

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Scotland · Charity number SC004487

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Part of	The Church of Scotland (SC011353)
Registered	1913-08-08
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	3 Portgower Place Edinburgh EH4 1HQ
Website	www.comelybankchurch.com

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of religion'

What the charity does: We are a conservative evangelical congregation of the Church of Scotland based in Comely Bank, Edinburgh and exist to share the good news about Jesus Christ.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: The advancement of religion.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£144,853	£179,183	-	3
2024-12-31	£280,205	£154,409	-	3
2023-12-31	£191,077	£174,947	-	2
2022-12-31	£153,762	£152,197	-	3
2021-12-31	£249,133	£429,176	-	3

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Scotland - Charity number SC004487

Accounts

Scottish charity number: SC004487
Congregation number: 010102

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2025



St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

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St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (SSCB) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name: St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh
Charity registration number: SC004487
Congregation number: 010102
Contact address: Church Office
10 Comely Bank Road
Edinburgh
EH4 1DW
Website: www.comelybankchurch.com
Bankers: Bank of Scotland, 43 Comely Bank, Edinburgh, EH4 1AF

Constitution and governance

SSCB is a Church of Scotland congregation established under the unitary form of constitution.

The Elders serving on the Kirk Session are the trustees of the charity and have been 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. The Kirk Session is responsible for the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees, when required.

The Kirk Session met eleven times during the year, with meetings considering both the practical and spiritual matters of the church. Routine business is dealt with by circulation of papers.

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Rev George Vidits	Minister and Moderator	
Rev Daniel Carmichael	Interim Moderator	(1 January 2025 - 29 March 2025)
Alison Franks	Session Clerk/Finance Convenor	
John Baggaley		
Veronique Chittleburgh		
Douglas Reid		(appointed 10 August 2025)
Jacqueline Young		

Day to day oversight for financial matters is delegated to the Session Clerk and Sarah Robertson, a member of the congregation who carries out the bookkeeping. The Minister and Session Clerk hold title to both the church and the manse on behalf of the members.

Objectives and activities

SSCB is an evangelical congregation of the Church of Scotland, with one objective: to make God's ways known to all. This is done through our worship together each Sunday; meetings for prayer, encouragement and teaching; offering homegroups for small group ministry and discipleship; ministry to the older members of our community through our lunch club; youth ministry in our local schools and community; the provision of meeting space for Guides, Scouts and other community groups; and special events.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

Achievements and performance

Thanks be to God that we experienced His faithfulness in the year gone.

We are thankful for many things this year:

- We are filled with gratitude that the Lord healed and restored our minister, George, after major heart surgery. He and Emma shared with the congregation that they were grateful for the many prayers and for the many people surrounding them with their loving care.
- We are thankful to the Lord for His goodness to us as a church family. For the faithful ministry of Martin Pearce as our locum during George's absence, then as our Families Pastor later in the year; for Douglas Reid who joined our ministry team in the second half of the year; for our staff team - Kenny, Pamela and Moira - and for the many volunteers who minister to our church family and community.
- We are thankful for our ministry and outreach in all its guises – to children and families through our new monthly Family Services, our weekly Babies and Toddlers Group and our monthly Comely Play events which have been so successful this year. For schools ministry at both Broughton High School and Flora Stevenson Primary School, for Rock Solid and for Inspire; and this year especially, for the level of access we are gratefully offered by the schools who value our input. For Lunch Club for our older community which continues to be a blessing to all who attend. For our homegroups which continue to be a place for discipleship and care for one another. For those who serve on a Sunday morning – both upfront and behind the scenes – able to serve using their gifts and talents be it in praying or cooking or making music or technology. For the administration that goes on unseen by most of us – managing the hall users, maintaining the buildings and garden and keeping the monthly rotas and the finances up to date.
- We are blessed with so many gifted people who love the Lord and delight in serving Him - their service is such a great encouragement to us all.

We are thankful too that our relationships with our Parish Grouping family continue to strengthen and grow. The next 12 months will be focussed on pushing forward with a framework for us to effectively work together to minister to our combined parishes.

By God's grace and the generous legacies of John Ballantine and Cathy Powell, we were able to repair and revarnish the floors of our halls and began the renewal of our Audio-Visual systems in the church.

We finished the year with 115 members (2024: 111 members). 3 new members were welcomed to the family by transference of certificate and a further 4 were welcomed by giving their profession of faith in church. We had one baptism – baby Kimberly – and George carried out 3 funerals. We have around 20 children and young people who are part of our Inspire, Sunday Club and creche communities.

None of what we do at Church would be possible without the commitment of our faithful community of members who volunteer in so many ways to serve. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Financial review

Principal sources of funding

The Church is primarily funded by church members through their offerings and the Gift Aid thereon. It should however be noted that we have an emerging trend of a decreasing number of high value givers as those members either move on elsewhere or reduce their giving due to changes in circumstances.

