

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Parish of Errigal & Desertoghill for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of the Parish Church is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Parish Church, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, 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, the Parish has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage. The maintenance of these is undertaken by the Select Vestry of the Parish of Errigal & Desertoghill.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

The Parish of Errigal & Desertoghill has been under the incumbency of Revd. Carmen Hayes from September 2019. 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. We broadcast our services live on our Facebook page.

Our church maintains a link with the other churches in the area. Our Rector visits church members in hospitals, nursing and care homes as well as at home.

Teaching continues in various formats. Sunday School meets prior to our church service during the school year. We launched a new group with special needs children in 2023. Our annual youth event SPARK takes place in the summer. Our social organisations are important and the Mothers Union provides refreshments after funerals. The Bowling Club re-opened in 2023 and meets for a few months each bowling season. Our parish hall and our car park are used by other local community groups and organisations.

Our Select Vestry organise and carry out repairs and maintenance to our two churches, the hall, the graveyard and the rectory.

Our church continues to adhere to the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Code of Conduct and Good Practice for all those working with children and vulnerable adults.

The church organised a fundraiser called 'The 150 Club' during the year which proved very successful. There was also a Harvest concert in October which raised funds as well as bringing the wider community together.

The parish is considered to be in sound financial standing at the close of the financial year ending 31 December 2024.

Financial Review

Financial reports are reviewed throughout the year and there is also a review on completion of the annual accounts.

Total income (£86,243) for the year ended 31st December 2024 was higher than our total expenses (£85,903) by £340. The total value of cash funds held increased to £200,587.

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 2024 can be signed off as a going concern.

A problem with wood worm and dry rot in the church has been identified. The Trustees are seeking financial help through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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 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 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 and 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.

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 and generally not more than twelve other members elected at the General Vestry.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Incumbent. 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, the Secretary or the Church Wardens. In 2024 the Select Vestry met five times during the year and the average attendance was 68%.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Parish of Errigal & Desertoghill 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. There continues to be no private gain to any individual member.

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

Trustee 1 Sharmar Wilson

Trustee 2 Atfayer

Date: 2/7/25