



The Church of Scotland

Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

**Edinburgh: Meadowbank and Willowbrae
Church of Scotland**

**1A Willowbrae Road & 83 London Road
EDINBURGH**

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 December 2025**

Congregation No: 010124

Charity No: SC 000963

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

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Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Edinburgh : Meadowbank and Willowbrae Church of Scotland.
Charity Registration No.: SC000963
Congregational Reference No.: 010124
Contact Address: Meadowbank and Willowbrae Church of Scotland
83 London Road, Edinburgh EH7 5TT

Trustees (Members of Kirk Session)

Rev Lourens de Jager	
Alison Arnott	Elizabeth McLean
Fiona Beveridge	David Nimmo
Jim Davidson	Margaret Nimmo
Elaine Farrow	Jackie Pantony
Yvonne Keith	Alan Risk
Lorraine Johnston	Eleanor Robertson
Robert Lowey	

Principal Office-bearers

Session Clerk: Mrs Lorraine Johnston
Treasurer: Mrs Margaret Nimmo
Assistant Treasurer: Mr Tom Watson (resigned Dec 2024)
Minister: Rev Lourens de Jager

Independent Examiner:
Suzanne Graham FCCA
Hollis Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
3, Melville Crescent
Edinburgh EH3 7HW

Bankers:
Bank of Scotland plc
172 High Street
Musselburgh
EH21 7DZ

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The congregation is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form), and is subject to the Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Meadowbank and Willowbrae is a Parish Church within the Church of Scotland serving a community in the North East area of Edinburgh. A Parish Church exists to serve all the people living within the Parish irrespective of their individual beliefs or religious affiliation.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Church is administered by the Kirk Session and members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. The minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is elected by the congregation and inducted by Presbytery.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session which meets regularly is responsible for spiritual and temporal affairs within the church.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

Church membership flows from a 'public profession of faith' or transference from another congregation. Membership is a requirement for participation in the Courts of the Church. However, worship is open to all as is the provision of pastoral support and inclusion in Church-based community activities. The Church of Scotland has an "open" communion table to members of any branch of the Church. Outreach of the congregation is for all and not just members.

The purposes of the Church are as in the 5 Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- Nurturing Communities: To teach, baptise, and nurture new believers
- Serving Communities: to respond to human need by loving service
- Witnessing Communities: To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- Worshipping Communities: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Trustees' Report (continued)

In furtherance of these purposes:

With regards to the Presbytery Plan the Kirk Session agreed to accept the decision of the Deployment Group that the Willowbrae building be sold and the Meadowbank Building be retained. From January 2025 weekly Sunday worship has commenced at Meadowbank. The current hall lets and community groups have moved from the Willowbrae building to the Meadowbank building. A Closing and Thanksgiving service for the Willowbrae Building took place on 8th June 2025.

Our Church:

Provides facilities for worship, fellowship and the enriching of community life.

Provides regular opportunities for worship and celebration and the teaching of the Christian Faith.

Provides pastoral care to the people in the parish in times of difficulty, illness, bereavement, crisis and stress. The Minister is called on to conduct funerals of persons not members of the congregation. So, the community at large is served, not just the membership.

Through its Minister and office bearers, offers spiritual counselling, advice and support to anyone living in the parish.

Provides social and recreational facilities for groups of all ages within the Church and community groups throughout the week – Cook Club, Knitting Group, Fellowship Group, Warm Welcome, Babies and Toddlers, Tap into IT, children and young people, e.g. Messy Church, Brownies, Guides and Mini Fun Clubs.

Also supports the work of religious and charitable bodies beyond the immediate area, and beyond the wider work of the Church of Scotland. In 2025 we gave financial support, along with our interest and prayers, to many charities both local and overseas.

We continue to make weekly donations of food and monies to the local Basic Bank based at Wilson Memorial Church.

We offer 2 weekly Bible Studies which are open to all to learn with each other the Word. Both of these are very well attended.

Achievements and Performance

Here are some aspects and comments on our work during 2025.

We started a Sunday School and we are hopeful for the future.

Our Pastoral Care team continues with its valuable work making regular visits and telephone calls to those that require it and visits to those in nursing homes and hospital.

Trustees' Report (continued)

We continue our links with the local schools and a children's centre in our parish. We have links with the 'Conversation Café' Salaam Project of Edinburgh City Mission.

We commenced Messy Church in December 2023 and although well attended in 2024 and early 2025, due to capacity constraints, we prayerfully made the strategic decision to pause this ministry until we employ a family/mission outreach worker to lead and assist.

