

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106767

Details

Known as Archdiocese of Armagh

Status Received

Company number [15284](#)

Registered 2018-06-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Purposes: (1) The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition of area made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church (2) The advancement of any charitable purpose (as defined by the law in Northern Ireland), supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world or in any part of the world.

What the charity does: The advancement of religion

How the charity works: Religious activities

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£16,169,680	£14,299,120	£-2,205,687	194

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Garvey		
Enda McLernon		
Most Reverend Eamon Martin		
Most Reverend Michael Router		
Rhona Quinn		
Right Reverend Colum Curry		
Very Reverend Eugene Sweeney		
Very Reverend Kevin Donaghy		
Very Reverend Mark O'hagan		
Very Reverend Peter Mcanenly		
Very Reverend Peter Murphy		

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Accounts

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Parishes Unrestricted funds £	Parishes Restricted funds £	Parishes Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Curia Restricted funds £	Curia Total funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income and endowments from:									
Collections, donations and legacies	2	-	10,207,423	10,207,423	-	1,098,404	1,098,404	11,305,827	11,511,493
Investment income	3	-	45,587	45,587	26,674	787,004	813,678	859,265	616,102
Charitable activities	4	-	2,426,428	2,426,428	33,623	605,326	638,949	3,065,377	2,538,374
Other income		-	233,605	233,605	41,850	20,929	62,779	296,384	468,829
		-	12,913,043	12,913,043	102,147	2,511,663	2,613,810	15,526,853	15,134,798
Expenditure on:									
Cost of raising funds	6	-	300,986	300,986	-	7,247	7,247	308,233	261,343
Charitable expenditure	7	-	12,582,412	12,582,412	67,475	1,277,373	1,344,848	13,927,260	12,676,714
Investment management costs	8	-	-	-	-	63,627	63,627	63,627	94,387
		-	12,883,398	12,883,398	67,475	1,348,247	1,415,722	14,299,120	13,032,444
TOTAL		-	29,645	29,645	34,672	1,163,416	1,198,088	1,227,733	2,102,354
Net income / (expenditure)	10	-	29,645	29,645	34,672	1,163,416	1,198,088	1,227,733	2,102,354
Net gains on investments	13	-	8,666	8,666	-	87,402	87,402	96,068	626,792
Transfers between funds	17	-	361,056	361,056	(43,287)	(317,769)	(361,056)	-	-
Net operating income/(expenditure)		-	399,367	399,367	(8,615)	933,049	924,434	1,323,801	2,729,146
Other recognised gains and losses									
Net gains on disposal of assets	5	-	642,827	642,827	-	-	-	642,827	368,672
Net movement on funds		-	1,042,194	1,042,194	(8,615)	933,049	924,434	1,966,628	3,097,818
Total funds brought forward		-	92,314,512	92,314,512	593,347	18,377,341	18,970,688	111,285,200	109,120,970
Currency translation differences		-	(697,971)	(697,971)	(252)	(114,194)	(114,446)	(812,417)	(933,588)
Fund balance carried forward	21	-	92,658,735	92,658,735	584,480	19,196,196	19,780,676	112,439,411	111,285,200

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Balance Sheet 31 March 2025

	Note	Parishes	Curia	Total	Total
		£	£	2025	2024
				£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	68,192,885	4,513,302	72,706,187	74,040,651
Investment properties	12	1,039,569	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Investments	13	290,577	13,513,262	13,803,839	15,554,699
		69,523,031	18,329,896	87,852,927	90,938,251
Stock		31,645	-	31,645	30,663
Debtors	14	2,026,558	477,422	2,503,980	2,459,007
Cash at bank and on hand		11,336,278	12,920,268	24,256,546	20,988,586
		13,394,481	13,397,690	26,792,171	23,478,256
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,343,492)	(557,195)	(1,900,687)	(2,826,307)
Net current assets		12,050,989	12,840,495	24,891,484	20,651,949
Consolidation Fund					
Due from parishes to the Consolidation Fund		(2,293,445)	2,293,445	-	-
Due to parishes from the Consolidation Fund		13,378,160	(13,378,160)	-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		92,658,735	20,085,676	112,744,411	111,590,200
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	-	(305,000)	(305,000)	(305,000)
Total assets less current liabilities		92,658,735	19,780,676	112,439,411	111,285,200
Unrestricted funds	17	-	584,480	584,480	593,347
Restricted funds	17	92,658,735	19,196,196	111,854,931	110,691,853
Total charity funds		92,658,735	19,780,676	112,439,411	111,285,200

The financial statements were approved by the charity on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

+ *Samon Martin*

Most Reverend Eamon Martin

Archbishop of Armagh

Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

The notes on pages 34 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Cashflow Statement 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash flow from operations	20	1,683,792	1,879,603
Finance costs		(85,337)	(89,142)
Net cash generated from operating activities		1,598,455	1,790,461
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(490,865)	(1,674,434)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		959,853	377,472
Sale of investments		3,709,549	2,211,440
Purchase of investments		(2,108,612)	(2,215,894)
Investment portfolio liquid asset movement		239,668	(111,633)
Finance income		369,905	145,882
Net cash received/(paid) in investing activities		2,679,498	(1,267,167)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		4,277,953	523,294
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at beginning of the year		19,587,694	19,064,400
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at end of the year		23,865,647	19,587,694

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the "charity") is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Northern Ireland. The Registered Office is given in the charity information on page 3. The Council of the Trust members of the charity are the directors named on page 3. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition of area made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church.

The advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world or in any part of the world.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the charity believes that no material uncertainties exist. The charity has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Base currency

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2019 (SORP 2019), the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (NI) 2015, the Charities Acts (NI 2008 and 2022), the Companies Act 2006 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK.

Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires the charity to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

The judgments (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Tangible assets

The net book value of property held at 1 April 2018 was established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%. Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, with the exception of investment land, to arrive at deemed cost.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Valuation of investment properties

The charity carries the investment properties at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA). The charity has used internal expertise available to determine the fair value, based on market value of the investment properties. Further information is available at note 12.

Provisions for liabilities and charges – legal claims

The charity has provided for the value of claims and the associated legal costs that have been notified to them. The charity has taken advice from the solicitors engaged in the claims to arrive at the amount provided. The details of the amount provided is included in note 16.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Offertories and collections are included in income when received. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustee's Annual Report.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Income recognition (continued)

Income from fundraising events and other activities is recognised when entitlement has occurred. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives grants in respect of the upkeep of properties. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising from within the Parishes and Curia.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes administration costs, bank fees, depreciation and premises expenses.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Resources expended

Resource expended are included in the statement of financial affairs on the basis of the amounts payable for work done and services provided in the year.

The costs of generating funds consist of expenditure incurred by the charity in encouraging others to make contributions to it.

The costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objectives consist of all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the Diocese.

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures and controls, provision of general office services and equipment and a suitable working environment. All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity of the Charity i.e. advancing the Roman Catholic faith primarily within the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs incurred in respect of its compliance with regulation and good practice.

All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity namely the costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objective.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Tangible fixed assets

Land and buildings

Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, depending upon the type of land that is held, to arrive at deemed cost.

Prior to activation of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited on the 1 April 2018, the accounting policy applied to most buildings was for capital expenditure to be written off in full as incurred. As a result of that policy, the original costs and accumulated depreciation of most property held then was not available. The charity's view was that a reasonable approximation of the net book value of property held at 1 April 2018, the date the assets were assumed into St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, would be established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%.

This was the policy employed to include the assets for which the cost could not be identified on the balance sheet at estimated historic cost net of accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its estimated useful economic life at 1% for church buildings and 2% for all other buildings.

Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Additions are capitalised where the value exceeds £5,000. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15%, 25% straight line and 20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% straight line
Land is not depreciated.	

Investment properties

Investments are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA.

Investments

Investments are recognised at market value at the balance sheet date which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs.

Current asset investments are short term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less. For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the SoFA unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are initially recognised by applying to the foreign currency amount the spot exchange rate between the functional currency and the foreign currency at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency at the balance sheet date are translated using the closing rate.

Pensions

The pension costs for the charity's pension schemes are charged in the year they are incurred.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Tax

It is considered that the charity is largely exempt from income tax in Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and the Taxation of Taxable Gains Act 1992 and in the Republic of Ireland under the provision s84A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Recovery is made of tax deducted from Income and from receipts under Gift Aid in Northern Ireland and CHY charitable donations scheme in the Republic of Ireland. The charity was not able to recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

Financial Instruments

The charity has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

(i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and amounts owed by related companies are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in SoFA.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the SoFA.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans and overdrafts and hire purchase contracts are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Collections, donations and legacies

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Offertories and collections	-	8,057,066	8,057,066	8,232,579
Donations and legacies	-	1,143,674	1,143,674	841,080
Charitable tax relief	-	1,006,683	1,006,683	931,265
	-	10,207,423	10,207,423	10,004,924

Curia

Offertories and collections	-	12,586	12,586	50,360
Donations and legacies	-	1,021,048	1,021,048	1,381,408
Levy Income	-	64,770	64,770	74,801
	-	1,098,404	1,098,404	1,506,569

All voluntary income for Parishes and Curia was restricted in 2024.

3. Investment income

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	1,250	1,250	-
Bank interest	-	44,337	44,337	9,489
	-	45,587	45,587	9,489

Curia

Income from investment properties	26,674	-	26,674	25,300
Income from listed investments		461,436	461,436	444,920
Bank interest		325,568	325,568	136,393
	26,674	787,004	813,678	606,613

All investment income, with the exception of income from investment properties, was restricted in 2024.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Charitable activities

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Grants received	-	126,255	126,255	171,854
Fundraising	-	1,087,595	1,087,595	790,687
Rental income	-	984,855	984,855	891,071
Grave fees	-	227,723	227,723	178,617
	-	2,426,428	2,426,428	2,032,229

Curia

Grants received	33,623	-	33,623	46,111
Pilgrimages/retreats	-	524,923	524,923	382,764
Fundraising	-	80,403	80,403	77,270
	33,623	605,326	638,949	506,145

All income from charitable activities, with the exception of £13,991 was restricted in 2024.

5. Net gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets				
Parishes	-	642,827	642,827	368,672
	-	642,827	642,827	368,672

The net gain on disposals of £368,672 was restricted in 2024.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Costs of raising funds

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising expenses	-	300,986	300,986	253,384
	-	300,986	300,986	253,384

Curia

Fundraising expenses	-	7,247	7,247	7,959
	-	7,247	7,247	7,959

The cost of raising funds in Parishes and Curia was restricted in 2024.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Charitable Expenditure

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Administration costs	-	179,150	179,150	187,051
Legal and professional fees	-	49,133	49,133	53,970
Bank charges	-	75,413	75,413	74,373
Clergy revenue payments	-	1,446,907	1,446,907	1,429,229
Pastoral personnel	-	69,396	69,396	83,341
Premises costs	-	1,870,756	1,870,756	1,837,721
Votives and liturgical costs	-	573,340	573,340	590,567
Parish centre costs	-	244,514	244,514	193,283
Gross salaries and employer NIC/PRSI/pensions	-	1,752,861	1,752,861	1,728,245
Rates and insurance	-	707,171	707,171	706,075
Repairs and maintenance	-	2,937,842	2,937,842	2,461,505
Exchange (gain)/loss	-	38,628	38,628	23,979
Sundry expenses	-	200,422	200,422	210,805
Depreciation	-	830,102	830,102	841,596
School payments	-	16,724	16,724	8,967
Charitable donations	-	60,973	60,973	47,422
Diocesan levy	-	1,529,080	1,529,080	980,733
	-	12,582,412	12,582,412	11,458,862

All charitable expenditure for Parishes was restricted in 2024.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Charitable Expenditure (continued)

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
Administration costs	157,237	43,475	200,712	120,460	41,768	162,228
Bad Debts	-	68,426	68,426	-	-	-
Bank interest and fees	7,646	2,278	9,924	10,821	3,948	14,769
Clergy revenue payments	-	59,789	59,789	-	60,725	60,725
Pastoral personnel	18,000	-	18,000	18,000	-	18,000
Cathedral repairs and maintenance	393	-	393	4,620	-	4,620
Office premises costs	22,971	-	22,971	16,787	-	16,787
Repairs and maintenance	27,100	-	27,100	9,692	-	9,692
Gross salaries and employer's NIC/PRSI/pension	298,724	87,757	386,481	346,760	84,636	431,396
Rates and insurance	22,364	-	22,364	9,997	-	9,997
Exchange (gain) / loss	(15,808)	(3,061)	(18,869)	(14,954)	(41,470)	(56,424)
Sundry expenses	18,044	15,194	33,238	39,873	36,948	76,821
Depreciation	-	15,629	15,629	-	15,629	15,629
Safeguarding costs	45,268	-	45,268	39,404	-	39,404
Compensation claims and legal fees	-	-	-	-	(346,682)	(346,682)
Irish Episcopal Conference	76,305	-	76,305	82,744	-	82,744
Clergy students' fees and ongoing clergy formation	-	437,638	437,638	-	412,539	412,539
Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission	-	37,888	37,888	-	39,331	39,331
Pilgrimages and retreats	-	652,277	652,277	-	490,519	490,519
Retirement, sickness & special assistance grants	-	448,096	448,096	-	408,183	408,183
Governance costs (note 9)	29,780	-	29,780	25,800	-	25,800
VHI health insurance	-	76,384	76,384	-	77,039	77,039
Pastoral expenses	136,098	56,228	192,326	109,752	61,734	171,486
Charitable donations	20,000	11,808	31,808	20,000	13,982	33,982
Parish levy	(796,647)	(732,433)	(1,529,080)	(693,060)	(287,673)	(980,733)
	67,475	1,277,373	1,344,848	146,696	1,071,156	1,217,852

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

8. Investment management costs

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	63,627	63,627	94,387
	-	63,627	63,627	94,387

9. Governance costs

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Fees paid to external auditors for audit	29,780	-	29,780	25,800
	29,780	-	29,780	25,800

10. Net income / expenditure

Net income / expenditure is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Auditors' remuneration - audit	29,780	25,800
Depreciation - restricted funds	845,731	857,225

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

11. Staff numbers, costs and pension contributions

The average number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Curia employees	15	15
Parish employees	179	186
	<hr/> 194	<hr/> 201

The aggregate payroll costs for the above were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,002,256	2,019,823
Social security costs	119,703	124,011
Employer pension contributions	17,383	15,807
	<hr/> 2,139,342	<hr/> 2,159,641

No employees received remuneration in the band £80,000 to £89,999.

The charity makes payments through pension auto enrolment in respect of eligible employees.

The Charity considers that its key management personnel comprise the Directors, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Financial Administrator and Diocesan Director for Safeguarding. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the financial year is £145,476 (2024: £135,033).

Indemnity insurance for directors' liability has been purchased by the Charity.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets

Parishes

	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2024	4,455,190	57,742,727	5,687,589	6,932,156	126,358	13,140	74,957,160	1,039,569
Foreign exchange	(16,647)	(527,960)	(50,835)	(44,779)	(624)	-	(640,845)	-
Disposals	(27,300)	-	(127,538)	(205,105)	-	-	(359,943)	-
At 31 March 2025	4,411,243	57,214,767	5,509,216	6,682,272	125,734	13,140	73,956,372	1,039,569
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2024	-	3,464,561	663,658	824,499	63,883	3,000	5,019,601	-
Foreign exchange	-	(31,678)	(6,020)	(5,373)	(227)	-	(43,298)	-
Charge for the year	-	572,148	110,185	136,645	8,589	2,535	830,102	-
Disposals	-	-	(15,305)	(27,613)	-	-	(42,918)	-
At 31 March 2025	-	4,005,031	752,518	928,158	72,245	5,535	5,763,487	-

NET BOOK VALUE

31 March 2025	4,411,243	53,209,736	4,756,698	5,754,114	53,489	7,605	68,192,885	1,039,569
31 March 2024	4,455,190	54,278,166	5,023,931	6,107,657	62,475	10,140	69,937,559	1,039,569

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Curia

	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2024	308,490	-	-	3,887,866	37,214	-	4,233,570	303,332
Foreign Exchange				(65,026)			(65,026)	
Additions	-	-	-	490,865	-	-	490,865	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	308,490	-	-	4,313,705	37,214	-	4,659,409	303,332
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-	93,264	37,214	-	130,478	-
Charge for the year	-	-	-	15,629	-	-	15,629	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-	108,893	37,214	-	146,107	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2025	308,490	-	-	4,204,812	-	-	4,513,302	303,332
31 March 2024	308,490	-	-	3,794,602	-	-	4,103,092	303,332

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Total	Freehold land £	Churches £	Houses £	Halls and other properties £	Parish equipment £	Motor vehicles £	TOTAL £	Freehold investment properties £
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2024	4,763,680	57,742,727	5,687,589	10,820,022	163,572	13,140	79,190,730	1,342,901
Foreign exchange	(16,647)	(527,960)	(50,835)	(109,806)	(624)	-	(705,872)	-
Additions	-	-	-	490,865	-	-	490,865	-
Disposals	(27,300)	-	(127,538)	(205,105)	-	-	(359,943)	-
At 31 March 2025	4,719,733	57,214,767	5,509,216	10,995,976	162,948	13,140	78,615,780	
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2024	-	3,464,561	663,658	917,763	101,097	3,000	5,150,079	-
Foreign exchange	-	(31,678)	(6,020)	(5,373)	(227)	-	(43,298)	-
Charge for the year	-	572,148	110,185	152,274	8,589	2,535	845,731	-
Disposals	-	-	(15,305)	(27,613)	-	-	(42,918)	-
At 31 March 2025	-	4,005,031	752,518	1,037,051	109,459	5,535	5,909,593	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2025	4,719,733	53,209,736	4,756,698	9,958,925	53,489	7,605	72,706,187	1,342,901
31 March 2024	4,763,680	54,278,166	5,023,931	9,902,259	62,475	10,140	74,040,651	1,342,901

The investment properties have been valued at fair value by the charity on the basis of market value.

Halls and other properties include an amount of £3,532,247 in respect of an asset under construction and this element has not been depreciated.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Investments		
Opening at 1 st April 2024	15,554,699	14,819,421
Foreign exchange	(6,325)	(7,601)
Additions	2,108,612	2,215,894
Disposal proceeds	(3,709,549)	(2,211,440)
Net realised investment gains	396,602	150,832
Net unrealised investment (losses)/gains	(300,532)	475,960
Net movement in cash and short-term deposits	(239,668)	111,633
Closing at 31 March 2025	13,803,839	15,554,699

14. Debtors

	2025			2024		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Gift aid/CHY tax relief	1,093,372	-	1,093,372	913,447	-	913,447
Prepayments	272,796	43,511	316,307	173,822	21,867	195,689
Other debtors	660,390	433,911	1,094,301	859,442	490,429	1,349,871
	2,026,558	477,422	2,503,980	1,946,711	512,296	2,459,007

15. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2025			2024		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Bank overdrafts	379,041	11,858	390,899	366,123	1,034,769	1,400,892
Creditors and accruals	692,808	529,691	1,222,499	343,325	767,553	1,110,878
Other creditors	253,112	-	253,112	264,725	-	264,725
Tax and social security	18,531	15,646	34,177	53,477	(3,665)	49,812
	1,343,492	557,195	1,900,687	1,027,650	1,798,657	2,826,307

16. Provisions

The charity has included a provision in these financial statements of £305,000 (2024: £305,000) to cover legal claims and costs. They have made this provision in this year's financial statements based upon legal advice on the likely outcome of these cases.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

17. Movement in funds

	Opening balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Other gains / (losses)	Exchange	Transfers	Closing Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds							
Parishes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curia	593,347	102,147	(67,475)	-	(252)	(43,287)	584,480
Total unrestricted funds	593,347	102,147	(67,475)	-	(252)	(43,287)	584,480
Restricted funds – Parishes							
Parishes	92,314,512	12,913,043	(12,883,398)	651,493	(697,971)	361,056	92,658,735
Restricted funds – Curia							
Curial Funds	176,792	397,281	(223,221)	6,314	(883)	(284,347)	71,936
Clerical Formation and Education	9,252,108	1,581,217	(610,028)	32,359	(85,310)	(315,490)	9,854,856
Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society	6,726,084	584,639	(584,598)	38,770	-	273,574	7,038,469
General Charities Fund	507,077	17,713	(16,115)	3,051	-	-	511,726
Welfare Society	1,291,394	37,015	(15,214)	6,908	-	8,494	1,328,597
Lourdes Pilgrimage	423,886	641,215	(646,488)	-	(28,001)	-	390,612
Diocesan levies	18,377,341	(747,417)	747,417	-	-	-	-
		2,511,663	(1,348,247)	87,402	(114,194)	(317,769)	19,196,196
Total restricted funds	110,691,853	15,424,707	(14,231,645)	738,895	(812,165)	43,287	111,854,931
Total funds	111,285,200	15,526,854	(14,299,120)	738,895	(812,417)	-	112,439,411

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

18. Capital commitments

The charity had capital commitments amounting to £1,885,148 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £38,446).

19. Amounts held as agent

There are various collections taken up during the year within the Diocese that are collections undertaken as agent on behalf of other organisations. These funds are lodged to the bank and then paid to the individual organisations. The asset and liability are not recognised within these financial statements. The amount of funds held by the charity was £23,729 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £117,252).

