

Trustees report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out of page 11.

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,

Organisation

The Trustees who have served during the year are detailed out on page 3. The select vestry (Trustees) is responsible for the fabric, furnishings and finances of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving the Parish, the churchwardens, glebe wardens and generally not more than 12 other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry. The select vestry is chaired by the incumbent.

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 the 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.

Objectives and Activities

Christian religion at its core seeks to provide care and support to those at point of need. Direct benefit of participation in church life includes the enjoyment of public worship and giving and receiving of pastoral care. As a church body we seek to engage with our local community and encourage social and community integration.

We are an active body with regular fundraising and community events during the year and a willing and able body of volunteers to assist in our work. No trustee or volunteer received any remuneration, reward or private benefit for carrying out their trustee responsibility.

The social benefits of volunteering provide a sense of purpose and belonging within the church community. We also get to enjoy historic building and artefacts and appreciate our rich Christian heritage.

People frequently seek access to church records for research and genealogy, conservation, property and artefacts and the subsequent and continued requests for access and use of our materials by the wider society. The direct beneficiaries of this purpose are the church members and the general public. There is no harm arising from the purpose. No private benefit is received by trustees fulfilling their trustee responsibilities in respect of these records, buildings or artefacts. On occasion specialist professional external services are engaged essential to the fulfilment of the task. Our church is celebrating 250 years since construction started on that site and we have also completed major structural work to the church building within this year, which has been an event of celebration in church life of a beautiful historic relic which has been preserved for those today and those in future to enjoy.

Achievement, Performance and Public Benefit

The Parish mission is to the advancement of religion through holding regular worship and pastoral care and support of Parishioners and the local community.

St Matthew's Parish Church has weekly services on Sunday mornings comprising of a mix of Holy Communion, Family Services, Baptism Services and Morning Prayer together with various other special services during the year such as Lenten Services, Holy Week Services, Harvest Thanksgiving Services, Advent and Christmas Carol Services.

Events in the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024:

24/02/2024 – Community Big Breakfast

10/03/2024 – Confirmation Service

13/04/2024 – Community Coffee Morning at the Church Hall

25/11/2024 – Variety Church Concert

07/12/2024 – Community Carol Singing (cancelled due to adverse weather)

The select vestry is chaired by the member of Clergy officiating in the Parish. The select vestry are responsible for decision making and steer on the matters of finance, structural upkeep and maintenance in compliance with State church legislation. The Select Vestry meets at time prior arranged by its members, rural dean or by the Diocesan Synod. Special meetings may be additional convened at any time by the Chairperson or the Churchwardens.

The parish has given due consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have assisted with achieving the Parish aims and objectives as well as providing public benefit.

Financial review and Investment Policy

During the year ended 31 December 2024, the principal source of income of St Matthew's Parish Church continues to be from donations and plate collections totalling £25,363 (2023: £27,833)

The principal expenses of St Matthew's Parish Church during the year was in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Costs/Assessments totalling £13,620 (2023: £213,292) and the insurance totalling £3,011 (2023: £2,907).

During the year £129,486 was paid out with regards to the re-roofing of the Church (2023:£5,050). Grants were received during the year of £30,000 towards this cost (2024:£24,000).

St Matthew's Parish Church continues to be in a reasonable financial state as at the 31 December 2024 with total cash funds of £18,862 (2023: £78,488).

St Matthew's Parish Church aims to retain sufficient reserves to meet its expected future expenditure requirements as well as potential future capital projects.


Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to reduce these risks.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed its planned expenditure for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds available to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 can be signed off as a going concern.

By order of the Trustees


Trustee

30/10/25
Date

M. Totten
Trustee

30/10/25
Date

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK, including Charities SORP (FRS 102). Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom Law). Under that law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the statement of financial activities of the charity for that period.


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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply the consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that a reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the application of accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained the Financial Statements;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charities website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Trustees


Trustee

30/10/25
Date


Trustee

30/10/25
Date