

Holy Trinity Church
(Soldierstown)

Parish of Aghalee



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended:
31st December 2021

N.I. Charity Number:
NIC101581

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(Soldierstown)

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Holy Trinity Church

(Soldierstown)

Parish of Aghalee

References and administrative details:

Charity Name:

Aghalee/Aghalee/Holy Trinity/Down&Dromore/Church of Ireland

commonly known as:

Holy Trinity Church, Parish of Aghalee

Charity Registration Number:

NIC101581

Contact details:

Website: <http://www.aghalee.dromore.anglican.org>

Email: aghalee@dromore.anglican.org

Treasurer:

Mrs. Jennifer Martin,

5B Old Church Lane, Aghalee, Craigavon, BT67 0EY

Tel: 028 92651480

Rector:

Rev Paul McAdam

Aghalee Rectory, 39 Soldierstown Rd, Craigavon, BT67 0ES

Tel: 028 92090989

Trustees:

Mrs. Irene Culbert	Rev Paul McAdam
Mr. Larry Donaghey	Mr. Norman McAlister
Mrs. Maureen Donaghey*	Mr. Jim McLorn
Mrs. Sheila Duncan	Mrs. Jacqueline Montgomery
Mr. Donald Frazer	Mr. Stephen Montgomery
Mr. Roy Hanna	Mr. Gavin Murray
Ms. Sharon Harbinson	Mr. Noel Murray
Mrs. Helen Laird ⁺	Mr. David Twigg
Mrs. Jennifer Martin	Mr. John Watson

*Stepped down during the year.

⁺ took up post during the year.

Office-Bearers:

Rector:	Rev Paul McAdam
Churchwardens:	Mr. Norman McAlister Mrs. Irene Culbert
Glebe-wardens:	Mr. Noel Murray Mr. Donald Frazer
Secretary:	Mr. Norman McAlister
Treasurer:	Mrs. Jennifer Martin

Independent Examiner:

McCleary & Company Ltd.

Bankers:

Danske Bank,
39 Market St, Lurgan, Craigavon BT66 6AB

Trustees' Report 2021

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Holy Trinity (Soldierstown), Parish of Aghalee, for the year ended 31st December 2021.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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

The principal function of Holy Trinity, Aghalee is to support the advancement of the Christian religion. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering pastoral care and support to those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, Holy Trinity, Aghalee has custody of certain property, records, materials and artefacts which are of significance to the cultural and religious heritage of the whole community. The maintenance of these is undertaken by the select vestry of Holy Trinity, Aghalee.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The church cherishes its motto "Creating and sustaining Christians" and has spent the last year working towards its continuing commitment to deliver on this motto.

Under the leadership and pastoral care of the Rector, and with the active participation of a good number of volunteers, the parish continues to carry forward the Christian outreach and pastoral ministry required to sustain a rural parish.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, church services and parish activities were badly disrupted during the course of the year.

In-Church services were completely suspended during the early part of the year, until Easter. Services resumed in the church hall (to better enable social distancing) from Easter onwards. Services were held each Sunday morning at 11am, with an average attendance of 41.

Covid-19 guidelines were adhered to at all services – social-distancing, hand-sanitizing, contact-tracing.

Occasional special services were held to mark the major Christian festivals etc. Easter Sunday (80); Harvest Thanksgiving (100); Remembrance Sunday (90); Christmas Carol Service (72) and Christmas Day (26).

Throughout the year. the parish maintained an online presence – developing better use of the parish Facebook page (@AghaleeParish) and Youtube channel.

Regular online Sunday services were held using Youtube (average 42 weekly viewers).

Throughout the pandemic, the parish have aimed to promote spiritual and mental well-being to our online followers by providing regular hymns, devotional readings and prayers on our Facebook page (average 81 visits per week / average reach ~450).

For the benefit of those who do not use social-media, a devotional phone-line was set up. Callers can listen to our Sunday service and midweek messages of hymns, readings & prayers.

The parish maintains artefacts, materials and historic buildings for the benefit of the public and in particular for those appreciative of longstanding Christian heritage. Access to Church buildings is restricted for public safety reasons – however, visitors can access the church by arrangement, when they will be accompanied by a member of the parish.

Access to historical church records can be provided to any member of the public requiring information for research and genealogical purposes.

Throughout the year, the parish progressed plans for a Heritage Development Project. The project involves major restoration work to Holy Trinity Church and promotion of the heritage of the parish, along with its links to the Lagan Navigation and nearby hamlet of Soldierstown.

Aghalee Parish Heritage Project is supported the National Lottery Heritage Fund - with a grant of £185,400 to part-fund this project. The Trustees would like to acknowledge the funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will make possible the completion of the delivery stage of this project.

The project is on-going with a completion date of December 2023. The contractor is J.S. Dunlop Construction Ltd; and the architect/project supervisor is Leighton Johnston Associates.

The parish also appointed the web-developer Concept NI to begin development of a website for the Aghalee Parish Heritage Project.

