

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC001107

CONGREGATION NUMBER 342030

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

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**MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Trustees

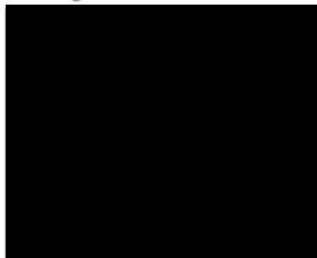


(Interim Moderator)
(Session Clerk)
(Treasurer)
(Property Convenor)

Principal Office

Upper Backieley
Aberchirder
Aberdeenshire
AB54 7PS

Independent Examiner



MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. The legal and administrative information set out on page 3 forms part of this report. The accounts comply with current statutory requirements.

Governing document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Unitary Constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Member 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.

Organisational Structure

As the church is currently in vacancy, the Kirk Session is moderated by the Interim Moderator and continues to meet approximately eight times a year. The Session is responsible for all matters relating to the upkeep and smooth running of the church. Within the Kirk Session there is a Fabric Group responsible for the upkeep of the church and a Fellowship and Fundraising Group who arrange social events to raise funds for general congregational purposes and any other relevant cause applicable at that time. The Kirk Session is also responsible for spiritual affairs within the church.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in policy. 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 church in Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

Regular weekly worship has taken place each Sunday at 10.30am. In the absence of an in-post Minister, a Locum Minister was employed until April, followed by pulpit supply thereafter overseen by Rev John Gow, Interim Moderator.

The Thrift Shop, at 120 Main Street, Aberchirder, continues to provide a valuable service, with the continuing operation of a Food Bank within the shop, administered and run by church volunteers.

Fundraising events were held on a number of occasions during the year, including a coffee morning in May, the church's popular Strawberry Fayre in July and a Soup and Sweet lunch in December. The Summer Picnic in June, although not a fundraising activity, was well attended, as was the corresponding Songs of Praise event in the church. A Gift Day was held in September and a retiring collection was held for MAF at the Harvest Thanksgiving service in October.

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH

Achievements and Performance (Continued)

The past year has continued to be a time of transition for Marnoch Church, which continues in vacancy. Talks with the neighbouring parishes of Turriff, Monquhitter and New Byth, and King Edward have carried on throughout the year, with the prospect of union between the churches coming closer and expected to be completed at some point in 2025. The Union will be known as Strathdeveron Community Church of Scotland. Successful joint services have taken place with the other churches within the group, each continuing to be a positive foreshadowing of how the Lord

Additional services to the usual diet of Sunday worship have taken place through the year, examples being the outdoor Remembrance Service in November, a 9am morning service on Easter Sunday at Reid Park and Christmas services such as Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Eve Watchnight. Thinking Day/Founder's Day was observed in the Church in February.

Kids' Kirk has continued valiantly throughout the year, although with only one family in regular attendance to participate in weekly activities and Bible-based learning. The Food Bank has continued to provide a much-needed source of support to the local community, despite early uncertainty in the year over its future viability. This was allayed by a general show of support from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The church roll at the end of 2024 stood at 272.

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH

Financial Review

The Trustees of Marnoch Parish Church found 2024 to be another challenging year with our pulpit remaining vacant and church attendance continuing to fall. Returns from invested funds and interest from the Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund, along with Gift Aid from HMRC, proved to be key elements in supporting our revenue stream in light of falling donations. The empty Manse continued to put a strain on the budget with an additional 'empty building' council tax surcharge applied. In the course of the year, the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland consented to the building being sold with a building report instructed and legal work underway by their Law Department. High energy bills for the church building continued to have a significant impact on the monthly balance in the winter months.

Fundraising events were well supported by both church members and the wider community with a very successful Coffee Morning, Strawberry Fayre and Soup & Sweet Lunch. However, the annual Gift Day was disappointing with donations mirroring the general pattern of falling financial support. Thrift Shop sales continued to supply welcome additional income each month, though the economic downturn in the local community has also been apparent there. A decision was made by the Kirk Session to withdraw some invested funds to support the Foodbank in the early part of the year but reluctantly it was agreed that the Foodbank could not be funded from the Church Charity Funds beyond May. However, through the auspices of a generous local benefactor, it remained open until December.

