

The Church of Scotland
Abernethy Parish Church

CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS

2024

Congregation No: 362110

Charity No: SC003652

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:

Abernethy Church of Scotland
(known as Abernethy Parish Church)

Charity Registration Number:

SC003652

Congregation Reference No:

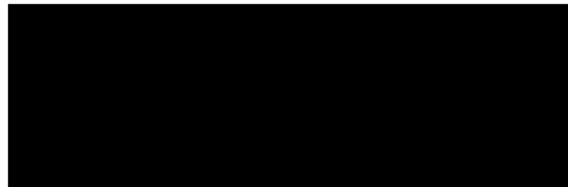
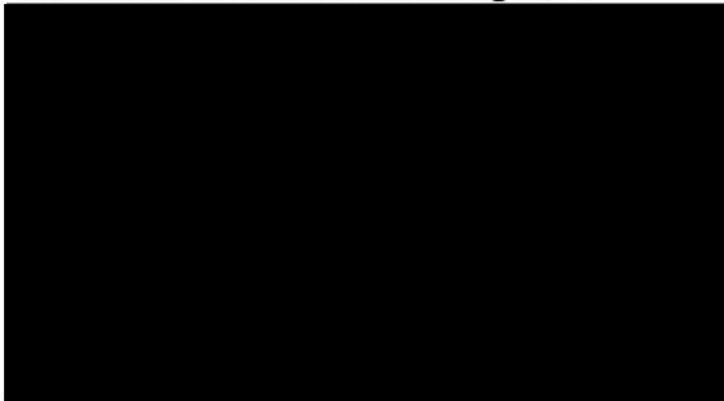
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Contact Address:

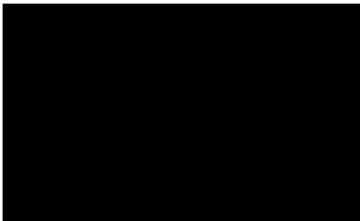


Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session during 2024:



Independent Examiner



Bankers

Bank of Scotland
Grampian Road
Aviemore
PH22 1RH

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form)

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session comprises the Minister and the Elders of the church, who are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session normally meets four times a year and is responsible for all aspects of congregational life. Certain responsibilities are delegated to officials and Working Groups as appropriate. There are currently 10 Working Groups, covering the following areas of congregational activity.

<i>Children & Youth</i>	<i>Mission & Developing Faith</i>
<i>Property and Facilities</i>	<i>Finance</i>
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	<i>Communication & Administration</i>
<i>11.30 Service Planning</i>	<i>Safeguarding</i>
<i>Fellowship and Events</i>	<i>EcoCongregation</i>

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.

Abernethy Parish Church provides regular worship in several different formats, varying from family and traditional services, worship/teaching videos, informal home groups and Sunday evening fellowship nights, the latter being aimed at those who are unable to attend regular Sunday worship. We recognise one service 'does not fit all' and the variety is appreciated by many, indicated by the attendance numbers, which are very encouraging for a small Highland Parish Church.

Achievements and Performance

Once more, the average attendance has increased year on year with an average for the combined 9.30 and the 11.30 services of 104 including 19 children (2022 - 96) . During the year, we stopped live streaming the 9:30 service for safeguarding reasons. This service is now recorded and available to those who request it. We provide online bible teaching and worship videos regularly throughout the year.

Additional services are held at Christmas and Easter and there is an occasional 6thirty evening service with a youth emphasis. Services at local care homes were also provided during the year.

A joint service was held with Boat of Garten and Carrbridge Churches, with similar services planned for 2025

The popular summer church BBQ was an all age event, with many from the other churches in our linkage attending (Boat of Garten, Carrbridge and Kincardine). Other social events run by the church have been well received by the local community and greatly appreciated e.g. Tearfund Quiz Night, and Carols around the Christmas tree.

Monday lunches each week have been very popular, providing a warm space, good food and a great time to socialise during the winter months when so many struggle with isolation.

CrossReach continues to use the church hall facilities for counselling sessions.

During the year there have been 8 funerals.

A decision was taken to renew the church heating which is expected to be installed in early 2025, and we await the final approvals to remove the church pews and replace them with individual chairs.

We give thanks to God as we recognise how privileged we are, as a congregation, to not only have a minister, but to have a minister who is a great bible teacher.

