

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1024021

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1993-07-23

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

Contact

Address 4 Hereford Drive
Handforth
Wilmslow
SK9 3BB

Phone 01625527327

Email macdonaldsociety@gmail.com

Website www.george-macdonald.com

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE LIFE AND WORKS OF GEORGE MACDONALD, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROMOTING AN APPRECIATION OF HIS WORKS AND OF HIS INFLUENCE ON OTHER WRITERS AND THINKERS

Activities: Encouraging, organizing & supporting activities connected with the writings and life of George MacDonald (1824-1905). Assisting in the maintenance of academic interest in his work.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Canada
- Germany
- Scotland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-01	£3,009	£9,937	-	-
2024-10-01	£36,980	£33,765	-	-
2023-10-01	£273	£343	-	-
2022-10-01	£783	£1,304	-	-
2021-10-01	£1,341	£437	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Daniel Gabelman	Chair	2025-04-09
Amanda Vernon		2025-04-09
Dr John McNeill		2025-04-09
Kirstin Jeffrey Johnson		2025-04-09
MICHAEL PARTRIDGE		

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1024021

Accounts



Trustees' annual report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	October	2023	To	31	September	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	The George MacDonald Society		
Other names charity is known by	GMS		
Registered charity number (if any)	1024021		
Charity's principal address	4 Hereford Drive		
	Handforth		
	Wilmslow		
	Postcode	SK9 3BB	

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Michael Partridge	Co-Chair		GMS Board
Kirstin Jeffrey Johnson	Co-Chair		GMS Board
Daniel Gabelman	Academic Rep		GMS Board

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 23 rd July 1993
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Membership of the Society is open everyone and accessed online. The trustees oversee the day to day running of the Society supported by members of the wider GMS Board. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objectives and aims of the Charity are to encourage academic and artistic interest and discussion of George MacDonald (1824-1903).

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

The Trustees have considered the Public Benefit provided to the public and relevant sector of the public which it serves and are satisfied that it meets the requirements of the Charity Commission. In line with its objectives, the Society aims to support academic and artistic interest and discussion of George MacDonald (1824-1903). For the relevant sector of the public, benefits include:

- Providing information about George MacDonald on the website.
- Hosting occasional academic conferences and talks both in person and online.
- Hosting pre-recorded seminars from conferences on our YouTube Channel.
- Online publication of the Society's academic journal *North Wind*.
- Administrating a Facebook Group to facilitate community and discussions about George MacDonald with 5,200+ subscribers worldwide.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Society has no employees and is therefore dependent on the active support and participation of volunteers.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year.

Normally our income and expenditure is modest (expenditure primarily costs associated with our website), however 2024 was the bicentenary of George MacDonald's birth and the prime emphasis during this period was organising two conferences with an academic focus but also open to the public and celebrating George MacDonald through the arts.

29-31 May 2024: The Prophetic Imagination at Wheaton College, Illinois, USA. This was the first event directly organised by the Society in North America. We originally budgeted for 70 delegates. Such was the interest that we finally had 130.

8-20 November 2024. Borderlands: George MacDonald Between Worlds in Association with The Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts at St Andrews University, Scotland. While technically outside the period under review much of the preparation (and some income) took place within it.

Paid up membership of the Society on the 31st September 2024 remained static (94). Membership subscriptions and renewals are now primarily received via PayPal reflecting the fact that many of our members reside outside the UK.

Approximately 70% of our members are in North America although our activities are primarily based in the United Kingdom or online.

In 2023/24, the Society returned an overall increase in funds of £10,810. This, however, includes funds received for the St Andrews Conference and a better indication of the actual movement of funds during this period is +£3,279.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The cash balance available at 31/09/2024 was £18,476 in unrestricted funds. However, this includes sums received for the St Andrews Conference in November 2024. The true figure therefore is closer to £10.5K.

The Trustees have considered the requirement for reserves held by the society and believe the optimum level of free reserves should be £7,500 to cover the risks of the society relating to events, publications and obligations to creditors.

On 31st September 2023 reserves held totalled £18,476 (but see comment above). The Trustees consider that the total funds are sufficient to meet the future financial obligations of the Society and any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details: (Optional information)

Our main sources of income are membership subscriptions and profits from occasional conferences. Regarding the latter the aim is to break even, however, when setting a budget, it is necessary to anticipate numbers in advance. The St Andrews conference broke even, however at Wheaton we anticipated 70 delegates and achieved 130.