A number of essential property repairs were undertaken throughout the year with water ingress in the Belfry identified as originating from loose pointing around the clock and from masonry ledges which were inadequately sealed. Remedial work required the hire of a cherry picker so some minor roof repairs were also undertaken and the gutters cleared. Boundary walls in the church grounds required the attention of another local builder. In the early part of the year, a decorative iron hand rail was constructed and attached to the church balcony to ensure that it fully complied with Health and Safety Regulations.

Collections for Mission Aviation Fellowship resumed in 2024 and a number of other charities received support through special collections and retiring offerings at our services. These included Poppy Scotland, the Scottish Air Ambulance, Aberdeen Street Friends, our church foodbank and school bibles project.

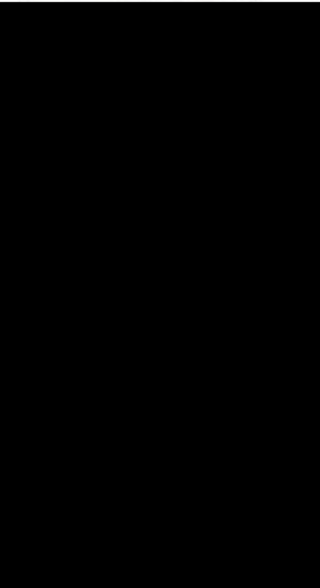
With all five congregations in our group voting in favour of a church union in December 2024, our congregation is anticipating a more stable period in 2025 when we will become part of the new Strathdeveron Community Church. On the date of the union which has still to be confirmed, the Trustees of Strathdeveron Community Church will take over responsibility for all aspects of church life, pastoral care, worship, property maintenance and financial management and from this date, our separate identity as a registered charity will cease. With an end to our prolonged period of vacancy in sight, we look forward to a more positive future with support from a permanent ministerial team and a new united Kirk Session.

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
Trustees' Annual Report - continued

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were :

Kirk Session Members



(Interim Moderator)
(Locum to 30th April 2024)
(Session Clerk)
(Treasurer)
(Property Convenor)

Reserves

It is the Trustee's policy to hold revenue reserves of approximately two months expenditure in a bank current for general congregational purposes.

A separate bank account is maintained to hold reserves for the fabric of the church. This is specifically for the upkeep of church properties and the purchase of music resources for use in worship. Funds held in this account will reflect the requirements of the property sub-committee and are reviewed as needed.

Volunteers

The charity is dependent on the voluntary efforts of it's members for a great deal of it's activities. It is not practicable to quantify this.

Risk

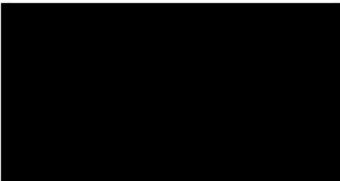
The charity has reviewed the major risks as identified by the trustees and has put in place procedures to mitigate these.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Session Clerk

Treasurer



Date

18/3/25

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Marnch Parish Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

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.

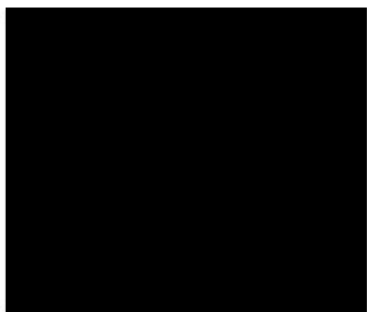
Basis of independent examiner's statement

An 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:
 - 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.



