

Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland

Scotland · Charity number SC011795

Details

Known as	North Parish Church Stirling
Status	Active
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Part of	The Church of Scotland (SC011353)
Registered	1922-04-29
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address Stirling North Parish Church
70 Springfield Road
Stirling
FK7 7QW

Website www.stirlingnorth.org

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of religion'

What the charity does: The Church of Scotland exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond. We continue to focus on reaching out into the local community with God's love through all of our activities. We will continue to change and adapt what we do in order to serve our community and bring glory to God.

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

Objectives: The advancement of religion.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Stirling
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£0	£0	-	2
2024-12-31	£141,796	£143,146	-	2
2023-12-31	£109,514	£107,985	-	2
2022-12-31	£98,847	£89,082	-	1
2021-12-31	£119,749	£85,087	-	1

Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland

Scotland - Charity number SC011795

Accounts



**Stirling North
Parish Church**

The Church of Scotland

**Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland
(North Parish Church, Stirling)**

Trustees Report and Accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Congregation No: 231428

Charity No: SC011795

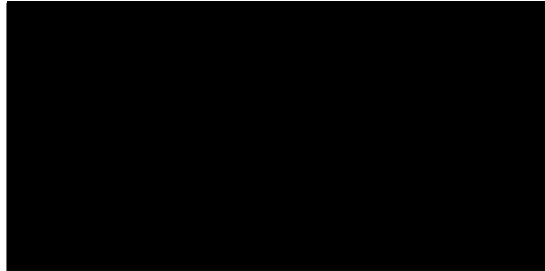
Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland
(North Parish Church, Stirling)

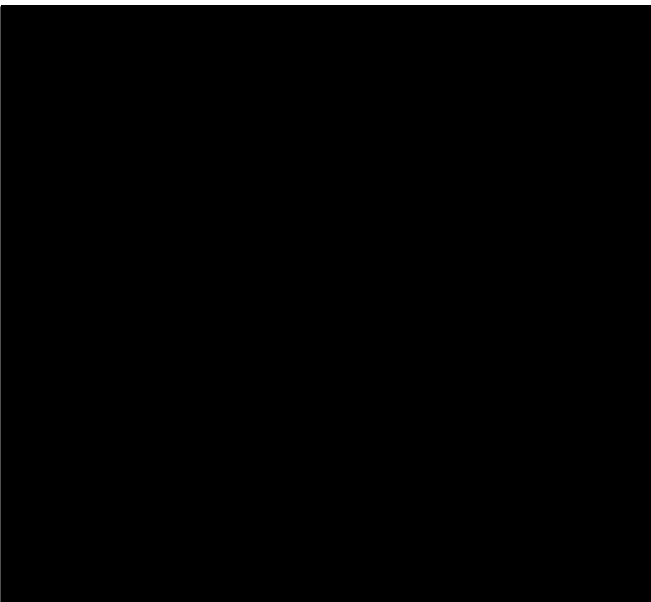
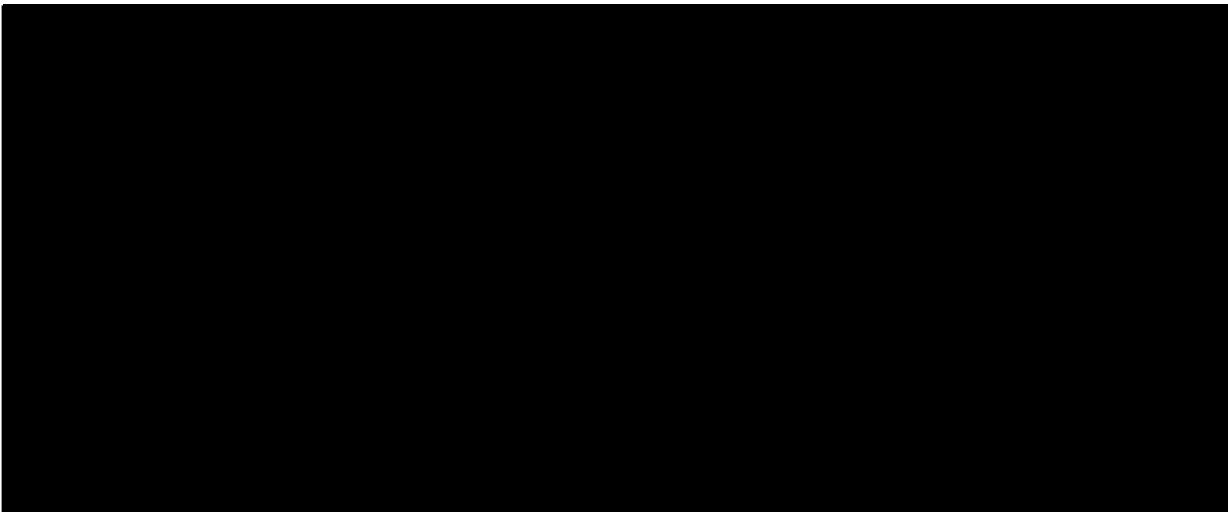
Charity Registration Number: SC011795