20. Reconciliation of net income to net inflow/(outflow) of cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income for the year	1,966,628	3,097,818
<u>Adjustments for:</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	845,731	857,225
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(642,827)	(368,672)
Foreign exchange movements	(143,524)	(203,560)
Finance income	(369,905)	(145,882)
Finance costs	85,337	89,142
Movement in inventories	(982)	(5,124)
Movement in receivables	(44,972)	(122,711)
Movement in creditors and other payables	84,374	234,159
Movement in provisions for liabilities	-	(926,000)
Movement in market value of investment portfolio	(96,068)	(626,792)
Net cash inflow of cash generated from operations	1,683,792	1,879,603

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Parishes		2025		Curia		2025		2024	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Parishes Restricted	Parishes Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Curia Total	Curia Total	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	68,192,885	68,192,885	68,192,885	857,178	3,656,124	4,513,302	4,513,302	72,706,187	74,040,651
Investment properties	-	1,039,569	1,039,569	1,039,569	303,332	-	303,332	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Fixed asset investments	-	290,577	290,577	290,577	218,650	13,513,262	13,513,262	13,513,262	13,803,839	15,554,699
Bank balances / (overdraft)	-	10,957,237	10,957,237	10,957,237	218,650	12,689,760	12,908,410	12,908,410	23,865,647	19,587,694
Other net current assets / (liabilities)	-	1,093,753	1,093,753	1,093,753	(123,988)	56,072	(67,916)	(67,916)	1,025,837	1,064,255
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	-	-	-	-	(305,000)	(305,000)	(305,000)	(305,000)	(305,000)
Inter parishes and Curia loans (net)	-	11,084,714	11,084,714	11,084,714	(670,692)	(10,414,022)	(11,084,714)	(11,084,714)	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	-	92,658,735	92,658,735	92,658,735	584,480	19,196,196	19,780,676	19,780,676	112,439,411	111,285,200

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

22. Financial Instruments

The charity has the following financial instruments	2025	2024
	£	£
Financial assets		
Cash held at bank and in hand	24,256,546	20,988,586
Other debtors and accrued income	1,137,812	1,371,738
Financial assets held at amortised cost	25,394,358	22,360,324
Financial liabilities		
Bank overdraft	390,899	1,400,892
Accruals	1,222,499	1,110,878
Other creditors	253,113	264,725
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost	1,866,511	2,776,495

23. Contingent Liability

A contingent liability exists for potential additional liabilities for legal costs that may fall due, but the amounts and timing of any such potential payments for additional liabilities for legal costs cannot be estimated with any reasonable certainty and, therefore, no provision has been made in these financial statements.

24. Directors' Remuneration

The directors neither received, nor waived, any emoluments nor made a claim for expenses incurred relating to duties carried out for the charity. Eight (2024: eight) directors of the charity received stipends, in aggregate, totalling £163,799 for the year to 31 March 2025 (2024: £170,176). These stipends were paid to them in respect of their role as serving Ministers of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh and not as a result of their director role. No pension contributions were paid on their behalf. Accommodation is provided for them exclusively as a consequence of their ministries within the Diocese.

25. Related Party Transactions

The charity has identified the following transaction that falls to be disclosed under FRS 102 Section 33 - Related Party Disclosures. The trustees are deemed to be related parties, as are any entities in which they have a key interest. During the year, building work totalling £90,000 was undertaken by a company in which one of the trustees has an interest.

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Accounts

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Parishes Unrestricted funds £	Parishes Restricted funds £	Parishes Total funds £	Curia Unrestricted funds £	Curia Restricted funds £	Curia Total funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income and endowments from:									
Collections, donations and legacies	2	-	10,004,924	10,004,924	-	1,506,569	1,506,569	11,511,493	11,256,775
Investment income	3	-	9,489	9,489	25,300	581,313	606,613	616,102	519,211
Charitable activities	4	-	2,032,229	2,032,229	46,111	460,034	506,145	2,538,374	2,354,776
Other income		-	366,359	366,359	84,111	111,645	195,756	562,115	556,205
		-	12,413,001	12,413,001	155,522	2,659,561	2,815,083	15,228,084	14,686,967
Expenditure on:									
Cost of raising funds	6	-	253,384	253,384	-	7,959	7,959	261,343	269,996
Charitable expenditure	7	-	11,458,862	11,458,862	146,696	1,164,442	1,311,138	12,770,000	12,453,382
Investment management costs	8	-	-	-	-	94,387	94,387	94,387	58,775
TOTAL		-	11,712,246	11,712,246	146,696	1,266,788	1,413,484	13,125,730	12,782,153
Net income / (expenditure)	10	-	700,755	700,755	8,826	1,392,773	1,401,599	2,102,354	1,904,814
Net (losses) gains on investments	13	-	(2,040)	(2,040)	-	628,832	628,832	626,792	(577,687)
Transfers between funds	17	-	177,348	177,348	(127,880)	(49,468)	(177,348)	-	-
Net operating income/(expenditure)		-	876,063	876,063	(119,054)	1,972,137	1,853,083	2,729,146	1,327,127
Other recognised gains and losses									
Net gains on disposal of assets	5	-	368,672	368,672	-	-	-	368,672	403,659
Net movement on funds		-	1,244,735	1,244,735	(119,054)	1,972,137	1,853,083	3,097,818	1,730,786
Total funds brought forward		-	91,914,451	91,914,451	295,792	16,910,727	17,206,519	109,120,970	106,047,508
Currency translation differences		-	(844,674)	(844,674)	54	(88,968)	(88,914)	(933,588)	1,342,676
Fund balance carried forward	21	-	92,314,512	92,314,512	176,792	18,793,896	18,970,688	111,285,200	109,120,970

The notes on pages 33 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Balance sheet 31 March 2024

	Note	Parishes	Curia	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	69,937,559	4,103,092	74,040,651	73,954,669
Investment properties	12	1,039,569	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Investments	13	288,234	15,266,465	15,554,699	14,819,421
		71,265,362	19,672,889	90,938,251	90,116,991
Stock		30,663	-	30,663	25,539
Debtors	14	1,946,711	512,296	2,459,007	2,336,296
Cash at bank and on hand		10,078,581	10,910,005	20,988,586	20,346,551
		12,055,955	11,422,301	23,478,256	22,708,386
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,027,650)	(1,798,657)	(2,826,307)	(2,473,407)
Net current assets		11,028,305	9,623,644	20,651,949	20,234,979
Consolidation Fund					
Due from parishes to the Consolidation Fund		(2,386,781)	2,386,781	-	-
Due to parishes from the Consolidation Fund		12,407,626	(12,407,626)	-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		92,314,512	19,275,688	111,590,200	110,351,970
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	-	(305,000)	(305,000)	(1,231,000)
Total assets less current liabilities		92,314,512	18,970,688	111,285,200	109,120,970
Unrestricted funds	17	-	176,792	176,792	295,792
Restricted funds	17	92,314,512	18,793,896	111,108,408	108,825,178
Total charity funds		92,314,512	18,970,688	111,285,200	109,120,970

The financial statements were approved by the charity on 11 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

The notes on pages 33 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Cashflow Statement 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash flow from operations	20	1,879,603	2,736,872
Finance costs		(89,142)	(79,703)
Net cash generated from operating activities		1,790,461	2,657,169
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,674,434)	(1,451,010)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		377,472	589,809
Sale of investments		2,211,440	4,052,524
Purchase of investments		(2,215,894)	(3,909,135)
Investment portfolio liquid asset movement		(111,633)	(251,427)
Finance income		145,882	76,037
Net cash (paid)/received in investing activities		(1,267,167)	(893,202)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		523,294	1,763,967
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at beginning of the year		19,064,400	17,300,433
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at end of the year		19,587,694	19,064,400

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the "charity") is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Northern Ireland. The Registered Office is given in the charity information on page 3. The Council of the Trust members of the charity are the directors named on page 3. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition of area made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church.

The advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world or in any part of the world.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the charity believes that no material uncertainties exist. The charity has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Base currency

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2019 (SORP 2019), the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (NI) 2015, the Charities Acts (NI 2008 and 2022), the Companies Act 2006 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK.

Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires the charity to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

The judgments (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Tangible assets

The net book value of property held at 1 April 2018 was established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%. Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, with the exception of investment land, to arrive at deemed cost.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Valuation of investment properties

The charity carries the investment properties at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA). The charity has used internal expertise available to determine the fair value, based on market value of the investment properties. Further information is available at note 12.

Provisions for liabilities and charges – legal claims

The charity has provided for the value of claims and the associated legal costs that have been notified to them. The charity has taken advice from the solicitors engaged in the claims to arrive at the amount provided. The details of the amount provided is included in note 16.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Offertories and collections are included in income when received. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustee's Annual Report.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Income recognition (continued)

Income from fundraising events and other activities is recognised when entitlement has occurred. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives grants in respect of the upkeep of properties. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising from within the Parishes and Curia.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes administration costs, bank fees, depreciation and premises expenses.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Resources expended

Resource expended are included in the statement of financial affairs on the basis of the amounts payable for work done and services provided in the year.

The costs of generating funds consist of expenditure incurred by the charity in encouraging others to make contributions to it.

The costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objectives consist of all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the Diocese.

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures and controls, provision of general office services and equipment and a suitable working environment. All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity of the Charity i.e. advancing the Roman Catholic faith primarily within the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs incurred in respect of its compliance with regulation and good practice.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity namely the costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objective.

Tangible fixed assets

Land and buildings

Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, depending upon the type of land that is held, to arrive at deemed cost.

Prior to activation of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited on the 1 April 2018, the accounting policy applied to most buildings was for capital expenditure to be written off in full as incurred. As a result of that policy, the original costs and accumulated depreciation of most property held then was not available. The charity's view was that a reasonable approximation of the net book value of property held at 1 April 2018, the date the assets were assumed into St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, would be established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%.

This was the policy employed to include the assets for which the cost could not be identified on the balance sheet at estimated historic cost net of accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its estimated useful economic life at 1% for church buildings and 2% for all other buildings.

Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Additions are capitalised where the value exceeds £5,000. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15%, 25% straight line and 20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% straight line
Land is not depreciated.	

Investment properties

Investments are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA.

Investments

Investments are recognised at market value at the balance sheet date which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs.

Current asset investments are short term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less. For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the SoFA unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are initially recognised by applying to the foreign currency amount the spot exchange rate between the functional currency and the foreign currency at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency at the balance sheet date are translated using the closing rate.

Pensions

The pension costs for the charity's pension schemes are charged in the year they are incurred.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Tax

It is considered that the charity is largely exempt from income tax in Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and the Taxation of Taxable Gains Act 1992 and in the Republic of Ireland under the provision s84A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Recovery is made of tax deducted from Income and from receipts under Gift Aid in Northern Ireland and CHY charitable donations scheme in the Republic of Ireland. The charity was not able to recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

Financial Instruments

The charity has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

(i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and amounts owed by related companies are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in SoFA.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the SoFA.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans and overdrafts and hire purchase contracts are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Collections, donations and legacies

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Offertories and collections	-	8,232,579	8,232,579	7,775,626
Donations and legacies	-	841,080	841,080	539,990
Charitable tax relief	-	931,265	931,265	926,588
	-	10,004,924	10,004,924	9,242,204

Curia

Offertories and collections	-	50,360	50,360	24,442
Donations and legacies	-	1,381,408	1,381,408	1,933,541
Levy Income	-	74,801	74,801	56,588
	-	1,506,569	1,506,569	2,014,571

All voluntary income for Parishes and Curia was restricted in 2023.

3. Investment income

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	9,489	9,489	2,069
	-	9,489	9,489	2,069

Curia

Income from investment properties	25,300	-	25,300	25,910
Income from listed investments	-	444,920	444,920	417,264
Bank interest	-	136,393	136,393	73,968
	25,300	581,313	606,613	517,142

All investment income, with the exception of income from investment properties, was restricted in 2023.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Charitable activities

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Grants received	-	171,854	171,854	178,996
Fundraising	-	790,687	790,687	719,268
Rental income	-	891,071	891,071	858,966
Grave fees	-	178,617	178,617	220,483
Government Covid 19 subsidies	-	-	-	7,617
	-	2,032,229	2,032,229	1,985,330

Curia

Grants received	46,111	-	46,111	12,774
Pilgrimages/retreats	-	382,764	382,764	325,839
Fundraising	-	77,270	77,270	30,833
Rental income	-	-	-	-
Government Covid 19 subsidies	-	-	-	-
	46,111	460,034	506,145	369,446

All income from charitable activities, with the exception of £12,774 was restricted in 2023.

5. Net gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets				
Parishes	-	368,672	368,672	302,609
Curial	-	-	-	101,050
	-	368,672	368,672	403,659

The net gain on disposals of £302,609 was restricted in 2023.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Costs of raising funds

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising expenses	-	253,384	253,384	267,981
	-	253,384	253,384	267,981

Curia

Fundraising expenses	-	7,959	7,959	2,015
	-	7,959	7,959	2,015

The cost of raising funds in Parishes and Curia was restricted in 2023.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Charitable Expenditure

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Administration costs	-	187,051	187,051	211,268
Legal and professional fees	-	53,970	53,970	70,012
Bank charges	-	74,373	74,373	68,838
Clergy revenue payments	-	1,429,229	1,429,229	1,425,256
Pastoral personnel	-	83,341	83,341	51,859
Premises costs	-	1,837,721	1,837,721	2,068,848
Votives and liturgical costs	-	590,567	590,567	529,082
Parish centre costs	-	193,283	193,283	245,645
Gross salaries and employer NIC/PRSI/pensions	-	1,728,245	1,728,245	1,560,748
Rates and insurance	-	706,075	706,075	702,110
Repairs and maintenance	-	2,461,505	2,461,505	1,916,387
Exchange (gain)/loss	-	23,979	23,979	(58,167)
Sundry expenses	-	210,805	210,805	167,085
Depreciation	-	841,596	841,596	854,724
School payments	-	8,967	8,967	10,858
Charitable donations	-	47,422	47,422	34,936
Diocesan levy	-	980,733	980,733	1,006,328
	-	11,458,862	11,458,862	10,865,817

All charitable expenditure for Parishes was restricted in 2023.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Charitable Expenditure (continued)

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Administration costs	120,460	41,768	162,228	95,884	26,199	122,083
Bank interest and fees	10,821	3,948	14,769	9,172	1,693	10,865
Clergy revenue payments	-	60,725	60,725	-	56,581	56,581
Pastoral personnel	18,000	-	18,000	25,842	14,050	39,892
Cathedral repairs and maintenance	4,620	-	4,620	10,843	-	10,843
Office premises costs	16,787	-	16,787	21,534	-	21,534
Repairs and maintenance	9,692	93,286	102,978	44,281	-	44,281
Gross salaries and employer's NIC/PRSI/pension	346,760	84,636	431,396	304,546	99,064	403,610
Rates and insurance	9,997	-	9,997	22,194	-	22,194
Exchange (gain) / loss	(14,954)	(41,470)	(56,424)	8,437	92,257	100,694
Sundry expenses	39,873	36,948	76,821	50,809	30,025	80,834
Depreciation	-	15,629	15,629	-	15,629	15,629
Safeguarding costs	39,404	-	39,404	46,217	-	46,217
Compensation claims and legal fees	-	(346,682)	(346,682)	-	50,808	50,808
Irish Episcopal Conference	82,744	-	82,744	81,142	-	81,142
Clergy students' fees and ongoing clergy formation	-	412,539	412,539	-	455,794	455,794
Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission	-	39,331	39,331	-	13,468	13,468
Pilgrimages and retreats	-	490,519	490,519	-	305,374	305,374
Retirement, sickness & special assistance grants	-	408,183	408,183	-	454,224	454,224
Governance costs (note 9)	25,800	-	25,800	25,800	-	25,800
VHI health insurance	-	77,039	77,039	-	71,227	71,227
Pastoral expenses	109,752	61,734	171,486	84,741	40,566	125,307
Charitable donations	20,000	13,982	33,982	20,000	15,491	35,491
Parish levy	(693,060)	(287,673)	(980,733)	(701,456)	(304,872)	(1,006,328)
	146,696	1,164,442	1,311,138	149,986	1,437,579	1,587,565

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

8. Investment management costs

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	94,387	94,387	58,775
	-	94,387	94,387	58,775

9. Governance costs

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Fees paid to external auditors for audit	25,800	-	25,800	25,800
	25,800	-	25,800	25,800

10. Net income / expenditure

Net income / expenditure is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditors' remuneration - audit	25,800	25,800
Depreciation - restricted funds	857,225	870,353

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

11. Staff numbers, costs and pension contributions

The average number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Curia employees	15	14
Parish employees	186	186
	201	200

The aggregate payroll costs for the above were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,019,823	1,840,243
Social security costs	124,011	115,322
Employer pension contributions	15,807	15,093
	2,159,641	1,970,658

One employee received remuneration in the band £80,000 to £89,999.

The charity makes payments through pension auto enrolment in respect of eligible employees.

The Charity considers that its key management personnel comprise the Directors, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Financial Administrator and Diocesan Director for Safeguarding. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the financial year is £135,033 (2023: £147,904).

Indemnity insurance for directors' liability has been purchased by the Charity.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets

Parishes

	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2023	4,475,075	58,373,395	5,748,313	6,995,646	127,103	6,600	75,726,132	1,039,569
Foreign exchange	(19,885)	(630,668)	(60,724)	(53,490)	(745)	-	(765,512)	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	13,140	13,140	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(10,000)	-	(6,600)	(16,600)	-
At 31 March 2024	4,455,190	57,742,727	5,687,589	6,932,156	126,358	13,140	74,957,160	1,039,569
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2023	-	2,918,610	555,883	692,266	57,201	4,930	4,228,890	-
Foreign exchange	-	(31,476)	(5,977)	(5,410)	(222)	-	(43,085)	-
Charge for the year	-	577,427	113,752	138,842	6,904	4,670	841,596	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,200)	-	(6,600)	(7,800)	-
At 31 March 2024	-	3,464,561	663,658	824,499	63,883	3,000	5,019,601	-

NET BOOK VALUE

31 March 2024	4,455,190	54,278,166	5,023,931	6,107,657	62,475	10,140	69,937,559	1,039,569
31 March 2023	4,475,075	55,454,785	5,192,430	6,303,380	69,902	1,670	71,497,242	1,039,569

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Curia

	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2023	308,490	-	-	2,226,572	37,214	-	2,572,276	303,332
Additions	-	-	-	1,661,294	-	-	1,661,294	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	308,490	-	-	3,887,866	37,214	-	4,233,570	303,332
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-	77,635	37,214	-	114,849	-
Charge for the year	-	-	-	15,629	-	-	15,629	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-	93,264	37,214	-	130,478	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2024	308,490	-	-	3,794,602	-	-	4,103,092	303,332
31 March 2023	308,490	-	-	2,148,937	-	-	2,457,427	303,332

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Total	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2023	4,783,565	58,373,395	5,748,313	9,222,218	164,317	6,600	78,298,408	1,342,901
Foreign exchange	(19,885)	(630,668)	(60,724)	(53,490)	(745)	-	(765,512)	-
Additions	-	-	-	1,661,294	-	13,140	1,674,434	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(10,000)	-	(6,600)	(16,600)	-
At 31 March 2024	4,763,680	57,742,727	5,687,589	10,820,022	163,572	13,140	79,190,730	1,342,901
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2023	-	2,918,610	555,883	769,901	94,415	4,930	4,343,739	-
Foreign exchange	-	(31,476)	(5,977)	(5,410)	(222)	-	(43,085)	-
Charge for the year	-	577,427	113,752	154,472	6,904	4,670	857,225	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,200)	-	(6,600)	(7,800)	-
At 31 March 2024	-	3,464,561	663,658	917,763	101,097	3,000	5,150,079	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2024	4,763,680	54,278,166	5,023,931	9,902,259	62,475	10,140	74,040,651	1,342,901
31 March 2023	4,783,565	55,454,785	5,192,430	8,452,317	69,902	1,670	73,954,669	1,342,901

The investment properties have been valued at fair value by the charity on the basis of market value.

Halls and other properties include an amount of £3,106,409 in respect of an asset under construction and this element has not been depreciated.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

13. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Investments		
Opening at 1 st April 2023	14,819,421	15,276,000
Foreign exchange	(7,601)	13,067
Additions	2,215,894	3,909,135
Disposal proceeds	(2,211,440)	(4,052,524)
Net realised investment gains	150,832	221,029
Net unrealised investment gains/(losses)	475,960	(798,713)
Net movement in cash and short-term deposits	111,633	251,427
Closing at 31 March 2024	15,554,699	14,819,421

14. Debtors

	2024			2023		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Gift aid/CHY tax relief	913,447	-	913,447	875,885	-	875,885
Prepayments	173,822	21,867	195,689	223,523	34,932	258,455
Other debtors	859,442	490,429	1,349,871	731,520	470,436	1,201,956
	1,946,711	512,296	2,459,007	1,830,928	505,368	2,336,296

15. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2024			2023		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Bank overdrafts	366,123	1,034,769	1,400,892	321,111	961,040	1,282,151
Creditors and accruals	343,325	767,553	1,110,878	547,399	401,622	949,020
Other creditors	264,725	-	264,725	200,973	-	200,973
Tax and social security	53,477	(3,665)	49,812	74,336	(33,073)	41,263
	1,027,650	1,798,657	2,826,307	1,143,818	1,329,589	2,473,407

16. Provisions

The charity has included a provision in these financial statements of £305,000 (2023: £1,231,000) to cover legal claims and costs. They have made this provision in this year's financial statements based upon legal advice on the likely outcome of these cases.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

17. Movement in funds

	Opening balance 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Other gains / (losses)	Exchange	Transfers	Closing Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds							
Parishes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curia	295,792	155,522	(146,696)	-	54	(127,880)	176,792
Total unrestricted funds	295,792	155,522	(146,696)	-	54	(127,880)	176,792
Restricted funds – Parishes							
Parishes	91,914,451	12,413,001	(11,712,246)	366,632	(844,674)	177,348	92,314,512
Restricted funds – Curia							
Curial Funds	188,566	299,634	109,098	39,464	(835)	(42,580)	593,347
Clerical Formation and Education	8,116,101	2,014,930	(1,029,437)	284,789	(71,281)	(62,994)	9,252,108
Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society	6,441,377	540,643	(546,962)	242,331	-	48,695	6,726,084
General Charities Fund	492,172	15,516	(19,660)	19,072	-	(23)	507,077
Welfare Society	1,224,897	30,943	(15,056)	43,176	-	7,434	1,291,394
Lourdes Pilgrimage	447,614	481,019	(487,895)	-	(16,852)	-	423,886
Diocesan levies	16,910,727	(723,124)	723,124	-	-	-	-
		2,659,561	(1,266,788)	628,832	(88,968)	(49,468)	18,793,896
Total restricted funds	108,825,178	15,072,562	(12,979,034)	995,464	(933,642)	127,880	111,108,408
Total funds	109,120,970	15,228,085	(13,125,730)	995,464	(933,588)	-	111,285,200

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

18. Capital commitments

The charity had capital commitments amounting to £38,446 at 31 March 2024 (2023: £1,699,488).