The Accounts for the year are set out on pages 5 to 10. They have been restated this year back to the simpler Receipts and Payments Basis of accounting which is available to all charities with annual income of under £250k. This means that our figures for 2024 have also been restated on the same basis to provide comparability.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

Financial review (continued)

Results for the year (continued)

The Accounts for the year are set out on pages 5 to 10. The Receipts and Payments Account on page 5 shows a deficit of £34,330 (2024: surplus of £126,039), comprising a deficit on unrestricted funds after transfers of £34,724 (2024: surplus of £134,007) and a surplus on restricted funds after transfers of £394 (2024: deficit of £7,968).

Reserves

It is the policy of the church to maintain unrestricted funds of approximately three months of unrestricted expenditure. This allows sufficient funds to enable the ongoing work of the Church to be maintained. Per the Unrestricted funds note 6, the general fund at 31 December 2025 amounted to £41,378 (2024: £16,675) which meets this level. Restricted funds amounted to £19,789 (2024: £19,395).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 12 March 2026.

Alison Franks

**Alison Franks
Session Clerk**

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

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 (as amended). 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 (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 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 (as amended), and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)

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.

Helen White

Helen White CA

Director

Cornerstone Accounting Ltd
Chartered Accountants

11 Erngath Road
Bo'ness
EH51 9DP

Date: 31 March 2026

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2025 Total	Restated		2024 Total
					Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Offerings and donations		64,072	33,833	97,905	67,525	32,881	100,406
Gift aid recovered		14,616	5,947	20,563	13,523	6,668	20,191
Grants	2	278	3,350	3,628	-	1,500	1,500
Legacies		5,000	-	5,000	135,267	-	135,267
Youthwork activity income		-	490	490	151	170	321
Hall letting income		16,443	-	16,443	20,344	-	20,344
Key deposits		40	-	40	-	-	-
Deposit interest		784	-	784	-	-	-
Total receipts		101,233	43,620	144,853	236,810	41,219	278,029
Payments							
Giving to Grow contribution		62,886	-	62,886	60,735	-	60,735
Presbytery dues		1,323	-	1,323	1,102	-	1,102
Staff salaries		8,325	40,643	48,968	7,818	36,624	44,442
Minister's expenses		640	-	640	1,306	-	1,306
General ministry expenses		1,946	-	1,946	518	-	518
Ministry group expenses		-	5,153	5,153	-	5,992	5,992
Other mission costs		78	739	817	-	-	-
Church repairs and maintenance		6,091	6,857	12,948	2,836	4,834	7,670
AV and website costs		11,912	-	11,912	-	-	-
Manse repairs and maintenance		1,025	-	1,025	864	2,376	3,240
Manse council tax		4,032	-	4,032	3,738	-	3,738
Other building costs		-	-	-	270	-	270
Church utility and water costs		8,797	-	8,797	9,723	-	9,723
Insurance		7,537	-	7,537	6,888	-	6,888
Church office and IT costs		1,653	-	1,653	4,656	301	4,957
Catering, hygiene and cleaning costs		1,327	-	1,327	895	-	895
Charitable donations	3	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-
Independent examination		180	-	180	144	-	144
Bank charges		15	-	15	-	-	-
Card machine costs		9	15	24	98	16	114
Other expenses		-	-	-	256	-	256
Total payments		125,776	53,407	179,183	101,847	50,143	151,990
Surplus/(deficit) for the year before transfers		(24,543)	(9,787)	(34,330)	134,963	(8,924)	126,039
Transfers		(10,181)	10,181	-	(956)	956	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year after transfers		(34,724)	394	(34,330)	134,007	(7,968)	126,039
Total funds brought forward		151,942	19,395	171,337	17,935	27,363	45,298
Total funds carried forward		117,218	19,789	137,007	151,942	19,395	171,337

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2025

	Opening balance £	2025 Deficit for year £	Closing balance £	Opening balance £	2024 Surplus for year £	Closing balance £
Bank and cash	171,337	(34,330)	137,007	45,298	126,039	171,337
Total assets	171,337	(34,330)	137,007	45,298	126,039	171,337

Represented by:

Unrestricted fund	6	117,218	151,942
Restricted funds	7	19,789	19,395
		137,007	171,337

Statement of assets

Church	No value provided	No value provided
Manse (at cost)	520,000	520,000
Gift aid due	4,669	5,286
Listed Places of Worship grant	3,280	-
Overpayment of Giving to Grow	533	-
Other debtors	154	749
Merchiston Funds due	-	1,850
	528,636	527,885

Statement of liabilities

Church utility costs	1,500	1,734
Bills due	-	1,774
Key deposits	340	300
Minister's travel costs	320	240
Pensions due	222	172
Independent examination fee	180	144
	2,562	4,364

The financial statements on pages 5 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 12 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:

Alison Franks

Alison Franks
Session Clerk

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Regulations anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007.

