

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 St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland 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 St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland is the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland 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 advancement of the Christian religion, St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland 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 St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefits

St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland has weekly services on Sunday mornings, and also hold special services. This offers an environment of worship and prayer for the local community. Pastoral care is provided for parishioners and those in the wider community. The church is also engaged in mission in the local community and in the wider society.

A range of other activities is provided by St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland either by the church directly or through various church organisations, e.g. Choir, Sunday School, Mothers' Union, Thursday Luncheon Club, Badminton, Bowls.

There is an effective inter-church co-operation within the local community, including involvement with the Londonderry Churches Trust, the local Clergy, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The activities outlined above demonstrate how St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland 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.

St. Peter's Derry Church of Ireland has mitigated any potential harm from the activities through the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Policy, regarding children; Adult Safeguarding, and Dignity in Church Life Policies.

Financial Review

The Parish income for the year 2024 is £54,717 (2023 £39,145) with outgoings of £44,955 (2023 £46,581) resulting in a surplus of £9,762. The main source of income is from free will offerings and gift-aid claims.

The bank balance at 31 December was £19,279.

The Trustee's policy on holding reserves is to hold a level of unrestricted funding to meet at least one year's running costs.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the Budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there 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.

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 to the number of terms which may be served.

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, any curate assistant ("the curate"), 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 or another 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 church wardens. In 2024 the Select Vestry met three times during the year, and the average attendance was 85%.

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



Ven Robert Miller (Rector)



Mr Brian Seaton (Hon Treasurer)

Date: 1-10-25