewed cash flow forecasts for the coming year and based on these are satisfied that the Parish has resources to provide a reasonable expectation that it can continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Income

Plate Collections, Weekly Envelopes and rental of the Parish Hall are accounted for on a cash receipts basis as the amount is collected. Other donations are recognised once the Parish has been notified of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time claim is submitted to HMRC.

Legacies are included within Income under either unrestricted or restricted funds according to the terms under which the donation is made and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. Donations and gifts in kind are brought into the accounts at their fair value to the Parish.

Income arising from the rental of investment properties to third parties is recognised when the parish has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.5 Tangible assets

The assets of the Parish comprise:-

The Church Building
The Parish Centre
The Rectory - Belfast Road
The Curatage - Londonderry Road

The Church Building:

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102).

This accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.6 below.

The Parish Centre and Rectory:

The Parish Centre is recognised at cost. The Rectory is recognised at deemed cost.

No depreciation is provided on these as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

The Curatage

This property was originally used for the residence of the Curate. This property has been let at a commercial rent and has therefore been treated as an investment property. The accounting policy for this asset is outlined in note 1.7 below.

Equipment:

Equipment is included at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

A diminis for capitalisation of £1,500 is applied.

Tangible assets are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected. On disposal, the difference between the new disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in the statement of financial activities and included in 'Other operating (losses)/gains.

1.6 Heritage assets

The Church Building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). This asset is not included on the balance sheet as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

1.7 Investment properties

Fixed asset investments comprising investment properties are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the fair value at the beginning and end of the financial year or, if purchased in in the year, the difference between cost and fair value at the end of the year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the fair value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year. Both realised and unrealised gains and losses in investments are reported within 'Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments' within the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors - Amounts falling due within 1 year. Loans with a duration of more than 12 months are split between current and long term liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The Parish only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction price and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.10 Taxation

St. Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.12 Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted Funds: The Select Vestry has defined the Restoration Fund as restricted funds as these have been generated through separate donations from parishioners to undertake physical restoration works to the Church and Parish centre.

Endowment Funds: are funds which have been given on the condition that the original capital sum is not reduced, but the income there from is used for the purpose defined in accordance with the objects of the Parish. The Parish has no endowment funds.

Unrestricted Funds: are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the Trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

2. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgments made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgments made in applying the Parish's accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

St. Mark's Parish Church
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Endowment Funds 2022	Total 2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Donations and legacies					
Weekly envelopes / FWO	124,593	17,591		142,184	138,219
Gift Aid	41,187	0		41,187	48,090
Grants	0	0	-	0	0
Donations	68,519	5,167		73,686	70,565
Glen CC	15,470	10,000		25,470	25,662
WWCC	13,463	23,800		37,263	0
	<u>263,232</u>	<u>56,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>319,790</u>	<u>282,536</u>
4. Other trading activities					
Rentals from Parish Centre	20,384			20,384	10,945
BT Refund	0			0	4,219
	<u>20,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,384</u>	<u>15,164</u>
5. Investments					
The Curatage - rental income	6,439			6,439	6,509
RCB Trust income	699			699	489
Bank interest	669			669	390
Increase in FV of investments				0	1,757
Legacy investment income	525			525	1,004
	<u>8,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,332</u>	<u>10,149</u>
6. Charitable activities					
Gazette Income	160			160	187
Events	8,853			8,853	3,427
	<u>9,013</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,013</u>	<u>3,614</u>
Analysis of Expenditure					
7. Charitable Activities					
Salaries and Wages (note 11)	171,267			171,267	150,865
Diocesan costs	39,394			39,394	40,575
Premises costs	46,958	2,000		48,958	27,728
General Parish running costs	19,997	94		20,091	17,635
Charitable donations	1,851			1,851	13,040
Glen CC costs	12,899			12,899	8,591
WWCC costs	7,084	1,483		8,567	0
	<u>299,450</u>	<u>3,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303,027</u>	<u>258,434</u>
8. Financial Fees & Charges					
Bank Charges and Interest	5,250			5,250	834
Accountancy & IE	1,440			1,440	-60
Decrease in fair value of investment		8,454		8,454	0
Professional fees	5,067			5,067	2,840
	<u>11,757</u>	<u>8,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,211</u>	<u>3,614</u>
9. Depreciation					
Equipment	0			0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

10 Taxation

St Mark's Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

11. Analysis of Staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of Key Management Personnel

Employees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Clergy Stipend and Allowances	81,505	87,539
Clergy Employers NI	7,886	5,382
Staff Salaries	74,579	52,553
Staff Employers NI	4,651	3,059
Nest pension	2,646	2,332
Total	<u>171,267</u>	<u>150,865</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of a head count, was as follows:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Ministerial support	5	5
Administration	1	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

There are no employees in receipt of employee benefits in excess of £60,000.