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. All voluntary income, income from tax recoveries on Gift Aid and bank interest is accounted for when received. Expenditure is recognised when paid.

Receipts and payments account

For the purpose of the receipts and payments account as shown on page 5, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the church without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the church and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

2. Grant income

During the year, we received the following grants:

	2025	2024
	£	£
North Merchiston Mission fund		
Edinburgh Presbytery mission grant	1,850	-
Families Outreach fund		
Church of Scotland grant for summer intern	1,000	500
Youthwork fund		
Church of Scotland mission grant	500	1,000
General fund		
Listed Places of Worship Scheme - VAT recovery fund	278	-
	<u>3,628</u>	<u>1,500</u>

We extend our sincere thanks to all those who have granted us funding for our outreach.

3. Charitable donations

The Trustees have agreed that all income received as legacies will be tithed with 10% of these receipts being ringfenced to donate to charity. This year, the following donations were made:

	2025
	£
Crossreach	2,000
International Justice Mission	2,000
Scripture Union Hungary	2,000
Scripture Union Scotland	2,000
	<u>8,000</u>

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. Transactions with Trustees and related parties

During the year, one Trustee (the Minister) received reimbursement of travel expenses totalling £720 (2024: £1,546) and benefitted from the payment of Council Tax on the manse of £4,031 (2024: £3,738). No other Trustees received remuneration or expenses, other than the direct reimbursement of items purchased on behalf of the church (2024: nil).

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pensions and housing and loan funds. 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) was £39,856.

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

Total donations received from Trustees in the year amounted to £30,811 (2024: £25,740).

5. Volunteer time

The Church relies heavily on the contribution of significant volunteer time for the delivery of its programme of activities. This has not been quantified for the purposes of these accounts.

6. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.25	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	16,675	100,733	(105,849)	29,819	41,378
Designated legacy fund	121,740	-	(11,912)	(40,000)	69,828
Designated tithe fund	13,527	500	(8,015)	-	6,012
Total unrestricted funds	151,942	101,233	(125,776)	(10,181)	117,218

Explanation of funds

The General Fund represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.

The Designated legacy fund represents a ring-fenced legacy received in the year to be used at the Kirk Session's discretion.

The Designated tithe fund represents 10% of the value of a legacy received in the year which the Kirk Session use to contribute to charitable causes.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

7. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.25	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Youthwork fund	-	22,007	(33,813)	11,806	-
Families Outreach fund	8,752	3,500	(9,643)	-	2,609
Lunch Club fund	812	2,037	(1,563)	(700)	586
Baby and toddler fund	261	1,343	(409)	(1,000)	195
Eco fund	1,561	-	-	-	1,561
Fabric fund	8,009	-	(4,572)	-	3,437
AV replacement fund	-	12,500	(2,285)	-	10,215
Church lunch fund	-	383	(458)	75	-
Hungary youth mission trip	-	-	(579)	-	(579)
North Merchiston mission fund	-	1,850	(85)	-	1,765
Total restricted funds	19,395	43,620	(53,407)	10,181	19,789

Explanation of funds

The *Youthwork fund* represents donations received to fund youth work in the church, including the salary of the Youth Worker.

The *Families Outreach fund* holds grants and donations received to fund a Families Outreach worker.

The *Lunch club fund* represents donations received and payments made for the provision of the monthly lunch club. The transfer out in the year was a donation made from the Club to the Church.

The *Baby and Toddler fund* represents the income and expenses managed by our Baby and Toddler group. The transfer out in the year was a donation made from the Group to the Church.

The *Eco fund* represents donations received and payments made by the church Eco group.

The *Fabric fund* holds grants and donations received in relation to the upkeep of the church building.

The *AV replacement fund* represents a donation received this year specifically for the replacement of our audio visual equipment in the Sanctuary.

The *Church lunch fund* represents funds donated and costs incurred in providing our monthly church family lunch.

The *Hungary youth mission fund* represents funds raised and spent on our youth group mission trip to Budapest in July 2026.