We continue our links with other denominations in our parish through prayer and vigils.

The Worship Team continue to lead monthly services at Lauder Lodge Care Home and Marionville Care Home with permission from Leith and Restalrig Church and continue to lead Monthly Monday services at 2pm in the Meadowbank Building as an alternative to Sunday services and these have been well attended and appreciated by those attending.

We continue to engage with Portobello and Joppa Church with our monthly prayer meetings and our minister and two of our elders have volunteered at their holiday clubs. We had a joint meeting in 2025 which was well attended.

We are keeping all our social media accounts up-to-date and communicate with the congregation with a regular newsletter sent via email and post.

The Alpha Course in January 2025 during Sunday Service went extremely well, and the Kirk Session agreed to plan an Alpha in 2026 to offer to the community, this is in the planning stage. Our Kirk Session's facilitated Away Day in May 2025 where we reflected on our strengths, gave us ideas for growth, and explore new ways to engage with the changing needs of our parish.

Some of our elders and members have assisted at Scripture Union Camps.

We now have a Hospitality Team to organise and cater for our social events.

Plans for the Future

As we look ahead, Meadowbank and Willowbrae Church enters 2026 with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. The Kirk Session's facilitated Away Day in May 2025 was a pivotal moment in which the Session sought the Lord's guidance for the future of our congregation. Out of that time of prayer and discernment came a clear sense of God's call across five areas of church life: worship, teaching, community, service, and witness. These priorities now form the framework for our plans going forward.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Central to our vision for the coming year is the development of our family and children's ministry. Having prayerfully paused Messy Church in 2025 due to capacity constraints, the Kirk Session is actively investigating the employment of a family and outreach worker to lead and pioneer this vital area of ministry. This post would help us to develop work among children and young people, create forms of worship accessible to families, and build stronger connections with the many young families in our parish. Alongside this, we will continue to develop our weekly Baby and Toddlers group and our small Sunday School, seeking to grow these as welcoming entry points for families in the community.

The Alpha Course, which ran during Sunday services in early 2025 and proved deeply encouraging, has now been developed into a community-facing outreach. In early 2026 we launched Alpha on Wednesday evenings, beginning with a hot meal, and open to anyone in the community. We plan to continue running Alpha regularly as a key part of our evangelistic outreach, creating a relaxed and welcoming space in which people can explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and encounter the gospel.

We are committed to deepening the prayer life and discipleship of our congregation. We plan to develop teaching on prayer and establish dedicated times for united, gathered prayer during the week. Our two weekly Bible Studies and Discipleship Group will continue, and we will create further opportunities for discipleship in small groups, ensuring that the existing congregation is supported and equipped for the work of ministry.

Now settled at the Meadowbank building as our sole place of worship following the Closing and Thanksgiving Service for Willowbrae in June 2025, we are looking to make the most of our consolidated location. The monthly Monday afternoon services will continue at Meadowbank, and we will actively invite others from the surrounding community to these. We will also explore hosting free, open community events with refreshments, such as concerts and other such activities.

Our partnership with Portobello and Joppa Church within our parish grouping will continue to develop through joint prayer meetings, holiday club volunteering, and shared initiatives. We will also seek to strengthen relationships and collaboration with other local churches, and to build on our existing links with Abbeyhill Primary School and other schools and children's centres in our parish. We will prayerfully consider practical ways to offer hospitality and support to overseas students and new arrivals in Edinburgh, and plan activities that bring the church's presence into the local community.

Our Pastoral Care team, Worship Team, and Hospitality Team and newly formed Mission and Outreach Team will continue their faithful work. We will maintain our regular services at Lauder Lodge and Marionville Care Homes, our links with the Conversation Café Salaam Project of Edinburgh City Mission, and our weekly support of the Basic Bank at Wilson Memorial Church. We will continue to support local and overseas charities through our giving,

Trustees' Report (continued)

especially at our monthly Soup Sundays, and to keep our social media and communications up to date to ensure our message of hope reaches as wide an audience as possible.

In all our plans, we seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit, trusting in God's provision and faithfulness. We are grateful for the foundations laid in recent years and confident that, as we respond to God's call, Meadowbank and Willowbrae Church will continue to grow as a beacon of hope and a source of blessing to our community.

Financial Review

The Church receives its core funding from its members offerings and Gift-Aid recoveries. Other income arises from renting out the Church Halls, Investment Income and "fund raising" activities.

Donations are up by £10,332, and the Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Donations is £483 (£7,128 in 2024), with some Gift Aid due at year-end. Receipts from General Trustees are drawdowns from the funds held by the General Trustees on the charity's behalf (see Appendix) which can be applied for to cover utilities and insurance costs and to carry our fabric works.