Historically all UK bank funds are held in an RBS interest paying Treasurers Account. This account is cheque only (requiring two signatures) and does not allow for BACS transfers. Going forward the Trustees will consider moving significant funds to an account paying a better rate of interest and opening a new current account offering more flexibility.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M Partridge

Full name(s)

Michael John Partridge

Position

Co-Chair

Date

10th July 2025

George MacDonald Society 2023/24 Summary Accounts

Thursday, July 10, 2025

	Opening (01/10/2023)	Closing (31/09/2024)	Movement
Balance RBS Bank	£6,411.41	£8,332.33	£1,920.92
Balance PayPal USD	\$1,352.97	\$5,091.82	\$3,738.85
Balance PayPal UKP	£197.29	£5,519.44	£5,322.15
USD Cash	\$0.00	\$827.00	\$827.00
UKP Equivalent (\$)	£1,057.01	£4,624.08	£3,567.07
Balance UKP	£7,665.71	£18,475.85	£10,810.14

Income Balance	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
PayPal Balance USD	\$1,468.29	\$1,597.20	\$5,317.28	\$13,610.69	\$21,854.93	\$26,493.20	\$21,778.18	\$17,675.27	\$7,304.05	\$4,890.76	\$4,991.59	\$5,091.82	0.78125
Cash USD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$827.00	\$827.00	\$827.00	\$827.00	\$827.00	PayPal Exchange
UK Equivalent	£1,147.10	£1,247.81	£4,154.13	£10,633.35	£17,074.16	£20,697.81	£17,014.20	£14,454.90	£6,352.38	£4,467.00	£4,545.77	£4,624.08	
PayPal Balance GBP	£197.29	£197.29	£325.89	£182.26	£182.26	£180.60	£51.80	£51.80	£51.80	£51.80	£2,945.47	£5,519.44	
RBS Balance	£6,456.41	£6,630.55	£6,659.55	£6,659.55	£6,659.55	£6,682.72	£6,682.72	£6,682.72	£6,707.13	£6,707.13	£6,832.13	£8,332.33	
Total Balance	£7,800.80	£8,075.65	£11,139.57	£17,475.16	£23,915.97	£27,561.13	£23,748.72	£21,189.42	£13,111.31	£11,225.93	£14,323.37	£18,475.85	

RBS Bank Interest			£29.00									£25.20	£101.78
Incoming RBS Account	£45.00	£174.14					£23.17					£125.00	£1,475.00
	£45.00	£174.14	£29.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23.17	£0.00	£0.00	£24.41	£0.00	£125.00	£1,500.20	£1,920.92

Movements	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
PayPal Movement USD	\$115.32	\$128.91	\$3,720.08	\$8,293.41	\$8,244.24	\$4,638.27	-\$4,715.02	-\$4,102.91	-\$10,371.22	-\$2,413.29	\$100.83	\$100.23	\$3,738.85
Cash USD Movement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$827.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$827.00
UK Equivalent	£90.09	£100.71	£2,906.31	£6,479.23	£6,440.81	£3,623.65	-\$3,683.61	-\$2,559.30	-\$8,102.52	-\$1,885.38	£78.77	£78.30	£3,567.07
PayPal Movement GBP	£0.00	£0.00	£128.60	-\$143.63	£0.00	-\$1.66	-\$128.80	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,893.67	£2,573.97	£5,322.15
Net RBS Movement	£45.00	£174.14	£29.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23.17	£0.00	£0.00	£24.41	£0.00	£125.00	£1,500.20	£1,920.92
Total Movement	£135.09	£274.85	£3,063.91	£6,335.60	£6,440.81	£3,645.16	-\$3,812.41	-\$2,559.30	-\$8,078.11	-\$1,885.38	£3,097.44	£4,152.47	£10,810.14

Expenses	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
PayPal Fees USD	\$4.68	\$6.09	\$134.82	\$302.89	\$295.76	\$176.73	\$138.47	\$167.83	-\$8.78	\$8.98	\$4.17	\$4.77	\$1,236.41
UK Equivalent	£3.66	£4.76	£105.33	£236.63	£231.06	£138.07	£108.18	£131.12	-\$6.86	£7.02	£3.26	£3.73	£965.95
PayPal Fees GBP	£0.00	£4.72	£4.72	£6.60			-\$4.52				£104.08	£93.03	£203.91
Total PayPal Fees	£3.66	£4.76	£110.05	£243.23	£231.06	£138.07	£103.66	£131.12	-\$6.86	£7.02	£107.34	£96.76	£1,169.86
george-macdonald.com(2 Years)			£76.01										£76.01
macdonaldsociety.org(2 Years)							£85.04						£85.04
Web Hosting (1 year)				£208.70									£208.70
Web hosting Upgrade 1Gb		£15.10											£15.10
One Click Installs				£13.92									£13.92
Secure Hosting (SSL)						£47.47							£47.47
Misc (Specified)													£0.00
Total	£3.66	£19.86	£186.06	£465.85	£231.06	£185.54	£188.70	£131.12	-\$6.86	£7.02	£107.34	£96.76	£1,616.10

SEE SEPARATE TAB FOR CONFERENCE EXPENDITURE

£7,665.71	Opening	£7,665.71
	Movement	£10,810.14
	Closing Balance	£18,475.85

	PayPal USD	\$5,091.82
	USD Cash	\$827.00
	UKP Equivalent	£4,624.08
	PayPal GBP	£5,519.44
	RBS Bank	£8,332.33
£18,475.85		£18,475.85