Congregation Reference No: 231428

Contact Address:



Trustees



Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
Stirling (A) Branch
Units 22/23
Thistles Shopping Centre
Stirling
FK8 2EA

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

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

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board 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. The Congregational Board is appointed from within the congregation and members of the congregation are invited to nominate individuals, who are believed to have the skills and commitment to contribute to the management affairs of the Church, to become members of the Board. Board Members are then appointed at the Stated Annual Meeting and serve for a period of three years after which they must seek re-election at the next Stated Annual Meeting.

Organisational Structure

The Congregational Board is chaired by the minister and under normal circumstances meets four times in a year. Certain responsibilities are delegated to the Finance Committee and the Property Committee as appropriate. The Kirk Session which meets five times a year is responsible for spiritual affairs within the church.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

We continue to focus on reaching out into the local community with God's love through all of the activities mentioned below. We will continue to change and adapt what we do in order to serve our community and bring glory to God.

Achievements and Performance

In 2024, Stirling North Parish Church continued to live out our mission of worship, service, and community-building, experiencing spiritual growth, deeper fellowship, and an increasing impact in our local community and beyond.

Worship

Sunday Morning Worship lies at the heart of our congregation, providing the spiritual nourishment and inspiration for our wider ministry. In 2024, we explored the theme of 'Spending Time with Jesus', delving into the books of Luke and Acts. This journey shaped our discipleship, renewing our commitment to live out the teachings of Christ in every area of our lives. We have continued to stream our services online, allowing those who can't be with us on a Sunday morning to join our services, along with people from across the UK and around the world, including, on occasion, some of our Missionary Partners.

Holy Week united us with other Stirling churches for a series of deeply meaningful services, culminating in an Easter Morning celebration in King's Park. These moments of shared worship strengthened bonds of fellowship and provided a powerful witness to the hope of Christ's resurrection in our wider community.

Communication

Our weekly bulletin, North Notices, and monthly magazine, North News, were key in keeping our congregation informed and connected, sharing stories of faith, upcoming events, and ministry updates. Distributed primarily digitally, these publications ensure that all members of our church family are actively engaged in our shared mission.

Pastoral Care & Discipleship

Our Pastoral Care Team, in close partnership with the 'Church Family Elders,' has provided compassionate support and practical help to those in need. Through personal visits, prayers, and fellowship, we have ensured that no one in our congregation has to face times of difficulty on their own. Our DNA Groups have continued to grow, offering deeper fellowship and spiritual formation, and our monthly prayer meetings remain well-attended, reflecting our commitment to prayerful living.

The Guild remains a vibrant and essential part of our congregation, consistently embodying a spirit of service. Meeting fortnightly from September - April they enjoy worship & fellowship together and raise funds and awareness for Guild projects at home and abroad. Their efforts culminated in a well-attended Christmas concert, featuring our thriving Singing Group, which brought joy and inspiration to all who participated.

Our children's ministry, Kidzone, continues to evolve in response to the needs of our young people, providing a fun and nurturing environment where they worship and grow together, along with our amazing group of Kidzone leaders and helpers.

Every Wednesday morning during the school term we run our Coffee Pot Cafe. This continues to attract around 50 people each week from the church and from the wider community and is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Money raised by the Cafe is used to support our missionary partners around the world.

