

St Saviour's Scottish Episcopal Church, Bridge of Allan

Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

Registered charity No: SC000392

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Reference and administrative information

Registered Charity No: SC000392

Principal address St Saviour's Church
Keir Street
Bridge of Allan
FK9 4AY

Website : www.saint-saviour.org

**Charity Trustees
(Vestry Members)**

Officials

Lay Readers

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
Stirling Port Street
PO Box 1000
BX2 1LB

Independent Examiner

CLEAR Services Ltd, The Old School House, 23 King Street,
Doune, Perthshire, FK16 6DN

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Annual Report of the Members of the Vestry

Introduction

The Vestry is pleased to present the annual accounts for St Saviour's Church for the year ended 30 September 2024. We are a congregation of the Scottish Episcopal Church whose objective is to advance the mission of the Christian Church through worship, service and fellowship. We aim to do this through supporting existing church members through worship and prayer gatherings and encouraging new members of all ages. The annual report and accounts presents a summary of our financial activities during the year and gives an overview of the general activities that have taken place in our church in the past year.

Activities and achievements

In Mid-January 2024 our new rector, [REDACTED], took up his appointment to serve the linked charges of St Saviour's and St Modoc's, Doune. The two charges share the related costs. The Rector and his family live in St Saviour's Rectory, St Modoc's not having such accommodation. Much upgrading work on the rectory was carried out just before the new rector took up residence. Various further insulation and energy saving measures have been completed in the course of this year, helped by grants from the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The arrival of the new rector after a two-year vacancy was a great boost to the congregation. The average number attending Sunday morning services has increased. To take account of the Rector's dual responsibilities, the time of the Sunday morning service was moved from 10 to 11a.m. This has on the whole been well received by the congregation.

Worship is supported by our two lay readers, and by members of the congregation who take the prayers, read the lessons and welcome visitors. The choir has gained a new lease of life. On many Sundays we benefit from the talents of a dedicated member of the congregation who plays the organ. A music machine accompanies congregational singing when the organist is not available.

Young Church is supported weekly by dedicated leaders. Attendance swells at Christmas and special occasions. The Young Adults group, run jointly with St Mary's Dunblane and Holy Trinity, Stirling, saw an influx of new faces in the autumn, many of them overseas students from the student residence five minutes from the church.

Collaboration with Bridge of Allan Parish Church has been a feature of the year. This included a joint tea stand at a village celebration in June and a joint Harvest Festival service and lunch in September.

Outreach to the community has included an extensive leaflet drop in the early autumn, and the institution of Wednesday Welcome at the start of October. This offers free tea, coffee, soup and a chat in the church hall to all who wish to take advantage of it. The church garden is now advertised as being open to the community. Part of it has been replanted as a sensory garden.

With the dedicated efforts of the congregation, the church, church hall and grounds have been extensively used for fun and fundraising activities, raising over £4,000. They included a bingo night, two concerts, a car boot sale and a Bridge of Allan Open Gardens event. The funds raised have gone to the church and in part to charities, notably Strathcarron Hospice. Social activities organised by Church members but open to all now include a Carpet Bowls Group in addition to the well-established Walking, Book and Gardening Groups.

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Communication is ensured by quarterly magazine and a weekly pew slip which is dispatched to the congregation digitally on Friday while a paper version is made available in church on Sunday. Extensive use is also made of social media, particularly Facebook and the church website, to keep the public informed of activities.

Having taken time to get to know the congregation, the rector, in collaboration with the Vestry, has recently launched a survey asking members to reflect on the future of the congregation. A five year plan is in preparation. This will take account of the challenges faced by the church, notably a congregation which, though growing, is not getting any younger.

Finance

One of the main concerns of the Trustees has, as always, been the financial position of the Church. The previous year had ended with a significant surplus, but this was largely due to the interregnum when no stipend was payable. In the year to 30 September 2024, with the arrival of the new rector, it was paid from January. Recruitment and removal costs partly offset savings from October 2023 until his arrival. The year ended with a surplus of £6,533. Congregational giving showed an increase of 13% and again the fund raising team provided great support. The surplus was also helped by the receipt of building grant from the Episcopal church which, because of timing differences, exceeded the repairs and maintenance which were principally directed to the rectory. With many costs being shared with St Modoc's, the financial prospects for the future appear comfortable, but the age of the congregation, inflation, and the burdens of energy and repairs are current threats.

