

[REDACTED]

German Speaking Congregation in Scotland

Registered Charity SC009066

** TO BE RENAMED German Speaking Congregation in Scotland **

[REDACTED]

Trustees' Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2024

Aims and Objectives

We are a church congregation. Our objectives, as enshrined in our constitution of 1st May 1961, as subsequently amended, are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Word of God in the strength of the Holy Spirit and on the basis of the Old and New Testaments.

Specifically, in its proclamation of the Gospel, its pastoral care and social work, the Congregation recognises its responsibility towards all German-speaking persons residing permanently or temporarily in Scotland, holding regular services in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow.

Administration

The ultimate governing body of the Charity is its membership, in the form of the Congregational Assembly, which makes decisions at its Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings. The day to day management of the Charity's affairs is vested in a committee known as the Church Council. All members of this committee act as Trustees and thus as formal owners of the congregation's assets on its behalf.

Committee members are elected by and from among the membership to four-year terms of office. These elections generally take place at every second AGM in such a way that at each election approximately half the committee is elected.

On 22nd November 2023, consent from OSCR was given for us to change our name to "German Speaking Congregation in Scotland" to reflect the proposed union of our sister congregation in Glasgow (SC014274) with ourselves. Consent was likewise given for this union to go ahead by way of Glasgow congregation being wound up once all its assets were transferred to us.

Both our name change and the union took effect de facto from January 2024, and both were duly formalized at our first joint AGM held on 4th May 2024.

Members of the committee were:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Membership stood at 113, including 20 from the former Glasgow congregation.

Activities

2024 was a year of major transition for our congregation. It began with the election of a new pastor, [REDACTED] who officially started in August. Another significant event was the union of the Edinburgh/Aberdeen and Glasgow congregations (see above).

In July, we bid farewell to pastor [REDACTED] after nine years in office. Throughout the year, our congregation celebrated many events across all three locations, including confirmation of nine young members at Pentecost, a service at Thanksgiving, the inauguration of [REDACTED] and numerous festive services and activities for Easter, St Martin, Advent and Christmas.

The bulk of our charitable expenditure goes towards maintaining our property (we own the church building and attached manse at 1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh) and towards supporting the work of our pastors. Accordingly, we make a significant annual donation (£43,800 this year, including what would have been Glasgow congregation's share) to our parent charity, the Synod of German-Speaking Lutheran, Reformed, and United Congregations in Great Britain (registered in England No 266600), which acts as formal employer to our pastors, whose duties are divided between us and our sister congregation in Newcastle.

Expenditure on property maintenance was significant this year, with a major renovation of our manse necessary, no significant work having been done to the property since it was built in 1966. The change of pastor presented an ideal opportunity for this, but the duration of the works (which continued into 2025) made it necessary to house the new pastor and his family elsewhere temporarily. We were able to rent a flat from the Church of Scotland for this.

In keeping with tradition, 20% of the proceeds of our main fundraising event of the year, our annual Christmas Fair, (a sum of £500) was donated to a local charity (this year the Edinburgh charity Fresh Start). Other charities that we supported by way of collections from services included Unicef, Christian Aid, the Salvation Army, and Edinburgh City Mission.

Reserves

Our total reserves amount to approximately £1,685k.
The committee regularly monitors the level of reserves.

The year 2024 saw a deficit of circa £188k.

For the Trustees

[REDACTED]

(Hon. Treasurer)
30th September 2025

German-Speaking Congregation in Scotland
(formerly
German-Speaking Congregation in Edinburgh and Aberdeen)
Registered Charity SC009066

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31/12/2024

Receipts	2024	2023
1a Membership subscriptions	7702.00	9197.00
1b Collections (own purposes)	1693.50	1719.41
1c Collections (external purposes)	1745.91	1539.18
1d1 Donations (use of hall)	5211.00	3845.00
1d2 Donations (guest room)	570.00	839.32
1d3 Donations (other)	1163.42	710.00
1e Fundraising sales	2564.07	2106.47
2a Rent	3432.50	2604.75
3 Grants	2192.53	2384.00
4e Reimbursements (heating etc)	1050.00	1800.00
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Receipts	27324.93	26745.13
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Payments	2024	2023
2 Staff (cleaner, organist)	3260.00	3270.00
3b Council tax	2188.48	2341.50
3c Insurance (excluding car)	1332.74	1278.18
3e Repairs and maintenance	2730.91	5229.00
3f Electricity, gas, and water	4288.06	3842.76
3g Inventory purchases	1549.78	99.99
3p Temporary manse	7255.28	
3s Manse renovation	138048.60	4744.56
4a Motor expenses (inc. insurance)	1649.53	797.87
4b Other travel	730.73	540.77
4c Postage, office	192.38	444.36
4d Telephone, internet	3417.79	3470.50
4e General parish work	3657.16	2228.19
5b Synod contribution	43800.00	20300.00
5c External collections, donations	1067.08	1669.42
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Payments	215168.52	50257.10
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Surplus (Deficit)	(187843.59)	(23511.97)
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All funds are unrestricted.

Statement of Balances as at 31/12/2024

Funds Reconciliation

	2024	2023	
Cash at bank at start of year	220076.84	243588.81	
Surplus (Deficit) for year	(187843.59)	(23511.97)	
Funds transferred from Glasgow	428955.29		Note 5
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Cash at bank at end of year	461188.54	220076.84	
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Bank Balances			
Current Account	461188.54	220076.84	

Investments

Aberdeen Standard Life Units	591601.34	565725.25	Note 2
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Other Assets

Church building	1137472	1099007	Note 3
General contents	61743	58525	Note 3
Manse	462716	447068	Note 3
Motor car	3927	3927	Note 4

Notes:

- 1) All funds are unrestricted.
- 2) Shown at published unit values at year end.
Original acquisition cost in 1996 was £100000.
- 3) Buildings and contents shown at insurance value.
- 4) Car is shown at half 2018 valuation, being 50% co-owned by our sister congregation in Glasgow.
Original acquisition cost in 2016 was £13195.
- 5) This funds transfer is in connection with the merging of the German Speaking Congregation in Glasgow (SC014274) into the (now) German Speaking Congregation in Scotland.

For the Trustees



(Hon Treasurer)
2nd September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
German Speaking Congregation in Edinburgh and Aberdeen

Scottish Charity number SC009066

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

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee
Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland)
Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit
requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does
not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as
required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether
particular matters have come to my attention.

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 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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material
respect the requirements [to keep accounting records in accordance
with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006
Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the
accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts
Regulations] have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention
should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Name:

Address

Signature

Date: 26/09/2025