Mission & Outreach

2024 was a transformative year for our Mission & Outreach as we launched the Connect Project, a key initiative designed to develop and enhance our mission work. Grounded in the work we have been doing with Messy Church for several years, the aim of the Connect Project is to help us create genuine opportunities for discipleship, community building and service.

As part of the project we have recruited a Parish Worker whose remit is to develop this work and to assist our minister in the day to day running of the project. The work of the project is overseen by a team of seven people appointed by the Kirk Session. In addition Presbytery have appointed [REDACTED] to the post of Assistant Minister on a short term contract in order to support the work we have been doing. One significant concern for the Trustees is the impact of the proposed ministry reduction to 0.75fte outlined in the Presbytery plan.

Key achievements from the Connect Project in 2024 include:

Continued development of Messy Church with a renewed focus on the values of Christ-Centred, All Age, Hospitality, Celebration, and Creativity.

Successful Messy Events including Messy Pancakes, Messy Movie Nights, Messy Quiz Night, and Messy Christingle, which attracted a number of new families.

The Establishment of our Connect Youth Group for P7-S6 which runs weekly and is well attended with around 15 young people coming along every Sunday evening.

A successful Summer Mission Week, featuring a week-long Holiday Club for P1-P7s, four evenings of Youth Work, and a Messy Church Service to conclude the week.

The establishment of Toastie Tuesdays, an intergenerational gathering that has been well-received by participants of all ages.

Partnerships with Braehead Primary and Bannockburn High Schools, where we now run weekly SU Groups and Christmas and Easter Journey events.

The development of The Hub, a welcoming space where people of all ages can come and connect with one another.

Through these initiatives, new relationships have been built, particularly with young families and individuals who had little previous connection to the church. Looking ahead, we are excited to explore the possibilities of running evangelistic courses such as The 321 Course, alongside discipleship programs such as The Prayer Course. These will further our mission to invite more people into a living relationship with Jesus.

Looking forward

In all of our ministries, we have seen God's faithfulness at work, guiding us and blessing us as we serve our community. As we move into 2025, we look forward with hopeful anticipation, committed to faithfully expanding our mission, deepening our discipleship, and glorifying God in all we do.

Financial Review

Income: Offerings

The principal sources of income are: donations paid by standing order of £46,598 (2023: £51,175); Weekly Freewill Offering (WFO) donations of £9,063 (2023: £9,007); Ordinary (Open Plate) Offerings of £3,817 (2023: £4,243); and tax recovered on gift aid donations of £14,712 (2023: £15,018).

We received donations of £1,318 (2023: £1,957) towards the support of our Missionary Partners and other offerings, donations etc. amounted to £16,043* (2023: £5,730) resulting in total donations for the year of £91,551 (2023: £87,130).

There are 45 individuals in the gift aid scheme and 40 contributing by standing order.

**Other offerings, donations etc. includes: £4,368 of one-off donations to church funds; £1,500 to the AV/IT Fund; £10,095 towards the support of activities funded by our new Connect (Youth and Community) Fund; and £81 towards the support of other activities.*

Income: Other Regular Income

Other regular income included proceeds from use of premises of £5,931 (2023: £4,508).

Our weekly Coffee Pot Café is run to support our Missionary Partners. The proceeds of the Café along with funds contributed by members of the congregation, resulted in a total of £5,878 being raised during the year. Taking into account the balance carried forward from the previous year and distributions paid during the year, the balance available at the year-end to support our Missionary Partners is £5,097 (2023: £3,971).

Interest on deposits continued to earn a high rate of interest, resulting in interest from deposit/current accounts of £5,374 (2023: £2,462).

Solar panel Feed In Tariff (FIT) receipts amounted to £2,028 (2023: £2,187).

Total Other Regular Income for the year amounted to £22,245 (2023: £17,501).

Income: Other Receipts

Following a successful grant application, we received an initial instalment of grant income of £20,000 from the Church of Scotland Seeds for Growth Fund. We also received additional grant income of £8,000 from the Presbytery of Perth Mission Grants Fund which was contingent on Seeds for Growth funding being secured. These grants have been a significant boost to our income in support of our activities.

Total Income

Total income for the year was £141,796 which was higher than the previous year's total of £109,514 mainly due to the grant income received, as noted above. Total income for the current year comprised £93,797 unrestricted income and £48,000 restricted income. Further details of income generated during the year are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account and in the Notes to the Accounts.