Reserves

St Saviour's has unrestricted and restricted reserves. Unrestricted reserves can be spent on any relevant activity; restricted reserves can only be spent on the activity for which they were given. The latter comprise funds for Music, the Drop in Centre, and for Flowers. It is the Church's policy to maintain a reasonable level of unrestricted reserves to protect against any potential downturns in the Church's income or unforeseen significant costs, so that the Church could maintain its activities for a reasonable period until replacement funding is obtained. They are also held to provide a base for further development of the Church's property and activities.

Investments

St Saviour's Church makes monthly investments out of unrestricted funds. Shares are purchased in the Amity UK Fund, administered by Eden Tree Investment Management, a member of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. The investment objective of the Fund is to provide long-term capital appreciation and a reasonable level of income, which is re-invested in the fund. It seeks to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to the quality of individual and community life and to the environment. The Fund invests principally in companies incorporated and/or listed in the United Kingdom. The Fund seeks to avoid investment in companies which have a material involvement in the production of alcohol and also avoids companies with material interests in tobacco, gambling, the production of magazines or other media of an explicit or violent nature, the manufacturing of armaments, countries which threaten the individual's right to liberty, and companies where animals are experimented on for cosmetic purposes. The Church also holds units in the Scottish Episcopal Church Unit Trust Pool ("SEC UTP"), administered by Baillie Gifford. The investment policy of the SEC UTP, which accords with that of the Vestry, is to earn a return on the assets, over the long term, sufficient at least to maintain the real value of the distribution to unit holders. The SEC UTP has developed an ethical investment policy. No investments will be made in companies that derive more than 15% of their revenue from tobacco, gambling or armaments. The majority of the SEC UTP is invested in UK equities.

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Structure, governance and management

St Saviour's is an unincorporated association governed by a constitution approved by the Bishop on 19 April 2011. As a member congregation of the United Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane in the Scottish Episcopal Church, it is also governed by the Canon Law of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The management team of the Church is known as the Vestry. For the purposes of charities law, the members of the Vestry are the Charity Trustees of the Church. Details of the Trustees are given on page 2. Ordinary Vestry members are elected by the Congregation at an Annual Meeting. Vestry members usually serve for a term of 3 years. The Rector is ex-officio a member of the Vestry. The Lay Representative and Alternate (listed on page 2), elected annually by the congregation, are ex-officio members of the Vestry. The Vestry Secretary, when necessary, updates members of the Vestry on relevant changes in legislation and best practice relating to charities.

Vestry responsibilities

The Vestry is responsible for managing and safeguarding the assets of the church and assists the Rector in matters affecting the spiritual welfare of the congregation. It is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records and ensuring that the accounts are prepared in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Vestry regularly considers the risks faced by St Saviour's and ensures that appropriate risk management procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

Relationship with the Diocese and Province

St Saviour's is supported by the Diocese and the Province through the pastoral oversight of the Bishop, central support functions provided at Diocesan level and occasionally grants from central funds. The Church is represented at Diocesan level by the Rector and the Lay Representative. As a member of the SEC, St Saviour's has an obligation to contribute to the costs of the Diocese and the Province through payment of an annual "quota". This amount is based on the relative level of income of the Church in comparison with that of other churches in the Diocese and Province.

Conclusion

The Trustees would like to thank all those who contribute their time, energy and money so generously to ensure the continuation and development of St Saviour's as a centre of worship and a focus for the community.

On behalf of the Trustees

[Redacted signature]

Date: 12/1/2025

Vestry Secretary

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Independent Examiner's Report to the Vestry Members of St Saviour's Episcopal Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations,have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date 20/1/25

CLEAR Services Ltd.
23 King Street
Doune
Perthshire
FK16 6DN

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Receipts and payments account for the year to 30 September 2024 – Note 1

All amounts in £	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	2023
Receipts					
Donations	2	63,639	2,636	66,275	62,173
Legacies		-	-	-	-
Loan\Grants received	3	-	10,750	10,750	14,204
Receipts from fund raising activity		4,014	-	4,014	5,356
Receipts from investments other than land and buildings		264	-	264	244
Rent from land and buildings		520	-	520	1,359
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-	-	-
Total receipts		68,437	13,386	81,823	83,336
Payments					
Payments relating to charitable activities	4	55,827	17,550	73,377	42,395
Grants and donations from charitable activities	7	962	-	962	1,133
Governance costs		350	-	350	300
Purchase of investments	8	600	-	600	300
Total payments		57,739	17,550	75,289	44,128
Surplus / deficit for the year		10,698	(4,164)	6,534	39,208

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Statement of balances as at 30 September 2024