Date

19/3/25

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
Receipts and Payments Account
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

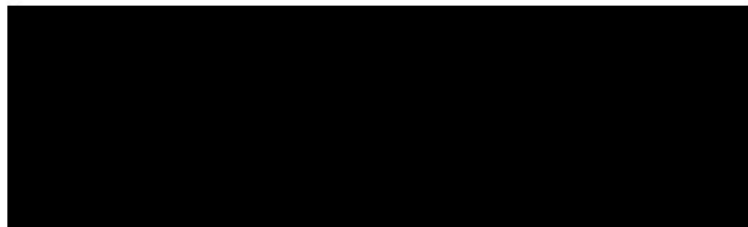
		Unrestricted	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>					
Donations	1	16996	822	17818	23258
Church activities		1890		1890	1510
Thrift shop income		3298		3298	3707
Church of scotland guild activities		0		0	0
Church Investment	2	10450	956	11406	7083
		32634	1778	34412	35558
Proceeds from sale of investment units		5002	1009	6011	
<u>Total Receipts</u>		<u>37636</u>	<u>2787</u>	<u>40423</u>	<u>35558</u>
<u>Payments</u>	4				
Charitable Activities - Church		49514	2323	51837	48243
Charitable Activities - Sunday School		435		435	821
<u>Total Payments</u>		<u>49949</u>	<u>2323</u>	<u>52272</u>	<u>49064</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		(12,312)	464	(11,848)	(13,506)
Transfers				0	0
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments for the year		<u>(12,312)</u>	<u>464</u>	<u>(11,848)</u>	<u>(13,506)</u>

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
STATEMENT OF BALANCES
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Bank and cash in hand</u>					
Opening balances		21887	3444	25,331	38837
Movement in year:					
Net Excess of Payments over Receipts for the year		(12,312)	464	(11,848)	(13,506)
Bank & deposit balances carried forward		<u>9575</u>	<u>3908</u>	<u>13483</u>	<u>25331</u>
Reserves	5	9575	3908	13483	25331
		<u>9575</u>	<u>3908</u>	<u>13483</u>	<u>25331</u>
Investments at market value					
	9	120,432	30,105	150,537	155237
Investments at Cost		<u>130451</u>	<u>30,960</u>	<u>161,411</u>	<u>168117</u>

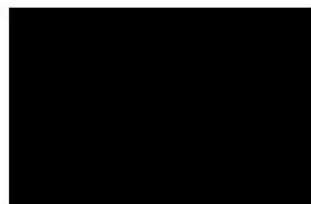
The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board on 18, 3, 25

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Financial Board



Session Clerk

Treasurer



MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Purpose of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund

The Trustees have set aside funds for the upkeep and maintenance of Marnoch New Church (including the organ), Marnoch Old Church and the Manse. Investment income is received into the Kirk Session Reserve Account at Virgin Money and bills for property maintenance are to be paid from this account.

Sunday School Fund

This fund has been set aside to support work with children and young people. Annual interest from the Sunday School investments is received into the Virgin Money Sunday School Account.

Church of Scotland Guild Fund

The Church Guild keeps its own accounts and appoints a Guild Treasurer responsible for managing the Guild Bank Account

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Collection for Third Party Causes

This fund consists of special collections received from the congregation towards third party organisations

Charities Fund

The Charities Account receives income from funds invested through bequests and gifts made by local residents for the benefit of the poor and needy of the parish and for good causes in the local community. It has been used to sustain the food bank, which is held in the thrift shop once a week.

Stronach Bequest

Each year, investment income includes dividends received from a bequest by William and Anna Stronach in 1885. The declaration of trust states that the main objective of the bequest is that income is to be used to keep church properties in good condition with any surplus available for general congregational purposes. Investment income is paid into the Kirk Session General Account and is therefore recorded under restricted income.

Consolidated Fabric Fund

The Church of Scotland holds the balance from the sale of Marnoch Old Church. This fund can only be used for any major building works or renovations we undertake.