12 Key Management and Trustees

Key management are deemed to comprise the Trustees. The parish paid expenses of £4,244 relating to the running costs of the Rectory house which is occupied by the rector.

During the year the Clergy received stipends and allowances of £81,505 and the ministers for the Church Plants Centre received salaries of £53,998. No other trustee or a person related to a trustee had a personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment	Total
At Cost	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
Additions	426,730	0	426,730
Revaluation	-	0	-
Disposals	- 350,000	0	- 350,000
At 31 December 2022	1,276,730	0	1,276,730
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2022	0	0	0
Net book value at 31 December 2022	1,276,730	0	1,276,730
Net book value at 31 December 2021	1,200,000	0	1,200,000

Freehold land and buildings consist of the following properties:

Church building - this asset is not included on the balance sheet as the information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the parish. Accordingly the Church building is deemed to be a Heritage asset as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). (At 31 October 2022, the sum insured for the Church building and contents was £6,224,598).

The Parish Centre and The Rectory are recognised at cost.

No depreciation is provided on these assets as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and their remaining useful life exceeds 50 years.

14 Investment Properties

	Investment Properties	Total
Fair Value	£	£
At 1 January 2022	175,000	175,000
Additions	0	0
Gain / Loss	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31 December 2022	175,000	175,000

The investment property, The Curatage, Londonderry Road, Newtownards, is held to earn rentals. The year end valuation of the property was carried out by the trustees and is based on reference to market evidence of transactions for similar properties in the area.

15 Investments

	Listed Investments
Fair Value	£
At 1 January 2022	57,169
Increase/(decrease) in fair value	-8,454
At 31 December 2022	<u>48,715</u>

16 Debtors & Prepayments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	41,416	0
Prepayments	4,542	4,717
	<u>45,958</u>	<u>4,717</u>

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand	165,474	179,019
Notice deposits (less than 30 days)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>165,474</u>	<u>179,019</u>

18 Creditors & Accruals

	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	2,681	10,208
Accruals	4,630	1,974
	<u>7,311</u>	<u>12,182</u>

19 Bank Loans

	2022	2021
	£	£
Due within 12 Months	2,000	1,376
Due after 12 Months	65,938	0
	<u>67,938</u>	<u>1,376</u>

20 Retirement benefit schemes

The parish operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the parish in an independently administered fund.

21 Funds of the Parish

	At 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Building fund	-6,864	22,558			15,694
RJ Coulter Trust	57,169		8,454		48,715
Stained glass window fund	36,720		2,000		34,720
Jigsaw		200	94		106
GCC EA Youth grant fund	1,128				1,128
GCC Childrens & Orphans		10,000			10,000
WWCC Childrens & Orphans		10,000			10,000
WWCC Priorities fund		10,000	1,483		8,517
WWNN Mind Matters		3,800			3,800
West Winds project fund	4,521				4,521
	<u>92,674</u>	<u>56,558</u>	<u>12,031</u>		<u>137,201</u>
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General fund	134,673	300,961	311,207	-76,730	47,697
Designated funds					
Property fund	1,200,000			76,730	1,276,730
Investment property	175,000				175,000
Equipment Fund					
Building Fund	0				0
	<u>1,509,673</u>	<u>300,961</u>	<u>311,207</u>		<u>1,499,427</u>
Total funds	<u><u>1,602,347</u></u>	<u><u>357,519</u></u>	<u><u>323,238</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,636,628</u></u>

Purpose of restricted funds

These funds are to support specific projects as noted above for which funds were given and restricted in their use to those projects.

Purpose of designated funds

Property fund: this fund is in relation to the Parish Centre and the Rectory.

Investment fund: this fund is in relation to the investment property The Curatage, Newtownards.

Building fund: this fund is in relation to building development projects.