The *North Merchiston mission fund* represents funds received this year from Presbytery to be used to promote the church's activities in the area and in mission work.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

8. Restatement of comparatives

The accounts have been restated this year from the Accruals method back to the Receipts and Payments basis . This has resulted in the following adjustments to the comparatives this year:

2023 brought forward reserves

2023 reserves, as previously stated	849,534
Deduct:	
Fixed assets - church manse	(800,000)
Income due but not received	(5,180)
Add:	
Bills due but not paid	944
2023 reserves, restated	<u>45,298</u>

2024 surplus

2024 surplus, as previously stated	125,796
Deduct:	
Income due but not received	(7,885)
Bills from 2022 paid	(944)
Add:	
Bills due but not paid	3,892
Income due from 2022 received	5,180
2024 surplus, restated	<u>126,039</u>
Restated 2024 reserves carried forward	<u><u>171,337</u></u>

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Scotland - Charity number SC004487

Accounts

Scottish charity number: SC004487
Congregation number: 010102

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2024



St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

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St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for St Stephen's Comely Bank Church, Edinburgh (SSCB) for the year ended 31 December 2024. The accounts are presented this year on the accruals basis due to an increase in income beyond the maximum permitted level for use of the receipts and payments basis. The prior year comparatives have also been restated.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name: St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Charity registration number: SC004487

Congregation number: 010102

Contact address: Church Office
10 Comely Bank Road
Edinburgh
EH4 1DW

Bankers: Bank of Scotland
43 Comely Bank
Edinburgh
EH4 1AF

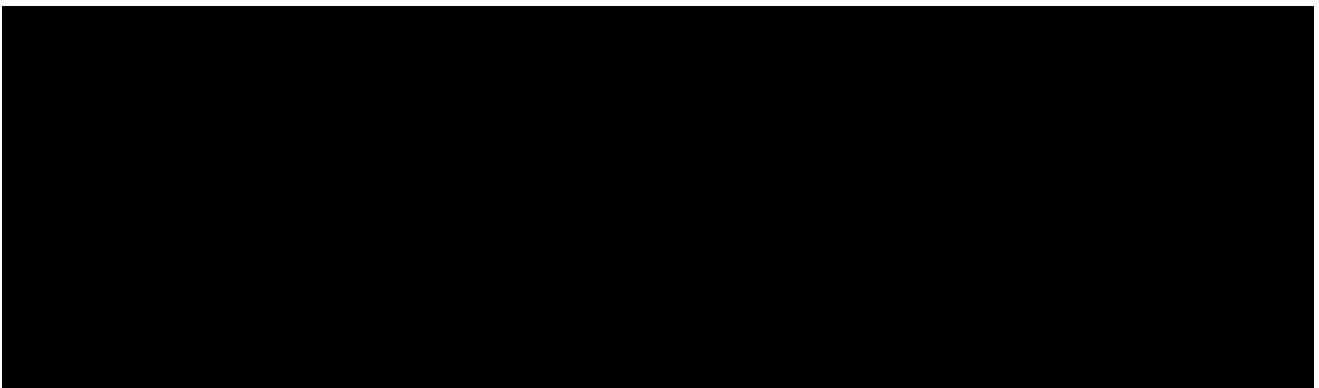
Constitution and governance

SSCB is a Church of Scotland congregation established under the unitary form of constitution.

The Elders serving on the Kirk Session are the trustees of the charity and have been 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. The Kirk Session is responsible for the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees, when required.

The Kirk Session met formally seven times during the year, with meetings considering both the practical and spiritual matters of the church. Routine business is dealt with by circulation of papers.

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:



Day to day oversight for financial matters is delegated to the Finance Convenor and the Treasurer, [REDACTED], a member of the congregation who carries out the bookkeeping.

The Minister and Session Clerk hold title to both the church and the manse (see page 6) on behalf of the members.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and activities

SSCB is an evangelical congregation of the Church of Scotland, with one objective: to make God's ways known to all.

This is done through our worship together each Sunday; meetings for prayer, encouragement and teaching; offering homegroups for small group ministry and discipleship; ministry to the older members of our community through our lunch club; youth ministry in our local schools and community; family outreach support for families in our community; the provision of meeting space for Guides, Scouts and other community groups; and special events.

Achievements and performance

This year, we have been working with our new Parish Grouping community pushing forward with a framework for us (Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church, Murrayfield Church and ourselves) to effectively work together. With a number of absences through ill-health and vacancies to fill, progress has been slower than we would have liked. But we are excited about the opportunities for this in the next 12 months.

Our Sunday services continue to be a place where church family meet together to share in worshipping the Lord and in fellowship with one another. Our Praise Band has blessed us at one service each month, the other services being covered by our technical team. The numbers of our church family involved in our services – reading the Word, leading in prayers, teaching our children and young people, looking after babies, welcoming people, serving coffee - continues to grow and we are grateful for the high proportion of our church family who actively serve each week. We are also blessed with lunch after our service once each month – always well attended.

We are thankful for our staff team.