On the expenditure side, our running costs continue to be high due to running two Church buildings. Expenditure for the year is £130,733 (2024: £123,546). The net deficit for the year is £18,428 (2024: deficit of £61,731).

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately six months expenditure including designated funds. At the year end the Church held Unrestricted cash funds of £99,220 (2024: £117,698) and £9,544 (2024: £9,544) designated for the purposes specified in Note 2 of the accounts.

Investments with a market value of £50,125 (2024: £48,243) are held in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust and are available for the general purposes of the Church.

Funds held by the General Trustees which can be applied for by the Church to pay for agreed purposes are shown in the Appendix.

The Church also held £2,449 (2024:£2,399) of restricted funds and £512 (2024: £512) of endowment funds which are held for the purposes specified in Note 2.

Trustees' Report (continued)**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The members of the Kirk Session must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Lorraine Johnston, Session Clerk

Date 5th APRIL 2026

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Edinburgh: Willowbrae Parish Church of Scotland.**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees 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 (as amended). 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.

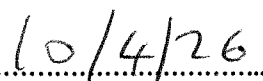
Independent examiner's statement

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - 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.

Signed 

Suzanne Graham FCCA
Hollis Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
3, Melville Crescent
Edinburgh,
EH3 7HW

Date 

Receipts and Payments Account**Year ended 31 December 2025**

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Receipts</u>	Note					
Donations, Legacies & Tax Recovered	3	43,391	50	-	43,441	39,279
Activities for Generating Funds		1,874	-	-	1,874	2,454
Use of Premises		10,962	-	-	10,962	7,750
Bank interest		1	-	-	1	131
Investment Income		6,055	-	-	6,055	6,547
Receipts from General Trustees		40,251	-	-	40,251	-
Other Receipts		336	-	-	336	910
Third Party Collections		-	5,735	-	5,735	4,744
North Merchiston Grant		-	3,650	-	3,650	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>		102,870	9,435	-	112,305	61,815
<u>Payments</u>	4					
Costs of generating funds		121	-	-	121	-
Charitable activities		79,716	49,636	-	129,352	121,566
Governance costs		1,260	-	-	1,260	1,980
<u>Total Payments</u>		81,097	49,636	-	130,733	123,546
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		21,773	(40,201)	-	(18,428)	(61,731)
Transfers		(40,251)	40,251	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(18,478)	50	-	(18,428)	(61,731)

Statement of Balances**At 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 Note £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Bank & Deposit Balances</u>					
Bank & deposit balances	127,242	2,399	512	130,153	191,884
<i>brought forward</i>					
Movement in year:					
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	(18,478)	50	-	(18,428)	(61,731)
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	<u>108,764</u>	<u>2,449</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>111,725</u>	<u>130,153</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>					
Buildings	475,000			475,000	475,000
Investments at Market Value	<u>50,125</u>			<u>50,125</u>	<u>48,243</u>
<i>(Cost £39,372)</i>					
<u>Assets</u>					
Hall let debtor	1,400				-
Gift Aid (Estimate)	<u>7,000</u>				<u>482</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Accruals Prof Fees	1,980				1,260
Accruals - other fees	180				-
Income received in advance	315				-
Other creditors: Council Tax & energy	<u>15,544</u>				<u>3,212</u>

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board on5/4/26.....

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Financial Board

L M Johnston

Session Clerk

M. Munro

Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts**Year ending 31 December 2025****Basis of Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year.

No trustee or a person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year 2025.

The total donated to the charity by trustees in 2025 is £8,945 (2024: £7,160).

2. Movements in Funds	At 1 Jan				At 31 Dec
	2025	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	117,698	102,870	(81,097)	(40,251)	99,220
Designated Legacy Fund	9,544	-	-	-	9,544
	127,242	102,870	(81,097)	(40,251)	108,764
Restricted funds					
Flower Fund	475	50	-	-	525
Fabric Fund	-	-	(40,251)	40,251	-
Mission & outreach	-	3,650	(3,650)	-	-
Church Worker Fund	1,436	-	-	-	1,436
Defibrillator Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Other Restricted	-	5,735	(5,735)	-	-
	2,399	9,435	(49,636)	40,251	2,449
Endowment Funds					
Miss Moffat Memorial Fund	512	-	-	-	512
	512	-	-	-	512
Total funds	130,153	112,305	(130,733)	-	111,725

Purposes of Designated Funds

Designated Legacy Fund: This fund was started with a £10,000 received.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Flower Fund: This is a fund to provide flowers for display during services of worship.

