

Desertmartin Parish Church

References and administrative details

Charity Name:	Desertmartin Parish Church
Charity Registration Number:	NIC104698
Contact Address:	The Rectory 25 Dromore Road Desertmartin Magherafelt Co Londonderry BT45 5JZ

Trustees

Mr Ronald Caskey Deceased
Mrs Louise Caskey
Mr Harold Bradley
Mrs Lois Austin
Mrs Barbara Hudson
Mr Samuel Hudson
Miss Hilary Hutchinson
Mrs Jacqueline Johnston
Mrs Lois Kane
Mr Trevor Kingston
Mr Andrew McKeown
Mr Ernest Young
Mr John Woodward
Mrs Pauline Taylor

Principal Office-bearers

Clergy: Rev Philip Benson appointed February 2022
Church Treasurer: Mrs Lois Austin
Church Warden- Clergy: Mrs Pauline Taylor
Church Warden - People: Mr John Woodward

Independent Auditor

D Lyttle + Co Ltd
15 Meeting Street
Magherafelt
Co Londonderry
BT45 6BN

Bankers

Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Desertmartin Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Desertmartin Parish Church for the year ended 31st December 2022

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of Desertmartin Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Desertmartin 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 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, Desertmartin Church of Ireland Parish has custody of property and records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the select vestry of the Desertmartin Church of Ireland Parish. The expression of the precepts of the Christian religion through engagement with the general public, and in particular with the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a public benefit. This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of public worship, and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching.

The beneficiaries are the general public, and the public valuation of the benefits can be evidenced through attendance at public worship, participation in Church governance and willingness to support through contributions to the continuing witness of the Church. The wider benefit to the public will outweigh any detriment arising in the course of Christian outreach. Any private benefit arising out of the fulfilment of our Christian ministry or to lay staff is essential to the fulfilment of the purpose of the advancement of religion. No trustee receives remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their Trustee responsibility.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Desertmartin Parish Church was vacant until February 2022 when the Rev Philip Benson was instituted as the new rector. The church is part of a group with Termoneeny (Knockloughrim) Parish, both under the charge of Rev Philip Benson. Termoneeny share Rectory running costs. As a church we provide a weekly service of Morning Prayer and a once per month service of Holy Communion. We also provide for baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral support. Special services were also held during Lent and at Easter. In addition the parish has hosted religious services in association with local community groups such as the Loyal and Masonic orders, including the Orange Order, the Royal Black Preceptory and The Apprentice Boys of Derry.

The parish would generally conduct weekly acts of public worship, as authorised in the Book of Common Prayer and join with our sister parish for the bi-annual "Confirmation" of faith service, led by the diocesan Bishop. In addition to the joint parish Bible study group the parish has hosted and participated in religious services in association with local community groups such as the local branches of the Loyal Orders. . This year because of the Lockdown due to COVID-19 services were greatly curtailed in the early part of the year. By early April services were back to normal.

The benefits of public worship include contributing to the spiritual well-being of participants, the reinforcement of Christian values, together with practical support to struggling local families through Desertmartin Parish Church partnerships with specialist support organisations.

We have a monthly Parish News which keeps our parishioners up to date with our activities and those in the local community. Our special services at Palm Sunday and our Carol Service at Christmas resumed as normal

Desertmartin Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Children and young people are an important part of our church, children from the Sunday School lead the family service once a month.

Our Child Protection Policy is in accordance with the Safeguarding Trust policies of the Church of Ireland.

We confirm to you we have mitigated any potential harm from the parish's activities by observing the requirements of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. No trustee receives remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their trustee responsibility.

In terms of cross community activity, we host a Ladies Guild group and bowling Club which draw from the local community as a whole. In addition we run a long standing "Vintage Vehicle Rally" which always proves popular and draws interest from across the Mid-Ulster council area and beyond.. We have a joint Prayer Group/Bible Study with Termoneeny Parish.

The church supports mission partners as well as supporting other local charities and missions such as Crosslinks.

The Parish normally runs two major fundraising events each year. The first is a "Vintage Rally" which has been running since 1987, which raises approximately £10,000 per year, but is also a great social event for the entire community. The second is a "Sponsored Cycle" which did not take place this year.

We confirm to you we have mitigated any potential harm from the parish's activities by observing the requirements of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. No trustee receives remuneration, reward or other private benefit for carrying out their trustee responsibility.

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 achieve the parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Financial Review

- The results for the year are set out on page 8, which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.
- The reserves of the Parish are held for the advancement of its charitable purpose, other than restricted reserves which are held for a designated purpose - see note 16, page 14.

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 31 December 2022 can be signed off as a going concern. Termoneeny Parish are also liable for 2/5 of the Rectory running costs/repairs. Balance of this payment will not be received until early 2023.

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 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 3 years, 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.

Pay & Remuneration

The rector is not paid directly by the Parish. A monthly assessment is paid to the Diocese which comprises Stipend, locomotory Allowance, Employer's National Insurance and Employer's Clergy Pension Contributions.

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

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 churchwardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry Meeting.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating 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 fixed by the members or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2022, the Select Vestry met 7 times during the year and the average attendance was 80%.

Statement of Public Benefit

The expression of the precepts of the Christian religion through engagement with the general public, and in particular with the disadvantaged, the sick, the elderly and the young is a public benefit. This can be measured and evidenced through increased social integration and pastoral care delivered at the point of need. The direct benefit of participation in Church life includes the enjoyment of public worship and the giving and receiving of pastoral ministry, improved understanding of the values relating to civic engagement, community cohesion and providing a bridge between diverse groups as well as improved educational outcomes through the Church's ministry of teaching.

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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 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.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



Mr Samuel Hudson
Trustee

Date: 28/10/23



Mrs Lois Austin
Trustee