- Our Minister, George Vidits, has had some periods of absence this year with health issues but we have been able to cover the preaching at our services from within the church staff and family, and with the support of ██████████ in November, ██████████-Watkins in December and ██████████ from January 2025 until the date of this report.
- Our Youth Pastor, ██████████ has continued to extend our reach into our local schools – Broughton High School primarily, but also in Flora Stevenson Primary School. This has included bringing Try Praying into the classrooms, leading at Assemblies and running weekly lunchtime clubs. ██████████ ran a successful holiday club at Easter for primary aged children, supported by members of the church family who gave up their week to help. We have seen new seeds of growth in our Inspire group on a Sunday morning which now boasts 11 teenagers who regularly attend.
- We filled a new post this year when ██████████ joined us as our Families Outreach Worker. Funded by the Pioneer Mission Fund, this role is to build a bridge between our church and families in our community, particularly those who require additional practical support. Building on our successful Thursday Baby and Toddler group, we have now started a monthly Comely Play on a Saturday morning which invites families into our halls for a time of play and bible stories. We have seen a growing group of families happy to join with us and were pleased by how many came to our Christingle service this year.
- Our cleaner of many years, ██████████ continues tirelessly with her love and care for our building – we are grateful for her service.

Prayer continues to be at the heart of what we do. As well as a prayer meeting before each Sunday service, we have a prayer ministry team who are available to pray with people after each service and a quarterly day of prayer where we cover prayer from 10am to 10pm on a Saturday. These days of prayer are held in the church and we now schedule them for the Saturday before our Communion Sundays as the sense of the Holy Spirit after these times of prayer has been such a 'felt' blessing in our Sanctuary.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

Our Lunch Club (for retired people) and Baby and Toddler group (for young families) continue to be very well attended. These are authentic places of Christ-centred service where there is always a bible story or faith-based message. We pray that these will be outreaches which build a bridge into our worship community.

Our 4 homegroups continue to be a place for discipleship and care. We have a hope that as many from our church family as possible are part of one of these small groups as we believe it is such an important addition to Sunday morning worship in our journeys of faith.

At the end of the year, we again hosted the Bethany Christian Trust Christmas trees, along with jointly hosting a Christmas Fair with them in our church. We see this outreach as a real chance to engage with people in our local community who are coming to pick up their trees.

We finished the year with 111 members (2023: 111 members). In addition, we have around 26 children and young people who are part of our Inspire, Sunday Club and creche communities.

None of what we do at Church would be possible without the commitment of our faithful community of members who volunteer in so many ways to serve.

Financial review

Principal sources of funding

The Church is primarily funded by church members through their offerings and the Gift Aid thereon. This year, a generous legacy was left to the church by a dearly loved and missed member of our church family which has significantly improved our financial position. It should however be noted that we have an emerging trend of a decreasing number of high value givers as those members either move on elsewhere or reduce their giving due to changes in circumstances.

Results for the year

The Accounts for the year are set out on pages 6 to 14. They have been restated this year to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities 2019 which applies to all charities with income over £250k. This means that our figures for 2023 have also been restated on the same basis to provide comparability.

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 6 shows a surplus of £125,796 (2023: restated surplus of £16,187), comprising a deficit on general funds after transfers of £3,353 (2023: restated deficit of £3,171), a surplus on designated funds of £135,267 (2023: £nil) and a deficit on restricted funds after transfers of £6,118 (2023: surplus of £19,358).

The Church's funds totalled £975,330 (2023 restated: £849,534) at the end of the year and are divided between general funds of £18,818 (2023 restated: £22,171), designated funds of £935,267 (2023 restated: £800,000) and restricted funds of £21,245 (2023: £27,363).

Reserves

It is the policy of the church to maintain unrestricted funds of approximately three months of unrestricted expenditure. This allows sufficient funds to enable the ongoing work of the Church to be maintained. Per the Statement of Balances on page 7, the general fund at 31 December 2024 amounted to £18,818 (2023: £22,171) which falls short of this level. This shortfall will be addressed as part of the discernment process being undertaken by the Kirk Session on the appropriate use of the legacy received this year of £135,267. We have already agreed to a thanksgiving offering of 10% to be donated to Christian partners we work with in our community.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Risk assessment

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the Church is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate those risks. The Kirk Session regularly discusses both financial and non-financial risks. The latter include those associated with occupying church buildings and employing staff, together with the risks associated with groups and individuals using our buildings.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

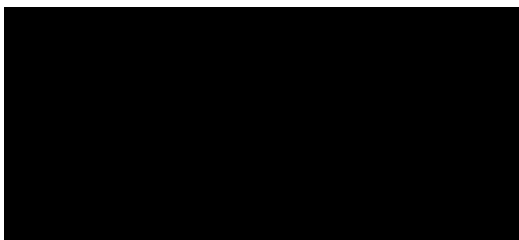
Charity law in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the charity's financial position. The Trustees are also responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the charity's assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the congregation's website.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 13 March 2025:



St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 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 (as amended). The Charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) 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 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

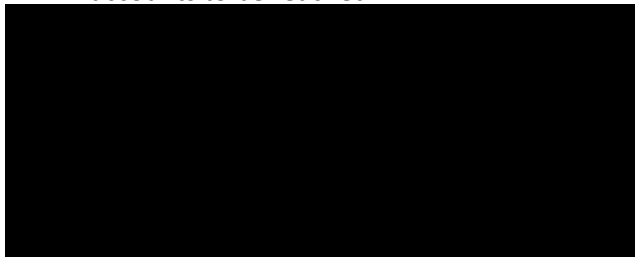
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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 (as amended), and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)

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.