MARNOCCH PARISH CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED****YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
1 Analysis of Donations				
All Gift Aid donations	9967		9967	13645
Annual Gift Day Gift Aid donations	1660		1660	2210
Annual Gift Day other donations	450		450	200
Tax Received on Gift Aid	3297		3297	5039
Other Offerings, Donations etc	1622	822	2444	2164
	<u>16996</u>	<u>822</u>	<u>17818</u>	<u>23258</u>
2 Investment Income Church of Scotland Units				
Dividend Income				
Stronach Bequest and General Funds	5890		5890	2323
Sunday School	758		758	632
Fabric Fund	3802		3802	3284
Charities Fund		956	956	844
	<u>10450</u>	<u>956</u>	<u>11406</u>	<u>7083</u>
4. Analysis of Payments				
Charitable activities				
Ministries & Mission allocation	17245		17245	17251
Presbytery dues	1039		1039	483
Other staffing costs	5,229		5,229	5140
Fabric repairs and maintenance	9541		9541	7115
Council Tax	4473		4473	3240
Heat and light	4681	200	4881	4699
Water rates	0	230	230	180
Insurance	3254		3254	3149
Printing, stationery and postage	239		239	333
Telephone	0		0	225
Accountancy	1728		1728	
Other expenses	2085	341	2426	1414
Charitable gifts/foodbank	0	1552	1552	5015
	<u>49514</u>	<u>2323</u>	<u>51837</u>	<u>48243</u>
Church Expenses				
Sunday School expenses	435		435	821
	<u>49949</u>	<u>2323</u>	<u>52272</u>	<u>49064</u>
Payments relating to asset and investment movements				
Transfers				0
	<u>49949</u>	<u>2323</u>	<u>52272</u>	<u>49064</u>

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED****YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	01/01/2024	Receipts	Payments	31/12/2024
5 Movement in funds				
Unrestricted Funds				
Designated Funds				
The Fabric Fund	12073	8804	18545	2332
Sunday School Fund	3046	883	435	3494
Church of Scotland Guild Fund	1373			1373
	16492	9687	18980	7199
General Fund	5395	37199	40219	2375
	21887	46886	59199	9575
Less transfers between Accounts		(9,250)	(9,250)	
	21887	37636	49949	9575
Restricted Funds				
Collections for third parties	0	622	622	0
Charities Fund	3444	2164	1701	3908
	3444	2786	2323	3908
Total Funds	25331	40423	52272	13483

6 Trustee Remuneration

The following trustees and Kirk Session Members received payments for their services during the year

██████████ received £1920 (2023 £1920) ██████████ received £1440

(2023 £1420) for ██████████

(2023 £1440 for ██████████ received £1440

7 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 £31,642 and the maximum (in the 5th and subsequent years) was £38,884.

8 Collections for Third Parties

	2024 £	2023 £
Poppy Scotland (Earl Haig Fund)	190	130
Mission Aviation Fellowship	142	577
Aberdeen Street Friends	145	
Scottish Air Ambulance	145	
Borderline		110
Tearfund Syria Appeal		35
Barnabas Ukraine Appeal		80
	<u>622</u>	<u>932</u>

MARNOCH PARISH CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

9 Funds Held in the Church of Scotland Investor's Trust

	2024		2023	
	At Cost £	Market Value £	At Cost £	Market Value £
Unrestricted Funds (Income Fund Units)				
General Congregational Purposes	22,174	21,279	22,174	21,087
Fabric Fund	74,381	67,543	79,996	71,985
Childrens Work	14,991	13,980	14,991	13,853
Charitable Activities	18,905	17,630	19,996	18,479
	<u>130,451</u>	<u>120,432</u>	<u>137,157</u>	<u>125,404</u>
Restricted Funds				
Mr & Mrs Stronach Gift Fund (income)	<u>30,960</u>	<u>30,105</u>	<u>30,960</u>	<u>29,833</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>161,411</u>	<u>150,537</u>	<u>168,117</u>	<u>155,237</u>

10 Other Asstes and Liabilities

Assets	2,024	2,023
Funds held in the Church of Scotland General Trustees Consolidated Fabric Fund Revenue Account 50	3,839	3,389
Funds held in the Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund Capital Account 56 from the sale of Marnoch Old Church	76,917	76,917
Total Assets	<u>80,756</u>	<u>80,306</u>
Liabilities		
Temporary Fund held by Church of Scotlaand Debit Balance as at 31st December 2024	153	0