



**ST MELLAN'S PARISH CHURCH, AGHADERG, LOUGHBRICKLAND**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

The trustees present the Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for St Mellan's Church, Aghaderg Parish for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Objectives and Activities**

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

The principal function of St Mellan's Church, Aghaderg Parish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of St Mellan's Church, Aghaderg 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, St Mellan's Church, Aghaderg Parish 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 Mellan's Church, Aghaderg Parish.

**Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit 2023 (2022 in brackets)**

The Parish continued to have regular services of worship throughout the year 2023. This year we continued to meet every Sunday except for one where the grouped parishes came together for a joint service and lunch at Donaghmore Church to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Services ceased to be broadcast on YouTube unless there was a specific request or a special service. There were 52 (52) main Sunday morning worship services in 2023 (2022) with an average congregation of 31 (27). The average number of communicants each month was 25 (22). As well as 8 (6) other Occasional Services, there were 0 (2) Baptisms, 0 (0) Marriages, 3 (7) Burials (2 parishioners, 1 non-parishioners). On Christmas Day a service was held at Aghaderg Church at 8.30am and the attendance was 19 (20). For a few months a mid-week Holy Communion service was held, shared with Scarva and the average attendance was 7 (5).

Pastoral work continued throughout 2023 with very little restrictions in place due to covid. The priority of the minister in charge is the edelerly, sick and bereaved. Other visiting takes place as and when time permits.

**ST MELLAN'S PARISH CHURCH, AGHADERG, LOUGHBRICKLAND**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

Church organisations include a Ladies Guild group, a Sunday School and a Youth Fellowship. The Sunday School teachers have been vetted through Access NI and we have officers in place in line with the Church of Ireland Policy on Safeguarding Trust. The parish-wide 'Steadfast' Youth Fellowship is continuing and going very well, with a regular attendance and everyone keen to see it progress in the future. In Autumn 2023 a short Bible study series was introduced and was held at the rectory. All three parishes were represented at the meetings and it was a good time spent with others seeking to develop further their faith in Jesus. A special service was held in Aghaderg Church of 'Royal Hymns' to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, with special guests attending.

Repairs and general maintenance were continued on the Church property during 2023.

**Financial Review 2023 (2022 in brackets)**

The income into the Parish's funds from various sources was £268,700 (£110,594) with outgoings of £109,166 (£186,044) giving a surplus of £159,534 (deficit £75,090).

The bank and cash in hand balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £183,318 (£25,037). The balance of investments held within the RCB Investment funds was £37,976 (£36,723). It is the trustee's policy to hold sufficient reserves to cover unexpected emergencies, to build up funds to pay for future maintenance to the Church, Parish hall and grounds, and to further the objectives and activities of the Church of Ireland.

**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 2023 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 Organisations. The select vestry members are the charity trustees.

**ST MELLAN'S PARISH CHURCH, AGHADERG, LOUGHBRICKLAND**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

***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 meeting 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 selected 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.

**Pay and remuneration**

The Reverend Rodney Magennis was appointed as Minister in charge of the grouped parishes of Aghaderg, Donaghmore and Scarva in July 2023. Reverend Magennis was introduced at a special service in September that year, where he received a stipend, office and locomotory allowance.

The trustee Mrs Anne McCullough received £1,311 in 2024 for playing the organ.

**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, the Glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the general vestry as elected.

The select vestry is chaired by the member of the clergy officiating at 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.

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



**Church of Ireland**

*A province of the Anglican Communion*

**ST MELLAN'S PARISH CHURCH, AGHADERG, LOUGHBRICKLAND**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

**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**

*Rodney Magennis*

**Trustee 2**

*R Fegan*

**12th March 2024**