Financial Review

For the year to 31st December 2024 there was a deficit of payments over receipts of £7,066 (2023 surplus of £4,749). This deficit resulted from historic heating and lighting costs paid in 2024. The Church continues to draw-down reimbursements from the Consolidated Fabric Fund (revenue) held on our behalf by the Church of Scotland General Trustees for fabric expenditure incurred in previous years. In addition, there was a gain in the valuation of our own investments of £9458 (2023 was a loss of £8,267).

The principal single source of income is recurring gift aid donations, mainly by members of the congregation. In 2024 this income was £32,487 up 24% on 2023. However, Total Donations in 2024 amounted to £50,042 up nearly 11% on 2022.

Contributions are received for the use of the Church Hall and at the end of 2024 there were no significant liabilities.

The title deeds for the Church and the Church Hall, are held by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. All investments are held by The Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

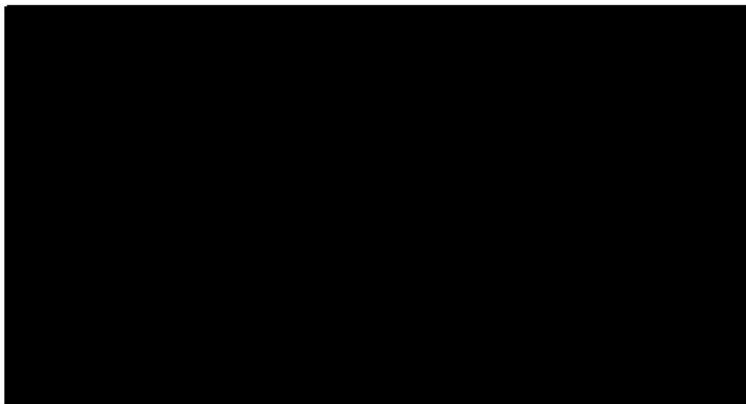
Reserves Policy

In addition to an unrestricted endowment fund, it is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves, in unrestricted funds, of approximately six months expenditure. As at 31st December 2024 these reserves represented just over 13 months expenditure (excluding Fabric, and Heat & Light expenditure which can be funded by the net proceeds of the sale of the Manse, held centrally by the Church of Scotland for our use).

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,



Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Abernethy Parish Church

I report on the accounts of Abernethy Parish Church for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners

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's 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.

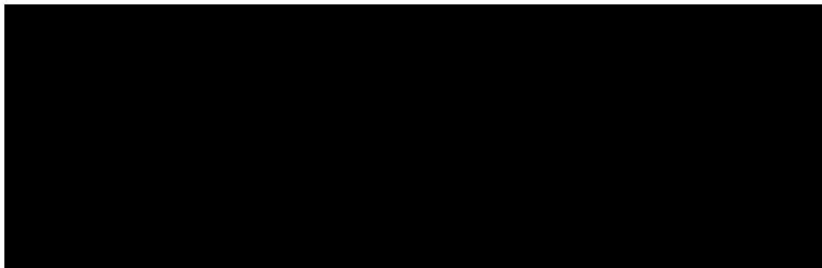
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - accounting records have not been kept in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006
 - the accounts do not accord with those records
 - the accounts do not comply with any of the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Abernethy Parish Church
As at 31st December 2024

Receipts & Payments Account

		Unrestricted General Fund 2024 £	Unrestricted Fabric Fund 2024 £	Unrestricted Endowment Fund 2024 £	Restricted Good Samaritan Fund 2024 £	Restricted Youth Worker Fund 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
	note							
Receipts								
Donations	4	£49,547.28			500.00		50,047.28	44,142.66
Rental of Church Hall		1,138.50					1,138.50	705.00
Weddings & Funerals		200.00					200.00	100.00
Investment Income		4,106.33					4,106.33	3,566.00
Misc		727.57					727.57	5.51
General Trustees of the Church of Scotland		9,582.67					9,582.67	8,733.62
Total Receipts		65,302.35	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	65,802.35	57,252.79
Payments								
Charitable Activities		-72,368.45			-500.00		-72,868.45	-52,503.46
Cost of Generating Funds							0.00	0.00
Governance Costs							0.00	0.00
Total Payments	5	-72,368.45	0.00	0.00	-500.00	0.00	-72,868.45	-52,503.46
Excess of Receipts over Payments								
for the year before transfers		-7,066.10			0.00		-7,066.10	4,749.33