The various organisations connected with the parish continued their activities – in as much as was possible due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Our parish organisations are open to all-comers. In particular, the Mums & Tots, GFS, CLB and Bowling Club usually have many members who are not parishioners; and we are delighted to welcome everyone. Parish organizations are: -

- **‘Jigsaw’ Sunday School** – usually meets during service-time each Sunday and is led by a rota of enthusiastic volunteers. Membership: ~ 15 children. Unfortunately, the Sunday School was unable to meet for most of the year due to the pandemic.
- **The Parish Choir** contributes to the worship of the church and offers members a chance to build friendship and enjoy singing together; practice evenings are held frequently on Thursday evenings; and as needed for special occasions. Choir members-maintained contact with each other by active participation in a WhatsApp group chat. For our Easter online service choir members recorded music individually at home, which was then edited together as a ‘virtual choir’. Limited choir practices resumed during the autumn in preparation for Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas services.
- **Mums and Tots Group:** usually meets on a Monday morning in the parish youth-hall. It welcomes children of pre-school age along with their mums (dads, grannies, grandads, carers – are all welcome!). Some members, who had no previous connection to the church, have found this a very welcoming and engaging group. By nature of the group, attendance fluctuates - but it welcomes from 6-12 children each week. Unfortunately, the group has had to be suspended during the pandemic.
- **Girls’ Friendly Society** – usually meet on Monday evenings between September and April. The current enrolment is 25 drawn from both parishioners and non-members. There are 7 volunteer leaders who are enthusiastic and encouraging for the girls. The GFS girls also participate in various activities and competitions at Diocesan level. Throughout the pandemic, leaders have maintained contact with the members and provided activity packs which can be used at home.
- **Church Lads’ Brigade** – also meets on Monday evenings between September and April. CLB has a membership of 22 - both parishioners and non-members. The boys enjoy a great variety of activities and outings. During the pandemic, boys participated in CLB online activities using Zoom.

- Both **GFS & CLB** resumed their in-person activities in the Church halls from October – December. Unfortunately, in-person activities then had to be suspended again due to increasing cases of Covid-19 in the local community.
- The annual GFS/CLB Parents’ Evening (April) and Enrolment Service (October) both had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic.
- **Mothers’ Union** - is a long-standing organisation within the parish and has ~12 regular members. M.U. meets on the 2nd Tuesday evening of most months in the church hall. Members also enjoy regular outings, Diocesan events, and the chance to meet with other M.U. branches. Although most meetings were suspended, members-maintained phone contact with each other through the pandemic – and continued their active support of the Women’s Refuge Centre by organizing a collection of toiletries etc. In-person meetings were held in October and November.
- **Aghalee Ladies Fellowship** usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month. The program of activities is progressive and imaginative and engages regularly with around 15-20 attendees. Ladies Fellowship is open to all, including those from beyond the church family. Most meetings were suspended during the pandemic, but members-maintained contact via social media. In-person meetings were held in October and November.
- **Soldierstown Bowling Club:** competes in the Lisburn & District Indoor Bowling League. Home matches and friendly / practice evenings are held on Wednesday evenings in the church hall. The club welcomes all bowlers. Unfortunately, both the league and club-nights had to be suspended during the pandemic.
- **Messy Church** – unfortunately, it was not possible to organize any events due to coronavirus.
- **Midweek Fellowship / Bible Study Group:** Usually meets on Wednesday evenings in the Parochial Hall, Aghalee. It is for those who wish to explore and share the Christian faith with others, in a friendly, welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Unfortunately, this group was suspended during the pandemic. Instead, devotional material was provided online.
- Also - **Sunday Morning “Cup of Tea”** usually allows service goers to meet up before the services to chat in an informal setting – unfortunately this was not possible during the pandemic.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

Aghalee Parish is governed and managed in accordance with the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and the Diocesan Regulations of the Diocese of Down & Dromore.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees of Aghalee Parish are the members of the Select Vestry.

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the General Vestry of the parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the General Vestry and to stand for election to the Select Vestry. Meetings of the General Vestry are held (at least) annually within three weeks of Easter.

Members of the Select Vestry are elected at the Annual General Vestry meeting and hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

The Trustees / Select Vestry so elected are listed at the start of this report.

Organisational Structure

The Select Vestry has been responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish. The Select Vestry consisted of the Rector, the churchwardens, the glebe-wardens and twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the Annual General Vestry meeting.

The Select Vestry is chaired by the Rector. The Select Vestry has been responsible in the period for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the parish funds have been allocated.

The Select Vestry met 9 times in the period (Jan, Feb, Mar & May meetings held online via Zoom) and the average attendance was 11.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income for the parish from various sources was £395,832.66 with payments of £338,127.09 giving an excess of receipts over payments of £57,705.57. The Bank and Cash Balance as at 31 December 2021 was £170,281.96 (of this balance £108,698.04 were unrestricted funds, £61,583.92 restricted funds and £Nil endowment funds).

It is the Trustees' policy to hold sufficient reserves to cover unexpected emergencies and have adequate funds for maintenance of church property and to further the objectives and activities of the parish.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure the parish can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 can be signed off as a going concern.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees -

Rector/Chair: Rev Paul McAdam

Treasurer: Mrs. Jennifer Martin

Date: