

**Blackhall St Columba's**  
**Church of Scotland Edinburgh**

**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Congregation No: 10007**

**Charity No: SC008756**

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 13 to 15 and comply with the General Assembly Regulations for Congregational Finance, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)

**Objectives and Activities**

**Membership**

The annual statistical return as at 31 December 2024 to The Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian shows a fall in the Communion Roll – from 537 to 529. During 2024 we welcomed 14 new members, compared to 8 the year before. Sadly 17 members died during the year and 5 members left us as a consequence of moving to another part of the country or for other reasons.

A census was regularly carried out during the year to measure actual Sunday morning attendance. The average attendance was 127, basically at the same level as the past two years. Blackhall St Columba's still remains one of the best attended congregations across the Presbytery. Members continue to have the option of watching the Service being live streamed or catch up via You Tube at some later time. Our Christmas Eve Services were again very well attended especially the Christingle.

We are not alone in having an ageing congregation and our dual focus remains looking after our existing membership while working at attracting young people into the fold, the latter is very much the challenge of all churches.

**Kirk Session**

During 2024 there were no Elders ordained or inducted. Sadly Jim Laing, a long standing and much respected Elder, passed away in August.

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Kirk Session (continued)**

The smooth and efficient running of Church life and the many activities carried on for members and the Parish community depends on the leadership of the Working Team Leaders and Conveners, who all continue to do good work with great dedication. In my capacity as Session Clerk I am dependant on the support and assistance of many Elders and members, in particular [REDACTED] (Roll Keeper), [REDACTED] (Safeguarding Officer), [REDACTED] (Communion Convener), [REDACTED] (Minute Secretaries for Session meetings), and [REDACTED] (Health & Safety Administrator). I remain appreciative for all their support and am particularly grateful to [REDACTED] who readily stands in for me when I am unavailable.

Mid way through the year [REDACTED] resigned as Office Secretary. Thereafter [REDACTED] took the lead of looking after the office.

[REDACTED] stood down after a number of years of dedicated service as the Catering Convener. It was greatly appreciated that [REDACTED] volunteered to take on this role. During the year [REDACTED] retired as Premises and Staff Convener. [REDACTED] had carried out that role for longer than the 14 years I have been Session Clerk and throughout that long period she carried out her duties, including looking after the church garden, with great commitment and dedication. [REDACTED] Fabric Convener, picked up the Premises responsibility while [REDACTED] looks after all staff matters.

The Congregation's finances are covered elsewhere in this pack of reports. However grateful thanks must be extended to [REDACTED] Congregational Treasurer, and the Finance Team for their diligent stewardship of our finances.

During the year we were immensely grateful to receive the following legacies from the Estates of former members:-

[REDACTED] £ 1,050  
[REDACTED] £10,000

**Presbytery Plan**

During the year the Kirk Session and Congregation worked diligently with the Kirk Session and Congregation of Drylaw Parish Church towards a Union of both Congregations. The Union was agreed by both Kirk Sessions and on Sunday 13 October both Congregations voted and agreed to accept the Union. As Drylaw was in vacancy (without a Minister) the Congregation required to vote on accepting [REDACTED] as Minister. Unfortunately the vote did not support the appointment of [REDACTED] and therefore the Union did not proceed.

At the time of writing this report, we await hearing from the Presbytery regarding the way forward in terms of a) do we sit on our own, b) do we look at going into another Union, or c) some other arrangement such as a parish grouping.

**Achievements and Performance**

- A successful Burns Supper was again held in January.
- We continued Soup 'n' Chat with a lunch being offered to the community every second Friday – on the Fridays that our CAMEO club does not meet.
- We continued to live stream the Sunday morning Services.
- In May the annual Service of Remembrance was held for the Monte Cassino Society.

- We again supported the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal and were pleased to send 137 (136 last year) boxes from the Congregation.