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of the accounts

Abernethy Parish Church
At 31st December 2024

Statement of Bank Balances and Investments

	Unrestricted General Fund 2024 £	Unrestricted Fabric Fund 2024 £	Unrestricted Endowment Fund 2024 £	Restricted Good Samaritan Fund 2024 £	Restricted Youth Work Fund 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank balances at 1 January 2024	62,331.26	0.00	0.00	3,436.46	66.13	65,833.85	61,084.52
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year after transfers	-7,066.10					-7,066.10	4,749.33
Total bank balances carried forward at 31 December 2024	55,265.16	0.00	0.00	3,436.46	66.13	58,767.75	65,833.85
Investments at Market Value (cost = £93,997.86)			140,818.02			140,818.02	131,360.07
Total Bank Balances and Investments at 31 December 2024	55,265.16	0.00	140,818.02	3,436.46	66.13	199,585.77	197,193.92

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of the accounts

Abernethy Parish Church

Notes to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

1 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

Other than as noted below, no trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year.

██████████ received reimbursements of £1529.23 for expenses

No trustee, or person related to a trustee, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by Abernethy Parish Church during the year.

2 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 £31642 and the maximum stipend (after 5 years) was £38884.

3 Movements in Funds

	At 1st January				Valuation	At 31st December
	2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Change	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
General Fund	62,331.26	52,254.90	-72,368.45	13,047.45		55,265.16
Fabric Fund		9,582.87		-9,582.87		0.00
Endowment Fund	131,360.07	3,464.58	0.00	-3,464.58	9,457.95	140,818.02
Sub Total	193,691.33	65,302.35	-72,368.45	0.00	9,457.95	196,083.18
Restricted Funds:						
Good Samaritan	3,436.46	500.00	-500.00			3,436.46
Youth Worker Fund	66.13					66.13
Total Funds	197,193.92	65,802.35	-72,868.45	0.00	9,457.95	199,585.77

Purposes of Unrestricted Funds:

Fabric Fund : is for the maintenance of the Church, Church Hall and Boat of Garten Manse

Endowment Fund: the income from these investments is used for general congregational purposes

Purposes of Restricted Funds:

Good Samaritan - established to help those in need from the Parish

Abernethy Parish Church

Notes to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024.

4	<u>Analysis of Donations</u>	Unrestricted		
		General	Total	Total
		Fund		
		2024	2024	2023
	Recurring Gift Aid Donations	32,492.00	32,492.00	26,084.00
	Other Gift Aid Donations	150.00	150.00	1,248.00
	Tax Recovered (to 5th April 2024)	6,362.71	6,362.71	6,517.43
	Open Plate and WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	5,727.41	5,727.41	6,444.51
	Other Donations	5,315.16	5,315.16	3,848.72
	Legacy			
	Total Donations	50,047.28	50,047.28	44,142.66

Notes to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

- 10 -

Abernethy Parish Church

Notes to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

6 Collections for Third Parties were made during 2024

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
Specific Collections	£	£
IJM	130.00	
Leprosy Mission	510.00	
Christian Aid	335.00	124.00
MAF	225.60	
Blythswood	60.00	125.87
Strathspey Food Bank	280.50	
Crossreach		494.89
New Destiny	100.00	
Mission to Seamen	180.00	
Open Doors	230.00	
Bethany Christian	105.00	
 Total	 2,156.10	 744.76

These collections are made for distribution to specific third parties and, as they are not Church funds, are not shown in the Receipts and Payments Account.

Abernethy Parish Church

Appendix to the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2024

As at 31/12/24 the following amounts at Market Value were held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees for use by the Congregation

Consolidated Fabric Fund (Capital) - £244,448.40	(31/12/23 was £271,853.64)
(cost £271,842.30)	

Consolidated Fabric Fund (Revenue) - £5,831.72	(31/12/23 was £2,650.15)
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Deposit Fund - £0

Both of the Consolidated Fabric Funds represent the net proceeds of the sale of the Manse which have been invested in the Income Fund of the Church of Scotland's Investors Trust since 2017