19. Amounts held as agent

There are various collections taken up during the year within the Diocese that are collections undertaken as agent on behalf of other organisations. These funds are lodged to the bank and then paid to the individual organisations. The asset and liability are not recognised within these financial statements. The amount of funds held by the charity was £117,252 at 31 March 2024 (2023: £90,395).

20. Reconciliation of net income to net inflow/(outflow) of cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the year	3,097,818	1,730,786
<u>Adjustments for:</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	857,225	870,353
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(368,672)	(403,659)
Foreign exchange movements	(203,560)	192,606
Finance income	(145,882)	(76,037)
Finance costs	89,142	79,703
Movement in inventories	(5,124)	(2,017)
Movement in receivables	(122,711)	(516,852)
Movement in creditors and other payables	234,159	236,805
Movement in provisions for liabilities	(926,000)	47,500
Movement in market value of investment portfolio	(626,792)	577,684
Net cash inflow of cash generated from operations	1,879,603	2,736,872

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Parishes Unrestricted £	Parishes Restricted £	2024 Parishes Total £	Curia Unrestricted £	Curia Restricted £	2024 Curia Total £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	69,937,559	69,937,559	869,926	3,233,166	4,103,092	74,040,651	73,954,669,
Investment properties	-	1,039,569	1,039,569	303,332	-	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Fixed asset investments	-	288,234	288,234	-	15,266,465	15,266,465	15,554,699	14,819,420
Bank balances / (overdraft)	-	9,712,459	9,712,459	360,423	9,514,812	9,875,235	19,587,694	19,064,400
Other net current assets / (liabilities)	-	1,315,846	1,315,846	(667,991)	416,400	(251,591)	1,064,255	1,170,580
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	-	-	-	(305,000)	(305,000)	(305,000)	(1,231,000)
Inter parishes and Curia loans (net)	-	10,020,845	10,020,845	(688,898)	(9,331,947)	(10,020,845)	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	-	92,314,512	92,314,512	176,792	18,793,896	18,970,688	111,285,200	109,120,970

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

22. Financial Instruments

The charity has the following financial instruments	2024	2023
	£	£
Financial assets		
Cash held at bank and in hand	20,988,586	20,346,550
Other debtors and accrued income	1,371,738	1,236,888
Financial assets held at amortised cost	22,360,324	21,583,438
Financial liabilities		
Bank overdraft	1,400,892	1,282,151
Accruals	1,110,878	949,020
Other creditors	264,725	200,973
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost	2,776,495	2,432,144

23. Contingent Liability

A contingent liability exists for potential additional liabilities for legal costs that may fall due, but the amounts and timing of any such potential payments for additional liabilities for legal costs cannot be estimated with any reasonable certainty and, therefore, no provision has been made in these financial statements.

24. Directors' Remuneration

The directors neither received, nor waived, any emoluments nor made a claim for expenses incurred relating to duties carried out for the charity. Eight (2023: eight) directors of the charity received stipends, in aggregate, totalling £170,176 for the year to 31 March 2024 (2023: £170,586). These stipends were paid to them in respect of their role as serving Ministers of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh and not as a result of their director role. No pension contributions were paid on their behalf. Accommodation is provided for them exclusively as a consequence of their ministries within the Diocese.

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Annual report

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited is the Corporate Trustee (the Trustee) for the Parishes, the Curia and other associated charitable bodies which constitute the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Council of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited presents the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the audited financial statements of the Charity, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Council has adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and 2022, and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities finalising their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company.

HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE

The Church of Armagh was founded by St Patrick in the middle of the fifth century. It soon became a noted ecclesiastical centre with many churches and a monastic school, which attracted students from all over Ireland and abroad.

The Diocese has been blessed with many saints through the centuries, not least the 'Apostle of Ireland', St Patrick, but also St Brigid, St Malachy, St Oliver Plunkett and many more.

It is one of the larger dioceses in Ireland covering almost all of Counties Armagh and Louth, approximately half of County Tyrone and a part of County Derry, as well as some townlands in County Meath. The Diocese is made up of sixty-one parishes of which thirty-seven are in Northern Ireland and twenty-four in the Republic of Ireland. The seat of administration is located in the city of Armagh.

CONSTITUTION AND AIMS

In Northern Ireland, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the Trust), a charitable trust, is a company limited by guarantee and was registered on 14 December 1981, registration number NI015284. On 20 June 2018, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and given the registration number 106767. For tax purposes, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited is also registered with HM Revenue and Customs – Reference XN76368. On 26 January 2015 the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland authorised St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited to act in any Charitable or Ecclesiastical Trust as a Trust Corporation. St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited became active on 1 April 2018 when the charitable activities of the Archdiocese of Armagh became subject to the oversight of the Council of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited.

In the Republic of Ireland, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Company Limited by Guarantee, a bare trust, is a company limited by guarantee and was registered on 29 November 1993, with registration company number 210040. On 4 December 2020, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited was registered as a Charity with the Charity Regulator in Ireland and given the registered charity number 20029104. For tax purposes, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Company Limited by Guarantee is also registered with the Irish Revenue Commissioner – CHY (Revenue) Number 10987.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objectives of the Charity are:

- the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church;
- the advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout Ireland or in any part of the world.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh, in union with the Catholic Church worldwide, seeks to achieve its objectives through activities including the following:

- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Worship of God
- Provision of Clergy and pastoral personnel
- Support for families
- Formation and development of parish communities
- Provision of educational, pastoral and youth ministries
- Provision and maintenance of places of worship
- Aid for impoverished and needy communities worldwide

The means used to fulfil the purposes of the Trust are constantly monitored and reviewed to ensure that the principal aims and objectives of the Charity are adhered to.

STATEMENT THAT THE TRUST HAS HAD REGARD TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENT STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The Trust confirms that it has complied with the requirements of Section 4(6) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Throughout this Annual Report, the Trust seeks to demonstrate that the Charity's aims and objectives are for the public benefit.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Diocese consists of sixty-one parishes predominantly in Counties Armagh and Louth and in parts of Counties Tyrone, Derry and Meath. The parishes are clustered into seventeen Pastoral Areas. Each Pastoral Area consists of a number of adjoining parishes united in promoting and realising the objects and the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh within their local communities.

Reflecting Canon Law (the Universal Law of the Catholic Church), the activities of the Charity are separated in this report into Parish and Curia functions.

Parishes

The Diocese is divided into parish communities. Parish Priests/ Administrators and Curates are appointed by the Archbishop to provide pastoral care for Parish communities and to manage parishes in all juridical affairs, thus ensuring parishes are administered in accordance with the norms of Canon and Civil Law, while also fulfilling the aims of the Charity. A major function of parishes is the celebration of the liturgy and the provision of spiritual and pastoral care. However, much other unseen and unheralded charitable work also occurs, greatly enriching the local communities which they serve.

Each parish is required by Canon Law to have a Parish Finance Committee to assist the Parish Priest/ Administrator in the governance of the parish. Parish Finance Committees include parishioners with knowledge and experience in finance, property management, personnel and administration. Additionally, each Parish Priest/ Administrator in his own parish, with his Parish Finance Committee, and in accordance with the norms and guidelines of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, is entrusted with the responsibility of conserving and maintaining items and articles of artistic and historical value, as well as keeping an inventory of such objects. Priests have been diligent in this task, often employing the services of experts to assist them. Parish employees include secretaries, newsletter writers, choir directors, organists, bookkeepers, financial administrators, cleaners, grounds staff, and parish centre managers. In some instances, people offer their services on an entirely voluntary basis.

Parishes are central to fulfilling the Charity's mission. They are communities whose daily activities contribute, both directly and indirectly, to the spiritual and moral well-being of everyone living and working within them. They are the places where local communities come together to worship, where sacraments are administered, where children are educated in the faith, and where social outreach programmes are developed which allow communities to care for those in need and work for the common good of society.

Curia

The Diocesan Curia consists of those institutions and persons which furnish assistance to the Archbishop in the governance of the entire Diocese, especially in directing pastoral activity, in providing for the administration of the Diocese, and in exercising juridical governance. It also includes all who participate in the overall administration of the Diocese, particularly those who direct diocesan activities such as pastoral support, safeguarding, youth work, education, family life, liturgy, lay voluntary involvement and other facets of the local Church's life. Its central base is Armagh City.

The Council of the Trust delegates oversight of the Diocese's day-to-day finances, property, investments and administration to the Diocesan Financial Administrator, the Diocesan Secretary and other staff within the Curia. All personnel in the service of the Diocese undergo continuous professional development training.

As a registered charity, it is imperative that the Diocese continues to ensure good practice legally and financially in all areas, including health and safety, data protection, insurance, and the maintenance of property, while also conforming to the prescripts of Canon Law and best ecclesiastical practice.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Proclamation of the Gospel, Worship of God and other Ministries

Within the Diocese religion is advanced through the provision of places of worship, the facilitation of religious practice and, particularly, through community celebration of Mass. Normally there is a public celebration of Mass or other liturgy every day in the majority of parishes, and on every weekend several public Masses are offered in each parish. All such liturgies are open to the public without any restrictions.

Other activities of the Charity include conducting religious ceremonies (such as baptisms, weddings and funerals); presenting programmes pertaining to spiritual formation and development; encouraging and supporting ecumenical relationships; and maintaining places of worship, many of which are listed and contain religious works of art and other artefacts, all of which form part of our national heritage. All these places of worship are open to the general public including people of all faiths and none. They provide a public benefit for the whole community and for many people they are spaces which offer the opportunity for quiet reflection and for spiritual contemplation.

It is primarily within parishes that people experience what it is to be a member of the Catholic Church. They are the settings where faith is nurtured and given expression. Parishes, through various means, provide for the spiritual and moral well-being of parishioners, young and old. Practical expressions of faith are manifested by means of parish-organised pastoral, social and educational activities many of which rely on the voluntary involvement of parishioners. During the reporting period a total of 3,178 baptisms took place within the Diocese. First Holy Communion was administered to 3,777 young people and the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 4,030 individuals. In the same period 670 marriages were celebrated and some 2,054 funerals conducted.

The Diocese has engaged with social and digital media platforms for some time through its website, Facebook and Twitter sites. The www.armaghprays.com website, dedicated to disseminating diocesan pastoral resources, continued to be widely used. Webcams for the live streaming of Mass and other liturgies have become an invaluable element in the pastoral outreach of parishes. Parishes in the Archdiocese also contributed to the celebration of liturgies on the network channel RTÉ News and on local radio.

In August 2023, the Archdiocese of Armagh celebrated the 150th anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral on 24 August 1873. The weekend of events was led by Archbishop Martin, beginning with a gathering for families followed by Evening Prayer during which a new commemorative icon was unveiled. The celebrations concluded with a Solemn Mass at which His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, was the principal celebrant. The events honoured the Cathedral's rich history and attracted parishioners from across the Archdiocese as well as members of other Christian communities.

In addition to pastoral care and the provision of the sacraments to the faithful, the Diocese offers chaplaincy services to those who cannot be part of a regular parish community. Hospital Chaplains and lay pastoral visitors are available at all major hospitals within the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Chaplains are regularly at the disposal of patients, their relatives and staff, as well as being on call to attend in emergencies. Other clergy and lay pastoral visitors regularly attend hospitals and nursing homes in the area frequented by members of the Diocese. Moreover, the Diocese assists with the provision of chaplaincy services to those in penal institutions located outside its territory.

Each year the clergy and people of the Archdiocese of Armagh journey to ancient pilgrimage sites within the Diocese and beyond. The yearly diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, France took place in May 2023 and the annual day pilgrimage to Knock, Co. Mayo occurred on Sunday 28 May 2023. Other pilgrimages, for example to Fatima, Lough Derg and Croagh Patrick, took place during the year. Organised pilgrimages provide much valued support for the sick who participate as well as for all the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy. They become model experiences of the Church as the pilgrim People of God.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

The important role played by volunteers who participate in the various activities of their parish cannot be overstated and their contribution is vital in enabling the Diocese to continue to fulfil and develop its stated objectives. Many people play a key role in our parishes, offering their services as volunteers. They include those involved in various aspects of parish life: those who help with the sacred liturgy – Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, members of altar societies, altar serving coordinators, choirs and music groups, organists, instrumentalists, and stewards; people who assist with finance, church collectors, counters, envelope distributors and dues collectors; and other assorted roles including cemetery upkeep, various apostolic and charitable groups too numerous to mention as well as prayer and perpetual adoration groups. Volunteers generously give of their time serving in various ministries, caring for and visiting the sick, the housebound, and those on the margins of society. They play a significant role in helping to maintain parish property and assisting in financial and other administrative duties, including membership of Parish Pastoral, Finance and Safeguarding Committees. Such parishioners are the lifeblood of their communities, and their contributions are significant. It has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteers active throughout the Diocese, nor is it possible to estimate the financial value of their involvement.

Although the Charity relies principally on donations from parishioners for its funding, access to religious services is never restricted on the grounds of ability to contribute financially. In addition, members of the Catholic community are encouraged to contribute towards creating a more just society by becoming active volunteers for the Common Good within their local area through membership of charities, local societies, community groups, and by volunteering in all sorts of other ways to the benefit of society in general.

Besides the work accomplished at parish level, the Curia coordinates and carries out a number of functions necessary to the advancement of the Catholic religion at local, national and international level. To this end, the Curia operates by way of diocesan commissions, committees and through various personnel charged with specific responsibilities.

The Diocesan commissions include a Vocations Commission, a Liturgical and Sacred Music Commission, the Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society, the Diocesan Education Committee, Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission, a Diocesan Pastoral Plan, a Justice, Peace and Development Commission, the Prayer and Spirituality Commission, Adult Faith Formation and a Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. Personnel with specific responsibilities include Diocesan Pastoral Workers, Diocesan Youth Coordinators, the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Director, the Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage Director, the Diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies Director, the Diocesan Safeguarding Director, the Diocesan Advisory Team on Religious Education, and the Diocesan Vocations Director. Mention also needs to be made of those who work in the administration of Catholic education.

Provision of Clergy and Pastoral Personnel

Central to Parish life is the relationship between the clergy and parishioners. Clergy are not employees of the Diocese. However, in Canon Law the care and welfare of incardinated priests of the Diocese is mandatory and therefore forms part of the Charity's ongoing commitments.

It is the priests ministering in parishes who, working in collaboration with their parishioners, are charged in a special way with organising, animating and motivating the local faith communities. They constantly strive to be witnesses of hope and authentic shepherds for their people. The provision of dedicated, well qualified and competent clergy to serve in parishes and other ministries is a priority for the Diocese. Through the means of regular conferences, gatherings, retreats, courses, workshops and sabbaticals, the priests of the Diocese are updated on current issues, developments and best practice in respect of all aspects of ministry and mission.

In the reporting period the Diocese had twenty students for the priesthood, either in full-time study or on

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

pastoral placement. They attended respectively St Patrick's College, Maynooth, the Pontifical Beda College, Rome, and the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, based in Dundalk, Co. Louth. During the year, the Diocese had one candidate ordained for the priesthood and three candidates ordained as transitional deacons. The costs of this seminary formation are supported by the Diocesan Education Fund. As part of its missionary outreach, the Diocese also part sponsored the theology programme for a seminarian attached to the seminary of the Missionaries of St Paul in Abuja, Nigeria. The Diocese also had one man in his final year of formation for the ministry of Permanent Diaconate. His training and formation has been financed from the Diocesan Education Fund.

A key to sustaining the advancement of Catholicism is the promotion and support of vocations to the Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Diaconate and of the wider apostolate of the lay faithful. The Diocese continues to engage with those people who wish to undertake discernment in connection with vocations to the Priesthood, the Permanent Diaconate or the Religious and Consecrated Life. The Diocesan Vocations Director, along with the Diocesan Vocations Commission, coordinates this essential mission mostly through the means of discernment groups, prayer vigils, retreats and chaplaincy work in post-primary schools and colleges throughout the Diocese.

The general well-being and care of clergy in active ministry is coordinated by the Diocesan Curia, Vicars General, Episcopal Vicars and Vicars Forane. Priests' stipends and related matters are overseen and regulated by the Archbishop with the Council of Priests and the Council of the Trust. Equally important is the welfare of priests who are sick or retired from active ministry. Many of the priests no longer in active ministry have served in parishes and local communities for over sixty years. Their welfare is the responsibility of a committee which administers the Armagh Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society Fund. During the reporting year, twenty-six priests received assistance from the fund which necessitated a total spend of approximately £408,183.

The objectives of the Charity are greatly supported, and the life of the Diocese enriched, by the contribution made by the many members of Religious Institutions, Secular Institutions and/ or Societies of Apostolic Life serving in the Diocese. The Archdiocese of Armagh expresses its sincere gratitude to these men and women of faith for their ministries of generosity and sacrifice.

Support for Families

Family Ministry within the Diocese is dedicated to strengthening marriage and families by coordinating pastoral programmes and ministries that have faith as their foundation and Christ as their goal. By responding to the needs of families, as they strive to live in a very challenging culture and a rapidly changing world, Family Ministry serves as a resource for families, clergy and parish communities.

Family Ministry also offers services and practical resources to assist people at all stages of life in order to help them experience, more fully, the love and compassion of God in the ordinary events of life.

There are three Accord Marriage Preparation and Counselling centres in the Diocese - Drogheda, Dundalk and Portadown. These centres provide regular courses throughout the year for those preparing for marriage. Couples are encouraged to attend an accredited pre-marriage course as soon as they contact the parish to make arrangements for their marriage. Accord continues to provide face-to-face and online counselling for couples.

The Rainbows programme enables children and young people, who have experienced a significant loss in their lives, to access peer support and counselling. This service is offered through St Patrick's Parish, Dundalk and is available to all who seek it regardless of faith or church affiliation.

The Diocese also promotes the work of the Family Addiction Support Network (F.A.S.N.) based in Dundalk. The Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese is the Patron and a board member of the organisation

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

which supports families who are dealing with the drug addiction of a loved one. Often these families are desperate for help but have no one to turn to because of stigma and intimidation. F.A.S.N provides a safe place for families to find support and guidance to overcome their difficulties.

Provision of Educational, Pastoral and Youth Ministries

Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC)

Established in 2000 by the Archdiocese of Armagh, the Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC) has remained steadfast in its mission to provide meaningful activities, events, and programmes for young people within the Archdiocese. With a primary focus on fostering faith, confidence, and self-esteem among youth, the Commission - comprising laity, professionals, clergy, and religious - plays a vital role in shaping and advancing youth ministry. The term ending on March 31, 2024, has been defined by resilience and adaptability, as the Commission continues to navigate the challenges of post-pandemic recovery and the complexities of the contemporary world while staying committed to its mission.

ADYC provides faith encounters for young people, ranging from post-Confirmation age to young adulthood. The Pope John Paul II and Muiredach Cross Awards are key components of youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Armagh, and in the past year, both awards have experienced a resurgence in participation following the pandemic. In response to the challenges posed by Covid-19, ADYC has strengthened its accompaniment of young participants in these awards, offering continued support and guidance to participants, leaders and parishes alike.

The ongoing efforts to enhance the awards by incorporating catechetical elements have proven successful and work is ongoing. In September 2023, a celebratory gathering honoured the achievements of 170 young participants in the Pope John Paul II and Muiredach Cross Awards—an increase from the previous year. Registrations for the awards in September 2023 also saw growth, with 332 applications received from young people across the Archdiocese of Armagh.

ADYC's partnership with St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth has continued in respect of youth ministry and one of the diocesan youth co-ordinators continues to offer input and lecturing support to St. Patrick's Pontifical College on its Diploma in Youth Ministry Programme. This reciprocal arrangement ensures that the Archdiocese of Armagh continues to shape the continued development of youth ministry across the Church in Ireland.

During 2023 the Archdiocese of Armagh partnered with the Diocese of Dromore to facilitate the participation of young parishioners at World Youth Day held in Lisbon during August 2023. Young people from across both dioceses travelled to the event and had the opportunity for enrichment through catechesis and engagement with other young Catholics from Ireland and across the world. Preparations for World Youth Day 2023 formed a large part of the work of ADYC during the early part of the reporting year along with pastoral visits to schools and liaison with parishes across the Archdiocese.

The ADYC continued its work in parishes and schools of the Archdiocese, providing retreats, opportunities for prayer and liturgy, and fostering the personal development of young people. A key outcome of the Archdiocese's synodal listening process is the prioritisation of youth, with a preferential option for engaging young people in the Church's life. During Easter 2023, this commitment was reflected in the significant involvement of young people in Holy Week and Easter liturgies across the Archdiocese.

Throughout the year, young people were offered numerous opportunities to deepen their faith. Two notable events were the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of St. Patrick in August 2023 and the launch of a year on February 1, 2024, to mark the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid which included a Mass with strong participation of young people from the Dundalk area. This work was followed up later in the year with a synodal listening session dedicated to young

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

people in Dundalk. As part of this year dedicated to St. Brigid, the Archdiocese has focused on developing resources to support young parents, encouraging them to pass on the faith and promote spiritual renewal. This has been warmly received.

The stated mission of ADYC is to work in partnership with young people, the Church and interested agencies to ensure that young people are encouraged and affirmed on their journey of faith. The vision is for young people to experience the love of God and to inspire them to engage in the life and mission of the Catholic Church, in social outreach, and in initiatives for the benefit of the wider community.

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese

A key aspect of the contribution of the Diocese to the local community is the large network of Catholic schools. There are 150 primary schools and 27 post primary in the Diocese with a total enrolment of approximately 50,900 pupils. The Diocese celebrates this contribution by taking part in Catholic Schools Week, an event held throughout Ireland in January for the last ten years. This annual celebration calls on Catholic schools to give expression, in a special way, to a particular aspect of Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week took place in this reporting year on 21– 27 January, 2024 on the theme of Catholic Schools as 'Communities of Service'.

