

ABERDEEN: NORTHFIELD UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Scottish Registered Charity No.SC014484

A Congregation of the United Free Church of Scotland,

Congregation Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2024

Principal place of worship and of Congregation activities:

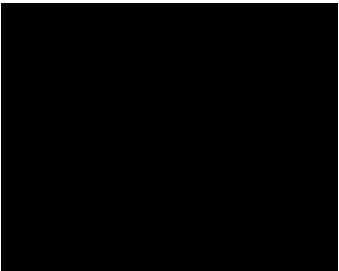
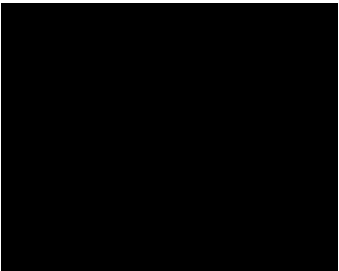
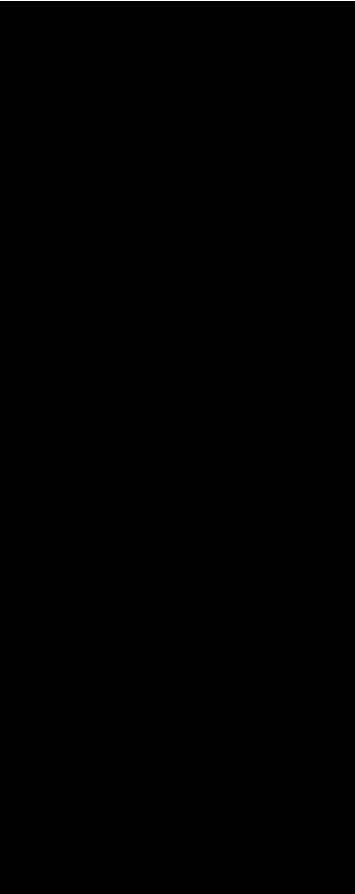
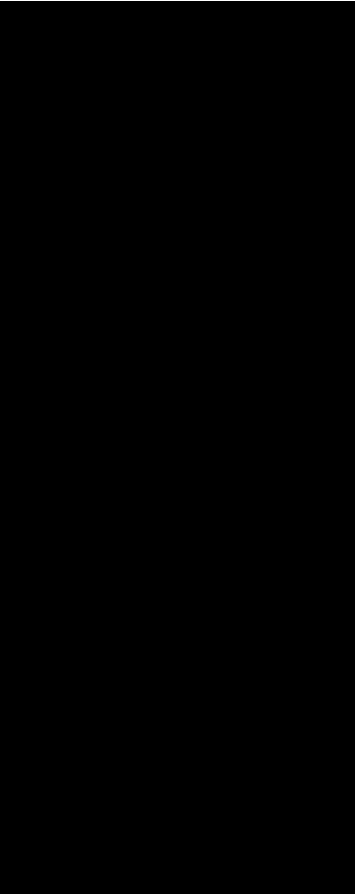
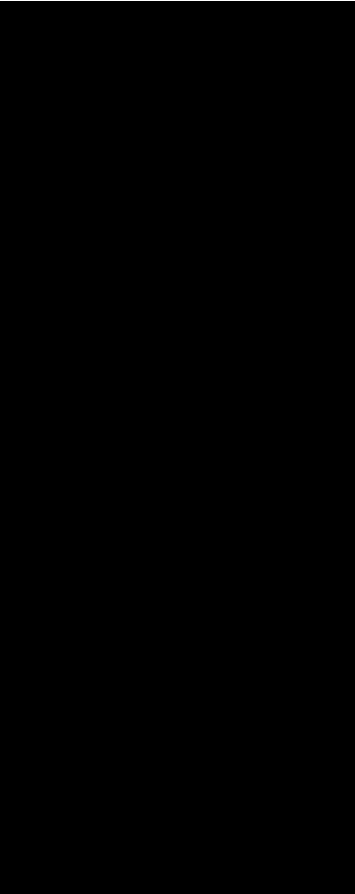