Cornerstone Accounting Ltd
Chartered Accountants

11 Erngath Road
Bo'ness
EH51 9DP

Date: 28 March 2025

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes				2024 Total £	Restated			2023 Total £
		General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £		General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	2	81,154	135,267	39,854	256,275	86,780	-	80,005	166,785
Income from charitable activities	3	151	-	3,215	3,366	1,145	-	3,253	4,398
Income from trading activities	4	20,564	-	-	20,564	13,944	-	-	13,944
Total income and endowments		101,869	135,267	43,069	280,205	101,869	-	83,258	185,127
Expenditure									
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>									
Raising funds	5	98	-	16	114	16	-	21	37
Charitable activities	6	104,168	-	50,127	154,295	107,524	-	61,379	168,903
Total expenditure		104,266	-	50,143	154,409	107,540	-	61,400	168,940
Net income/(expenditure)		(2,397)	135,267	(7,074)	125,796	(5,671)	-	21,858	16,187
Transfers between funds	10	(956)	-	956	-	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
Net movement in funds		(3,353)	135,267	(6,118)	125,796	(3,171)	-	19,358	16,187
Total funds brought forward		22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534	25,342	800,000	8,005	833,347
Total funds carried forward		18,818	935,267	21,245	975,330	22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534
Represented by:									
General fund	10	18,818	-	-	18,818	22,171	-	-	22,171
Designated funds	10	-	935,267	-	935,267	-	800,000	-	800,000
Restricted funds	10	-	-	21,245	21,245	-	-	27,363	27,363
Total funds		18,818	935,267	21,245	975,330	22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

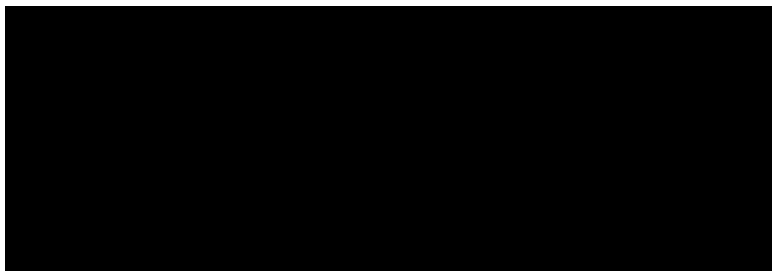
St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes				2024 Total	Restated			2023 Total
		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	
Fixed assets		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	7	-	800,000	-	800,000	-	800,000	-	800,000
Total fixed assets		-	800,000	-	800,000	-	800,000	-	800,000
Current assets									
Debtors	8	6,035	-	1,850	7,885	5,180	-	-	5,180
Cash at bank and in hand		16,675	135,267	19,395	171,337	17,935	-	27,363	45,298
Total current assets		22,710	135,267	21,245	179,222	23,115	-	27,363	50,478
Liabilities									
Creditors: falling due within one year	9	3,892	-	-	3,892	944	-	-	944
Net current assets		18,818	135,267	21,245	175,330	22,171	-	27,363	49,534
Total assets less current liabilities		18,818	935,267	21,245	975,330	22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534
Net assets		18,818	935,267	21,245	975,330	22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534
Funds of the charity									
General fund	10	18,818	-	-	18,818	22,171	-	-	22,171
Designated funds	10	-	935,267	-	935,267	-	800,000	-	800,000
Restricted funds	10	-	-	21,245	21,245	-	-	27,363	27,363
Total charity funds		18,818	935,267	21,245	975,330	22,171	800,000	27,363	849,534

The financial statements on pages 6 to 14 were approved by the Trustees on 13 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, and in compliance with the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh meets the definition of a public benefit entity.

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties so the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income and debtors

All income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable.

Donated goods and services, principally the service of volunteers, have not been quantified for the purposes of the financial statements.

Debtors are valued at cost at the year-end and adjusted for any amounts considered to be irrecoverable.

Expenditure and creditors

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Creditors are valued at cost at the year-end and split between amounts due in less than one year and amounts due in more than one year.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible fixed assets over £1,000 are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at the following percentages on a straight-line basis to write off the cost or initial value, less residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives:

Land and buildings	0%
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Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit account.

Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise income received for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds or are placed within designated funds which can be used for purposes in agreement with its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the charity and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

Endowment funds are funds which have been given on the condition that the original capital sum is not reduced, but the income arising is used for the purpose defined in the objects of the charity.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offerings	67,525	29,836	97,361	69,151	53,200	122,351
Gift aid receivable	13,629	6,668	20,297	17,389	9,008	26,397
Grants	-	3,350	3,350	240	17,797	18,037
Legacies	135,267	-	135,267	-	-	-
	216,421	39,854	256,275	86,780	80,005	166,785

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising income	-	-	-	895	650	1,545
Ministry groups income	151	3,215	3,366	-	2,603	2,603
Weddings and funerals	-	-	-	250	-	250
	151	3,215	3,366	1,145	3,253	4,398

4. Income from trading activities	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hall letting income	20,564	-	20,564	13,944	-	13,944
	20,564	-	20,564	13,944	-	13,944

5. Expenditure on raising funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Card machine costs	98	16	114	16	21	37
	98	16	114	16	21	37

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Giving to Grow contributions	60,735	-	60,735	59,722	-	59,722
Presbytery dues	1,102	-	1,102	1,019	-	1,019
Gross salaries	7,289	35,750	43,039	18,090	26,649	44,739
Employer pension	1,164	874	2,038	-	-	-
Minister's expenses	1,546	-	1,546	1,511	-	1,511
Pulpit supply and worship expenses	151	-	151	638	-	638
Ministry and mission expenses	367	-	367	340	-	340
Ministry group expenses	-	5,992	5,992	-	7,223	7,223
Building redevelopment costs	-	-	-	-	27,418	27,418
Church repairs and maintenance	2,836	4,834	7,670	1,285	89	1,374
Manse repairs and maintenance	864	2,376	3,240	1,284	-	1,284
Manse council tax	3,738	-	3,738	3,638	-	3,638
Other building costs	270	-	270	123	-	123
Church utility and water costs	11,129	-	11,129	8,510	-	8,510
Insurance	6,888	-	6,888	6,425	-	6,425
Church office and IT costs	3,402	301	3,703	2,011	-	2,011
Licence costs	1,392	-	1,392	1,064	-	1,064
Catering, hygiene and cleaning costs	895	-	895	1,544	-	1,544
Donations	-	-	-	100	-	100
Independent examination	144	-	144	144	-	144
Other expenses	256	-	256	76	-	76
Total expenditure	104,168	50,127	154,295	107,524	61,379	168,903

Giving to Grow contributions are based on the level of our income each year and are used to fund ministry staff employed by the Church of Scotland and mission work of the wider Church.

Ministry group expenses include all expenses (excluding salaries) or our Youthwork, Families work, Lunch Club and Community Money Advice centre.

Support costs have not been separately identified as the trustees consider there is only one charitable activity.

The average number of staff during the year was 3 (2023:2). No employees were paid more than £60,000.

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which pays the employment costs of the Minister. Minister's stipends are paid in accordance with the national stipend scale which is related to years of service. This year, the minimum stipend was £31,642 and the maximum (for more than 5 years' service) was £38,884.

There are no paid staff of the Church who fall within the definition of Key Management Personnel.

No accrual has been made for holiday pay at the year-end as unused holidays are not carried forward.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	800,000	800,000
At 31 December 2024	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>

Land and buildings consist of the church manse at 8 Blinkbonny Crescent, Edinburgh, EH4 3NB. The manse is stated at a prudent estimate of valuation based on property sales of similar properties in the street over the last 5 years.

The Church building is also owned by the congregation but the Trustees have not sought a valuation of the building nor is an estimate considered to be sufficiently accurate to be meaningful.

8. Debtors

	General fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	220	-	220	-
Gift aid recoverable	5,286	-	5,286	5,180
Other debtors	529	1,850	2,379	-
	<u>6,035</u>	<u>1,850</u>	<u>7,885</u>	<u>5,180</u>

9. Creditors: falling due within one year

	General fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	378	-	378	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,178	-	2,178	944
Other creditors	1,336	-	1,336	-
	<u>3,892</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,892</u>	<u>944</u>

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Funds movements

Current year

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	22,171	101,869	104,266	(956)	18,818
Designated assets fund	800,000	-	-	-	800,000
Designated legacy fund	-	121,740	-	-	121,740
Designated tithe fund	-	13,527	-	-	13,527
Total unrestricted funds	822,171	250,663	104,266	(956)	967,612
Restricted funds					
Youthwork fund	1,034	28,340	32,810	3,436	-
Families Outreach fund	15,000	800	7,048	-	8,752
Lunch Club fund	544	2,188	1,920	-	812
Baby and toddler fund	84	1,687	510	(1,000)	261
Community Money Advice fund	921	1,204	645	(1,480)	-
Eco fund	1,561	-	-	-	1,561
Fabric fund	8,219	7,000	7,210	-	8,009
North Merchiston mission fund	-	1,850	-	-	1,850
Total restricted funds	27,363	43,069	50,143	956	21,245
Total funds	849,534	293,732	154,409	-	988,857