All amounts in £	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	2023
Cash at bank and in hand					
Balance at beginning of year		143,488	(31,654)	111,834	72,626
Surplus / deficit for the year		10,698	(4,164)	6,534	39,209
Transfer from Unrestricted funds		(52,902)	52,902		
Total cash funds at end of year		101,284	17,084	118,368	111,834
Investments (SEC UTP & EdenTree/Ecclesiastical)					
Market value at beginning of year		16,965	-	16,965	15,731
Additions at cost		600	-	600	300
Disposal proceeds		-	-	-	-
Unrealised gain / (loss) in the year		1,831	-	1,831	934
Market value at end of year		19,396	-	19,396	16,965
Fund balances (cash and investments retained)					
At beginning of year		160,453	(31,654)	128,799	88,357
Surplus / deficit for the year		10,698	(4,164)	6,534	39,208
Movement in investments		2,431	-	2,431	1,234
Movement between funds	1	(52,902)	52,902		
At end of year		120,680	17,084	137,764	128,799
Other assets and liabilities - for information only					
Assets					
Unclaimed tax due back on gift aid				5791	4,893
Liabilities					
Outstanding cheques and invoices received at year end					1,471

On behalf of the Trustees



Treasurer

13-1-25

St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash by the church during the financial year, along with a statement of balances. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not received, nor for any expenses incurred but not yet paid at the year end. Except for investments, fixed assets are not capitalised.

Restricted Funds

The restricted fund balance represents amounts donated to the church for specific purposes. During the year the restricted income included grants towards fabric improvements and for a Drop-in Centre and donations towards Fabric, Music, and Flowers. With Fabric expenditure exceeding the Fabric Fund, the opportunity has been taken to transfer unrestricted funds to Fabric.

Restricted Funds	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance
Fabric fund	(105885)	122368	16483	0
Legacy fund	52402	(52402)	0	0
Music fund	10515	2025	278	12262
Flower fund	545	0	0	545
Drop In	7409	312	3443	4277
Total	(35015)	72303	20204	17084

Church Buildings

No value is shown for the church, hall and rectory buildings in the statement of balances.

2. Donations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted donations		
Congregational giving	51,339	45,208
Gift Aid	10,777	11,365
For use of hall and church	520	1,359
For special events and services	5,537	6,161
Miscellaneous income	-	156
	68,173	64,249
Restricted donations		
Flower fund (including Gift Aid)	-	125
Music Fund (including Gift Aid & GASDS)	2,025	2,425
Fabric fund (including Gift Aid & GASDS)	-	1,698
Drop In donations	611	391
	-	
<i>Of which: Gift Aid & GASDS</i>	<i>473</i>	<i>580</i>
	2,636	4,639

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3. Grants Received

Grants (including non-fabric grants)	2024	2023
	£	£
SEC Building grant (share)	10,750	2,704
Grants for Drop In		11,500
	10,750	14,204

4. Payments relating to Charitable Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted		
Rector's emoluments (share)	18,171	-
Travel and other reimbursed expenses (share)	245	-
Training	116	-
Council tax (share)	1,357	70
Repairs & maintenance (share)	6,508	5,796
Gas, electricity and water	8,778	6,039
Insurance	3,786	3,786
Quota	10,492	9,551
Worship related costs	1,192	2,169
Young church	-	160
Print & Communication costs	1,179	908
Administration costs	4,003	-
	55,827	28,480
Restricted		
Flower fund	-	-
Music fund	576	163
Legacy fund	-	-
Fabric fund (share)	16,483	12,629
Drop In	491	1,123
	17,550	13,915

5. Receipts and Payments – St Modoc's Episcopal Church, Doune

Grants Received and Unrestricted Payments are shown net of the agreed contributions to/received from St Modoc's Doune as part of the linkage agreement between the two Churches.

6. Transfers between Funds

Rental costs were charged to the Drop-In Centre for the use of the Church Hall over a 6 month period in the year, as provided for in the funding for this project.

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7. Donations for Charitable Purposes

	2024	2023
	£	£
Charitable Donations		
Strathcarron Hospice	570	
Green Routes	162	
Friends of Bridge of Allan	125	
Other	105	
Start-Up Stirling		
Strathcarron Hospice		312
Stirling Street Pastors		114
Lillias Graham Trust		122
Salvation Army		114
Other Collections		
DEC Turkey/Sria Earthquake		470
	962	1,133

8. Investments

It is the policy of the Vestry to build reserves by investing regularly in Edentree Investments. In the year to 30 September 2023 the investment company ceased debiting our account while clarifying compliance with money laundering requirements. Investment now continues at £60 per month.

9. Remuneration and Expenses paid to Trustees

Four Trustees were reimbursed for essential expenses incurred on behalf of St Saviour's Church during the year. None of the Trustees received any remuneration relating to their position as trustees.