

Lislimnaghan Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Lislimnaghan Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of Lislimnaghan 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.

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

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefits

Lislimnaghan Parish has weekly services on Sunday morning comprising of a mix of Holy Communion, Family Service, Baptism and Morning Prayer together with various other special services during the year e.g. Lenten, Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are Thursday morning services with refreshments in the week before Christmas and Holy Week. Pastoral care is provided for parishioners and those in the wider community.

A range of other activities are provided by Lislimnaghan Parish either by the church directly or through church organisations e.g. Sunday School, Prayer and Bible Study, Mother's Union, Old Time Dancing, Concerts, and Social Events.

There is inter-church co-operation within the local community. Lislimnaghan Parish plays an active role in Omagh Churches Forum which organised various Christian community events throughout the year.

The Parish supports the work of local and global charities by either making donations or holding special collections or events in respect of the same.

The activities outlined above demonstrate how Lislimnaghan Parish continues to implement its charitable purposes (i.e. the advancement of religion) and meets the Public Benefit requirement. Benefits to members of the public include contributing to spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values.

Lislimnaghan Parish has mitigated any potential harm from the activities through the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Policy.

Lislimnaghan Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

COVID-19

With restrictions now lifted, the church and its organisations have returned to normal with some previous voluntary mitigation now being integrated into the daily running of the church going forward. Facebook has continued to be the medium to share the gospel and the telephone a lifeline to those who are isolating, in poor health or still wary of the continued risks of Covid-19 and other illnesses. We believe these practises are crucial for parishioners who remain wary about attending church.

Financial Review

The Parish is a charitable organisation with their main source of income deriving from members freewill offerings. The results for the year show a surplus of £6,253 [2022: deficit of £8,433].

The Trustees continue to monitor the level of reserves held by the Parish and are actively taking steps to increase the reserves in order to meet any unforeseen expenditure incurred.

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 end 31 December 2023 can be signed 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 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.

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Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The Select Vestry consists of the clergy serving in the parish, the churchwardens, 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 clergy. 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. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 6 times during the year and the average attendance was 75%.

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 benefits.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a Statement of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year.

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

This report was approved by the Trustees on 17th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Derek J. Quinn
Canon Derek Quinn

Sharon McFarland
Mrs Sharon McFarland

17th April 2024