In Catholic schools we look to Jesus as our role model and teacher as we come to a greater understanding of the depth of Christian service. For Catholic Schools Week we contemplated our schools as 'Communities of Service' by helping the children focus on their own community of friends both within and outside school, their families, the wider local and faith communities and how they can serve others. Services were held in the Church of the Holy Family, Coalisland (16 January) and in the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Dundalk (25 January). These were very well received by schools and the wider parish communities.

In our schools we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give and receive love. While each Catholic school is such a community, it also fosters the integral development of its students, promotes their spiritual and moral well-being and helps them to cultivate a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as He has loved us. During Catholic Schools Week we celebrated the gifts and talents which enable us to follow Christ's teachings.

The Archdiocese of Armagh remains fully committed through its Catholic schools to maintaining, by way of a holistic methodology, the highest standards in learning, and thus continuing to offer academic excellence and faith-filled education to all young people. Many non-Catholic parents choose to educate their children in Catholic schools, not least because of the high-quality education on offer, but also due to the identifiable ethos of trust, mutual respect and recognition of responsibility to those in need. The Diocese appoints personnel to act as the Diocesan Advisory Team for Religious Education in both the primary and post-primary sectors. These teams visit the Catholic schools and offer help and guidance to the teachers.

Each school receives an annual visit from its appointed Diocesan adviser. The adviser is an established link between schools and the Church and visits of a pastoral nature help to strengthen this connection. All Advisers report on a very positive engagement with principals and school staff and how heartening it is to witness the hunger, thirst and awe that children have for God. The advisers visit classrooms and offer practical help too by providing a range of online resources for use alongside the "Children of God" series as an aid to preparing children for the Sacraments.

Going forward many schools have concerns about the ever changing and diverse world children live in. Principals recognise the complementary, connected, but different roles of the home, school and parish in the faith education of their children. Parents are the first and the primary teachers of their children in

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

faith. The parish is where children learn about and worship God while Religious Education in Catholic schools concentrates on the formal curriculum and faith formation. Often elements of this partnership are missing and the path is not straightforward. The Diocesan Advisory team will continue to work alongside schools to help meet these challenges.

Formation and Development of Parish Communities

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan provides guidance and direction for priests, deacons and pastoral councils to enable them to further the mission of Christ in the Archdiocese of Armagh. The present plan was published in 2015 after an eighteen-month period of consultation and refinement. As the Diocesan Plan approached the end of 2020 it was decided to engage in a Year of Reflection and Prayer before beginning the process of working towards a Diocesan Assembly and formulating a new Pastoral Plan.

The launch of a National Synodal process in early 2021 and a Universal Synodal process entitled *Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Mission and Participation* changed the priorities, and it was decided to fit the process of formulating an updated Diocesan Pastoral Plan into the new timeframe for the National and Universal Synods.

With these processes ongoing, the Archdiocese has continued to follow the current plan, which will remain in operation until a new one is formulated. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan covers three main areas of pastoral life in the Diocese – ‘Mission and Outreach’, ‘Spirit Filled Worship’ and ‘Understanding Our Faith’. The Diocesan Pastoral Team use the plan as the basis for their work as they reach out to parishes and groups across the Diocese. They facilitate and provide training for the lay faithful to become more actively involved in the ongoing life of the Church in their local area.

During the reporting period, the Pastoral Team moved their base from the Parochial House in Holy Family Parish, Dundalk to Grange, County Louth. The house provides office space for the Pastoral Team and the Auxiliary Bishop. The Pastoral Team directs the implementation of the Pastoral Plan from this office. The impact of Covid-19, though diminishing, has continued to affect projects and initiatives aligned with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan during 2023/2024. While the Archdiocese of Armagh has made significant progress in its recovery efforts, some significant challenges from this period are still being felt.

The section of the Pastoral Plan relating to ‘Understanding Our Faith’ encompasses a number of Adult Faith Formation courses. The Diocesan Theology Programme, which is accredited and supervised by the Pontifical University in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, had 8 students enrolled in 2023.

The promotion of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) which prepares adults for baptism and reception into the Church, along with the training of teams to facilitate the programme, is also an important component in the work of evangelisation. April 2023 was a time of gratitude to the outgoing OCIA team in Dundalk, who served the Pastoral Area for six dedicated years walking with those who were searching for God in their lives. The areas of Dungannon, Dundalk and Armagh continue to provide this growing ministry.

In September 2023, four adults and two children embarked on their spiritual journey towards full reception into the Catholic Church. The OCIA programme ran for 31 weeks from September 2023 to the Easter Vigil. At the Vigil in St. Patrick's, Dundalk, there was a wonderful celebration of the sacraments of initiation. The programme concluded in May 2024 after the period of Mystagogy.

‘Spirit-filled Worship’ is a key element of the Pastoral Plan, as Sunday Mass remains the primary connection most people have with the Church. To enhance the liturgical experience - and especially during liturgical seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter - parishes were supported with tailored resources and guidance.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

'Mission and Outreach' lies at the heart of the Church's mission and is also a central focus of the Pastoral Plan. The Diocesan Pastoral Team promotes the formation of parish visitation teams, assistance for the disadvantaged, support for those struggling with addiction, and the encouragement of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Diocesan Pastoral Team continued to provide a multitude of online resources to support religious education and prayer in family homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other settings. These resources are accessed through the www.armaghprays.com website which they maintain. The Diocesan Pastoral Team also collaborates closely with other colleagues across dioceses in the Northern Pastoral Network to share resources and strategies in the areas of adult faith formation, pastoral development and youth ministry.

Care for the environment is central to the pastoral work of the Diocese in this present age. *Laudato Si*, subtitled 'On Care for Our Common Home', the second encyclical of Pope Francis provides the basis for the Season of Creation which is celebrated by the Church throughout the month of September. The theme for the 2023 season was 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'. Resources provided by the Holy See were disseminated throughout the Diocese and many parishes discussed them with their Pastoral Councils and used them during their Sunday liturgies so that parishioners could focus on their Christian duty to protect God's Creation. During October 2023 Pope Francis published a separate Apostolic Exhortation on the environment entitled *Laudate Deum*.

The Diocese encourages each parish to actively reach out to the marginalized and disadvantaged, emphasising pastoral care for immigrants and asylum seekers while fostering a culture of welcome, unity, and collaboration. Regular Masses are celebrated in the native languages of immigrant communities from East Timor, Poland, and India (Malayalam-speaking), with pastoral care provided to these and other nationalities by priest chaplains from their respective countries. These arrangements are made in collaboration with their episcopal conferences and relevant diocesan and religious authorities. The Diocese is also seeing a growing number of international liturgies and celebrations, reflecting its increasingly diverse community.

Special attention is given to baptisms, marriages and deaths of migrants, and their language and cultural traditions are catered for as much as possible. They also receive a welcome and assurances of support through pastoral visitation by the clergy or members of the parish community.

The 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees was held on Sunday, September 24, 2023. The theme for 2023 was 'Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay'. The topic was intended to promote reflection on the right to remain in one's own country, which is not yet codified at the international level. The World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated with enthusiasm in the Diocese, and the Holy Father's Message for this Day is noted with care each year and circulated among the clergy and laity.

Two notable events that the Pastoral Team were involved in during the reporting year included: the 150th anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh with associated festivities; and the launch of a year dedicated to the life and legacy of St. Brigid that coincided with the 1500th year anniversary of her death. On the 1st February 2024 a morning Mass was celebrated at the Shrine of St. Brigid, Faughart, and in the evening there was a candlelight procession from the Faughart graveyard to the Shrine. The Pastoral Team began organising a Festival of Families in honour of St. Brigid which was planned for June in Dundalk.

An essential element in pastoral planning for the future is the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Parish Pastoral Councils. The Archbishop strives to govern the Diocese in consultation with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and other bodies. In so doing, the Archdiocese operates a form of governance that emphasises the participation and shared responsibility of all Christian people for the life of the local

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Church. The Diocesan Pastoral Council seeks to discern the pastoral needs of the people of the Diocese and propose adequate responses. The Diocesan Pastoral Council helps to establish priorities, plan pastoral initiatives, and devise appropriate strategies for the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The members are representative of the Diocese at large and not of any specific group.

At all times the function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is exercised in accordance with the teachings of Sacred Scripture, Canon Law, and the norms of the Irish Episcopal Conference. The role of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is constantly reviewed in the context of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and is updated according to emerging needs and priorities.

At parish level, Pastoral Councils respond to the need for co-responsible leadership of clergy and people in fulfilling the mission of the Church. They are structures of participation that can provide new impetus to the life of a parish. Clergy and lay faithful work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to reinvigorate the Church by co-ordinating and harnessing the efforts of parishioners who live and share the Good News of Christ in the local community. As part of the ongoing planning and development process in the Diocese, parishes are encouraged to refresh their Pastoral Council every 4-5 years. Training for these new councils is provided in regional areas by the Diocesan Pastoral Team. In the reporting year the team delivered ongoing training with Parish Pastoral Councils in the parishes of Dromintee and Termonmaguirc as well as in Our Lady Queen of Peace Pastoral Area. They also commenced preparation for reforming the Parish Pastoral Council in the Parish of Loughgilly. Each of these councils engaged in a process of renewing its membership leaving more room for a broader engagement with the parish community.

The Diocesan Pastoral Workers delivered talks to parents of children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in Haggardstown and Blackrock. The Pastoral Workers attended conferences on forming Catechists at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny in November 2023 and in April 2024 on the Catechism of the Catholic Church at Knock, Co. Mayo.

Oasis of Peace

The Diocese also supported the work of the 'The Oasis of Peace' in Collon, Co. Louth, which is a focus for evangelisation and outreach. The Centre provides opportunities for visitors to encounter the love of God. It is a place of prayer, teaching and healing as well as providing pastoral care and support to those in need.

Synodality

The Synodal Journey, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021, is an ongoing process of engagement with the People of God, centred on listening and dialogue to advance the mission of the Church. During the reporting year, the Archdiocese of Armagh completed its participation in the diocesan phase of the consultation, culminating in a national gathering in Athlone. Further consultations contributed to the continental phase of the Synod, leading up to the XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. This consultation took the form of a large Diocesan Meeting in the Carrickdale Hotel with representatives from almost every parish in the Diocese.

Significant progress has been made through the work of the Diocesan Synodal Core Group, with successful emphasis on the 'Conversations in the Spirit' methodology, which fostered reflection and dialogue among participants. The Archdiocese's synodal journey during this period has drawn on the rich experience and wisdom within its parish communities, demonstrating a deep commitment to creating the conditions in which the Church's mission can be most effectively realised.

Online Resources

In the ecclesial landscape of social and digital media, the Archdiocese of Armagh's Pastoral Team has played an important role in fostering evangelisation and community engagement. The team oversaw the creation of the Armagh Prays Website, a vital platform utilised for resource distribution throughout the

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan YouTube Channel, which now boasts an impressive repository of 380 videos, has garnered 155,344 views and interactions to date. The Pastoral Team's multifaceted approach encompasses educational initiatives and collaborative projects thereby reinforcing the Church's relevance in the digital age and demonstrating its commitment to reach diverse and dynamic audiences as follows: provision of visitation teams in parishes; assistance to the disadvantaged; support for those suffering from addiction; and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Ecumenism

The heads of the four main Churches and ecclesial communities in Ireland: the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Church of Ireland (Anglican) Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, together with the President of the Irish Council of Churches, meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of religious, social, community and political importance. At a diocesan level work is promoted to foster spiritual ecumenism according to the principles laid down in the Decree on Ecumenism about public and private prayer for the unity of Christians. Parishes and clergy are encouraged to promote friendship, cooperation and charity between Catholics and their brothers and sisters from other Christian communities. Ecumenical prayer services, coffee mornings and pilgrimage walks took place in various parts of the Archdiocese on significant moments throughout the year, including ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Noteworthy is the work of the Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership which helped to promote joint events during St Patrick's Festival and the Season of Advent.

On 1 April 2023 Archbishop Eamon Martin delivered an address to a Legacy Matters Conference at Queen's University, Belfast on the issue of truth recovery and reconciliation in Northern Ireland from a faith perspective. The Church Leaders Group acknowledged the anniversary of the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement with a joint message on reconciliation for Holy Week in 2023. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the historic accord was also marked by the main Christian leaders participating in a seminar held in Rome in September 2023. The conference was hosted by the Pontifical Irish College and included reflections by Church figures, including Archbishop Martin, on the legacy of the agreement. Members of the Church Leaders Group held meetings with local political parties in early November 2023 and jointly welcomed the restoration of the devolved institutions in February 2024.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was observed in the Archdiocese from 18 – 25 January 2024 using resources produced by Christian communities in Burkina Faso on the theme 'You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself (Lk 10:27). In that connection, Archbishop Martin and his Church of Ireland counterpart, Archbishop John McDowell, produced a joint video reflection based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Five decades of ecumenical co-operation was celebrated with a two-day conference in October 2023 as Christian leaders gathered in Dromantine to reflect on the theme *Our Reconciling Vision of Hope: Fifty Years since the Ballymascanlon Talks*. In that same month, St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh hosted an ecumenical prayer service for people affected by cancer. The event was led by Bishop Michael Router and featured Archbishop John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, as guest preacher.

On 2 May 2023 Archbishop Martin attended a Service of Thanksgiving in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh in advance of the Coronation. Four days later, His Grace was present at Westminster Abbey as Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla were crowned. The Catholic and Church of Ireland Archbishops issued a number of joint statements during the reporting year, including: a call for action to protect the environment of Lough Neagh; Christmas greetings focused on the need for Christians to be peacemakers; a New Year message for 2024; and Easter blessings in 2024 with an emphasis on the requirement for a true ministry of reconciliation in our society.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults continues to be a priority for the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Safeguarding agenda is driven by legislation, policy and procedures which are updated and fully complied with.

The Safeguarding Office ensures the Archdiocese of Armagh adheres to the requirements of the new Policy & Guidance "*A Safe and Welcoming Church Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024*" (National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland) (NBSCCCI), and the Diocesan Policy on Adult Safeguarding 2017.

The Safeguarding Office of the Archdiocese consists of one part-time equivalent Director of Safeguarding, one part-time Safeguarding Trainer and one part-time Administrative Officer. Both the Director and the Diocesan Trainer are Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) and available to receive any complaints in respect of the safeguarding of either children or vulnerable adults. The contact details for the DLPs are publicised through the Safeguarding page of the Diocesan Website (www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding), and also on posters which are displayed in every church and church building throughout the Archdiocese.

The Director and the Diocesan Trainer attend the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee meetings at which they provide updates on work carried out and progress on the delivery of the objectives of the Diocesan Three-Year Strategic Safeguarding Plan. Four meetings were held during the reporting period on Thursday, 6th July 2023, Thursday, 21st September 2023, Tuesday, 28th November 2023 and Thursday, 7th March 2024.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee is responsible for overseeing the work of the Safeguarding Office in the Archdiocese of Armagh. Membership is for a three-year period with the option to renew for one further period of three years. This membership is made up of lay members and clergy reflecting experiences in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Archdiocese undertook a parish self-audit during the reporting period in line with guidance received from the NBSCCCI. A report of the Audit feedback was compiled and shared with the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee alongside an associated action plan.

The Diocesan Advisory Panel continued to meet during the reporting period.

In total 288 participants completed the Safeguarding Children training and 123 completed their Adult Safeguarding training (including Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Volunteers) over the course of the reporting period.

In total 234 people were vetted through Access NI during the reporting period and 936 were vetted through the Garda Vetting Office during the same period.

The Director of Safeguarding continues to participate in the Southern Trust Local Adult Safeguarding Partnership (LASP) where the Director is also a member of the Prevention Workstream.

Provision and Maintenance of Places of Worship

Churches play a central role in the spiritual life of parishioners and along with Parochial Houses and other associated parish buildings they are often significant landmarks within the wider local community. Public benefit is provided through the provision of safe and worthy places of worship and assembly, not only for the Catholic community, but also for those also who wish to make use of them for personal or spiritual

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

contemplation. Many of the churches and associated buildings are listed / protected as being of special or historic architectural interest. The proper care of these buildings can be onerous and costly, but they are essential for the ongoing realisation of the principal object of the Charity, the advancement of the Catholic religion.

General maintenance, minor and major schemes of renewal, and projects of construction in regard to church buildings and properties often require major outlays which are essential if these important structures, which form part of our national heritage, are to be maintained, not just for present use but for future generations. The management of this responsibility is ongoing and is carefully regulated and professionally monitored so that legitimate requests for new works, renovations and adaptations can be readily assessed and progressed by the Diocesan Building and Development Committee.

During this year there were a number of building projects undertaken throughout the Archdiocese, including: ongoing construction works at the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, Dundalk; mechanical and electrical upgrades at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Drogheda; car park resurfacing works at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Termonfechin; and repair works to the Church of St Patrick, Stonebridge. Various maintenance works continue across the Diocese to help protect and preserve the beauty and integrity of many of our old buildings. The Diocese has in place insurance cover in respect of all its buildings so that public access should not be unduly restricted by lack of funds to repair or restore buildings harmed as a result of accidental or other damage.

Fundraising

The Trust receives a large proportion of its income from donations, bequests and legacies from its supporters who are generally parishioners or those who have close connections to the Church. The Trust also receives support from other various groups such as the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, National Churches Trust, All Churches Trust and other funders. Without this valuable support the Trust would not be able to carry out most of its mission. The Council members of the Trust are mindful of their duty of care to those who may support the Trust, including vulnerable people, and therefore ensure that fundraising is carried out in a responsible and caring manner. The Trust does not use external professional fundraisers or require its parishioners to donate in order to share in the generous resources that God has provided for their use. It rather encourages a culture of giving where this is possible and therefore places no pressure on its donors to contribute. The Trust encourages the use of tax relief (Gift Aid and CHY) to maximise giving where this is possible and ensures that donors are fully informed of the scope of tax relief in relation to their tax status so that they can make an informed choice.

Donations

The charity made charitable donations amounting to £80,403 (2023: £70,427) during the financial year. No donations for political purposes were made during this period.

Aid for Impoverished and Needy Communities Worldwide

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference in 1973 as a means through which people contribute to overseas emergency relief and development aid programmes. Its dual mandate is to support the most vulnerable people in the developing world, while also raising awareness of injustice and global poverty. The Diocese is a significant contributor to the charitable work of Trócaire and in the year under review contributed over £270,000 (2023: £347,000). Along with the Lenten Collection, the Diocese also supported special collections in April 2023 and March 2024 in response to the humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria. The Archdiocese of Armagh also financially assists, facilitates and works in collaboration with the St Vincent de Paul Society and other charitable groups that look after the poor, the homeless and migrants.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Management of Resources

Council of the Trust

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the Trust) is governed by the Council of the Trust (the Directors) who meet regularly throughout the year to attend to the financial, property, building, personnel, legal and administrative affairs of the Diocese. All Parish Priests and Administrators of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Armagh are members of the Trust and are entitled to attend General Meetings of the Trust, including the Annual General Meeting. Parish Finance Committee members are also invited to these meetings.

There are eleven members of the Council. The Archbishop of Armagh is the Chairperson of the Council. The Vicars General are *ex officio* members of the Council. There are three lay and three other priest members of the Council chosen by the Archbishop for their integrity, experience and expertise.

The Secretary for the Trust is appointed by the Archbishop. The Council of the Trust has adopted a three-year development plan with appropriate objectives and targets. During the year, the Council met six times mainly to ensure the plan is continuously monitored, evaluated and reviewed, while also assessing the impact of the pandemic.

The Council has instituted a number of committees to assist and advise in the proper performance of its duties, including the Diocesan Building and Development Committee, the Diocesan Advisory Finance Committee, the Diocesan Personnel Committee, and the Diocesan Property Committee. Each member of the Council is a member of at least one of the Committees.

The Diocesan Building and Development Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Building and Building Development as set out in the Diocesan Buildings & Development Manual (October 2017). The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons appointed by the Council with integrity and expertise in this field. The Chairperson of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met seven times during the year.

The Diocesan Advisory Finance Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Finance within the Diocese and parishes as set out in the Finance Manual (October 2017). This includes strategic planning, fundraising, audit and reporting requirements, controls, investments, budgets and the review of financial resources. The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons with integrity and relevant financial expertise appointed by the Council. The Chairperson of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met four times during the year.

The Diocesan Personnel Committee makes strategic recommendations on behalf of and to the Council in relation to the area of Parish and Diocesan Personnel and Human Resource management. It monitors the implementation and effectiveness of all personnel-related policies and ensures that resources are in place for implementation of policies. To this end the Committee has devised a Parish Recruitment and Selection manual, and Staff Handbooks. The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons appointed by the Council with integrity and relevant human resources expertise. The Chairperson of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met five times during the year.

The Diocesan Property Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Property as set out in the Property Manual (October 2017). This includes ownership, acquisitions, disposals, letting, leasing, licensing and any other form of alienation which alters the value of a property. The membership of the Committee comprises five Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of whom is Chair) and such other persons with integrity and relevant expertise appointed by the Council. The Chairperson of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met six times

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Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

during the year.

Risk Management

The Council of the Trust actively reviews all major strategic and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed. It confirms that these have been reviewed and ensures that strategies and systems are established to manage exposure to these risks. Each Committee is required to monitor changes and to develop systems to manage risk whenever possible. The main areas of risk identified and monitored by the Council of the Trust include:

- Compliance with Health & Safety and listed buildings legislation
- Reduction in active clergy numbers
- Reduction in voluntary income
- Increasing costs for the care of sick and retired clergy
- Operational risks in the areas of finance, personnel and property
- Board failing in its responsibilities
- Funding volatility
- Reduction in central reserves due to capital projects and long-term commitments
- Compliance with data protection regulations
- Compliance with good governance procedures
- Safeguarding

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are set out in the financial statements that accompany this report.