**Church and Hall, Kettlehills Road, Aberdeen
AB16 5SJ**

Congregation Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2024

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**Office Bearers, Trustees and Members of the Courts of the Congregation
serving during Year ending 31 December 2024**

Minister		
Office Bearers	Session Clerk Clerk to Board Treasurer	
Property Trustees	Minister, Session Clerk, Clerk to the Board, Treasurer (<i>Ex Officio</i>)	
Kirk Session	Minister Session Clerk Elders:	
Congregational Board	Minister Clerk Elders:	
	Elected Members:	
Bankers	Lloyds TSB, Rosehill, Aberdeen	
Independent Examiner	 110 Balnagask Road Torry Aberdeen AB11 8RJ	

Congregation Report year ending 31 December 2024

1. Constitution and Principal Activities of the United Free Church of Scotland

The United Free Church of Scotland, with all the Churches of the Reformation, acknowledges as its Supreme Standard, the Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

The Church holds as its Subordinate Standard the Westminster Confession of Faith; by its Declaratory Acts it recognises liberty of judgment on points of doctrine which do not enter into the substance of the faith; and it claims the right as duty may require, to interpret, add to, modify, or change her subordinate standards, under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with a direct responsibility to her Lord.

The Church approves the emphasis of the Declaratory Acts on the love of God for all mankind, the free offer of salvation to all, the obligation of the Universal Church to make known the Gospel throughout the world, and the renunciation of coercion, persecution and intolerance in matters of religion.

Accordingly this Church accepts the obligation to witness to the truth of the Gospel and to serve men in the name of Christ with regard alike to their spiritual and material welfare, both at home and overseas.

2. Responsibilities of the Congregation

As a Congregation of the United Free Church of Scotland this Congregation is under the jurisdiction and oversight of the superior courts of the Denomination i.e. the Presbytery of the North (in which this Congregation resides) and the General Assembly of the United Free Church in all matters pertaining to its spiritual and temporal (including financial) affairs. It seeks to exercise these obligations within its fellowship and to the people in the community of which it is part.

3. Responsibilities and Appointment of Office Bearers

All matters affecting the spiritual well being and order of the Congregation is exercised by the Kirk Session of this Congregation. The Kirk Session consists of its Minister and Ruling elders. All temporal affairs (including financial) of the Congregation are administered by the Congregational Board of this Congregation. The Property Trustees of the Congregation are the *Ex Officio* Office Bearers named on page 2 of this Report.

The Minister of this Congregation is appointed by the Presbytery of the North. Elders, elected in accordance with the Practice and Procedure of the United Free Church of Scotland, along with members, elected by the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting or at a meeting of the Congregation specifically called for that purpose, form the Congregational Board. Office Bearers are appointed by the Courts which they serve.

All offices of the Church are open to any member in full communion. Each Congregation appoints Elders to the Presbytery and to be Commissioners to the General Assembly. Presbyterianism means the government of the Church by Elders.

4. Activities and Achievements

2024 saw the continuation of regular meetings including Sunday morning worship, Women's Association fortnightly on a Monday, prayer and Bible study on a Thursday afternoon while the church was open for coffee and chat on Friday mornings. Pupils from Orchard Brae Additional Support Needs School join regularly. During February and March, soup was served to provide a hot lunch on Fridays.

Relationships have grown with Aberdeen North Parish Church and Sheddocksley Baptist Church with joint prayer breakfasts taking place throughout the year. The three churches are working together with TLG, a mentorship programme partnering with Westpark Primary School. A joint service was held on Palm Sunday.

Chaplaincy continues at Heathryburn School along with the Scripture Union Group, which has increased in numbers to 16 pupils. The minister participates in assemblies and continues to help with the community

café, interacting with children and their parents.