Fabric Fund: This is a fund consisting of grants for Fabric and other Building expenditure and the relevant expenses.

Church Worker Fund: This was a fund transferred at Union and is for support of the workers directly employed by the congregation.

Defibrillator Fund: This was a fund transferred at Union and is for the ongoing costs of the defibrillator.

Other restricted funds: These are 3rd party collections.

Mission & Outreach: This was the North Merchiston grant from Presbytery, which was fully spent on mission and outreach in the year.

2. Movements in Funds (cont.)**Purposes of Endowment Funds**

Miss Moffat Memorial Fund: This fund transferred at Union and is to purchase Bibles for those leaving Bible class.

Transfers in the year were from unrestricted to restricted funds as agreed by Trustees.

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
3. Analysis of Donations and legacies				
Offerings	42,363	-	42,363	32,031
Gift Aid	483	-	483	7,128
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Other Offerings, (Flower Fund) Donations etc	-	50	50	20
Other donations	545	-	545	100
	<u>43,391</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>43,441</u>	<u>39,279</u>
4. Analysis of Payments				
Costs of generating funds				
Free Will Offering envelopes	121	-	121	-
	<u>121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>-</u>
Charitable activities				
Giving to Grow allocation	54,982	-	54,982	43,989
Presbytery dues	1,235	-	1,235	989
Minister's expenses	-	-	-	39
Pulpit supply	-	-	-	1,627
Other staffing costs	1,260	-	1,260	1,200
Fabric repairs & maintenance	-	9,960	9,960	20,140
Council Tax	-	-	-	-
Water rates	1,420	-	1,420	-
Heat and light	8,102	15,900	24,002	18,698
Insurance	-	14,391	14,391	12,533
Cleaning	8,640	-	8,640	8,000
Church office expenses	1,210	-	1,210	2,386
Printing, stationery	378	20	398	545
Flowers	-	-	-	-
Organ & Music	550	-	550	1,736
Outreach & Activities	1,699	-	1,699	-
Other expenses	-	3,630	3,630	3,398
Telephone & Broadband	240	-	240	1,482
Third Party Collections	-	5,735	5,735	4,804
	<u>79,716</u>	<u>49,636</u>	<u>129,352</u>	<u>121,566</u>
Governance costs				
Accounts & Independent Examination	1,260	-	1,260	1,980
	<u>1,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>1,980</u>

5. Minister's Stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pension and housing and loan fund. Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the national stipend scale, which is related to years of service. For the year under review the minimum stipend was **£32,433** and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years of service) **£39,856**.

6. Assets

The Manse (New Restalrig) is owned by the charity, and was valued at £475,000 in 2013. Ownership of all other buildings is vested in the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

No consideration is payable for the use of these assets and expenditure incurred on the repair, maintenance and insurance of these assets is included in the expenditure shown in the Receipts and Payments Account.

Investments

Investments are shown at market value on the Statement of Balances.

Investments comprise the following:

Church of Scotland Investors Trust

	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024
	Number	Cost	Market	Number	Market
	of Units		Value	of Units	Value
	£	£	£	£	£
Growth Fund Units	1,430	6.88	9,838	1,430	9,123
Income Fund Units	3,537	11.39	40,286	3,537	39,119
			<u>50,125</u>		<u>48,242</u>

	2025	2024
7 Collections for Third Parties	£	£
Barnabas	135	-
Bethany	380	250
Care Fund	-	276
Children First	-	70
Christian Aid	1,131	1,580
Church of Scot Appeal	-	360
City Mission	-	311
Crisis UK	251	-
Crossreach	658	-
Edin Young Carers	-	254
Edinburgh Christian Union	324	-
Edinburgh City Mission	285	300
Erskine	325	80
Four Square Change	-	270
Jesus Wings Ministry	731	-
Mary's Meals	-	300
RNIB	109	-
SASRA	100	-
Satelite 7	-	237
Scripture Union	162	-
Tear Fund	714	-
Try Prying	-	223
Venture Scotland	-	293
Young Lives versus Cancer	430	-
	<u>5,735</u>	<u>4,804</u>

Meadowbank and Willowbrae Church : Edinburgh

Appendix I

Funds held on behalf of the congregation by the Church of Scotland General Trustees

For the Year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	1,856,900	1,856,900
Market Value 31/12/2025	2,128,731	2,021,382
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	183,665	141,848
<u>TEMPORARY FUNDS</u>	(1,174)	-