30/04/2025

George MacDonald Society Accounts (Prepared 28/03/2025)

For period 01/10/2023 - 2024

	Income	Expenditure		
Wheaton Conference	£27,170.36	£24,250.49		£2,919.87
St Andrews Conference	£9,012.74	£9,105.67		-£92.93
Subscriptions	£796.43	£0.00		
Bank Interest	£101.78	£0.00		
Web Site/ Domains	£0.00	£446.34	Domains for 2 years	
	<u>£37,081.31</u>	<u>£33,802.50</u>		
Balance on 12/03/2025				
RBS Account	£8,796.67			
PayPal	<u>£1,655.91</u>	\$2,241.35	Exchange rate	0.7388
	<u><u>£10,452.58</u></u>			

Wheaton Conference

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
PayPal	\$32,383.65	Wheaton	\$13,596.00	
Cash	\$600.00	Bon Appetit	\$11,165.69	
Raffle (PayPal)	\$180.00	Speakers Expenses	\$2,596.10	
T-Shirts	\$180.00	Concert	\$1,138.32	
		T-Shirts	\$900.00	
		Insurance	\$200.00	
		Bob Trexler	\$314.30	
		Misc	\$28.46	
	<u>\$33,343.65</u>		<u>\$29,938.87</u>	\$3,404.78

St Andrews Conference

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
		Speakers Expenses/ Bursaries	£3,482.56	
		Concert	£1,333.80	
		Catering	£3,156.17	
		Videoing	£233.98	
		Brochures/ Posters	£142.52	
		Misc	£51.64	
Registrations	£7,467.02		<u>£8,400.67</u>	
Excursion to Huntly	£1,545.72		£705.00	
	<u>£9,012.74</u>		<u>£9,105.67</u>	-£92.93

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1024021

**GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

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GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 1 October 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

To advance the education of the general public in the life and works of George MacDonald, in particular through promoting an appreciation of his works and of his influence on other writers and thinkers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Net incoming resources for the year were £10,642 (2023: net expenditure £70). Total unrestricted funds carried forward as at 1 October 2024 were £18,307 (2023: £7,665)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1024021

Principal address

4 Hereford Drive
Handforth
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 3BB

Trustees

M Partridge
D Gabelman (appointed 9.4.25)
Ms A Vernon (appointed 9.4.25)
Rev J McNeill (appointed 9.4.25)
Ms K J Johnson (appointed 9.4.25)

Independent Examiner

Nicola Tucker
Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:



E31650C871704BE...

M Partridge - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of George Macdonald Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of George Macdonald Society (the Trust) for the year ended 1 October 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nicola Tucker

Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

2 July 2025

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		36,973	273
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	2	26,331	343
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		10,642	(70)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		7,665	7,735
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>18,307</u>	<u>7,665</u>


The notes form part of these financial statements

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

**BALANCE SHEET
1 OCTOBER 2024**

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		18,307	7,665
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>18,307</u>	<u>7,665</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		18,307	7,665
NET ASSETS		<u>18,307</u>	<u>7,665</u>
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted funds		<u>18,307</u>	<u>7,665</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>18,307</u>	<u>7,665</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

 E31650C871704BE...
 M Partridge - Trustee

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Support costs	2,081	343
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 1 October 2024 nor for the year ended 1 October 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 1 October 2024 nor for the year ended 1 October 2023.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	273
	<u> </u>
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	343
	<u> </u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(70)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	7,735

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

Unrestricted fund £
<u>7,665</u>

TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD

5. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 2.10.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 1.10.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,665	10,642	18,307
	<u>7,665</u>	<u>10,642</u>	<u>18,307</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>7,665</u>	<u>10,642</u>	<u>18,307</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,973	(26,331)	10,642
	<u>36,973</u>	<u>(26,331)</u>	<u>10,642</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>36,973</u>	<u>(26,331)</u>	<u>10,642</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 2.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 1.10.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,735	(70)	7,665
	<u>7,735</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>7,665</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>7,735</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>7,665</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	273	(343)	(70)
	<u>273</u>	<u>(343)</u>	<u>(70)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>273</u>	<u>(343)</u>	<u>(70)</u>

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

5. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 2.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 1.10.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,735	10,572	18,307
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>7,735</u>	<u>10,572</u>	<u>18,307</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	37,246	(26,674)	10,572
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>37,246</u>	<u>(26,674)</u>	<u>10,572</u>

6. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 1 October 2024.

GEORGE MACDONALD SOCIETY**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1 OCTOBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Income	36,871	216
Bank interest	102	57
	<u>36,973</u>	<u>273</u>
Total incoming resources	36,973	273
EXPENDITURE		
Other trading activities		
Purchases	24,250	-
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Paypal fees	1,170	8
Computer costs	446	258
Foreign exchange difference	465	-
Sundries	-	77
	<u>2,081</u>	<u>343</u>
Total resources expended	26,331	343
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>10,642</u>	<u>(70)</u>