The table below summarises the financial activities of the Diocese:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Parishes		
Income	12,413	11,739
Expenditure	(11,712)	(11,134)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus before transfers	701	605
Transfer between funds	177	369
Net gains on disposal of assets	369	303
Net (losses) on investments	(2)	(29)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in reserves	1,245	1,248
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Curia		
Income	2,815	2,948
Expenditure	(1,413)	(1,648)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus before transfers and investment gains	1,402	1,300
Transfer between funds	(177)	(369)
Net gains on disposal of assets	-	101
Net gains/(losses) on investment	628	(549)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in reserves	1,853	483
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total increase in Parish and Curia reserves	3,098	1,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Complete details of the income and expenditure are shown in the statement of financial activities on page 30 and in the notes to the accounts.

Review of transactions and financial position of the Charity

The reserves of the Charity at 31 March 2024 total £111m (2023 - £109m) and of this total £92.3m (2023-£91.9m) relate solely to the assets and activities of individual Parishes and are not available for the non-parish general purposes of the Charity. Curia reserves total £19m at the year-end (2023 £17.2m) of which £0.2m (2023 - £0.3m) is unrestricted with £4.1m (2023 – £2.4m) of this relating to fixed assets.

Most of the income received by Parishes is through the Sunday offertory and other donations. This source of income is 66% of the parish total. Total income was £12.4m (2023 - £11.7m) and total expenditure was £11.7m in 2024 (2023 - £11.1m).

Total Curia income was £2.8m in 2024 (2023 - £2.9m). Total expenditure was £1.4m in 2024 (2023 – £1.6m).

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Investment policy

The Memorandum of Association of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited provides the Trust with the powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner and to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert.

Investment Managers

The Trust has appointed IQ-EQ Fund Management (Ireland) Limited as investment managers who operate a 'total return' policy over the medium to long-term with emphasis on current income with a low-medium risk profile. The managers have full discretion to invest, subject to the parameters laid down by the Trust. There is a review of information from the Investment Managers on a regular basis.

At present the Diocesan Finance Committee liaises with the investment managers, monitors their performance, and reports to the Council of the Trust at each of its meetings. In 2021/2022, the Diocesan Finance Committee, supported by an independent advisor, undertook a project to review the Diocesan Investment Portfolio and the performance of the Investment Managers. A similar review is planned for 2025 in pursuance of a policy of continuously monitoring performance.

Under Charity Law the Council of the Trust must seek to obtain the best financial return possible consistent with commercial prudence.

The Diocesan Trust Investment Portfolio value is £15,554,699 (2023 - £14,819,421).

Investment Objectives

The overall objectives of the Trust are to meet the diverse needs of the Portfolio's Beneficiaries by pursuing a reasonable level of capital growth in a risk- controlled manner to meet benefit payments that will be largely Sterling denominated.

In fulfilling these objectives, the Council of the Trust adheres to an Ethical Policy that precludes investment in asset classes directly or mainly involved in the manufacture and/or supply of goods and services which are not in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel, the promotion of the dignity and sanctity of human life, and the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Environmental issues are also a significant factor.

Ethical Investment Policy

The agreed Trust's Ethical Investment Policy is as follows:

- Preclusion of investment in companies known to be racist or otherwise exploitative of human rights
- Preclusion of investment in companies which either produce or promote:
 - armaments including biological and chemical weapons, landmines and general weapons and arms of war and mass destruction
 - contraceptives and/or birth control devices
 - offensive written material
 - gambling, tobacco or alcohol

Preclusion of investment in companies involved:

- in the provision of abortion or euthanasia
- in the violation of currently approved environmental conventions.
- directly in fossil fuels

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

It is understood that a complete control over monies, for instance, those held in Funds, is not possible. The Council of the Trust may, therefore, have indirect exposure to activities which may give rise to ethical concerns where these are considered minimal in relation to the portfolio's overall composition.

Reserves policy

The Trust recognises that its income arises primarily from voluntary donations and that accordingly it is important to seek to carry adequate levels of reserves to ensure its ability to meet future expenditure commitments as they arise. Parishes are encouraged to maintain adequate short-term reserves to ensure that they can meet operating costs in the short-term and to build longer-term reserves that will be available if substantial commitments, such as building refurbishment projects, arise. The Diocese centrally aims to maintain adequate levels of reserves to meet Diocesan operating costs in the short to medium term and to provide for any significant expenditures and contingencies that may arise at future dates. The policy of maintaining significant long-term reserves is considered consistent with the expectation that the Archdiocese of Armagh will continue to exist in perpetuity.

Financial Management and Key Performance Indicators

With the pro-active involvement of the Council Committees, diocesan resources are managed to tightly control all costs, in particular property and human resources/employment costs. The Council Committees pursue a policy of obtaining value for money and protection of diocesan assets. The management of the diocesan property holdings, with input from the Property and Building and Development Committees, is costly (costs amounted to £5.1m in the last financial year - see Pages 42 and 43 of this report under the headings Premises Costs, Repairs and Maintenance, and Rates and Insurance expenditure). Yet, the resource of property is key to engaging with the Charity's stakeholders and essential for the public benefit it provides.

The Personnel Committee focuses on the costs of employment and compensating employees fairly. The Finance Committee monitors general overheads, one-off expenditures and the financial implications of Property and Building and Development decisions, as well as acting in an advisory capacity for all the Council's Committees.

To respond to unexpected calls for financial support whilst funding predictable recurring expenditure, the Charity has a policy of keeping liquid reserves (cash and cash equivalents) at least equal to annual running costs currently estimated at £19.6m.

Targeted fundraising is employed when major expenditure projects are being planned which would otherwise put too much of a strain on existing resources.

Plans for the Future

This brief overlook reflects the work of the Charity in the current year and also indicates its ongoing commitment with regard to fulfilling the principal aims and objectives of the Charitable Trust into the future.

The Archdiocese of Armagh will continue to build upon and develop the initiatives and activities outlined in the narrative above and so continue to advance the primary goals of the Charity. In addition, a particular focus of the Trust is to secure the long-term financial stability of the Archdiocese.

Periodically, the Trust undertakes a review exercise in respect of all aspects of the activities of the Charity through reports from parishes and the various bodies which are constituent parts of the Diocese. Work is

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

continuing towards the organisation of a Diocesan Assembly to reflect on and produce a comprehensive medium- to long-term Diocesan Pastoral Plan and to ensure that resources are focussed on the key themes which have been identified as central to the work of the Archdiocese.

The Strategic Report has been approved by the Trustees on 11 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited



Reverend Colm Hagan
Secretary of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The operation of the Charity is overseen by the Corporate Trustee. The Directors of the Corporate Trustee (Council of the Trust) are appointed by the Archbishop of Armagh who is the Chair. Recruitment of Directors is based upon their knowledge of the local Church and professional skills and expertise necessary for overseeing the affairs of the Charity by ensuring it is solvent, well run, and that it delivers the outcomes for which it was established.

On appointment, new Directors of the Council of the Trust are introduced to their role by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Diocesan Secretary and the Diocesan Financial Administrator, and are provided with copies of documentation relating to the Trust and the latest financial information and reports. Directors attend formal and informal training sessions as required (see page 3 for legal and administrative details).

In accordance with the Code of Canon Law a Council of Priests, that is a group of priests which represents the Presbyterium, advises the Archbishop according to the norm of law so as to promote, as much as possible, the pastoral good of the People of God entrusted to him. The Archbishop also relies upon the advice and guidance of the Cathedral Chapter, the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Episcopal Vicars, all of whom meet regularly to discuss matters of pastoral concern within the Diocese.

At parish level, the Parish Priest is responsible for all aspects of governing the parish. Parish Priests are not employees but act as agents for the Trust. Each parish is required to have a Finance Committee which meets at least four times per year to support and advise the priest, particularly in the areas of finance, property, buildings and personnel. A comprehensive manual, "Finance Manual – financial controls and related processes within Parishes" is issued by the Diocese to parishes. Letters and updates are issued by the Archbishop regularly through which policies are communicated to parishes covering liturgical, pastoral, financial and administrative matters. Further support is also available from the Curia office.

The Council has instituted a number of committees to assist and advise it in the proper performance of its duties, including the Diocesan Building and Development Committee, the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Diocesan Personnel Committee, and the Diocesan Property Committee (see pages 18 and 19).

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustee has prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless it is satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Future developments

Future developments are set out in the Strategic report and included in this report by cross reference. The plan for future periods is detailed on pages 22-23.

Reference and administrative details

Administrative details are included on page 3.

Funds held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Independent auditor

The auditors, CavanaghKelly, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Report of the Directors was approved and authorised for issue by the Directors of the Corporate Trustee on 11 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited



Reverend Colm Hagan
Secretary of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Annual return

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its total incoming resources and expenditure of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you were:

- the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustee has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Continued)

Other Information

The Trustee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the Trustee's Responsibilities Statement, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, design and implement appropriate responses to those assessed risks and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the course of our audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company's financial statements and considered the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standards (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities.
- We have assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance;
- We enquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Understanding the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Discussions amongst the audit engagement team regarding how fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the following potential areas where fraud may occur: timing of revenue recognition, and management override.

The audit response to risks identified included:

- Reviewing the financial statements disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with the relevant laws and regulations above;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud;

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are reasonable and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

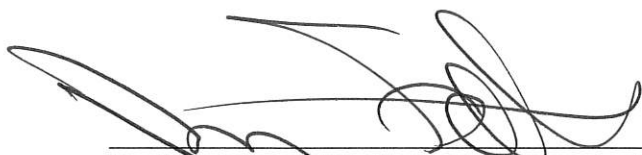
St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Continued)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr Ryan Falls FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
CAVANAGHKELLY
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
36 – 38 Northland Row
Dungannon
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6AP

Date: 11 December 2024

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Accounts

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Parishes Unrestricted funds £	Parishes Restricted funds £	Parishes Total funds £	Curia Unrestricted funds £	Curia Restricted funds £	Curia Total funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income and endowments from:									
Income and endowments from:									
Collections, donations and legacies	2	-	9,242,204	9,242,204	0	2,014,571	2,014,571	11,256,775	9,367,548
Investment income	3	-	2,069	2,069	25,910	491,232	517,142	519,211	428,429
Charitable activities	4	-	1,985,330	1,985,330	12,774	356,672	369,446	2,354,776	2,040,542
Other income		-	509,708	509,708	15,643	30,834	46,497	556,205	241,666
		-	11,739,311	11,739,311	54,327	2,893,329	2,947,656	14,686,967	12,078,185
Expenditure on:									
Cost of raising funds	6	-	267,981	267,981	-	2,015	2,015	269,996	178,736
Charitable expenditure	7	-	10,865,817	10,865,817	149,986	1,437,579	1,587,565	12,453,382	11,707,790
Investment management costs	8	-	-	-	-	58,775	58,775	58,775	66,949
TOTAL		-	11,133,798	11,133,798	149,986	1,498,369	1,648,355	12,782,153	11,953,475
Net income / (expenditure)	10	-	605,513	605,513	(95,659)	1,394,960	1,299,301	1,904,814	124,710
Net (losses) on investments	13	-	(29,017)	(29,017)	-	(548,670)	(548,670)	(577,687)	299,200
Transfers between funds	17	-	369,231	369,231	(329,857)	(39,374)	(369,231)	-	-
Net operating income/(expenditure)		-	945,727	945,727	(425,516)	806,916	381,400	1,327,127	423,910
Other recognised gains and losses									
Net gains on disposal of assets	5	-	302,609	302,609	-	101,050	101,050	403,659	242,742
Net movement on funds		-	1,248,336	1,248,336	(425,516)	907,966	482,450	1,730,786	666,652
Total funds brought forward		-	89,341,694	89,341,694	721,308	15,984,506	16,705,814	106,047,508	105,661,712
Currency translation differences		-	1,324,421	1,324,421	0	18,255	18,255	1,342,676	(280,856)
Fund balance carried forward	21	-	91,914,451	91,914,451	295,792	16,910,727	17,206,519	109,120,970	106,047,508

The notes on pages 33 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Balance sheet 31 March 2023

	Parishes	Curia	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	71,497,242	2,457,427	73,954,669	72,423,159
Investment properties	1,039,569	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Investments	297,874	14,521,547	14,819,421	15,276,000
	72,834,685	17,282,306	90,116,991	89,042,060
Stock				
Debtors	25,539	-	25,539	23,522
Cash at bank and on hand	1,830,928	505,368	2,336,296	1,819,444
	9,567,078	10,779,473	20,346,551	18,193,645
	11,423,545	11,284,841	22,708,386	20,036,611
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
	(1,143,818)	(1,329,589)	(2,473,407)	(1,847,663)
Net current assets				
	10,279,727	9,955,252	20,234,979	18,188,948
Consolidation Fund				
Due from parishes to the Consolidation Fund	(2,594,218)	2,594,218	-	-
Due to parishes from the Consolidation Fund	11,394,257	(11,394,257)	-	-
Total assets less current liabilities				
	91,914,451	18,437,519	110,351,970	107,231,008
Provisions for liabilities and charges				
	-	(1,231,000)	(1,231,000)	(1,183,500)
Total assets less current liabilities				
	91,914,451	17,206,519	109,120,970	106,047,508
Unrestricted funds				
Restricted funds	17	295,792	295,792	721,308
	17	16,910,727	108,825,178	105,326,200
Total charity funds				
	91,914,451	17,206,519	109,120,970	106,047,508

The financial statements were approved by the charity on 25 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Delegated by:



Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

The notes on pages 33 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Cashflow Statement 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash flow from operations	20	2,736,872	1,474,380
Finance costs		(79,703)	(68,594)
Net cash generated from operating activities		2,657,169	1,405,786
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,451,010)	(147,540)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		589,809	293,188
Sale of investments		4,052,524	4,607,909
Purchase of investments		(3,909,135)	(4,922,582)
Investment portfolio liquid asset movement		(251,427)	246,911
Finance income		76,037	5,318
Net cash (paid)/received in investing activities		(893,202)	83,204
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,763,967	1,488,990
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at beginning of the year		17,300,433	15,811,443
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at end of the year		19,064,400	17,300,433

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the "charity") is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Northern Ireland. The Registered Office is given in the charity information on page 3. The Council of the Trust members of the charity are the directors named on page 3. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition of area made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church.

The advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world or in any part of the world.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the charity believes that no material uncertainties exist. The charity has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Base currency

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2019 (SORP 2019), the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (NI) 2015, the Charities Acts (NI 2008 and 2022), the Companies Act 2006 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK.

Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires the charity to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

The judgments (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Tangible assets

The net book value of property held at 1 April 2018 was established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%. Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, with the exception of investment land, to arrive at deemed cost.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Valuation of investment properties

The charity carries the investment properties at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA). The charity has used internal expertise available to determine the fair value, based on market value of the investment properties. Further information is available at note 12.

Provisions for liabilities and charges – legal claims

The charity has provided for the value of claims and the associated legal costs that have been notified to them. The charity has taken advice from the solicitors engaged in the claims to arrive at the amount provided. The details of the amount provided is included in note 16.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Offeratories and collections are included in income when received. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustee's Annual Report.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Income recognition (continued)

Income from fundraising events and other activities is recognised when entitlement has occurred. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives grants in respect of the upkeep of properties. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

The charity received grants as a result of Covid 19 from the governments in UK and Republic of Ireland during the previous year to assist with payment of salaries in the form of Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS). All these grants and subsidies are recognised when receivable.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising from within the Parishes and Curia.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes administration costs, bank fees, depreciation and premises expenses.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Resources expended

Resource expended are included in the statement of financial affairs on the basis of the amounts payable for work done and services provided in the year.

The costs of generating funds consist of expenditure incurred by the charity in encouraging others to make contributions to it.

The costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objectives consist of all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the Diocese.

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures and controls, provision of general office services and equipment and a suitable working environment. All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity of the Charity i.e. advancing the Roman Catholic faith primarily within the Archdiocese of Armagh.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs incurred in respect of its compliance with regulation and good practice.

All support costs and governance costs are included within the expenditure of the one principal charitable activity namely the costs of activities in the furtherance of the charity's objective.

Tangible fixed assets

Land and buildings

Land is divided into different categories and has been valued by the charity using a value per acre, depending upon the type of land that is held, to arrive at deemed cost.

Prior to activation of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited on the 1 April 2018, the accounting policy applied to most buildings was for capital expenditure to be written off in full as incurred. As a result of that policy, the original costs and accumulated depreciation of most property held then was not available. The charity's view was that a reasonable approximation of the net book value of property held at 1 April 2018, the date the assets were assumed into St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, would be established through discounting the insurance valuation of these assets by 90%.

This was the policy employed to include the assets for which the cost could not be identified on the balance sheet at estimated historic cost net of accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its estimated useful economic life at 1% for church buildings and 2% for all other buildings.

Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Additions are capitalised where the value exceeds £5,000. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15%, 25% straight line and 20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% straight line
Land is not depreciated.	

Investment properties

Investments are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA.

Investments

Investments are recognised at market value at the balance sheet date which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs.

Current asset investments are short term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less. For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the SoFA unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are initially recognised by applying to the foreign currency amount the spot exchange rate between the functional currency and the foreign currency at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency at the balance sheet date are translated using the closing rate.

Pensions

The pension costs for the charity's pension schemes are charged in the year they are incurred.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Tax

It is considered that the charity is largely exempt from income tax in Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and the Taxation of Taxable Gains Act 1992 and in the Republic of Ireland under the provision s84A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Recovery is made of tax deducted from Income and from receipts under Gift Aid in Northern Ireland and CHY charitable donations scheme in the Republic of Ireland. The charity was not able to recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Financial Instruments

The charity has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

(i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and amounts owed by related companies are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in SoFA.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the SoFA.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans and overdrafts and hire purchase contracts are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Collections, donations and legacies

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Offertories and collections	-	7,775,626	7,775,626	7,175,234
Donations and legacies	-	539,990	539,990	988,448
Charitable tax relief	-	926,588	926,588	800,149
	-	9,242,204	9,242,204	8,963,831

Curia

Offertories and collections	-	24,442	24,442	31,681
Donations and legacies	-	1,933,541	1,933,541	270,425
Levy Income	-	56,588	56,588	101,611
	-	2,014,571	2,014,571	403,717

All voluntary income, with the exception of £2,054 from donations, was restricted in 2022.

3. Investment income

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	2,069	2,069	1,090
	-	2,069	2,069	1,090

Curia

Income from investment properties	25,910	-	25,910	24,908
Income from listed investments	-	417,264	417,264	398,203
Bank interest	-	73,968	73,968	4,228
	25,910	491,232	517,142	427,339

All investment income, with the exception of income from investment properties, was restricted in 2022.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

4. Charitable activities

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Grants received	-	178,996	178,996	29,609
Fundraising	-	719,268	719,268	719,638
Rental income	-	858,966	858,966	576,175
Grave fees	-	220,483	220,483	170,604
Government Covid 19 subsidies	-	7,617	7,617	433,375
	-	1,985,330	1,985,330	1,929,401

Curia

Grants received	12,774	-	12,774	26,401
Pilgrimages/retreats	-	325,839	325,839	32,105
Fundraising	-	30,833	30,833	-
Rental income	-	-	-	-
Government Covid 19 subsidies	-	-	-	52,635
	12,774	356,672	369,446	111,141

All income from charitable activities, with the exception of £15,523 was restricted in 2022.

5. Net gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets				
Parishes	-	302,609	302,609	242,742
Curial	-	101,050	101,050	-
	-	403,659	403,659	242,742

The net gain on disposals of tangible fixed assets was restricted in 2022.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

6. Costs of raising funds

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising expenses	-	267,981	267,981	177,666
	-	267,981	267,981	177,666

Curia

Fundraising expenses	-	2,015	2,015	1,070
	-	2,015	2,015	1,070

The cost of raising funds in Parishes and Curia was restricted in 2022.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Charitable Expenditure

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Administration costs	-	211,268	211,268	145,923
Legal and professional fees	-	70,012	70,012	64,041
Bank charges	-	68,838	68,838	42,007
Clergy revenue payments	-	1,425,256	1,425,256	1,487,848
Pastoral personnel	-	51,859	51,859	47,520
Premises costs	-	2,068,848	2,068,848	1,455,794
Votives and liturgical costs	-	529,082	529,082	506,521
Parish centre costs	-	245,645	245,645	191,209
Gross salaries and employer NIC/PRSI/pensions	-	1,560,748	1,560,748	1,507,209
Rates and insurance	-	702,110	702,110	716,155
Repairs and maintenance	-	1,916,387	1,916,387	1,753,162
Exchange (gain)/loss	-	(58,167)	(58,167)	11,374
Sundry expenses	-	167,085	167,085	92,240
Depreciation	-	854,724	854,724	842,591
School payments	-	10,858	10,858	16,596
Charitable donations	-	34,936	34,936	33,000
Diocesan levy	-	1,006,328	1,006,328	926,612
	-	10,865,817	10,865,817	9,839,802

All charitable expenditure for Parishes was restricted in 2022.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Charitable Expenditure (continued)

Curia	2023		2022	
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £
Administration costs	95,884	26,199	61,430	33,928
Bank interest and fees	9,172	1,693	10,760	15,827
Clergy revenue payments	-	56,581	-	61,583
Pastoral personnel	25,842	14,050	28,600	37,549
Cathedral repairs and maintenance	10,843	-	106,044	-
Office premises costs	21,534	-	17,284	-
Repairs and maintenance	44,281	-	79,441	33,574
Gross salaries and employer's NIC/PRSI/pension	304,546	99,064	301,256	100,522
Rates and insurance	22,194	-	13,249	-
Exchange (gain) / loss	8,437	92,257	(42,537)	(11,660)
Sundry expenses	50,809	30,025	30,417	33,988
Depreciation	-	15,629	-	17,625
Safeguarding costs	46,217	-	34,775	-
Compensation claims and legal fees	-	50,808	-	704,583
Irish Episcopal Conference	81,142	-	38,188	-
Clergy students' fees and ongoing clergy formation	-	455,794	-	315,350
Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission	-	13,468	-	12,674
Pilgrimages and retreats	-	305,374	-	41,151
Retirement, sickness & special assistance grants	-	454,224	-	443,131
Governance costs (note 9)	25,800	-	25,800	-
VHI health insurance	-	71,227	-	89,837
Pastoral expenses	84,741	40,566	73,506	48,477
Charitable donations	20,000	15,491	20,995	17,253
Parish levy	(701,456)	(304,872)	(630,323)	(296,289)
	149,986	1,437,579	1,587,565	1,699,103
			168,885	1,867,988

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

8. Investment management costs

Parishes

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Investment manager fees	-	58,775	58,775	66,949
	-	58,775	58,775	66,949

9. Governance costs

Curia

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fees paid to external auditors for audit	25,800	-	25,800	25,800
	25,800	-	25,800	25,800

10. Net income / expenditure

Net income / expenditure is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration - audit	25,800	25,800
Depreciation - restricted funds	870,353	860,216

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

11. Staff numbers, costs and pension contributions

The average number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Curia employees	14	14
Parish employees	186	193
	200	207

The aggregate payroll costs for the above were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,840,243	1,821,349
Social security costs	115,322	73,116
Employer pension contributions	15,093	14,522
	1,970,658	1,908,987

One employee received remuneration in the band £80,000 to £89,999.

The charity makes payments through pension auto enrolment in respect of eligible employees.

The Charity considers that its key management personnel comprise the Directors, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Financial Administrator and Diocesan Director for Safeguarding. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the financial year is £147,904 (2022: £157,750).

Indemnity insurance for directors' liability has been purchased by the Charity.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets Parishes

	Freehold land £	Churches £	Houses £	Halls and other properties £	Parish equipment £	Motor vehicles £	TOTAL £	Freehold investment properties £
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2022	4,463,148	57,392,539	5,653,869	7,072,453	120,049	6,600	74,708,658	1,039,569
Foreign exchange	30,927	980,856	94,444	83,193	1,159	-	1,190,579	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	5,895	-	5,895	-
Disposals	(19,000)	-	-	(160,000)	-	-	(179,000)	-
At 31 March 2023	4,475,075	58,373,395	5,748,313	6,995,646	127,103	6,600	75,726,132	1,039,569
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2022	-	2,295,641	433,510	559,057	43,670	4,512	3,336,390	-
Foreign exchange	-	39,235	7,407	6,655	279	-	53,576	-
Charge for the year	-	583,734	114,966	142,354	13,252	418	854,724	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(15,800)	-	-	(15,800)	-
At 31 March 2023	-	2,918,610	555,883	692,266	57,201	4,930	4,228,890	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2023	4,475,075	55,454,785	5,192,430	6,303,380	69,902	1,670	71,497,242	1,039,569
31 March 2022	4,463,148	55,096,898	5,220,359	6,513,396	76,379	2,088	71,372,268	1,039,569

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Curia

	Freehold land	Churches	Houses	Halls and other properties	Parish equipment	Motor vehicles	TOTAL	Freehold investment properties
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 31 March 2022	308,490	-	-	806,957	37,214	-	1,152,661	303,332
Additions	-	-	-	1,445,115	-	-	1,445,115	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(25,500)	-	-	(25,500)	-
At 31 March 2023	308,490	-	-	2,226,572	37,214	-	2,572,276	303,332
DEPRECIATION								
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-	64,556	37,214	-	101,770	-
Charge for the year	-	-	-	15,629	-	-	15,629	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,550)	-	-	(2,550)	-
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-	77,635	37,214	-	114,849	-
NET BOOK VALUE								
31 March 2023	308,490	-	-	2,148,937	-	-	2,457,427	303,332
31 March 2022	308,490	-	-	742,401	-	-	1,050,891	303,332

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Total						
	Freehold land £	Churches £	Houses £	Halls and other properties £	Parish equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Freehold investment properties £
COST OR VALUATION							
At 31 March 2022	4,771,638	57,392,539	5,653,869	7,879,410	157,263	6,600	75,861,319
Foreign exchange	30,927	980,856	94,444	83,193	1,159	-	1,190,579
Additions	-	-	-	1,445,115	5,895	-	1,451,010
Disposals	(19,000)	-	-	(185,500)	-	-	(204,500)
At 31 March 2023	4,783,565	58,373,395	5,748,313	9,222,218	164,317	6,600	78,298,408
							1,342,901
DEPRECIATION							
At 31 March 2022	-	2,295,641	433,510	623,613	80,884	4,512	3,438,160
Foreign exchange	-	39,235	7,407	6,655	279	-	53,576
Change for the year	-	583,734	114,966	157,983	13,252	418	870,353
Disposals	-	-	-	(18,350)	-	-	(18,350)
At 31 March 2023	-	2,918,610	555,883	769,901	94,415	4,930	4,343,739
NET BOOK VALUE							
31 March 2023	4,783,565	55,454,785	5,192,430	8,452,317	69,902	1,670	73,954,669
							1,342,901
31 March 2022	4,771,638	55,096,898	5,220,359	7,255,797	76,379	2,088	72,423,159
							1,342,901

The investment properties have been valued at fair value by the charity on the basis of market value.

Halls and other properties include an amount of £1,445,115 in respect of an asset under construction and this element has not been depreciated.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

13. Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Investments		
Opening at 1 st April 2022	15,276,000	14,911,618
Foreign exchange	13,067	(2,580)
Additions	3,909,135	4,922,582
Disposal proceeds	(4,052,524)	(4,607,909)
Net realised investment gains	221,029	453,080
Net unrealised investment (losses)/gains	(798,713)	(153,880)
Net movement in cash and short-term deposits	251,427	(246,911)
Closing at 31 March 2023	<u>14,819,421</u>	<u>15,276,000</u>

14. Debtors

	2023			2022		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Gift aid/CHY tax relief	875,885	-	875,885	756,672	-	756,672
Prepayments	223,523	34,932	258,455	167,726	42,445	210,171
Other debtors	731,520	470,436	1,201,956	411,181	441,420	852,601
	<u>1,830,928</u>	<u>505,368</u>	<u>2,336,296</u>	<u>1,335,579</u>	<u>483,865</u>	<u>1,819,444</u>

15. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2023			2022		
	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £	Parishes £	Curia £	Total £
Bank overdrafts	321,111	961,040	1,282,151	278,862	614,350	893,212
Creditors and accruals	547,399	401,622	949,020	416,886	304,638	721,524
Other creditors	200,973	-	200,973	217,413	-	217,413
Tax and social security	74,336	(33,073)	41,263	21,454	(5,940)	15,514
	<u>1,143,818</u>	<u>1,329,589</u>	<u>2,473,407</u>	<u>934,615</u>	<u>913,048</u>	<u>1,847,663</u>

16. Provisions

The charity has included a provision in these financial statements of £1,231,000 (2022: £1,183,500) to cover legal claims and costs. They have made this provision in this year's financial statements based upon legal advice on the likely outcome of these cases.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

17. Movement in funds

	Opening balance 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Other gains / (losses)	Exchange	Transfers	Closing Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds							
Parishes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curia	721,308	54,327	(149,986)	-	-	(329,857)	295,792
Total unrestricted funds	721,308	54,327	(149,986)	-	-	(329,857)	295,792
Restricted funds – Parishes							
Parishes	89,341,694	12,041,920	(11,133,798)	(29,017)	1,324,421	369,231	91,914,451
Restricted funds – Curia							
Curial Funds	194,585	186,583	(214,744)	(34,838)	1,184	55,796	188,566
Clerical Formation and Education	6,864,670	2,614,932	(1,132,967)	(244,971)	14,437	-	8,116,101
Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society	6,814,996	515,932	(577,665)	(213,913)	-	(97,973)	6,441,377
General Charities Fund	513,340	15,748	(20,246)	(16,835)	-	165	492,172
Welfare Society	1,244,351	28,628	(12,607)	(38,113)	-	2,638	1,224,897
Lourdes Pilgrimage	352,564	384,844	(292,428)	-	2,634	-	447,614
Diocesan levies	15,984,506	(752,288)	752,288	-	-	-	-
	2,994,379	(1,498,369)	(548,670)	18,255	(39,374)	-	16,910,727
Total restricted funds	105,326,200	15,036,299	(12,632,167)	(577,687)	1,342,676	329,857	108,825,178
Total funds	106,047,508	15,090,626	(12,782,153)	(577,687)	1,342,676	-	109,120,970

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

18. Capital commitments

The charity had capital commitments amounting to £1,699,488 at 31 March 2023 (2022: none).

19. Amounts held as agent

There are various collections taken up during the year within the Diocese that are collections undertaken as agent on behalf of other organisations. These funds are lodged to the bank and then paid to the individual organisations. The asset and liability are not recognised within these financial statements. The amount of funds held by the charity was £90,395 at 31 March 2023 (2022 - £188,263).

20. Reconciliation of net income to net inflow/(outflow) of cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income for the year	1,730,786	666,652
<u>Adjustments for:</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	870,353	860,216
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(403,659)	(242,742)
Foreign exchange movements	192,606	(36,178)
Finance income	(76,037)	(5,318)
Finance costs	79,703	68,594
Movement in inventories	(2,017)	9,445
Movement in receivables	(516,852)	205,916
Movement in creditors and other payables	236,805	(389,805)
Movement in provisions for liabilities	47,500	636,800
Movement in market value of investment portfolio	577,684	(299,200)
Net cash inflow of cash generated from operations	2,736,872	1,474,380

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	2023		2023		2023		2022	
	Parishes Unrestricted £	Parishes Restricted £	Parishes Total £	Curia Unrestricted £	Curia Restricted £	Curia Total £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	71,497,242	71,497,242	882,674	1,574,753	2,457,427	73,954,669	72,423,159
Investment properties	-	1,039,569	1,039,569	303,332	-	303,332	1,342,901	1,342,901
Fixed asset investments Bank balances / (overdraft)	-	297,874	297,874	-	14,521,546	14,521,546	14,819,420	15,276,000
Other net current assets / (liabilities)	-	9,245,967	9,245,967	188,643	9,629,790	9,818,433	19,064,400	17,300,433
Provisions for liabilities and charges Inter parishes and Curia loans (net)	-	1,033,760	1,033,760	(365,774)	502,594	136,820	1,170,580	888,515
	-	8,800,039	8,800,039	(713,083)	(8,086,956)	(8,800,039)	(1,231,000)	(1,183,500)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	-	91,914,451	91,914,451	295,792	16,910,727	17,206,519	109,120,970	106,047,508

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

22. Financial Instruments

The charity has the following financial instruments	2023	2022
	£	£
Financial assets		
Cash held at bank and in hand	20,346,550	18,193,645
Other debtors and accrued income	1,236,888	895,046
Financial assets held at amortised cost	21,583,438	19,088,691
Financial liabilities		
Bank overdraft	1,282,151	893,212
Accruals	949,020	721,524
Other creditors	200,973	217,413
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost	2,432,144	1,832,419

23. Contingent Liability

A contingent liability exists for potential additional liabilities for legal costs that may fall due, but the amounts and timing of any such potential payments for additional liabilities for legal costs cannot be estimated with any reasonable certainty and, therefore, no provision has been made in these financial statements.

24. Directors' Remuneration

The directors neither received, nor waived, any emoluments nor made a claim for expenses incurred relating to duties carried out for the charity. Eight (2022: eight) directors of the charity received stipends, in aggregate, totalling £170,586 for the year to 31 March 2023 (2022 - £160,945). These stipends were paid to them in respect of their role as serving Ministers of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh and not as a result of their director role. No pension contributions were paid on their behalf. Accommodation is provided for them exclusively as a consequence of their ministries within the Diocese.

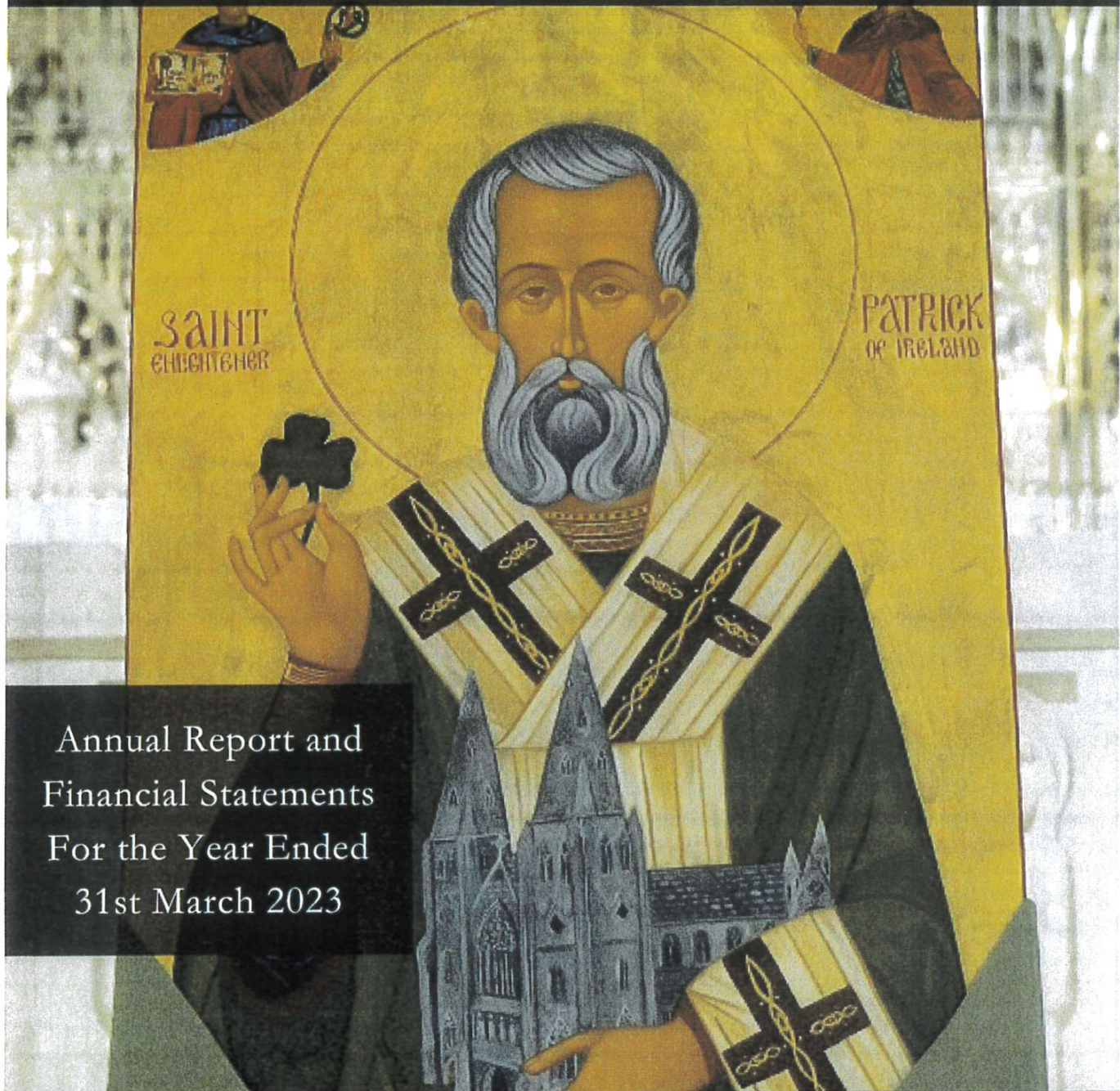
St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Annual report

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Company registered number: NI015284
Charity registered number: NIC 106767



Annual Report and
Financial Statements
For the Year Ended
31st March 2023

Archdiocese of Armagh

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited



Picture on Cover Page
Icon of St. Patrick
Written by the Redemptoristine
Sisters of Drumcondra in Dublin to
mark the 150th Anniversary of the
Dedication of St Patrick's
Cathedral, Armagh

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

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St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Name

The name of the Charity is St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited
The name of the Corporate Trustee is St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited
Company registration number: NI015284
Charity Registration number: 106767

Directors and Officers of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

(also referred to as the Council of the Trust)

Most Reverend Eamon Martin (Archbishop of Armagh)
Most Reverend Michael Router
Monsignor Colum Curry
Dean Kevin Donaghy
Anne Garvey
Very Reverend Peter McAnenly
Enda McLernon
Very Reverend Mark O'Hagan
Canon Peter Murphy
Rhona Quinn
Canon Eugene Sweeney

Registered Office

Archdiocese of Armagh, Ara Coeli, Cathedral Road, Armagh, BT61 7QY

Company Secretary

Reverend Colm Hagan

Auditor

CavanaghKelly, 36-38 Northland Row, Dungannon BT71 6AP

Primary Bankers

Bank of Ireland, 11 Upper English St, Armagh BT61 7BH

Investment Managers

IQ-EQ Fund Management (Ireland) Limited, 5th floor, 76 Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin, D02 C9D0, Ireland

Solicitors

Lennon Toner O'Neill, 54 Upper English St, Armagh BT61 7DU
Napier & Sons, 1-9 Castle Arcade, Belfast BT1 5DF

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited is the Corporate Trustee (the Trustee) for the Parishes, the Curia and other associated charitable bodies which constitute the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Council of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited presents the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the audited financial statements of the Charity, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Council has adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and 2022, and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities finalising their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company.

HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE

The Church of Armagh was founded by St Patrick in the middle of the fifth century. It soon became a noted ecclesiastical centre with many churches and a monastic school, which attracted students from all over Ireland and abroad.

The Diocese has been blessed with many saints through the centuries, not least the 'Apostle of Ireland', St Patrick, but also St Brigid, St Malachy, St Oliver Plunkett and many more.

It is one of the larger dioceses in Ireland covering almost all of Counties Armagh and Louth, approximately half of County Tyrone and a part of County Derry, as well as some townlands in County Meath. The Diocese is made up of sixty-one parishes of which thirty-seven are in Northern Ireland and twenty-four in the Republic of Ireland. The seat of administration is located in the city of Armagh.

CONSTITUTION AND AIMS

In Northern Ireland, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the Trust), a charitable trust, is a company limited by guarantee and was registered on 14 December 1981, registration number NI015284. On 20 June 2018, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and given the registration number 106767. For tax purposes, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited is also registered with HM Revenue and Customs – Reference XN76368. On 26 January 2015 the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland authorised St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited to act in any Charitable or Ecclesiastical Trust as a Trust Corporation. St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited became active on 1 April 2018 when the charitable activities of the Archdiocese of Armagh became subject to the oversight of the Council of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited.

In the Republic of Ireland, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Company Limited by Guarantee, a bare trust, is a company limited by guarantee and was registered on 29 November 1993, with registration company number 210040. On 4 December 2020, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited was registered as a Charity with the Charity Regulator in Ireland and given the registered charity number 20029104. For tax purposes, St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Company Limited by Guarantee is also registered with the Irish Revenue Commissioner – CHY (Revenue) Number 10987.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objectives of the Charity are:

- the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh subject to any future curtailment or addition made in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church;
- the advancement of any charitable purpose supported by the Roman Catholic Church throughout Ireland or in any part of the world.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh, in union with the Catholic Church worldwide, seeks to achieve its objectives through activities including the following:

- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Worship of God
- Provision of Clergy and pastoral personnel
- Support for families
- Formation and development of parish communities
- Provision of educational, pastoral and youth ministries
- Provision and maintenance of places of worship
- Aid for impoverished and needy communities worldwide

The means used to fulfil the purposes of the Trust are constantly monitored and reviewed to ensure that the principal aims and objectives of the Charity are adhered to.

STATEMENT THAT THE TRUST HAS HAD REGARD TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENT STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The Trust confirms that it has complied with the requirements of Section 4 (6) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Throughout this Annual Report, the Trust seeks to demonstrate that the Charity's aims and objectives are for the public benefit.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Diocese consists of sixty-one parishes predominantly in Counties Armagh and Louth and in parts of Counties Tyrone, Derry and Meath. The parishes are clustered into seventeen Pastoral Areas. Each Pastoral Area consists of a number of adjoining parishes united in promoting and realising the objects and the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh within their local communities.

Reflecting Canon Law (the Universal Law of the Catholic Church), the activities of the Charity are separated in this report into Parish and Curia functions.

Parishes

The Diocese is divided into parish communities. Parish Priests/ Administrators and Curates are appointed by the Archbishop to provide pastoral care for Parish communities and to manage parishes in all juridical affairs, thus ensuring parishes are administered in accordance with the norms of Canon and Civil Law, while also fulfilling the aims of the Charity. A major function of parishes is the celebration of the liturgy and the provision of spiritual and pastoral care. However, much other unseen and unheralded charitable work also occurs, greatly enriching the local communities which they serve.

Each parish is required by Canon Law to have a Parish Finance Committee to assist the Parish Priest/ Administrator in the governance of the parish. Parish Finance Committees include parishioners with knowledge and experience in finance, property management, personnel and administration. Additionally, each Parish Priest/ Administrator in his own parish, with his Parish Finance Committee, and in accordance with the norms and guidelines of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, is entrusted with the responsibility of conserving and maintaining items and articles of artistic and historical value, as well as keeping an inventory of such objects. Priests have been diligent in this task, often employing the services of experts to assist them. Parish employees include secretaries, newsletter writers, choir directors, organists, bookkeepers, financial administrators, cleaners, grounds people, and parish centre managers. In some instances, people offer their services on an entirely voluntary basis.

Parishes are central to fulfilling the Charity's mission. They are communities whose daily activities contribute, both directly and indirectly, to the spiritual and moral well-being of everyone living and working within them. They are the places where local communities come together to worship, where sacraments are administered, where children are educated in the faith, and where social outreach programmes are developed which allow communities to care for those in need and work for the common good of society.

Curia

The Diocesan Curia consists of those institutions and persons which furnish assistance to the Archbishop in the governance of the entire Diocese, especially in directing pastoral activity, in providing for the administration of the Diocese, and in exercising juridical governance. It also includes all who participate in the overall administration of the Diocese, particularly those who direct diocesan activities such as pastoral support, youth work, education, family life, liturgy, lay voluntary involvement and other facets of the local Church's life. Its central base is Armagh City.

The Council of the Trust delegates oversight of the Diocese's day-to-day finances, property, investments and administration to the Diocesan Financial Administrator, the Diocesan Secretary and other staff within the Curia. All personnel in the service of the Diocese undergo continuous professional development training.

As a registered charity, it is imperative that the Diocese continues to ensure good practice legally and financially in all areas, including health and safety, data protection, insurance, and the maintenance of property, while also conforming to the prescripts of Canon Law and best ecclesiastical practice.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Proclamation of the Gospel, Worship of God and other Ministries

Within the Diocese religion is advanced through the provision of places of worship, the facilitation of religious practice and, particularly, through community celebration of Mass. Normally there is a public celebration of Mass or other liturgy every day in the majority of parishes, and on every weekend several public Masses are offered in each parish. All such liturgies are open to the public without any restrictions.

Other activities of the Charity include conducting religious ceremonies (such as baptisms, weddings and funerals); presenting programmes pertaining to spiritual formation and development; encouraging and supporting ecumenical relationships; and maintaining places of worship, many of which are listed and contain religious works of art and other artefacts, all of which form part of our national heritage. All these places of worship are open to the general public including people of all faiths and none. They provide a public benefit for the whole community and for many people they are spaces which offer the opportunity for quiet reflection and for spiritual contemplation.

It is primarily within parishes that people experience what it is to be a member of the Catholic Church. They are the settings where faith is nurtured and given expression. Parishes, through various means, provide for the spiritual and moral well-being of parishioners, young and old. Practical expressions of faith are manifested by means of parish-organised pastoral, social and educational activities many of which rely on the voluntary involvement of parishioners. During the reporting period a total of 3,493 baptisms took place within the Diocese. First Holy Communion was administered to 3,726 young people and the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 4,075 individuals. In the same period 787 marriages were celebrated and some 2,190 funerals conducted.

The Diocese has engaged with social and digital media platforms for some time through its website, Facebook and Twitter sites. The www.armaghprays.com website, dedicated to disseminating diocesan pastoral resources, continued to be widely used. Webcams for the live streaming of Mass and other liturgies have become an invaluable element in the pastoral outreach of parishes. Parishes in the Archdiocese also contributed to the celebration of liturgies on the network channel RTÉ News which transmits Mass every morning for the housebound, sick and elderly. Christmas Midnight Mass from St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh was broadcast live by RTÉ and the European Broadcasting Union.

As well as pastoral care and the provision of the sacraments to the faithful, the Diocese offers chaplaincy services to those who cannot be part of a regular parish community. Hospital Chaplains and lay pastoral visitors are available at all major hospitals within the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Chaplains are regularly at the disposal of patients, their relatives and staff, as well as being on call to attend in emergencies. Other clergy and lay pastoral visitors regularly visit hospitals and nursing homes in the area frequented by members of the Diocese. Moreover, the Diocese assists with the provision of chaplaincy services to those in penal institutions located outside its territory.

Each year the clergy and people of the Archdiocese of Armagh journey to ancient pilgrimage sites within the Diocese and beyond. The yearly diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, France took place in September 2022 and the annual day pilgrimage to Knock, Co. Mayo occurred in May 2022. Other pilgrimages, for example to Lough Derg or to Croagh Patrick, resumed during the year. Organised pilgrimages provide much valued support for the sick who participate as well as for all the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy. They become model experiences of the Church as the pilgrim People of God.

The important role played by volunteers who participate in the various activities of their parish cannot be overstated and their contribution is vital in enabling the Diocese to continue to fulfil and develop its stated objectives. Many people play a key role in our parishes, offering their services as volunteers. They include those involved in various aspects of parish life: those who help with the sacred liturgy - Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, members of altar societies, altar serving coordinators, choirs and music groups, organists, instrumentalists, and stewards; people who assist with finance, church collectors, counters, envelope distributors and dues collectors; and other assorted roles including cemetery

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

upkeep; various apostolic and charitable groups too numerous to mention as well as prayer and perpetual adoration groups. Volunteers generously give of their time serving in various ministries, caring for and visiting the sick, the housebound, and those on the margins of society. They play a significant role in helping to maintain parish property and assisting in financial and other administrative duties, including membership of Parish Pastoral, Finance and Safeguarding Committees. Such parishioners are the lifeblood of their communities, and their contributions are significant. It has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteers active throughout the Diocese, nor is it possible to estimate the financial value of their involvement.

Although the Charity relies principally on donations from parishioners for its funding, access to religious services is never restricted on the grounds of ability to contribute financially. In addition, members of the Catholic community are encouraged to contribute towards creating a more just society by becoming active volunteers for the Common Good within their local area through membership of charities, local societies, community groups, and by volunteering in all sorts of other ways to the benefit of society in general.

Besides the work accomplished at parish level, the Curia coordinates and carries out a number of functions necessary to the advancement of the Catholic religion at local, national and international level. To this end, the Curia operates by way of diocesan commissions, committees and through various personnel charged with specific responsibilities.

The Diocesan commissions include a Vocations Commission, a Liturgical and Sacred Music Commission, the Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society, the Diocesan Education Committee, Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission, a Diocesan Pastoral Plan, a Justice, Peace and Development Commission, the Prayer and Spirituality Commission, Adult Faith Formation and a Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. Personnel with specific responsibilities include Diocesan Pastoral Workers, the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Director, the Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage Director, the Diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies Director, the Diocesan Safeguarding Director, the Diocesan Advisory Team on Religious Education, and the Diocesan Vocations Director. Mention also needs to be made of those who work in the administration of Catholic education.

Provision of Clergy and Pastoral Personnel

Central to Parish life is the relationship between the clergy and parishioners. Clergy are not employees of the Diocese. However, in Canon Law the care and welfare of incardinated priests of the Diocese is mandatory and therefore form part of the Charity's ongoing commitments.

It is the priests ministering in parishes who, working in collaboration with their parishioners, are charged in a special way with organising, animating and motivating the local faith communities. They constantly strive to be witnesses of hope and authentic shepherds for their people. The provision of dedicated, well qualified and competent clergy to serve in parishes and other ministries is a priority for the Diocese. Through the means of regular conferences, retreats, courses, workshops and sabbaticals, the priests of the Diocese are updated on current issues, developments and best practice in respect of all aspects of ministry and mission.

In the reporting period the Diocese had eighteen students for the priesthood, either in full-time study or on pastoral placement. They attended respectively St Patrick's College, Maynooth, the Pontifical Bede College, Rome, and the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, based in Dundalk, Co. Louth. During the year, the Diocese had three candidates ordained for the priesthood and one candidate ordained as a transitional deacon. The costs of this seminary formation are supported by the Diocesan Education Fund. As part of its missionary outreach, the Diocese also part sponsored the theology programme for a number of seminarians attached to the seminary of the Missionaries of St Paul in Abuja, Nigeria and that of a student completing his Licentiate in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. The Diocese also had one man in his final year of formation for the ministry of Permanent Diaconate. His training and formation has been financed from the Diocesan Education Fund.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

A key to sustaining the advancement of Catholicism is the promotion and support of vocations to the Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Diaconate and of the wider apostolate of the lay faithful. The Diocese continues to engage with those people who wish to undertake discernment in connection with vocations to the Priesthood, the Permanent Diaconate or the Religious and Consecrated Life. The Diocesan Vocations Director, along with the Diocesan Vocations Commission, coordinates this essential mission mostly through the means of discernment groups, prayer vigils, retreats and chaplaincy work in post-primary schools and colleges throughout the Diocese.

The general well-being and care of clergy in active ministry is coordinated by the Diocesan Curia, Vicar Generals, Episcopal Vicars and Vicars Forane. Priests' stipends and related matters are overseen and regulated by the Archbishop with the Council of Priests and the Council of the Trust. Equally important is the welfare of priests who are sick or retired from active ministry. Many of the priests no longer in active ministry have served in parishes and local communities for over sixty years. Their welfare is the responsibility of a committee which administers the Armagh Diocesan Clerical Benefit Society Fund. During the reporting year, thirty-one priests received assistance from the fund which necessitated a total spend of approximately £454,224.

The objectives of the Charity are greatly supported, and the life of the Diocese enriched, by the contribution made by the many members of Religious Institutions, Secular Institutions and/ or Societies of Apostolic Life serving in the Diocese. The Archdiocese of Armagh expresses its sincere gratitude to these men and women of faith for their ministries of generosity and sacrifice.

Support for Families

Family Ministry within the Diocese is dedicated to strengthening marriage and families by coordinating pastoral programmes and ministries that have faith as their foundation and Christ as their goal. By responding to the needs of families, as they strive to live in a very challenging culture and a rapidly changing world, Family Ministry serves as a resource for families, clergy and parish communities.

In collaboration with other agencies, Family Ministry also offers services and practical resources to assist people at all stages of life in order to help them experience, more fully, the love and compassion of God in the ordinary events of life.

There are three Accord Marriage Preparation and Counselling centres in the Diocese - Drogheda, Dundalk and Portadown. These centres provide regular courses throughout the year for those preparing for marriage. Couples are encouraged to attend an accredited pre-marriage course as soon as they contact the parish to make arrangements for their marriage. Accord continues to provide face-to-face and online counselling for couples.

The Rainbows programme enables children and young people, who have experienced a significant loss in their lives, to access peer support and counselling. This service is offered through St Patrick's Parish, Dundalk and is available to all who seek it regardless of faith or church affiliation.

The Diocese also promotes the work of the Family Addiction Support Network (F.A.S.N.) based in Dundalk. The Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese is the Patron and a board member of the organisation which supports families who are dealing with the drug addiction of a loved one. Often these families are desperate for help but have no one to turn to because of stigma and intimidation. The F.A.S.N provides a safe place for families to find support and guidance to overcome their difficulties.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Provision of Educational, Pastoral and Youth Ministries

Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC)

Established in 2000 by the Archdiocese of Armagh, the Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC) remains steadfast in its commitment to facilitating effective activities, events, and programmes for young people within the Archdiocese of Armagh. With a core objective of inspiring the growth of faith, confidence, and self-esteem among young people, the Commission, comprising laity, professionals, clergy, and religious, plays a pivotal role in strategically developing youth ministry in the Archdiocese. The term ending March 31, 2023, has been marked by resilience, adaptability, and a steadfast commitment to youth ministry in the face of ongoing challenges posed after the Covid 19 pandemic.

ADYC offers faith encounters for those from post-Confirmation age to young adulthood. The Pope John Paul II and Muiredach Cross Awards form an integral part of youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Armagh. The Covid-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, but ADYC responded by accompanying young people participating in the Pope John Paul II and Muiredach Cross awards. Support and advice were extended to leaders, and the awards were modified to incorporate catechetical elements suited for pandemic times. This strategy during the pandemic has paid dividends and in September 2022, a joyous gathering celebrated the achievements of 156 young participants of the Pope John Paul II and Muiredach Cross faith awards in the Archdiocese of Armagh. Despite challenges, registration for the awards increased in September 2022 with 300 applications being received from young people across the Archdiocese of Armagh.

ADYC partnered with St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth and online learning platform Aspal, to develop an interactive digital formation programme "Foundations in Youth". Initiatives like "Apprenticed in Faith," Parish youth ministry moments, and the screening of "The Letter" in January 2023 enriched the youth experience. Preparation for travel to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon formed much of the work of ADYC during the reporting year along with pastoral visits to schools and liaison with parishes.

Easter 2022 saw retreats in Collon and Cookstown, themed "Jesus Ever Young" which focused on faith and the role of young people in the Church. Additionally, a retreat on St. Ignatius of Loyola and Spirituality examined Gift and Vocation in the context of a Leavers' Retreat with Kilkenny National School. In respect of pilgrimages, Lourdes and Knock were part of the youth programme during 2022/2023 and ADYC worked towards grounding pilgrimage in vocation and the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh. A focus was placed on encouraging renewal and the recruitment of young people in diocesan pilgrimage programmes.

A new office in Donaghmore was established, reflecting ADYC's commitment to expanding its outreach. Synodal gatherings for Youth, liaison on digital media with the "Sing a New Song" team from the Archdiocese, and work with the parish team in Armagh for the visit of the Relics of Blessed Carlos Acutis to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh were notable highlights.

The stated mission of ADYC is to work in partnership with young people, the Church and interested agencies to ensure that young people are encouraged and affirmed on their journey of faith. The vision is for young people to experience the love of God and to inspire them to engage in the life and mission of the Catholic Church, in social outreach, and in initiatives for the benefit of the wider community.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Catholic Schools within the Diocese

A key aspect of the contribution of the Diocese to the local community is the large network of Catholic schools. There are 150 primary schools and 27 post primary schools in the Diocese with a total enrolment of approximately 50,900 pupils. The Diocese celebrates this contribution by taking part in Catholic Schools Week, an event held throughout Ireland in January for the last ten years. This annual celebration calls on Catholic schools to give expression, in a special way, to a particular aspect of Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week 2023 took place from 22 January to 29 January on the theme of Catholic Schools as communities of service.

In Catholic schools we look to Jesus as our Redeemer, role model and teacher as we come to a greater understanding of the depth of Christian service. Our Lord instructed us that love of God also entails love of one's neighbour. During Catholic Schools Week, there was reflection on our schools as communities of service with pupils encouraged to focus on how they can aid their friends, their family members and those who live in their locality.

In our schools we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give and receive love. Every Catholic school seeks to be such a community by fostering the integral development of its students through the promotion of their spiritual and moral well-being as well as helping them to cultivate a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as He has loved us. During Catholic Schools Week we celebrated the gifts and talents which enable us to follow Christ's teachings.

The Archdiocese of Armagh remains fully committed through its Catholic schools to maintaining, by way of a holistic methodology, the highest standards in learning and thus continuing to offer academic excellence and faith-filled education to all young people. Many non-Catholic parents choose to educate their children in Catholic schools, not least because of the high-quality education on offer, but also due to the identifiable ethos of trust, mutual respect and recognition of responsibility to those in need. The Diocese appoints personnel to act as the Diocesan Advisory Team for Religious Education in both the primary and post-primary sectors. These teams visit Catholic schools and offer guidance and assistance to teachers.

Each school enjoys an annual visit from its appointed Diocesan adviser. The adviser is an established link between the school and the Church and visits of a pastoral nature help to strengthen this connection. All advisers report very positive engagement with principals and school staff. Further, they recognise that principals will avail of the opportunity to address, on an informal basis, the challenges they face both financially and spiritually. The advisers also offer practical help by providing a range of online resources for use alongside the 'Children of God' series as well as supports for children preparing to receive the sacraments.

In respect of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), many schools are striving to adopt a policy and programme that meets the requirements of the respective Departments of Education and which faithfully reflects Catholic ethos. Schools are also concerned to promote authentic spiritual development in the midst of an ever-increasing secular culture. The Diocesan Advisory Team will continue to work alongside schools to help meet these challenges.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Formation and Development of Parish Communities

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan provides guidance and direction for priests, deacons and pastoral councils to enable them to further the mission of Christ in the Archdiocese of Armagh. The present plan was published in 2015 after an eighteen-month period of consultation and refinement. As the Diocesan Plan approached the end of 2020 it was decided to engage in a Year of Reflection and Prayer before beginning the process of working towards a Diocesan Assembly and formulating a new Pastoral Plan. The launch of a National Synodal process in early 2021 and a Universal Synodal process entitled *Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Mission and Participation* changed the priorities, and it was decided to fit the process of formulating an updated Diocesan Pastoral Plan into the new timeframe for the National Synod.

This international synodal process is still ongoing and the Archdiocese has continued to follow the current plan, which will remain in operation until a new one is formulated. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan covers three main areas of pastoral life in the Diocese – 'Mission and Outreach', 'Spirit Filled Worship' and 'Understanding Our Faith'. The Diocesan Pastoral Team use the plan as the basis for their work as they reach out to parishes and groups across the Diocese. They facilitate and provide training for the lay faithful to become more actively involved in the ongoing life of the Church in their local area.

During the reporting period, the Pastoral Team continued to operate from the Parochial House in Holy Family Parish. The house provides office space for the Pastoral Team and the Auxiliary Bishop as well as the Accord Office, Rainbows Counselling and some limited meeting areas. The Pastoral Team directs the implementation of the Pastoral Plan from this office.

The legacy of Covid-19 has continued to affect all projects and initiatives designed to meet the requirements of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan during 2022/2023 and efforts to recover from this period still present significant challenges to the Archdiocese of Armagh.

The section of the Pastoral Plan relating to 'Understanding Our Faith' encompasses a number of Adult Faith Formation courses. The Diocesan Theology Programme, which is accredited and supervised by the Pontifical University in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, had 12 students enrolled in 2022. Classes returned to in person modality during 2022/2023.

The promotion of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) which prepares adults for baptism and reception into the Church, along with the training of teams to facilitate the programme, is also an important component in the work of evangelisation. April 2022 saw the conclusion of a nine-week training course, eight of which were delivered on Zoom to 40 participants from across the Archdiocese of Armagh. The final session of two-and-a-half-hours was delivered in person and looked at new centres and venues where OCIA can be offered. The course was delivered by Mary Clavin from the Dublin Diocese. The aim of the course was to give participants an understanding of the processes and rites involved in delivering OCIA within the Diocese. As a result, new groups were established in Dungannon, Dundalk and Armagh. The hope is that by Autumn 2024 five centres across the Archdiocese will be available to those seeking to enter the Catholic Church.

'Spirit-filled Worship' is an essential element of the Pastoral Plan as the Sunday Mass is the point of contact for most people with the Church. Workshops were offered online to support priests and parish liturgy groups to enhance the liturgy. Significant moments in the liturgical year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are also supported with resources and information for parishes.

'Mission and Outreach' is essentially the fundamental work of the Church. The plan promotes the

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

provision of visitation teams in parishes, assistance to the disadvantaged, support for those suffering from addiction, and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Diocesan Pastoral Workers continued to provide a multitude of online resources to support religious education and prayer in family homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other settings. These resources are accessed through the www.armaghprays.com website which they maintain. The Diocesan Pastoral Workers also collaborate closely with other colleagues across the northern dioceses in the Northern Pastoral Network to share resources and strategies in the areas of adult faith formation, pastoral development and youth ministry.

Care for the environment is central to the pastoral work of the Diocese in this present age. 'Laudato Si', subtitled 'On Care for Our Common Home', the second encyclical of Pope Francis provides the basis for the Season of Creation which is celebrated by the Church throughout the month of September. The theme for the 2022 season was 'Listen to the Voice of Creation'. Resources provided by the Holy See were disseminated throughout the Diocese and many parishes used them during their Sunday liturgies so that parishioners could focus on their Christian duty of protecting the planet from the negative effects of climate change.

The Diocese encourages each of its parishes to reach out to the marginalised and the disadvantaged. Such action includes the pastoral care of immigrants and asylum seekers, and the promotion of a culture of welcome, gathering, unifying, and working together. Regular Masses for immigrants from East Timor, Poland, and India (Malayalam speaking) are offered in their own language. This care is provided by priest chaplains from their own countries, by arrangement with the respective episcopal conferences and diocesan and religious authorities. Increasingly in the Diocese there are celebrations and liturgies of an international character.

Special attention is given to baptisms, marriages and deaths of migrants, and their language and cultural traditions are catered for as much as possible. They also receive a welcome and assurances of support through pastoral visitation by the clergy or members of the parish community. The World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated with enthusiasm in the Diocese, and the Holy Father's Message for this Day is noted with care each year and circulated among the clergy and laity. The title of the Pope's message for 2022 was "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees".

The Diocese also supports the work of the 'The Oasis of Peace' in Collon, Co. Louth, which is a centre for evangelisation and outreach to all. The centre provides opportunities for visitors to encounter the love of God. It is a place of prayer, teaching and healing as well as providing for the pastoral care and support of those in need.

The Diocesan Pastoral Workers attended conferences and courses throughout the year as part of their ongoing training and development. This will be of benefit for future pastoral planning and training in the Diocese.

An essential element in pastoral planning for the future is the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Parish Pastoral Councils. The Archbishop strives to govern the Diocese in consultation with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and other bodies. In so doing, the Archdiocese operates a form of governance that emphasises the participation and shared responsibility of all Christian people for the life of the local Church. The Diocesan Pastoral Council seeks to discern the pastoral needs of the people of the Diocese and propose adequate responses. The Diocesan Pastoral Council helps to establish priorities, plan pastoral initiatives, and devise appropriate strategies for the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The members are representative of the Diocese at large and not of any specific group. At all times the function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is exercised in accordance with the teachings of Sacred Scripture, Canon Law, and the norms of the Irish Episcopal Conference. The role of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

constantly reviewed in the context of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and is updated accordingly.

At the parish level Pastoral Councils respond to the need for co-responsible leadership of clergy and people in fulfilling the mission of the Church. They are structures of participation that can provide new impetus to the life of a parish. Clergy and lay faithful work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to reinvigorate the Church by co-ordinating and harnessing the efforts of parishioners who live and share the Good News of Christ in the local community. As part of the ongoing planning and development process in the Diocese, parishes are encouraged to refresh their Pastoral Council every 4-5 years. Training for these new councils is provided in regional areas by the Diocesan Pastoral Team. In the reporting year the team engaged with Parish Pastoral Councils and provided training in three parishes, namely: Killeeshil, Dromintee and Termonmaguirc as well as across the Our Lady Queen of Peace Pastoral Area. Each council engaged in a process of renewing its membership leaving more room for a broader engagement from the parish community.

New leaflets were produced by the Diocesan Pastoral Workers promoting Parish Pastoral Councils and these were distributed to all priests who attended the April 2022 Clergy Conference. Additional leaflets were made available to priests unable to attend.

The Diocesan Pastoral Workers delivered training for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the Parish of Ardee & Collon and the Our Lady Queen of Peace Pastoral Area. Many participants assisted at both venues.

The Parish of Haggardstown and Blackrock held a special liturgy and celebration meal, in thanksgiving for all who are involved in parish ministry and contribute so generously to the life and mission of the Church. The Diocesan Pastoral Workers were invited to prepare the liturgy of thanksgiving. The celebration took place in October 2022.