Expenditure

On the expenditure side, the most significant item of expenditure to note is the Giving to Grow Allocation of £36,853 (2023: £35,843). The current year's allocation includes a deduction in respect of transition funding in recognition of an increase in the allocation compared with the previous Ministries and Mission allocation, and is due to increase next year as transition relief is exhausted.

Fabric repairs and maintenance costs amounted to £16,812 compared with £19,169 in the previous year.

Expenditure on Audio Visual and IT equipment was lower than the previous year. Total audio visual and IT expenditure for the year amounted to £2,334 compared with £3,372 in the previous year. Printing, Stationary and Postage costs of £2,446 were also lower than the previous year's amount of £6,752 although the previous year's total included the cost incurred in purchasing a new printer at an overall cost of £4,546.

Staff costs increased significantly compared with the previous year. Total expenditure for the current year amounted to £29,295 compared with £13,714 in the previous year. This is due to the additional costs associated with employing a parish worker for the purpose of overseeing our work among children, young people and families, including activities now supported by our Connect (Youth and Communities) Project.

We also undertook a review of our seating arrangements in support of our Connect (Youth and Communities) Project activities. As a result, we replaced our pews with more flexible seating at a total cost of £18,926.

Total payments for the year were £143,146 which was higher than the previous year's total of £107,985. Total payments for the year comprised £90,685 from unrestricted funds and £52,462 from restricted funds. Further details of expenditure during the year are shown in the Notes to the Accounts.

Reserves Policy

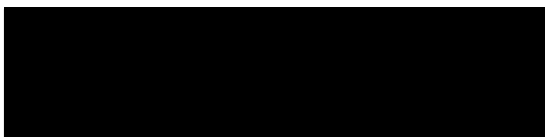
It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately six months' expenditure including designated funds. At the year end the Church held unrestricted cash funds of £130,610 of which £58,136 had been designated for various purposes described in the notes to the accounts. The remaining balance of £72,474 is approximately equal to six months' total expenditure.

The Church also held £12,039 of restricted funds which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 2.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session / Congregational Board must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session / Congregational Board are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Session Clerk

Date 20/3/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

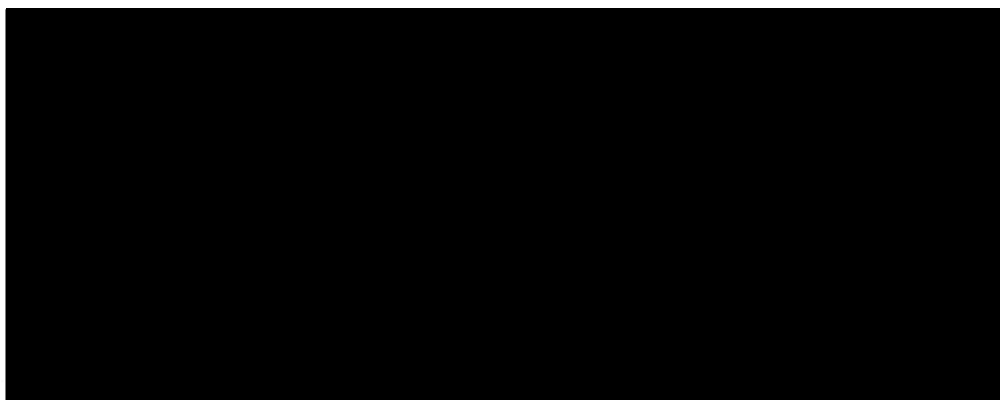
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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

Signed:

Name:

Address:



Date:

23.3.25

Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
<i>Offerings</i>					
Offerings	3	63,845	12,994	76,839	72,112
HMRC Charities		12,901	1,812	14,712	15,018
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid donations					
Total for Offerings		76,746	14,805	91,551	87,130
<i>Other Regular Income</i>					
Use of Premises		5,931	-	5,931	4,508
Contributions from Congregational Organisations		1,000	-	1,000	700
Income from Weddings and Funerals		200	-	200	500
Income from Fund Raising Events		491	-	491	774
Coffee Pot Café (Missionary Partners Support Fund)		-	4,498	4,498	3,465
Dividend and Interest from Investments		197	377	574	510
Interest from Deposit/Current Accounts		5,055	319	5,374	2,462
Fabric Income		-	-	-	-
Music Income		-	-	-	100
Designated Guild Fund		2,149	-	2,149	2,294
Other Regular Income		2,028	-	2,028	2,187
Total for Other Regular Income		17,050	5,194	22,245	17,501
<i>Other Receipts</i>					
Legacies		-	-	-	-
Grant Income Received		-	28,000	28,000	1,000
Insurance Claim (Aviva)		-	-	-	3,883
Sale of Assets		-	-	-	-
Total for Other Receipts		-	28,000	28,000	4,883
Total Receipts		93,797	48,000	141,796	109,514

**Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland
Receipts and Payments Account**

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Payments	4			
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	85
Charitable activities	90,685	52,462	143,146	107,899
Governance costs	-	-	-	-
Other payments	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	<u>90,685</u>	<u>52,462</u>	<u>143,146</u>	<u>107,985</u>
Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers	3,112	(4,462)	(1,350)	1,530
Transfers	(3,744)	3,744	-	-
Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments for the year	<u>(633)</u>	<u>(718)</u>	<u>(1,350)</u>	<u>1,530</u>

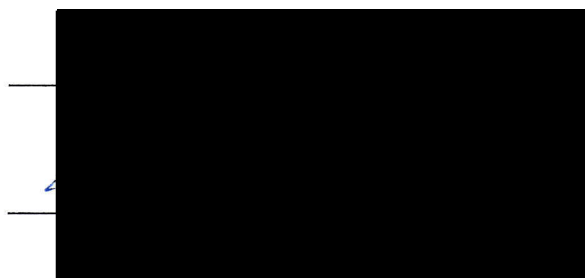
Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland
Statement of Balances
At 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 Note £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank & Deposit Balances				
Bank & deposit balances brought forward	131,243	12,756	143,999	142,470
Movement in year:				
Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments for the year	(633)	(718)	(1,350)	1,530
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	<u>130,610</u>	<u>12,039</u>	<u>142,649</u>	<u>143,999</u>
Investments at market value (cost £11,653)				
	<u>9,315</u>	<u>17,819</u>	<u>27,134</u>	<u>24,795</u>
Assets				
HMRC Charities Gift Aid Receivable	<u>4,204</u>	<u>675</u>	<u>4,879</u>	<u>5,346</u>
	4,204	675	4,879	5,346
Fixed Assets				
Manse (cost)	7		<u>385,000</u>	<u>385,000</u>
			385,000	385,000
Liabilities				
	-	-	-	-

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board on

20/03/2025

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Financial Board



Session Clerk

Treasurer

Stirling North Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year [REDACTED] received reimbursement of expenses incurred totalling £1,404 and Council Tax paid in respect of the manse amounted to £3,183.

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.

2. Movements in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated Connect (Youth and Community) Fund	50,000	-	-	(3,741)	46,259
Designated Flower Fund	32	-	-	-	32
Designated Giving to Grow Fund	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
Designated Guild Fund	1,540	2,149	(2,492)	-	1,198
Designated Music Fund	-	0	-	-	0
Designated Transport Fund	4,663	224	(240)	-	4,647
Designated Youth Club Fund	56	10	(88)	22	-
Legacy Fund	38	15	-	-	54
General Fund	72,989	87,173	(87,865)	(6,026)	66,272
Reserve Fund	1,924	4,225	-	-	6,148
	<u>131,243</u>	<u>93,797</u>	<u>(90,685)</u>	<u>(3,744)</u>	<u>130,610</u>
Restricted funds					
Audio Visual/IT Fund	-	1,887	(1,891)	3	-
Connect (Youth and Community) Fund	1,335	19,470	(22,627)	1,822	-
Connect (Youth and Community) Seeds for Growth Fund	-	20,000	(21,919)	1,919	-
Holiday Club Fund	93	30	(102)	-	22
Imrie Fund	5,777	684	-	-	6,461
Messy Church Fund	1,351	50	(991)	-	410
Missionary Partners Support Fund	3,971	5,878	(4,752)	-	5,097
Refugee Resettlement Fund	229	-	(180)	-	49
	<u>12,756</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>(52,462)</u>	<u>3,744</u>	<u>12,039</u>
Total funds	<u>143,999</u>	<u>141,796</u>	<u>(143,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>142,649</u>

Purposes of Designated Funds

Connect (Youth and Community) Fund: Established to support our Connect (Youth and Community) Project. This covers our work with children, young people and families, and our other outreach into the community.