### **Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**

#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **Achievements and Performance (Continued)**

- Considerable work was done by [REDACTED] in updating our Evacuation Plan and setting up the Asbestos Register.
- Throughout the year mission work continued in terms of Services at local care homes and work with schools.
- We continued to support Ferryhill Primary School.
- Work to provide Wi Fi across all the church halls was completed.
- Work was carried out in the Upper Gallery to provide screen and sound facilities.
- A number of Saturday musical evenings and Film Nights were held in the Sanctuary throughout the
- In December we again held a Nativity Trail called "Mary's Journey". This was a real team effort with circa 60 members involved in all aspects.
- Throughout the year occasional joint Services were held along with Drylaw.
- In October Kirk Session agreed to rename the North Sanctuary as 'St Columba's Chapel.
- During the year, from Retiring Offerings, we supported the following charities.

February Communion	RNLI South Queensferry
Easter Services	Rock Trust
June Communion	Mary's Meals
October Communion	YMCA
Christmas Services	Scottish Bible Society and Fresh Start

The WATCH Committee continued the proud record of supporting deserving causes out with our own walls by during the second half of the year raising £10,000 from various activities for Blood Cancer UK.

We continue to publish and distribute two fine magazines, namely Kirk News and Blackhall Bulletin which allow us to reach out and communicate across the Parish and to our members. Judith Mair and Barbara Wilson, respective Editors, both do an excellent job in producing these publications.

Finally, on behalf of the Kirk Session, I should like to thank [REDACTED] our Minister, for his ministry and leadership over the past year.

As we await hearing what the Presbytery Deployment Committee propose under the Presbytery Plan we will continue to deliver the Good News across the parish and beyond.



**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Financial Review**

Total income in the year has decreased by £34,731. Weekly offerings, including related gift aid, have decreased by 0.2% compared to the 1.5% fall in the communion roll. Charitable income (comprising income from weddings, funerals, coffee mornings and the church magazine) has decreased by 3.02%, additional funds of £3,843 were raised from fundraising. The Church Halls continue to generate funds for the Church from activities ranging from Blackhall Playgroup, Badminton, Dance and Art Classes, this income has increased by 57.9%.

There has been an increase in expenditure compared with the previous year of £27,705. This increase is largely from increased building costs, repairs, and other expenses during the year.

**Investment policy and performance**

The church holds an investment in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Growth Fund. This fund is very largely equity-based and is intended for long-term investment. The fund is operated on a unitised basis and aims to provide capital growth. Units can be purchased or sold monthly. Income is distributed gross in May and November. The Growth Fund is professionally managed by Newton Investment Management Limited, based in London.

The Trustees use a benchmark to monitor the performance of the fund managers. The benchmark was changed from 24th February 2020 to reduce the overweighting to UK equities and Bonds and to allow investment in new asset types now prevalent in both institutional and retail investment funds. The asset split of the benchmark is now: Global Equities 75%, Global Bonds 10%, Alternatives 8%, Property Funds 5%, Cash 2%.

The cumulative performance of the Growth Fund to 31st December 2024 for the last year, 3 years and 5 years is as follows.

	Church of Scotland (%)	Benchmark (%)	Relative (%)
12 months to December 2024	4.15	5.14	-1.25
3 years	4.80	7.10	-2.30
5 years	5.90	8.10	-2.20

## **Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**

### **Trustees' Report**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **Risk management policy**

**Investment:** The church maintains a current account with a retail Bank where the balance is maintained below the upper limit of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Investments are held in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Deposit Fund and in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust Growth Fund. The Trust is subject to the risk safeguards put in place by the Church of Scotland and through regulation of the investment manager by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Trustees of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust maintain a Risk Register which is reviewed periodically by their Audit Sub-Committee in order to ensure that the main risks to which the Trust is exposed are being managed effectively. The principal risk relates to the management of the performance of the three Fund Managers. This is mitigated by the investment expertise of the Trustees and their regular monitoring of the relative performance of the investment managers. In response to such monitoring, the Trustees may vary the terms of the mandates given to each Fund Manager or may terminate the contract with an existing Manager and appoint a replacement. An external investment consultant is retained to provide independent advice on the performance of the Growth Fund Managers. The risk of market fluctuations in capital values and income distributions of our investments rests with Blackhall St Columba's Church.

#### **Finances:**

1. Management of the finances is in the day to day hands of the treasurer. Risk controls include:
  - a. Monthly management accounts are provided to the Finance Team of the Kirk Session.
  - b. Copies of bank statements are provided as they are received to the Gift Aid Convenor and the Deputy Treasurer.
  - c. The church's accounts are examined annually by an Independent Examiner who are a firm of Chartered Accountants.
2. The risk of income being less than expenditure is mitigated as follows:
  - a. Reserves are maintained as detailed in the section, Reserves Policy.
  - b. The congregation are the principal source of income through their offerings. A second significant source of income are the contributions received for the use of the halls.

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Finances: (continued)**

The congregation are asked annually to review the level of their offerings and are asked to at least maintain its level against inflation. They are also asked from time to time to give to specific fund raising appeals, mainly for fabric related purposes and have responded generously. The principal risk to this income is loss of members through death and moving away and members not increasing their offerings in line with inflation. This is mitigated by new members and members increasing their offerings. However, it remains a major issue for the church that the Kirk Session are aware of and monitor.

The risk of loss of contributions for the use of our halls is mitigated by insurance of the buildings and by the fact that there is a lack of comparable facilities in the vicinity.

- c. The risk of legacies not being received is mitigated by possible future legacies not being included in the planned budgets of the church.
- d. The risk of expenditure being higher than budgeted is always present and is mitigated by monthly management accounts reporting the income and expenditure in the year to date. Control of this risk largely lies with the Treasurer and the Finance Team together with the fact that any item of expenditure other than routine expenditure has to be approved in advance by the Kirk Session.

**Fire:** a fire safety co-ordinator is appointed who carries out an annual Fire Safety Risk Assessment. Fire appliances and the fire alarm system are serviced annually. Evacuation procedures appear on each order of service. An annual fire drill is held.

**Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults:** written procedures and a designated co-ordinator in compliance with the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of Scotland.

**Disability Discrimination:** disabled access to both the church and halls with a disabled toilet facility.

**Employment:** employees are given contracts of employment and employment advice is taken from professional advisers as required.

**Insurance:** comprehensive insurance, covering all assets, activities and risks to which the church may be exposed from time to time.



**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees' have reviewed their reserves policy and consider it prudent policy to hold reserves of at least three months' expenditure but if possible to hold a reserve of six months expenditure. This will be determined year by year by the level of giving to the Church relative to expenditure. In addition a designated reserve is maintained for future fabric spending. Designated reserves are also maintained where the Kirk Session has ruled that monetary gifts to the church should be used for a specific purpose but where the designation is not binding. In this category, we hold a reserve to fund a Youth Worker and a reserve to meet servicing and repairs to our organ.

Restricted reserves are held where a gift to the church has been made with the use of that money restricted in the terms of the gift. In that category we hold small reserves to fund the servicing and replacement as necessary of the church's two wheelchairs.

At the year end the Church held unrestricted cash funds of £246,805 and investments of £48,609. Total unrestricted funds now slightly exceed the designated reserves and approximately six months' expenditure target. This is as a result of legacies received during 2024. During 2025, the designated reserves will be increased to allow for future fabric expenditure which, due to the nature of the church building, is likely to be substantial when it is required.

The Church also held £86,687 of restricted funds which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 14.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The congregation is a registered charity, number SC008756 and is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) which was adopted during 2017.

At present, 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.

Within the Church certain responsibilities are delegated to the Finance, Fabric and Premises & Staff Working Teams as appropriate. These teams report to the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session meets 10 times a year and is responsible for spiritual and management affairs within the church.

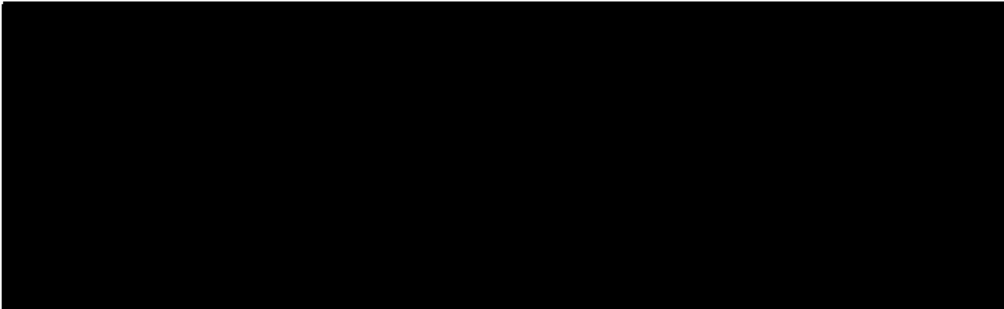


**Blackhall St Columba's Church of  
Trustees' Report (continued)  
Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Trustees**