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Annual report

St. Mark's Parish Church

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Charities Number: 103350

St. Mark's Parish Church
Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

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St. Mark's Parish Church
Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Legal and Administrative Details

Charity Name:	St. Mark's Parish Church Down & Dromore, Church of Ireland	
Charity Number:	103350	
Contact Address:	Parish Office Church Street Newtownards BT23 4AN	
Trustees:	Rev Canon Chris Matchett Rev Peter Hilton Rev Stephen Doherty Mrs Elizabeth McMullan Mr Ossie Bambrery Mr Matthew Morrison Mrs Alison Cochrane Mr Tom Quinn Mr William McCrossan Mrs Anne Drysdale Mrs Lorraine Rooney	Mr Tim Reid Mr Paul Hawkins Mrs Gillian Morrison Mrs Cathy Allen Mrs Debbie Phillips Mr Paul Pierce Mr Michael O'Brien Mrs Beth Campbell Mrs Doris Thompson Mrs Hilary Stephens
Principle Office Bearers:	Clergy: Church Treasurer: Church Secretary:	Rev Canon C Matchett Rev P Hilton Rev S Doherty Mrs D Phillips Mrs E McMullan
Independent Examiner	Guardian Chartered Accountants 2 William Street Newtownards BT23 4AH	
Bankers:	Danske Bank Belfast Business Centre PO Box 183 Donegal Square West Belfast BT1 6JS	

St. Mark's Parish Church

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of St. Mark's Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the 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. All functions of the Parish relate to the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and communicating with and caring for parishioners and others in the community.

As a result of the activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, St. Mark'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. Mark's Parish Church.

Activities and Public Benefit

St. Mark's Parish Church seeks to provide a variety of opportunities for worship and prayer that are open to all sections of the community. We offer morning and evening worship on Sundays and a mid-week service on Wednesdays. The church building is open every day for private prayer and reflection.

One of our diocesan readers continues to assist with church services, baptisms and funerals in the Ardkeen Parish Church.

In St Marks weekly worship takes place on a Sunday at 9am, 11am and 6pm. There is a recording made and shared on YouTube. Recordings are made of the main church service and CDs are delivered to those who are housebound or have been unable to return to church.

Tea and coffee is provided after the morning church service in the Parish Centre. This helps relieve the social isolation suffered by some parishioners.

Pastoral care is a major part of our charitable activities. There are regular visits by the clergy and church members to the elderly and the sick, at home and in hospitals and nursing homes.

Visits are made and preparation time for those who bring children for baptism or for those who come as adults for baptism. Wedding preparation is provided by the clergy. Funeral services are conducted in the church or at an alternative venue as requested by family.

A catering group made up of church members willingly provide and serve refreshments when requested by families following a funeral or after a wedding, with food donated by other church members.

The curate-assistant enables strategic outreach to younger parishioners and their families and is helping the church achieve our aims.

The Jig Saw (Sunday School) meet on Sunday mornings with 3 groups meeting with different age groups. We are seeing a growth in young children and their families coming to church. None of this could be done without our volunteers.

The Youth Fellowship for young people aged Primary 6 to year 10, meet Sunday evenings 6.30-8pm with an epilogue, games, food, and special social activities. All assisted with volunteers who are able to take the lead.

Members of the church congregation regularly help in the leading of the church services; we have a Diocesan Reader and 2 Diocesan Evangelists in training, and 2 commissioned Parish Readers. The further development of the lay people continues to be very evident.

Reaching out to the Community (ROC) is a food bank where dry and tinned foodstuffs are donated by church members and local residents. Food parcels are delivered monthly to identified families in the Glen Ward area and wider community. We have seen an increased need for help from the foodbank and monthly deliveries in person help us to build relationships in the community.

In providing pastoral care we also seek to respond to situations of need through practical support and where financial support is needed, a small donation of money has been provided and accounted for.

We continually seek to extend our outreach to all age groups within our parish boundary which takes in most of the west end of Newtownards, including the town centre.

St Mark's Church and Parish Centre provide a venue for a range of community groups to meet, including the Health and Social Care Trust. A range of groups from the Scouting and Girl Guiding Associations are associated with St Mark's and meet in the Parish Centre to provide associated benefit to children and young people. These groups are also involved in church worship.

There is a range of groups and activities run by the church including: a weekly group for pre-school children and their carers: a midweek opportunity for parishioners, friends and members of the public, especially those who live alone or are isolated, to enjoy a cup of tea, food and a chat; Mothers' Union; Chest Heart and Stroke; Senior Citizens' Club; Bowls Club. These are open to the whole community.

We have a social media presence (Facebook, YouTube) and a website. The weekly service sheet includes details on church services for the following week. Where necessary mail shots are sent to keep parishioners advised of what is happening in the church and community.