The minister continues to be part of the chaplaincy team and helps support RME with S1 pupils attending the church to discuss conflict from a faith aspect. Pastoral care is provided for both staff and pupils. The minister also helps to run a quiet space for pupils on a Thursday lunchtime.

The minister also continues as chaplain to Orchard Brae School, an additional supports needs school, and participated in assemblies as well as providing pastoral support to staff.

We worked in partnership with Aberdeen North Parish Church to provide Easter Journey, a RME Resource, for Primary 6 pupils from the local schools and a Christmas Scavenger Hunt for Primary 2 age children, helping them explore the Christmas Story.

Doors have opened at Northfield Academy to be one of their partners, with the minister speaking to S1 pupils about conflict issues around faith and communities and showing pupils around the church as part of their community walkabouts.

The congregation continues to sponsor a child in Uganda through Cogwheel Trust and supports missionaries who are active at home and overseas.

The Office Bearers and members continue to provide pastoral care and encouragement to each other.

The minister has been attended Community Council meetings held in the church building.

June saw a BBQ held in the church grounds, which was open to all in the community with members of the congregation, family, friends and members of the community having an enjoyable time together.

The congregation continue to support Northfield Community Centre Foodbank. We also provide cleaning materials for to help those using Cumming Park Centre's 'The Cubby'. Our Christmas appeal raised enough money to buy vouchers from the local butcher that would provide 35 families using Northfield Community Centre Foodbank with meat for a Christmas dinner.

The minister is currently chaplain to Aberdeen Division of Girl's Brigade Scotland and has been involved in services and visiting companies.

The church has also provided mentoring for a Scripture Union Scotland Gap Year Student who has been helping in the local schools. In addition to helping the minister in chaplaincy work, he has been supporting the SU group at Northfield Academy, and helping in the lunchtime space spending time with pupils.

5. Financial Statements and Funds

In accordance with the Charities and Trustee investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act') and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and being a charity with an annual gross income less than £250,000, the Financial Statements of this Congregation set out on pages 7 to 9 consist of a Statement of Congregation Funds and movements thereon during the Year ending 31 December 2023 and details of the Receipts and Payment, Surplus (Deficit), and Net Movement on Funds during the year with supplementary notes thereon where appropriate.

The General Fund (Collection Fund) shows a net deficit for the year of £31,507.82. The Investment Fund, administered by the Church Office, shows a surplus of £5,680.22, a transfer to the General Fund of £15,000.00, and a balance of £88,367.53. The Special Reserve Fund shows a balance of £2,940.00. The Fabric Fund received donations of £5,340.00, giving it a balance of £7,064.40. There were no changes to the Roof Fund or the Choir Fund, giving them balances of £463.45 and £428.10 respectively. The Midweek Mission Fund received £463.04, disbursed £698.71, leaving a balance of £139.67. The Benevolent Fund received £152.00 from Retiring Offerings and disbursed £110.00, leaving a balance of £134.00.

Total Congregational Funds at 31 December 2024 is £105,238.12. This sum is considered more than adequate to meet the immediate financial requirements of the Church's ongoing work.

6. Accounting Policies

- The main sources of income are the voluntary offerings, donations and other giving of members, adherents, and related organisations, and interest or dividends on Congregation Funds.

- The Receipts and Payments of Congregation Funds are recorded and reported on a cash received and cash paid (as invoices/accounts are received) basis respectively. In the event that a commitment is made after the date of the Statement of Balances which will materially reflect on the amount of any Fund(s) this will be reported in the accompanying Notes to these Statements.
- The Balances of Congregation Funds represents sums available for the ongoing work and activities of the Congregation, stating whether each Fund is Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted or Endowment and, where appropriate, for what purpose and how these Funds are held or invested.

7. Land and Property

Land and Property consist of Church and Church Hall together with fittings and furnishings (including communion, other ecclesiastical articles). The Congregation owns a Manse.