The Synodal Journey launched by Pope Francis in October 2021 is a process of engagement with the People of God involving a focus on listening and dialogue in a bid to advance the mission of the Church. The international or universal process is ongoing and during the reporting year the Archdiocese concluded its participation in the diocesan stage of the consultation which culminated in a national gathering in Athlone. Further consultation followed with the aim of contributing to the Synodal continental phase which preceded the XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

A deepening of the work with the Diocesan Synodal Core group has realised some notable achievements, most significantly the positive reception of the methodology of the Conversations in the Spirit and the vibrancy and enthusiasm generated amongst participants. The Archdiocese of Armagh's Synodal journey during the reporting year has drawn from the wealth of experience and wisdom that exists in its parish communities. This commitment underscores the Archdiocese's desire to create conditions in which the Church's mission can most effectively be realised.

In the ecclesial landscape of social and digital media, the Archdiocese of Armagh's Pastoral Team has played an important role in fostering evangelisation and community engagement. The team oversaw the creation of the Armagh Prays Website, a vital platform utilised for resource distribution throughout the Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan YouTube Channel, which now boasts an impressive repository of 320 videos, has garnered 132,904 views and interactions to date. The Pastoral Team's multifaceted approach encompasses educational initiatives and collaborative projects thereby reinforcing the Church's relevance in the digital age and demonstrating its commitment to reach diverse and dynamic audiences.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Ecumenism

The heads of the four main Churches and ecclesial communities in Ireland: the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Church of Ireland (Anglican) Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, together with the President of the Irish Council of Churches, meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of religious, social, community and political importance. At a diocesan level ecumenical work is promoted to foster spiritual ecumenism according to the principles laid down in the Decree on Ecumenism about public and private prayer for the unity of Christians. Parishes and clergy are encouraged to promote friendship, cooperation and charity between Catholics and their brothers and sisters from other Christian communities. Ecumenical prayer services, coffee mornings and pilgrimage walks took place in various parts of the Archdiocese on significant moments throughout the year, including around the celebration of Easter. Noteworthy is the work of the Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership which organised a successful pilgrimage peace walk on the vigil of St Patrick's Day.

In August 2022 the Church Leaders' Group issued a statement calling for action on the cost-of-living crisis. They discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland at a meeting on 26 October 2022 and also raised concerns about political instability, the right to life of the unborn and the UK Government's legacy proposals. Archbishop Martin offered a public statement of condolence following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II and was present at the funeral service in Westminster Abbey on 19 September 2022. At Christmas, Archbishop Martin conveyed a joint message with his Church of Ireland counterpart based on a passage from the Gospel of John: "And of his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (1:16). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was observed in the Archdiocese from 18-25 January 2023 using materials prepared by CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) and based on the theme "Celebrating our Reconciling Vision of Hope". Archbishop Martin participated in a service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 22 January 2023 to mark the centenary of the Irish Council of Churches and the fiftieth anniversary of the Ballymascanlon Talks which led to the establishment of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. At the service, Archbishop Martin delivered an address entitled: "Might we in the Churches offer to help develop an agreed truth recovery process to address the legacy of pain and mistrust that continues to hang over us?" On the eve of St Patrick's Day 2023, the two Archbishops in Armagh took part in a public discussion on the Saint's legacy and later led an evening torchlight procession between the cathedrals in the city. On 31 March 2023 and with the approach of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement, the Church Leaders' Group issued prayer resources to mark that event.

Safeguarding

The Archdiocese of Armagh is committed morally and legally to upholding the rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office continues to co-ordinate and build upon the existing good work of safeguarding throughout the preceding years.

The purpose of the Safeguarding Office is to ensure the Archdiocese of Armagh adheres to the requirements of 'Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016', (National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI), 2016), and the Diocesan Policy on Adult Safeguarding 2017, as well as the legal requirements to keep children and vulnerable persons safe which is applicable in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Safeguarding Office of the Archdiocese consists of one whole time equivalent Director of Safeguarding, one part-time Safeguarding Trainer and one part-time Administrative Officer. Both the Director and the Diocesan Trainer are Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) and available to receive any

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

complaints in respect of the safeguarding of either children or vulnerable adults. The contact details for the DLPs are publicised through the Safeguarding page of the Diocesan Website(www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding), and also on posters which are displayed in every church and church building throughout the Archdiocese.

The Director and the Diocesan Trainer attend the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee meetings at which they provide updates on work carried out and progress on the delivery of the objectives of the Diocesan Three-Year Strategic Safeguarding Plan. Three meetings were held during the reporting period on 30th June 2022, 8th November 2022 and 28th March 2023.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee is responsible for overseeing the work of Safeguarding in the Archdiocese. Membership is for a three-year period with the option to renew for one further period of three years.

The Archdiocese undertook a parish self-audit during the reporting period in line with guidance received from the NBSCCCI. A report of the Audit feedback was compiled and shared with the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee alongside an associated action plan.

The Archdiocese also invited the NBSCCCI to conduct a Review of Safeguarding Arrangements in the Archdiocese and it took place on the 29th, 30th and 31st March 2022. The outcome of this Review can be viewed at: <https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Armagh-Review-Report-05.07.2022-FINAL.pdf>

The Diocesan Advisory Panel continued to meet during the reporting period.

In total 124 participants completed the Safeguarding Children training and 105 completed their Adult Safeguarding training (including Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Volunteers) over the course of the reporting period.

In total 149 people were vetted through Access NI during the reporting period and 527 were vetted through the Garda Vetting Office during the same period.

The Safeguarding Office continues to participate in the Southern Trust Local Adult Safeguarding Partnership (LASP) where the Director is Chair of the Prevention Workstream. The Workstream continued to meet virtually throughout the reporting period.

Provision and Maintenance of Places of Worship

Churches play a central role in the spiritual life of parishioners and along with Parochial Houses and other associated parish buildings they are often significant landmarks within the wider local community. Public benefit is provided through the provision of safe and worthy places of worship and assembly, not only for the Catholic community, but also for those also who wish to make use of them for personal or spiritual contemplation. Many of the churches and associated buildings are listed / protected as being of special or historic architectural interest. The proper care of these buildings can be onerous and costly, but they are essential for the ongoing realisation of the principal object of the Charity, the advancement of the Catholic religion.

General maintenance, minor and major schemes of renewal, and projects of construction in regard to church buildings and properties often require major outlays which are essential if these important structures, which form part of our national heritage, are to be maintained, not just for present use but for future generations. The management of this responsibility is ongoing and is carefully regulated and professionally monitored so that legitimate requests for new works, renovations and adaptations can be readily assessed and progressed by the Diocesan Building and Development Committee.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

During this year there were a number of building projects undertaken throughout the Archdiocese, including: extensive building works at the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, Dundalk; redecoration at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Magherafelt; and repairs to the Church of St Colmcille in the Parish of Togher. Various maintenance works continue across the Diocese to help protect and preserve the beauty and integrity of many of our old buildings. The Diocese has in place insurance cover in respect of all its buildings so that public access should not be unduly restricted by lack of funds to repair or restore buildings harmed as a result of accidental or other damage.

Fundraising

The Trust receives a large proportion of its income from donations, bequests and legacies from its supporters who are generally parishioners or those who have close connections to the Church. The Trust also receives support from other various groups such as the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, National Churches Trust, All Churches Trust and other funders. Without this valuable support the Trust would not be able to carry out most of its mission. The Council members of the Trust are mindful of their duty of care to those who may support the Trust, including vulnerable people, and therefore ensure that fundraising is carried out in a responsible and caring manner, always bearing in mind that the people themselves are integral to the Church. The Trust does not use external professional fundraisers or require its parishioners to donate in order to share in the generous resources that God has provided for their use. It rather encourages a culture of giving where this is possible and therefore places no pressure on its donors to contribute. The Trust encourages the use of tax relief (Gift Aid and CHY) to maximise giving where this is possible and ensures that donors are fully informed of the scope of tax relief in relation to their tax status so that they can make an informed choice.

Donations

The charity made charitable donations amounting to £70,427 (2022: £71,428) during the financial year. No donations for political purposes were made during this period.

Aid for Impoverished and Needy Communities Worldwide

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference in 1973 as a means through which people contribute to overseas emergency relief and development aid programmes. Its dual mandate is to support the most vulnerable people in the developing world, while also raising awareness of injustice and global poverty. The Diocese is a significant contributor to the charitable work of Trócaire and in the year under review contributed over £347,000 (2022: £295,000). Along with the Lenten Collection at Easter, the Diocese also supported special collections in April 2022 and March 2023 in response to the humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Archdiocese of Armagh also financially assists, facilitates and works in collaboration with the St Vincent de Paul Society and other charitable groups that look after the poor, the homeless and migrants.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Management of Resources

Council of the Trust

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited (the Trust) is governed by the Council of the Trust (the Directors) who meet regularly throughout the year to attend to the financial, property, building, personnel, legal and administrative affairs of the Diocese. All Parish Priests and Administrators of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Armagh are members of the Trust and are entitled to attend General Meetings of the Trust, including the Annual General Meeting. Parish Finance Committee members are also invited to these meetings.

There are eleven members of the Council. The Archbishop of Armagh is the Chair of the Council. The Vicars General are ex officio members of the Council. There are three lay and three other priest members of the Council chosen by the Archbishop for their integrity, experience and expertise.

The Secretary for the Trust is appointed by the Archbishop. The Council of the Trust has adopted a three-year development plan with appropriate objectives and targets. During the year, the Council met six times mainly to ensure the plan is continuously monitored, evaluated and reviewed, while also assessing the impact of the pandemic.

The Council has instituted a number of committees to assist and advise in the proper performance of its duties, including the Diocesan Building and Development Committee, the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Diocesan Personnel Committee, and the Diocesan Property Committee.

The Diocesan Building and Development Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Building and Building Development as set out in the Diocesan Buildings & Development Manual (October 2017). The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons appointed by the Council with integrity and expertise in this field. The Chair of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met six times during the year.

The Diocesan Finance Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Finance within the Diocese and parishes as set out in the Finance Manual (October 2017). This includes strategic planning, fundraising, audit and reporting requirements, controls, investments, budgets and the review of financial resources. The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons with integrity and relevant financial expertise appointed by the Council. The Chair of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met six times during the year.

The Diocesan Personnel Committee makes strategic recommendations on behalf of and to the Council in relation to the area of Parish and Diocesan Personnel and Human Resource management. It monitors the implementation and effectiveness of all personnel-related policies and ensures that resources are in place for implementation of policies. To this end the Committee has devised a Parish Recruitment and Selection manual, and Staff Handbooks. The membership of the Committee comprises three Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is Chair) and such other persons appointed by the Council with integrity and relevant human resources expertise. The Chair of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met six times during the year.

The Diocesan Property Committee provides oversight and makes recommendations in relation to the area of Property as set out in the Property Manual (October 2017). This includes ownership, acquisitions, disposals, letting, leasing, licensing and any other form of alienation which alters the value of a property. The membership of the Committee comprises five Directors of the Council of the Trust (one of who is

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Chair) and such other persons with integrity and relevant expertise appointed by the Council.

The Chair of this Committee reports directly to the Council of the Trust. The Committee met six times during the year.

Each member of the Council is a member of at least one of the Committees.

Risk Management

The Council of the Trust actively reviews all major strategic and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed. It confirms that these have been reviewed and ensures that strategies and systems are established to manage exposure to these risks. Each Committee is required to monitor changes and to develop systems to manage risk whenever possible. The main areas of risk identified and monitored by the Council of the Trust include:

- Compliance with Health & Safety and listed buildings legislation
- Reduction in active clergy numbers
- Reduction in voluntary income
- Increasing costs for the care of sick and retired clergy
- Operational risks in the areas of finance, personnel and property
- Board failing in its responsibilities
- Funding volatility
- Reduction in central reserves due to capital projects and long-term commitments
- Compliance with data protection regulations
- Compliance with good governance procedures
- Safeguarding

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REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2023 are set out in the financial statements that accompany this report.

The table below summarises the financial activities of the Diocese:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Parishes		
Income	11,739	11,036
Expenditure	(11,134)	(10,017)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus before transfers	605	1,019
Transfer between funds	369	4
Net gains on disposal of assets	303	243
Net (losses) / gains on investments	(29)	(31)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in reserves	1,248	1,235
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Curia		
Income	2,948	1,041
Expenditure	(1,648)	(1,936)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) before transfers and investment gains	1,300	(895)
Transfer between funds	(369)	(4)
Net gains on disposal of assets	101	-
Net (losses)/gains on investment	(549)	331
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase/(decrease) in reserves	483	(568)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total increase in Parish and Curia reserves	1,731	667
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Complete details of the income and expenditure are shown in the statement of financial activities on page 30 and in the notes to the accounts.

Review of transactions and financial position of the Charity

The reserves of the Charity at 31 March 2023 total £109m (2022 - £106m) and of this total £91.9m (2022-£89.3m) relate solely to the assets and activities of individual Parishes and are not available for the non-parish general purposes of the Charity. Curia reserves total £17.2m at the year-end (2022 £16.7m) of which £0.3m (2022 - £0.7m) is unrestricted with £1.4m (2022 - £1.4m) of this relating to fixed assets.

Most of the income received by Parishes is through the Sunday offertory and other donations. This source of income is 66% of the parish total. Total income was £11.7m (2022 - £11.0m) and total expenditure was £11.1m in 2023 (2022 - £10.0m).

Total Curia income was £2.9m in 2023 (2022 - £1.0m). Total expenditure was £1.6m in 2023 (2022 - £1.9m).

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Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Investment policy

The Memorandum of Association of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited provides the Trust with the powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner and to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert.

Investment Managers

The Trust has appointed IQ-EQ Fund Management (Ireland) Limited as investment managers who operate a 'total return' policy over the medium to long-term with emphasis on current income with a low-medium risk profile. The managers have full discretion to invest, subject to the parameters laid down by the Trust. There is a review of information from the Investment Managers on a regular basis.

At present the Diocesan Finance Committee liaises with the investment managers, monitors their performance, and reports to the Council of the Trust at each of its meetings. In 2021/2022, the Diocesan Finance Committee, supported by an independent advisor, undertook a project to review the Diocesan Investment Portfolio. The scope of the work included:

1. Documenting a formal Statement of Investment Policy and Principles;
2. Considering what type of implementation guidelines might be appropriate for the portfolio;
3. Reviewing the existing investment manager.

In June 2022 the outcome of the review was presented to the Council of the Trust. The Statement of Investment Policy and Principles was approved. It was also decided that the present investment structure should be maintained with existing managers to remain in place, but to be kept continually under review.

Under Charity Law the Council of the Trust must seek to obtain the best financial return possible consistent with commercial prudence.

The Diocesan Trust Investment Portfolio value is £14,819,421 (2022 - £15,276,000).

Investment Objectives

The Council of the Trust has adopted investment objectives that seek to protect and enhance the real value of the Diocesan Assets over the long term while also achieving agreed rates of income generation.

In fulfilling these objectives, the Council of the Trust adheres to an Ethical Policy that precludes investment in asset classes directly or mainly involved in the manufacture and/or supply of goods and services which are not in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel, the promotion of the dignity and sanctity of human life, and the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Environmental issues are also a significant factor.

Ethical Investment Policy

The agreed Trust's Ethical Investment Policy is as follows:

- Preclusion of investment in companies known to be racist or otherwise exploitative of human rights
- Preclusion of investment in companies which either produce or promote:
 - armaments including biological and chemical weapons, landmines and general weapons and arms of war and mass destruction
 - contraceptives and/or birth control devices
 - offensive written material
 - gambling, tobacco or alcohol

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REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Preclusion of investment in companies involved:

- in the provision of abortion or euthanasia
- in the violation of currently approved environmental conventions.
- directly in fossil fuels

It is understood that a complete control over monies, for instance, those held in Funds, is not possible. The Council of the Trust may, therefore, have indirect exposure to activities which may give rise to ethical concerns where these are considered minimal in relation to the portfolio's overall composition.

Reserves policy

The Trust recognises that its income arises primarily from voluntary donations and that accordingly it is important to seek to carry adequate levels of reserves to ensure its ability to meet future expenditure commitments as they arise. Parishes are encouraged to maintain adequate short-term reserves to ensure that they can meet operating costs in the short-term and to build longer-term reserves that will be available if substantial commitments, such as building refurbishment projects, arise. The Diocese centrally aims to maintain adequate levels of reserves to meet Diocesan operating costs in the short to medium term and to provide for any significant expenditures and contingencies that may arise at future dates. The policy of maintaining significant long-term reserves is considered consistent with the expectation that the Archdiocese of Armagh will continue to exist in perpetuity.

Financial Management and Key Performance Indicators

With the pro-active involvement of the Council Committees, diocesan resources are managed to tightly control all costs, in particular property and human resources/employment costs. The Council Committees pursue a policy of obtaining value for money and protection of diocesan assets. The management of the diocesan property holdings, with input from the Property and Building and Development Committees, is costly (costs amounted to £4.786m in the last financial year - see Pages 42 and 43 of this report under the headings Premises Costs, Repairs and Maintenance, and Rates and Insurance expenditure). Yet, the resource of property is key to engaging with the Charity's stakeholders and essential for the public benefit it provides.

The Personnel Committee focuses on the costs of employment and compensating employees fairly. The Finance Committee monitors general overheads, one-off expenditures and the financial implications of Property and Building and Development decisions, as well as acting in an advisory capacity for all the Council's Committees.

To respond to unexpected calls for financial support whilst funding predictable recurring expenditure, the Charity has a policy of keeping liquid reserves (cash and cash equivalents) at least equal to annual running costs currently estimated at £19m.

Targeted fundraising is employed when major expenditure projects are being planned which would otherwise put too much of a strain on existing resources.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

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REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Plans for the Future

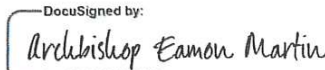
This brief overlook reflects the work of the Charity in the current year and also indicates its ongoing commitment with regard to fulfilling the principal aims and objectives of the Charitable Trust into the future.

The Archdiocese of Armagh will continue to build upon and develop the initiatives and activities outlined in the narrative above and so continue to advance the primary goals of the Charity. In addition, a particular focus of the Trust is to secure the long-term financial stability of the Archdiocese.

Periodically, the Trust undertakes a review exercise in respect of all aspects of the activities of the Charity through reports from parishes and the various bodies which are constituent parts of the Diocese. Work is continuing towards the organisation of a Diocesan Assembly to reflect on and produce a comprehensive medium- to long-term Diocesan Pastoral Plan and to ensure that resources are focussed on the key themes which have been identified as central to the work of the Archdiocese.

The Council of the Trust continues to monitor the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and consider the implications for the ongoing resourcing of diocesan and parish activities. Both Curia and parishes are encouraged to review their budgets and plan their expenditure in line with reduced income. It is likely that the impact of the pandemic will be with us for some time to come and the Council of the Trust will continue to work on new and innovative ways to minimise the impact on the ongoing operations of the Charity.

The Strategic Report has been approved by the Trustees on 25 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

DocuSigned by:

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Reverend Colm Hagan
Secretary of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The operation of the Charity is overseen by the Corporate Trustee. The Directors of the Corporate Trustee (Council of the Trust) are appointed by the Archbishop of Armagh who is the Chair. Recruitment of Directors is based upon their knowledge of the local Church and professional skills and expertise necessary for overseeing the affairs of the Charity by ensuring it is solvent, well run, and that it delivers the outcomes for which it was established.

On appointment, new Directors of the Council of the Trust are introduced to their role by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Diocesan Secretary and the Diocesan Financial Administrator, and are provided with copies of documentation relating to the Trust and the latest financial information and reports. Directors attend formal and informal training sessions as required (see page 3 for legal and administrative details).

In accordance with the Code of Canon Law a Council of Priests, that is a group of priests which represents the Presbyterium, advises the Archbishop according to the norm of law so as to promote, as much as possible, the pastoral good of the People of God entrusted to him. The Archbishop also relies upon the advice and guidance of the Cathedral Chapter, the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Episcopal Vicars, all of whom meet regularly to discuss matters of pastoral concern within the Diocese.

At parish level, the Parish Priest is responsible for all aspects of governing the parish. Parish Priests are not employees but act as agents for the Trust. Each parish is required to have a Finance Committee which meets at least four times per year to support and advise the priest, particularly in the areas of finance, property, buildings and personnel. A comprehensive manual, "Finance Manual – financial controls and related processes within Parishes" is issued by the Diocese to parishes. Letters and updates are issued by the Archbishop regularly through which policies are communicated to parishes covering liturgical, pastoral, financial and administrative matters. Further support is also available from the Curia office.

The Council has instituted a number of committees to assist and advise it in the proper performance of its duties, including the Diocesan Building and Development Committee, the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Diocesan Personnel Committee, and the Diocesan Property Committee (see pages 18 and 19).

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustee has prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the Trustee must not approve the financial statements unless it is satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Future developments

Future developments are set out in the Strategic report and included in this report by cross reference. The plan for future periods is detailed on page 23.

Reference and administrative details

Administrative details are included on page 3.


Funds held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Independent auditor

The auditors, CavanaghKelly, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' report was approved and authorised for issue by the Directors of the Corporate Trustee and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Most Reverend Eamon Martin
Director of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

DocuSigned by:

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Reverend Colm Hagan
Secretary of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

St. Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106767

Annual return

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its total incoming resources and expenditure of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you were:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

Other Information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the Trustee's Responsibilities Statement, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement due to fraud, design and implement appropriate responses to those assessed risks and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the course of our audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company's financial statements and considered the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standards (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities.
- We have assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance;
- We enquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Understanding the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Discussions amongst the audit engagement team regarding how fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the following potential areas where fraud may occur: timing of revenue recognition, and management override.

The audit response to risks identified included:

- Reviewing the financial statements disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with the relevant laws and regulations above;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud;

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are reasonable and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

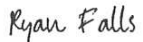
St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST PATRICK'S ARCHDIOCESAN TRUST LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Mr Ryan Falls FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
CAVANAGHKELLY
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
36 – 38 Northland Row
Dungannon
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6AP

Date: 25 March 2024