

Rossorry Parish Church

Reference and administrative details

Rev Stephen McWhirter

Rector of Rossorry Parish

Board of Trustees / Select Vestry

Mr George Robert Elliott
Mrs Dorothy Helen Wilson
Mr Gary Nixon Johnston
Mrs Joy Coalter
Mr Robert Wesley Wilson
Mrs Lorraine Gladys Simpson
Mr Albert Armstrong
Mr George Armstrong
Mr Kenneth Brownlee
Mr Brian Donaldson
Mr Nigel Irvine
Mrs Catherine Irwin
Mr Ian Alexander Kells
Mrs Florrie Little
Mr Adrian Lucy
Mr Gerard O'Callaghan
Mr David Purdy

Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Secretary
Rector's Church Warden
People's Church Warden
Rector's Glebe Warden
People's Glebe Warden

Registered office

20 Drummee Road
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 5JX

Charity registration number

NIC105424

Independent examiners

CavanaghKelly
1 Broadmeadow Place
Castle Island Court
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7HR

Rossorry Parish Church

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Rossorry Parish for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Reference and Administration Details

The reference and administration details of the charity are as shown on page 3.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

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

The principal function of Rossorry 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, the 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 the parish.

Achievements and Performance

As a Parish Church with a clear Anglican identity, Rossorry Parish aims to be the spiritual home of all our parishioners regardless of age. To achieve this, we offer a variety of services of worship and activities.

Following the disruption of Church life and common society caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2022 'in church' worship resumed full time, although throughout most of the year some restrictions remained. The online services provided throughout the pandemic were still in place. In all 64 services were held in church, the same 64 services were published on Facebook and the Parish Website. The parish continues to use the expanded news sheet with scripture readings included, these are available at every service. As best practice the Celebrating Clergy and Parish Readers continue to use hand sanitiser during the service of Holy Communion.

Following a period of vacancy, The Rev Stephen McWhirter was nominated and appointed as the new Rector of the parish in June 2022. He was then instituted as Rector in a service at the beginning of November 2022. Along with the Rector, worship each week is supported by two Parish Readers, an Organist and Choir. As part of our pastoral ministry to the parish in 2022 officiating clergy presided over 7 Baptisms, 6 Weddings and 14 Funerals. Traditionally the parish has been supported by two Diocesan Pastoral Assistants, which towards the end of 2022, was reduced to one due to retirement. With the fall in numbers being visited the Select Vestry have decided the parish would be better supported in resourcing two Young Family Visitors to visit and support the families of babies and children being presented for Baptism. We look forward to the outworking of this new ministry throughout 2023 as we seek to encourage young families to come to church week by week.

The Parish family and wider community, along with divine worship, benefit from the use of the Parochial Hall. This includes our own Sunday School, Youth & Adult Organisations, along with a number of community-based groups. We are delighted that over the period of review in 2022 all organisations and groups who traditionally used the Halls have now resumed meeting.

The parish supports those in need both locally and further afield through its donations to missions and charities. The parish has made a number of charitable donations to our local Food Bank following its introduction during the pandemic and the Parish now make collections and supports this initiative on a permanent basis. We also support our local primary schools to support needy families.

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Vacant positions, normally held by the parish rector, on the Boards of Governors of several local schools have also been filled with the appointment of The Rev Stephen McWhirter.

The Select Vestry are in the process of seeking tenders for a long planned new Parish Centre, sadly stalled by the pandemic. Full Planning Permission and approval of plans submitted to the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council are all in order. Following the building of this new Centre the Select Vestry will again consider the renovation and modernisation of the existing Parochial Hall.

Rossorry is privileged to have a magnificent parish Church as place of worship within a beautiful setting. The upkeep of this building and its environs is a key priority of the Select Vestry.

The parish enjoys very good community relations with its neighbouring churches and has a strong standing link with the local Graan Passionist Monastery and its clergy.

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

Rossorry Parish adheres to Safeguarding Trust, the Church of Ireland Child Protection Policy. It also follows Church of Ireland guidance to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulations.

Public Benefit Statement

The Parish's Trustees have 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 as well as providing public benefit.

The Trustees of the parish confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year ended 31 December 2022.

Financial Review

Financial Performance

The financial performance was in line with the trustees' expectations. The parish remains in a sound financial position at the year end. The results for the year are set out in detail on page 9 of the accounts.

Reserves Policy

The trustees do not have a formal reserves policy. The parish holds a significant level of unrestricted funds in bank accounts and the trustees are confident that there are sufficient funds to meet the foreseeable needs of the parish.

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.

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Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of eighteen 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 members 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 of office which may be served.

Pay and remuneration

The stipend of the Incumbent of the parish (the Rector) is paid in accordance with figures approved by the Clogher Diocese and the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

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 church wardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the General Vestry.

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 anytime by the chairperson or church wardens. In 2022 the select vestry met nine times and the average attendance was 80%.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. 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.

Statement as to disclosure to our Independent Examiners

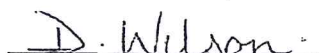
In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information of which the parish's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the parish's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiners

CavanaghKelly, Chartered Accountants, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Select Vestry Meeting.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mrs Dorothy Helen Wilson
Honorary Secretary**