

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Holy Trinity Church Dromore for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

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

The principal function of Holy Trinity Church Dromore is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Holy Trinity Church Dromore 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, Holy Trinity Church Dromore has custody of property and of records, materials, and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage of the area, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Select Vestry of Holy Trinity Church Dromore.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

Holy Trinity Church Dromore has offered both 'in-Church worship' and online services on Sunday mornings and at other times. All services were streamed through Facebook Live and later uploaded to YouTube (61 services in 2023). CDs and DVDs of the services were produced for those parishioners who were housebound or who did not have access to the Internet and were then delivered by a small team around the homes.

A range of other activities was also provided by Holy Trinity Church Dromore either by the Church directly or through various Church organizations (e.g. Junior Sunday School, Church Lads' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society, Ignite Youth Group, Prayer & Bible Study and Mothers' Union). Our Parents and Toddlers group (The ARK), which has good cross community support, continues to have its weekly meetings.

Parishioners continue to support the Enniskillen Foodbank, through regular donations of food brought to the church porch or to the Rectory and then delivered to Enniskillen. Over the past year this has amounted to substantial amounts of food and other items being donated to the Foodbank, as well as monetary donations. Some parishioners have also helped from time to time at the Foodbank.

A number of members of Holy Trinity Church Dromore serve on the Board of Governors of the local Dromore Controlled Primary School and support and encourage the work of the school helping to maintain good standards and practices.

From its first support in 2009 and continuing to the present, Holy Trinity Church Dromore continues to fundraise for the Fields of Life Charity, providing educational opportunities for deprived communities in East Africa. This is done through donations, clothes collections, events, and a child sponsorship programme.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Holy Trinity Church Dromore supports the work of several other charities and missionary work by either making donations or holding special collections in respect of same.

The activities outlined above demonstrate how Holy Trinity Church Dromore continues to implement its charitable purposes (i.e. the advancement of religion) and meet the Public benefit requirement. Benefits to members of the public include contributing to spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values. It is hoped that more activities will take place during 2024 in partnership with other denominations in the local area.

Holy Trinity Church Dromore continues to support our bereaved members by providing funeral teas on our premises. This has been facilitated by our Mothers' Union and friends and was much appreciated by those families affected.

All our helpers have participated in Good Food Hygiene Courses and this will continue on an on-going basis.

Holy Trinity Church Dromore has mitigated any potential harm from the activities through the implementation of the Church of Ireland policy on Safeguarding Trust. We have also drawn up and are implementing a policy on GDPR and continue the process of getting positive consent from those currently on our register.

Holy Trinity Church Dromore 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, as well as providing public benefit.

Financial Review

- The principal source of income of Holy Trinity Church Dromore continues to be from Donations Plate Collections and Investment Income from Endowments, as well as the receipt of occasional Legacies.
- The principal expense of Holy Trinity Church Dromore is in respect of payments regarding Diocesan Costs/Assessment.
- Holy Trinity Church Dromore had a surplus of receipts over payments of £26,114.02 for the year ended 31 December 2023.
- Holy Trinity Church Dromore continues to be in a healthy financial state as at 31 December 2023 with total cash funds of £99,600.02.
- Holy Trinity Church Dromore aims to retain sufficient reserves to meet its expected future expenditure requirements as well as potential future capital projects.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the planned expenditure 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 projections for the year ahead to 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 on 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, 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 2023 the Select Vestry met 7 times during the year and the average attendance was 81%.

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.

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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 (excluding Endowment Income) 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 *Robert Thompson*
Church Warden

Trustee 2 *Charles Kenwell*
Church Treasurer

Date *21.4.2024*