St Mark's Parish Church offers activities for youth and young people, carried out under the requirements of the Church of Ireland's Child Safeguarding Policy.

There is a weekly drop-in group for adults with learning difficulties to attend in the Parish Centre, resourced by church members, under the guidance of Social Services and Mencap. This group is welcomed by the members and their families. We are indebted to those who volunteer and help.

We have strong links with local schools and appoint Transferor Representative Governors to several Boards. There they take an active part in the running of the school community thus fostering links between the school and church communities.

Several schools hold their annual carol services in St Mark's church, bringing parents, families and members of the school communities into church as well as being an important feature of the life of these schools.

St Mark's also supports Christian Mission through individual agencies working at home and overseas. In some instances, support is given where possible on an ecumenical basis e.g. through Newtownards Christian Aid Committee, and the Link Family & Community Centre. The St Mark's Christian Aid leaders assist with volunteers from St Marks with annual collections in the town and host a yearly quiz to raise much needed funds. The yearly self-denial Lenten lunch, hosted by the St Mark's prayer meeting attendees, is a time for people to get together and share a light meal with monies raised go to an identified charity and this year this was donated to Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

Fund raising continues and we have been able to hire a stall at the local Saturday market and had 3 successful cake sales. We are grateful to those who baked and attended the stall. This gave us the opportunity to be seen in the community and copies of John's gospel were given out. In November we had a Christmas Fair which was well supported by the local community and money raised was shared with the church and the Bishop's Appeal for Ukraine.

St Mark's is a member of Ards Churches Together which organises a number of joint prayer and worship events, including an annual Good Friday service in the town centre.

St Mark's Parish Church holds a special place in the local community as a building of historical interest with links to the Londonderry family. Normally, visitors are encouraged and a booklet on the history of the church is provided free of charge. The church building is a venue for history walks and participates in the annual European Heritage Open Days.

The church provides access to archive records (births, deaths and marriages) for genealogical research.

We believe that our activities have been instrumental in maintaining and developing the lives of our members to the benefit of the community of which we are a part.

St Mark's Parish Church Newtownards would not be able to deliver the quality of welcome and fellowship without the many hours of voluntary service given by many volunteers in all aspects of church life.

In order to strategically develop our outreach activities in Newtownards, the congregation of St Mark's has two planted churches. These two church plants serve two of the three largest social housing estates in the town. The Glen estate has approximately 500 households and the West Winds some 1200 households, with each estate remaining within the top 100 small pockets of deprivation in Northern Ireland (NI Census 2021).

Glen Community Church (GCC) was launched in 2014 and is lead by an evangelist-in-training under the supervision of an Ordained Local Minister, funded by the Down and Dromre Church Plant Fund and the generous giving from those engaging with the community church. West Winds Community Church (WWCC) is led by our Ordained Local Minister and was launched during the summer of 2021.

Busy Sunday mornings in both church plants witness a growing gathering of local people coming together in their respective community centres for a time of informal worship and a warm welcome over refreshments, allowing time for fellowship. GCC hold their Bible study group on a Sunday evening whilst WWCC has two groups meeting on a Thursday evening.

In the Glen, a midweek focus turns towards two well-attended Children's groups with the main youth programme held in the town's Youth Centre. In both church plants, the intentional approach of youth ministry is targeted towards young people at risk, offering programmes aimed at diversionary activities. These ministries are enabled with thanks to a significant financial grant from the Down and Dromore/Connor Orphans and Children's Fund and the C of I Priorities.

In both the Glen and West Winds, two growing groups aimed at bringing men together are in full thrust, funded in the West Winds by a C of I Mind Matters Grant whilst local women are engaged through two groups creating safe and supportive spaces for both men and women.

The community Associations in each estate are very supportive in offering facilities and funding in many instances and the church staff are developing closer relationships with the Neighbourhood Police.

Achievements and Performance

- * Outreach into the community of Newtownards
- * Cross Community Events
- * Giving to Missions and other charities
- * Continual development of the Glen Community Church.
- * Select Vestry (Trustees) continue to meet monthly.
- * The old rectory was sold and a newer house purchased. This necessitated taking out a loan.
- * Ongoing building work and repairs in the church and parish centre.
- * Christian resources are now available in the parish centre foyer for people to take with them.
- * Much work has gone into ensuring that as an organisation we are environmentally aware, so we recycle and reuse.

