

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHRIST CHURCH,
ARDKEEN FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2024**

Northern Ireland Charity No. 103749

REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name Parish of Christ Church, Ardkeen

Charity registration number NIC 103749

Contact address 90 Ballygelagh Road, Kirkistown, Newtownards, Co Down ,
BT22 1AE

TRUSTEES AND OFFICE BEARERS - SELECTED AT GENERAL EASTER VESTRY

25/04/2024

TRUSTEES (SELECT VESTRY)

Zoe Adair

Heather Adair

Hayley McCullough

Yolande Truesdale

Robert Adair

Eileen Murray

Vanessa Crawford

Kenneth Hughes

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Services are taken by Melanie Houston, Diocesan

Reader from St Mark's Parish in Newtownards with different retired clergy taking Holy Communion.

Honorary secretary Yolande Truesdale

Honorary treasurer Zoe Adair

Rector's churchwarden Zoe Adair

People's churchwarden Vacant

Glebe warden Robert Adair

Assistant Glebe warden Vacant

OTHER OFFICE BEARERS

Parochial nominator Yolande Truesdale

Supplemental parochial nominator Heather Adair

Diocesan synods person Zoe Adair

Supplemental diocesan synods person Hayley McCullough

Free will offerings recorder Zoe Adair, Heather Adair, Hayley

McCullough, Eileen Murray, Robert

Adair

Organists James McKibbin

Health and safety officer Vacant

Independent examiner Barry Mitchell, CPFA, 2A Ballyrawer

Avenue, Carrowdore, Newtownards, Co

Down, BT22 2HJ

Bankers Danske Bank, PO BOX 183, Donegall

West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Sort code : 95-03-48

Account number : 10045349

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present the annual report and the statements of receipts and payments and of assets and liabilities for the Parish of CHRIST CHURCH, ARDKEEN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion. The principal function of the Parish of Christ Church, Ardkeen is to support the advancement of religion by promoting through the work of its church, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with the whole of society and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Weekly worship is on a Sunday morning from 10.30am with further services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas in 2024.

The parish is grateful to Melanie Houston who continues to be our permanent Diocesan Lay Reader and to all visiting Clergy who have ensured Communion has taken place for the Parish throughout 2024. Melanie applied and was accepted onto the Ordained Local Ministry for which the Parish is delighted.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

During the past year of 2024 the parish has continued having a cup of tea/coffee after Church on a Sunday in the Church Hall. Three evenings of favourite hymn singing (The

Big Sings) were held and each service was followed by

supper in the Church Hall, these events were opened to all members of the

community. We ran a Bible Study course on Romans via Zoom which started in February 2024. Meet up Tuesday's were introduced which were held weekly in the Parish Hall, refreshments available and craft work introduced, books were available to borrow, wool and other crafts available along with knitting and crochet needles and Meet up Tuesday also provided time for Pastoral chats and a children's corner was set up as quite a few small children attended with mothers, grandmothers. We continued with our Facebook page which was updated regularly, a Whats App group was created and available to all members of the Parish to request to join and new banners were obtained and we were given our very own page on the Diocesan site. As part of the Pioneer Project we explored Christianity Explored. We set up a Safeguarding Panel and the Panel received training and the discussion of a Sunday School starting in the Church commenced.

Annual Easter Vestry was held on 18th April 2024 and over Holy Week we had a week full of services.

On Sunday 4th August we were greatly privileged with a visit from our Bishop David who preached for us that day.

We had a Remembering our Loved Ones service on 15th November and on 30th November 2024 we held a Christmas cake and craft sale in the Church Hall.

of December we held our annual Christmas Carol Service followed by supper

in the hall. On 22nd December 2024 we had a Pop Up Nativity led by the children of the Parish and on Christmas Eve we held a special Christingle service at 7.30pm which was aimed at children.

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish of Christ Church, Ardkeen has custody of property, records, artefacts, and materials which have significance for the cultural and religious heritage of the parish and the Upper Ards. The select vestry is responsible for the maintenance of that property and those records, artefacts, and materials.

During the past year, parish records and property have been available for family history research should anyone have wished to view them when the Church was open and upon arrangements at any other time.

COMPLIANCE

The parish's safeguarding, data protection, and copyright compliance policies are in accordance with Church of Ireland guidelines.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities which were started during the year have helped to achieve the parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit. Services of divine worship are open to everyone, subject only to the constraints of public health measures, and there are no restrictions on people receiving hard copies of service sheets.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

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 that the financial statements can be signed off as a going concern for the year ended 31.12.2024.

The financial statements which follow have been aligned with the diocesan financial reports.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

NO MAINTENANCE COMPLETED DURING 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Chapter III of the Church of Ireland constitution governs parishes and parochial

organisation. The members of the select vestry are the charity trustees. All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are resident within the parish or who 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 the general vestry meeting. The members of the select vestry hold their positions for a period of one year. Select vestry members may be re-elected annually: there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served. The select vestry is responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish.

The select vestry is chaired by the rector and where there was no rector then someone appointed by the Diocesan Office, Belfast. Select vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including how parish funds are to be applied. The select vestry meets at times fixed by the members in accordance with guidance from the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened by the rector or the churchwardens.

The parish meets a percentage of the stipend and allowances. The diocese pays the fees and allowances of visiting clergy and lay readers. The Organist receives a fee for each service at which he plays.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland

with an income of less than £250,000 requires the members of the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that adequately show and explain the parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the parish and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

(Rector) Vacant

(Diocesan Reader) Melanie Houston

Secretary- Yolande Truesdale

T