Flower Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the provision of Church Flowers.

Giving to Grow Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds in light of the expected increase in costs as transition funding is exhausted.

The Guild Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for use by the Guild.

Music Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the purchase of music resources for use in worship.

Transport Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds to be used as and when a group might wish to hire transport for an event.

Youth Club Activities Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for use by the Youth Club.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Audio Visual/IT Fund: This fund was created by donations for Audio Visual and IT equipment and expenses.

Connect (Youth and Community) Fund: Established to support our Connect Youth and Community Project. This covers our work with children, young people and families, and our other outreach into the community.

Connect (Youth and Community) Seeds for Growth Fund: as noted above except specifically relating to grant income received.

Holiday Club Fund: To meet the expenses of running a Holiday Club for children.

Imrie Fund: This fund was created by the Bequest from the late Miss Imrie for Fabric Expenses only.

Messy Church Fund: This fund was created by donations for the support of Messy Church events.

Missionary Partners Support Fund: This fund was set up from the proceeds of the Coffee Pot Café run one morning a week to support our missionary partners. Along with funds contributed by members of the congregation, a total of £5,878 was raised during the year.

Refugee Resettlement Fund: This fund was established to provide support for refugees moving into the local area.

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
WFO Scheme	9,063	-	9,063	9,007
By Standing Order	46,598	-	46,598	51,175
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	3,817	-	3,817	4,243
Other Offerings, Donations etc	4,368	11,676	16,043	5,730
Missionary Partners Support Fund	-	1,318	1,318	1,957
HMRC Charities - Tax Recovered on				
Gift Aid donations	12,901	1,812	14,712	15,018
	<u>76,746</u>	<u>14,805</u>	<u>91,551</u>	<u>87,130</u>

3. Analysis of Offerings

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. Analysis of Payments				
Costs of generating funds				
Investment Managers' fees	-	-	-	-
Offering envelopes	-	-	-	85
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85</u>
Charitable activities				
Audio Visual and IT	68	2,266	2,334	3,372
Council Tax	3,183	-	3,183	3,095
Fabric Repairs and Maintenance	12,418	4,395	16,812	19,169
Giving to Grow Allocation	36,853	-	36,853	35,843
Heat and Light	3,996	2,928	6,924	4,096
Holiday Club	-	102	102	532
Insurance	2,417	-	2,417	2,310
Minister's Expenses	473	931	1,404	1,054
Mission Work	2,842	5,597	8,439	2,113
Mission Work Messy Church	-	1,611	1,611	1,442
Mission Work Mission Partners				
Support Fund Distribution	-	4,752	4,752	6,465
Office Expenses Telecommunications	400	327	727	756
Organ and Music	1,020	-	1,020	978
Presbytery Dues	1,530	-	1,530	977
Printing, Stationery and Postage	1,085	1,360	2,446	6,752
Pulpit Supply	330	-	330	163
Staff Costs	20,574	8,721	29,295	13,714
Transport	240	-	240	410
Congregational Organisations				
Donations to Charities	1,970	-	1,970	1,770
Congregational Organisations Sundry Expenses	522	-	522	387
Other expenses	764	547	1,311	2,501
Other expenses Seating	-	18,926	18,926	-
	<u>90,685</u>	<u>52,462</u>	<u>143,146</u>	<u>107,899</u>

5. Minister's Stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pension and housing and loan fund. Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the national stipend scale, which is related to years of service. For the year under review the minimum stipend was £31,642 and the maximum stipend (in the 5th and subsequent years of service) was £38,884.

2024

£

6. Collections for Third Parties

Town Break	215
Salvation Army	675
Leprosy Mission	372
	<hr/>
	1,262
	<hr/> <hr/>

7. Fixed assets

The Church owns the manse at located in Calton Crescent purchased for the sum of £385,000 in May 2021.