- * In the parish centre, LED lights are in place and timer switches used in areas well used.
- * Holiday Bible Club in August 2022.
- * Bible study groups offered on Zoom but now are in person.
- * Mind Matters - research suggests that the most effective contribution that the Church can make in promoting positive mental health is by concentrating, in the first instance, on four key areas:
 - * Reducing stigma
 - * Promoting connections
 - * Providing clergy with additional training and support
 - * Exploring additional faith-based supports for mental health

Regular meetings take place to discuss positive mental health and how we can promote this further within our church and the local community.

Ongoing Matter of Concern

During the year 2022, an independent Commission of Enquiry was formed. This Commission was set up by the Bishop of Down and Dromore to examine a query with the accounts in prior years. We ask that you continue to hold the matter and all involved in your prayers.

Financial Review

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the financial position presented in these statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements for charities, *The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*, relating to charity accounting and reporting which commenced on 1 January 2016.

As our Parish income for the year was more than £250,000 but less than £500,000 we must:

- Prepare accounts on the accruals basis;
- Have our accounts independently examined in compliance with Section 65(4) of the Charities Act NI;
- Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how our charity has met the public benefit requirement; and
- Complete an annual monitoring return.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds comprise of the Parish General Fund, Property Fund and Investment Property Fund.

Overall unrestricted Parish income was £10,246 less than expenditure this year with a total of £300,961 of income against £311,207 of expenditure.

General Fund Income

General fund income was £300,961, up £60,437 from £240,524 in 2021. This income was from the following sources:

- General giving increased from £213,354 last year to £263,232 this year.
- Property related income was £6,439 compared to £6,509 last year.
- General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, events was up from £14,559 last year to £29,397 this year.
- Investment income earned was £1,893 this year compared to £1,883 last year.

General Fund Expenditure

Overall expenditure increased from £256,114 in 2021 to £311,207 for 2022, an increase of £55,093. The main areas of expenditure were:

- Clergy and staffing costs increased from £150,865 in 2021 to £171,267 this year (£20,402).
- Diocesan costs decreased slightly from £40,575 in 2021 to £39,394 (£1,181).
- General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing increased from £17,635 in 2021 to £19,997 for 2022 (£2,362).
- Glen CC general expenses for the year increased from £2,657 last year to £12,899 for 2022 (£10,242).
- West Winds CC general expenses were £7,084 for the year, last year £nil.
- Financial fees increased from £3,614 in 2021 to £11,757 (£8,143) due to estate agents fees on the sale of the old rectory and loan interest payable.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds comprise of the Building Fund, RJ Coulter Trust, The Stained Glass Window Fund, EA Youth Grant Fund, Childrens & Orphans Funds, Priorities Fund and the Mind Matters Fund.

Restricted fund income for the year was £56,558 with expenditure of £12,031 compared to income of £70,939 and expenditure of £5,934 last year.

Restricted Fund Income

This income was from the following main sources:

- Collections, donations etc £22,558 (last year £20,879).
- Children & Orphans Fund £20,000 (£10,000 to Glen CC and £10,000 to West Winds CC).
- Priorities Fund £10,000 to West Winds CC.
- Mind Matters Fund £3,800 to West Winds CC.

Restricted Fund Expenditure

Expenditure during the year comprised £2,000 from the Stained Glass Window fund, £1,483 from West Winds CC Priorities fund and a decrease in the valuation of the RJ Coulter Deceased Trust of £8,454 .

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. Based on 2022 expenditure of £323,238 the target level of reserves is £80,810 to £161,620. Free reserves as at 31 December 2022 are £202,121. The Trustees are satisfied that relevant level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

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 2021 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 Organisations. 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.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the members of the clergy serving in the Parish, two church wardens, two glebe wardens, and 12 other members (one of which is the Honorary Secretary and another the Honorary Treasurer) of the General Vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Incumbent. 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 church wardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met 5 times during the year.

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 financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parish and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Parish for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

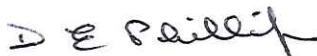
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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 financial position of the Parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the provision of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustess on 20 April 2023.



Rev Peter Hilton
Trustee



D Phillips
Trustee

NEWTOWNARDS/Newtownards/St.Mark/Down & Dromore/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103350

Annual return

**St Mark's Parish Church
Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of St. Mark's Parish Church**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 11 - 20.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- * Examine accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- * Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act;
- * State whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed:



Date: 20 April 2023

R Colin Stewart FCA
for and on behalf of
Guardian
Chartered Accountants
2 William Street
Newtownards
BT23 4AH