**Kirk Session:**



**New Trustees during 2024 included above:**

None

**The following either retired or died in 2024**

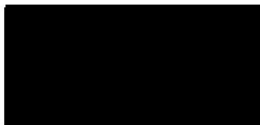
James Laing - Died August 2024

**The Principal Office Bearers are:**

Minister:

Session Clerk:

Church Treasurer:



**Charity number**

SC008756

**Principal office**

The Church Office

Columba Road

Edinburgh

EH4 3QU

**Independent Examiner**

Gibson McKerrell Burrow Limited

28 Rutland Square

Edinburgh

EH1 2BW

**Bankers**

Bank of Scotland

43 Comely Bank

Edinburgh

EH4 1AF

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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; and
- 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 financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the congregation's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

  
Session Clerk

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland**  
**Edinburgh**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 20.

**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).

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 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

Gibson McKerrell Burrow Limited  
28 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2BW

07 APRIL 2025



Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh  
Statement of Financial Activities  
Year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>									
Donations and legacies	1	202,302	-	-	202,302	255,211	3,212	-	258,423
Charitable activities	2	10,625	-	-	10,625	9,842	-	-	9,842
Income from other trading activities	3	39,162	-	-	39,162	24,803	-	-	24,803
Investments	4	11,343	1,642	653	13,638	4,719	2,231	440	7,390
<b><u>Total income and endowments</u></b>		<u>263,432</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>265,727</u>	<u>294,575</u>	<u>5,443</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>300,458</u>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>									
Raising funds	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	5	251,999	-	-	251,999	224,201	93	-	224,294
<b><u>Total expenditure</u></b>		<u>251,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,999</u>	<u>224,201</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,294</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments</b>		11,433	1,642	653	13,728	70,374	5,350	440	76,164
Net (losses)/gains on investments	9	4,190	-	-	4,190	3,276	-	-	3,276
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>15,623</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>17,918</u>	<u>73,650</u>	<u>5,350</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>79,440</u>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		285,678	85,045	12,498	383,221	212,028	79,695	12,058	303,781
<b><u>Total funds carried forward</u></b>		<u>301,301</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>401,139</u>	<u>285,678</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>383,221</u>

Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh  
Balance Sheet  
At 31 December 2024

	Note	2024				2023			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	£	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>									
Tangible Fixed assets	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	9	48,609	-	-	48,609	44,419	-	-	44,419
		<u>48,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,609</u>	<u>44,419</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,419</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>									
Debtors	10	26,530	974	-	27,504	25,063	2,351	-	27,414
Cash at bank and in hand		246,805	85,713	13,151	345,669	219,098	82,694	12,498	314,290
		<u>273,335</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>373,173</u>	<u>244,161</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>341,704</u>
<b>Creditors</b>									
Amounts falling due within one year	11	20,643	-	-	20,643	2,902	-	-	2,902
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>252,692</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>352,530</u>	<u>241,259</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>338,802</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	12	<u>301,301</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>401,139</u>	<u>285,678</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>383,221</u>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	14	-	-	13,151	13,151	-	-	12,498	12,498
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	14	-	86,687	-	86,687	-	85,045	-	85,045
<b>Designated Funds</b>	14	117,737	-	-	117,737	92,475	-	-	92,475
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	14	183,564	-	-	183,564	193,203	-	-	193,203
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>301,301</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>401,139</u>	<u>285,678</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>383,221</u>

The accounts were  
For and on behalf of

Session Clerk

Treasurer

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the current and preceding year in dealing with items which are considered material to the accounts, are set out below.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is Pound Sterling (£). Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity is a public benefit entity.

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

**Fund accounting**

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

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the charity.

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

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

**Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Donated services and facilities**

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the general volunteer time of congregation members is not recognised.



**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Donated services and facilities (continued)**

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised as expenditure in the period of receipt.

No recognition of the value of the Church premises provided by Church of Scotland is made in the accounts in line with Church of Scotland policy.

**Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**Tangible fixed assets**

The charity has the right to occupy and use for its charitable objects certain tangible fixed assets, including the Church, halls and manse, vested in the Church of Scotland General Trustees. No consideration is payable for the use of these assets. Expenditure incurred on the repair and maintenance of these assets is charged as resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which the liability arises.

All tangible fixed assets costing in excess of £5,000 having a value to the charity greater than one year, other than those acquired for specific purposes, are capitalised. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis to write off the cost or initial value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment      5 years

**Investments**

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the market value at the beginning and end of the financial year or, if purchased in the year, the difference between cost and market value at the end of the year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the market value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year.

**Taxation**

Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**Financial instruments**

The charity only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and payables, loans from banks and other third parties.

At the end of each reporting period, financial assets that are measured at cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows arising from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party, or (c) control of the asset has been transferred to another party.

Financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Notes forming part of the accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total 2023
<b>1 Voluntary income</b>								
Offerings	152,686		-	152,686	153,417		-	153,417
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	32,922		-	32,922	31,993	597	-	32,590
Legacies	11,050		-	11,050	67,550		-	67,550
Congregational contributions	3,001		-	3,001	1,117		-	1,117
Donations	-		-	-	-	2,615	-	2,615
Other	2,643		-	2,643	1,134		-	1,134
	<u>202,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,302</u>	<u>255,211</u>	<u>3,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,423</u>
<b>2 Income from charitable activities</b>								
Weddings and Funerals	3,620		-	3,620	3,838		-	3,838
Coffee mornings etc	1,102		-	1,102	947		-	947
Advertising in church magazine	2,060		-	2,060	2,208		-	2,208
Fundraising	3,843		-	3,843	2,849		-	2,849
	<u>10,625</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,625</u>	<u>9,842</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,842</u>
<b>3 Income from other trading activities</b>								
Use of Premises	39,162		-	39,162	24,803		-	24,803
Rent	-		-	-	-		-	-
	<u>39,162</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,162</u>	<u>24,803</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,803</u>
<b>4 Investment income</b>								
Deposit interest	10,314	1,642	653	12,609	3,805	2,231	440	6,476
Dividends received	1,029			1,029	914			914
	<u>11,343</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>13,638</u>	<u>4,719</u>	<u>2,231</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>7,390</u>
<b>5 Analysis of Resources Expended</b>								
<b>Raising funds</b>								
Offering Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>								
Ministries and Mission Allocation	106,776		-	106,776	100,658		-	100,658
Presbytery Dues	2,220		-	2,220	1,948		-	1,948
Minister's Expenses	220		-	220	218		-	218
Pulpit Supply	534		-	534	100		-	100
Other salary costs	43,351		-	43,351	48,847		-	48,847
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	27,825		-	27,825	9,504		-	9,504
Council Tax	3,738		-	3,738	3,655		-	3,655
Other Buildings Costs	37,557		-	37,557	27,033		-	27,033
Church Office Expenses	4,812		-	4,812	4,863		-	4,863
Organ & Music	1,093		-	1,093	1,164		-	1,164
Other expenses	23,873		-	23,873	26,211	93	-	26,304
	<u>251,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,999</u>	<u>224,201</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,294</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>251,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,999</u>	<u>224,201</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,294</u>

Support costs have not been separately identified as the trustees consider there is only one charitable activity. Therefore support costs relate wholly to that activity and have not been separately identified.

Included within other expenses are financial services costs of £2,880 (2023: £2,820)



**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Notes forming part of the accounts**  
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**6 Staff costs and numbers**

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	41,541	47,654
Pension costs	<u>1,810</u>	<u>1,193</u>
	<u>43,351</u>	<u>48,847</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of a head count, was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Secretarial & office	1	1
Music staff	1	1
Premises maintenance	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

There were no staff in the year under review or previous year paid over £60,000

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 stipend £38,884.

**7 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions**

During the year there was no reimbursements of general expenses (2023: £NIL) to the trustees. [REDACTED] a member of the Kirk Session, was paid a salary of £12,480 (2023: £11,345). During the year council tax of £3,738 was paid in respect of the manse occupied by the minister. No Trustees waived the right to the reimbursement of their 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.

During the year a total of £34,376 (2023: £44,471) was donated to the congregation by trustees. There were no restrictions attached to these donations.

