

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH MIDDLETOWN

Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St John's Parish Church Middletown for the year ended 31st December 2023

References and Administrative details

Charity Name: Middletown/St Johns/Armagh/Church Of Ireland

Charity Registration No: 103969

Contact Address: The Rectory
16 Derryhaw Road
Tynan
Co. Armagh
BT60 4SS

Principal Office - Bearers: Clergy: Vacant
Church Treasurer: Mrs Diane Irwin
Assistant Church Treasurer: Mr James Irwin
Church Secretary: Mr Trevor Magill
Church Warden - Clergy: Mr Robert Leyburn
Church Warden – People: Mr Gary Whitcroft

Independent Examiner: Stephen McDonald
McDONALD O'NEILL & CO
Chartered Accountants
5 Union Buildings, Union Place
Dungannon
BT701DL

Bankers: Danske Bank
74-76 Scotch Street
Armagh
BT61 7DJ

Trustees:	Mrs Vena Bothwell	Mrs Amanda Leyburn
	Mrs Ann Bradshaw	Mr Robert Leyburn
	Mr Clive Bradshaw	Mrs Tracey Magill
	Mrs Diane Irwin	Mr Trevor Magill
	Mr James Irwin	Mrs Maureen Reddick
	Mr Keith Irwin	Mr Gary Whitcroft
	Mr Aaron Leyburn	Mrs Pamela Bradshaw

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and annual statements of Reports and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St John's Parish Church, Middletown for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Objectives and Activities:

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

The principal function of Middletown Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Middletown Parish Church, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in pursuit of the Christian religion, Middletown 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 Middletown Parish Church.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit:

Central to the work and witness of Middletown Parish Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 9.30am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday of each month, with a Family Service on the fourth Sunday of the month. Our Harvest Service and Christmas Carol Service are each held on a Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm. Children and young people are encouraged to play an active part in our church services.

"A Time for Prayer" meets on the first Monday of each month for the parochial grouping, and is open to everyone.

Our Lenten Bible Study provides an opportunity for folk to share fellowship with those associated with the other two parishes in our parochial grouping. Two sessions are held in each parish over the six week period.

Middletown Parish prioritises the safety of the children and young people in our care, and we strictly adhere to the child protection requirements of the Church of Ireland "Safeguarding Trust" to ensure that all those working with young people and vulnerable adults are fully checked through Access NI, trained and supervised.

Pastoral support takes the form of visiting the sick, the elderly and the bereaved. This includes visits to homes in the community, hospitals, hospice, residential and nursing homes, provision being made for the administration of Holy Communion.

The Middletown Parish Community Hall continues to provide a welcoming environment for church activities including Bible Study, vestry meetings, harvest and funeral teas. It also provides a well-equipped facility to meet the needs of our disadvantaged border community with a variety of events taking place during the day and in the evening.

Middletown Parish Church, along with the other two parishes in our parochial grouping, continues to work in partnership with the Bukavu Diocese in DR Congo and CMSI to support the Church's efforts to reach out to provide spiritual hope, practical emergency care, and ongoing protection and support for vulnerable people. The Parish also supports a variety of local charities including the Armagh Foodbank and the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. The church services and activities mentioned above benefited all age groups in our community and farther afield. Our parish WhatsApp group continues to provide a useful means of communication whereby parishioners share information about church life and activities in the local community.

Financial Review

The principal source of income of Middletown Parish Church continues to be from Donations and Plate Collections.

The principal expense of Middletown Parish Church is in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Charges.

Middletown Parish Church had total income of £23,196 and total expenditure of £12,749 for a total net income of £10,447 for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Bank and Cash Balance was £23,289.

It is the trustees' policy to hold sufficient reserves to cover emergencies, for maintenance of church property and to further the objectives and activities of the Church of Ireland.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities, and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Select Vestry (Trustees)

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 years 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 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 that may be served.

Pay and Remuneration

The incumbent receives a stipend and office locomotory allowance in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

Organisational Structure

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the parish. The select vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, the church wardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The select vestry is chaired by the incumbent in the parish. Select vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how parish funds are to be applied.

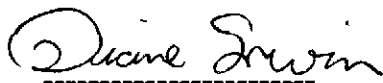
The select vestry meets at times agreed by the members. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

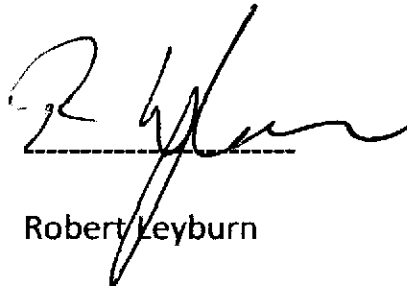
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statements of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Diane Irwin (Treasurer)



Robert Leyburn

Date: 25/10/24