Prior year

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	25,342	101,869	107,540	2,500	22,171
Designated assets fund	800,000	-	-	-	800,000
Total unrestricted funds	825,342	101,869	107,540	2,500	822,171
Restricted funds					
Youthwork fund	2,691	29,428	31,085	-	1,034
Families Outreach fund	-	10,000	-	5,000	15,000
Lunch Club fund	1,704	1,817	1,437	(1,540)	544
Baby and toddler fund	846	1,686	726	(1,722)	84
Community Money Advice fund	1,204	2,486	645	(2,124)	921
Eco fund	1,531	119	89	-	1,561
Fabric fund	(7,604)	7,875	(86)	7,862	8,219
2020 fund	7,633	1,422	7,704	(1,351)	-
Gift Day fund	-	28,425	19,800	(8,625)	-
Total restricted funds	8,005	83,258	61,400	(2,500)	27,363
Total funds	833,347	185,127	168,940	-	849,534

Explanation of funds - overleaf

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Funds movements

Explanation of funds

Unrestricted funds:

The General fund represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is designated or restricted.

The Designated assets fund represents the value of fixed assets held by the church which are not available as liquid funds on a day to day basis.

The Designated legacy fund represents a ring-fenced legacy received in the year to be used at the Kirk Session's discretion.

The Designated tithe fund represents 10% of the value of a legacy received in the year which the Kirk Session will distribute to charitable causes in 2025.

Restricted funds:

The *Youthwork fund* represents donations received to fund youth work in the church, including the salary of the Youth Worker.

The *Families Outreach fund* holds grants and donations received to fund a Families Outreach worker.

The *Lunch Club fund* represents donations received and payments made for the provision of the monthly lunch club. The transfer out in the year was a donation made from the Club to the Church.

The *Baby and Toddler fund* represents the income and expenses managed by our Baby and Toddler group. The transfer out in the year was a donation made from the Group to the Youthwork in the church.

The *Community Money Advice fund* represents the donations received and costs related to our Debt Advice Centre. The transfer out in the year was a donation made from the Centre to the Youthwork in the church.

The *Eco fund* represents donations received and payments made by the church Eco group.

The *Fabric fund* represents donations received and utilised for specific fabric projects.

The *North Merchiston mission fund* represents a grant received by the congregation for community outreach.

The *2020 fund* represents the completion and wind-down of our 2020 building project funds.

The *Gift Day fund* represents funding raised to pay for a fire detection/smoke alarm for the church. The balance remaining on that fund was transferred to the Families Outreach fund and the Fabric fund, with the permission of the donors.

11. Trustee and related party transactions

During the year, one Trustee (the Minister) received reimbursement of travel and broadband expenses totalling £1,546 (2023: £1,511) and benefitted from the payment of Council Tax on the manse of £3,738 (2023: £3,638). No other Trustees received remuneration or expenses, other than the direct reimbursement of items purchased on behalf of the church (2023: nil).

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pensions and housing and loan funds. 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 stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years) was £38,884.

Unrestricted donations by Trustees of the Charity amounted to £25,740 (2023: £40,951).

There were no other transactions with trustees or related parties during the year (2023: nil).

12. Pension commitments

The Charity operates an auto-enrolment pension scheme with NEST for all eligible employees. Employer contributions to the scheme are disclosed in note 6.

13. Volunteers

The Church benefits from the services of many volunteers from within the congregation: in supporting Sunday worship, in teaching at our children and youth based programmes on a Sunday and during the week, in helping with hospitality and administration and in volunteering on other outreach services we provide to our local community. We are indebted to all those who minister on our behalf in this way.

St Stephen's Comely Bank Church of Scotland, Edinburgh

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

14. Restatement of comparatives

The accounts have been restated this year from the Receipts and Payments basis to the Accruals method. This has resulted in the following adjustments to the comparatives this year:

2022 brought forward reserves

2022 reserves, as previously stated	29,168
Add:	
Fixed assets - church manse	800,000
Income due but not received	12,791
Deduct:	
Bills due but not paid	(8,612)
2022 reserves, restated	<u>833,347</u>

2023 surplus

2023 surplus, as previously stated	16,130
Add:	
Income due but not received	5,180
Bills from 2022 paid	8,612
Deduct:	
Bills due but not paid	(944)
Income due from 2022 received	(12,791)
2023 surplus, restated	<u>16,187</u>
Restated 2023 reserves carried forward	<u><u>849,534</u></u>