**8 Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Music & Audio	Office Equipment	Total
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2024	18,095	5,622	23,717
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>18,095</u>	<u>5,622</u>	<u>23,717</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	18,095	5,622	23,717
Charge for year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>18,095</u>	<u>5,622</u>	<u>23,717</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
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**9 Investments**

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 31 December 2023	44,419	41,143
Disposals of assets	-	-
Realised loss on investments	-	-
Unrealised (losses)/ gain on investments	4,190	3,276
Market value at 31 December 2024	<u>48,609</u>	<u>44,419</u>
Investments at cost	<u>15,649</u>	<u>15,649</u>

The following investments are held:

Church of Scotland Investors Trust: 7,619 Growth units	<u>48,609</u>	<u>44,419</u>
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**10 Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift Aid Tax Refund Due	24,360	23,919
Hall Rent Debtors	3,144	3,495
	<u>27,504</u>	<u>27,414</u>

**11 Creditors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	2,902	2,902
Trade Creditors	17,741	-
	<u>20,643</u>	<u>2,902</u>

**12 Analysis of Net Assets Among Funds**

Year ended 31 December 2024	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	48,609	-	-	-	48,609
Current Assets	155,598	117,737	86,687	13,151	373,173
Current Liabilities	(20,643)	-	-	-	(20,643)
Net assets at 31 Dec 2024	<u>183,564</u>	<u>117,737</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>401,139</u>

Year ended 31 December 2023	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	44,419	-	-	-	44,419
Current Assets	151,686	92,475	85,045	12,498	341,704
Current Liabilities	(2,902)	-	-	-	(2,902)
Net assets at 31 Dec 2023	<u>193,203</u>	<u>92,475</u>	<u>85,045</u>	<u>12,498</u>	<u>383,221</u>

**13 Volunteers**

In common with all congregations of the Church of Scotland the congregation benefits from the contribution made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of the Church. The areas of congregational life which rely on the contribution of volunteers are many and varied and much of the activity would be unable to continue were it not for the commitment shown.

**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**  
**Notes forming part of the accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**14 Movements in Funds**

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Gain Investments	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Rev RJ Watson Mathewson Fund	12,498	653	-	-	-	13,151
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Building for the future	84,163	1,642	-	-	-	85,805
Midweek Services Charity	600	-	-	-	-	600
Wheelchair upkeep	82	-	-	-	-	82
Special Purpose reserve	200	-	-	-	-	200
	85,045	1,642	-	-	-	86,687
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Youth Project -Legacy	24,144	1,262	-	-	-	25,406
Organ	12,331	-	-	-	-	12,331
Fabric	56,000	24,000	-	-	-	80,000
	92,475	25,262	-	-	-	117,737
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Fund	193,203	238,170	(251,999)	4,190	-	183,564
<b>Total funds</b>	383,221	265,727	(251,999)	4,190	-	401,139

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Gain Investments	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Rev RJ Watson Mathewson Fund	12,058	440	-	-	-	12,498
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Building for the future	78,720	5,443	-	-	-	84,163
Midweek Services Charity	600	-	-	-	-	600
Wheelchair upkeep	175	-	(93)	-	-	82
Special Purpose reserve	200	-	-	-	-	200
	79,695	5,443	(93)	-	-	85,045
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Youth Project -Legacy	23,293	851	-	-	-	24,144
Organ	12,331	-	-	-	-	12,331
Fabric	30,000	-	-	-	26,000	56,000
	65,624	851	-	-	26,000	92,475
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Fund	146,404	293,724	(224,201)	3,276	(26,000)	193,203
<b>Total funds</b>	303,781	300,458	(224,294)	3,276	-	383,221



**Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland Edinburgh**

**Notes forming part of the accounts**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**14 Movements in Funds (continued)**

*Purposes of Endowment Funds*

Income from the Mathewson Bequest is to be used to provide help to those with medical or mobility needs.

The trustees of this fund are the minister and session clerk.

*Purposes of Restricted Funds*

The wheelchair fund is for the upkeep of the church's wheelchairs.

The Building for the Future fund is for church improvements.

The Midweek Services Charity fund is for midweek services.

**15 Collections for Third Parties**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
WATCH Committee	10,000	10,000
Christian Aid	1,907	1,746
Other charities	3,313	7,069
	<u>15,220</u>	<u>18,815</u>