These are held as functional property for the use of the Congregation in fulfilling its aims and mission and in which its activities are carried out and not for investment or resale. No market value is placed on these Assets.

8. Independent Examiner

In accordance with the terms of 'the 2005 Act', Section 44 (1) (c), and as a Charity falling under regulation 9. of 'The Regulations', and not required to carry out an audit under paragraph 9(4), an Independent Examiner has been appointed in accordance with regulation 11 of 'The Regulations' to carry out a competent examination of the Report and Financial Statements of the Congregation. The Independent Examiner's Report for the year to 31st December 2023 is on page 6.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees and Office Bearers of Aberdeen: Northfield United Free Church of Scotland

I report on the Report and Financial Statements of the Congregation for the year ending 31 December 2024 which are set on pages **3 to 5 and 7 to 10**

Respective Responsibilities of Office Bearers and Trustees and Examiner

The Congregation's Office Bearers and Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Report and Accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 regulations"). The Congregation's Office Bearers and Trustees consider that the requirements of Regulation 9 apply but not those of paragraph 9(4) of the Accounts Regulations.

It is my responsibility to examine the Report and Finance Statements as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 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 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Congregation and a comparison of the report and accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the report and accounts, and seeks explanations from the office bearers and 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 report and accounts.

Independent Examiners 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 report and 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 Report and Financial Statements to be reached.

Signed:

Name:

Address

Date:

Statement of Balances and Movement on Congregation Funds for Year ending 31 December 2024

Fund	Nature of Fund	Balance 01.01.24 £	Receipts 2024 £	(Payments) 2024 £	Surplus (Deficit) £	Net Fund Transfers £	Net change on Fund £	Balance 31.12.24 £	Held as follows	£
Collection	Unrestricted Note 1	22,208.79	24,345.75	55,853.57	-31,507.82	15,000.00	-16,507.82	5,700.97	TSB	5,700.97
Investment	Unrestricted Note 1	97,687.31	6,088.05	-407.83	5,680.22	-15,000.00	9,319.78	88,367.53	General Trustees	88,367.53
Special Reserve	Designated Note 2	2,940.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,940.00	TSB	2,940.00
Fabric	Designated Note 3	1,724.40	5,340.00	0.00	5,340.00	0.00	5,340.00	7,064.40	TSB	7,064.40
Roof	Designated Note 3	463.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	463.45	TSB	463.45
Midweek Mission	Designated Note 4	375.34	463.04	698.71	-235.67	0.00	-235.67	139.67	TSB & Cash	139.67
Choir	Designated Note 4	428.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	428.10	TSB	428.10
Benevolent	Restricted Note 5	92.00	152.00	110.00	42.00	0.00	42.00	134.00	Cash	134.00
Total Congregation Funds		125,919.39	36,388.84	56,254.45	-20,681.27	0.00	-2,041.71	105,238.12		105,238.12

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ending 2024

Nature of Congregation Funds:

General	Unrestricted	Note 1	Ordinary receipts and payments of the Congregation. Office Bearers may 'designate' unrestricted funds for general reserves or for specified purpose(s).
Special Reserve	Designated	Note 2	For extraordinary repairs, decoration, or refurbishment of the Church, Hall or Manse.
Fabric & Roof	Designated	Note 3	For repairs to external and internal fabric and/or furnishings of Church, Hall or Manse.
Mission	Designated	Note 4	To support missionary and outreach work.
Benevolent	Restricted	Note 5	To benevolent purposes for members, adherents and those in the local community.
Governance		Note 6	No governance costs are incurred during the year. Duties relating to governance are provided voluntarily.
Property	Church, Manse, & Hall	Note 7	Congregation property is held for the use of the Congregation in fulfilling its aims and mission to its members, adherents and the community it serves; not for investment or resale. No market value is placed on these properties.
Investments		Note 8	Investments held on behalf of the Congregation which have a variable Market Value are included in the above Statement of Balances at the value at the year end. Revaluations during the year are reported in the table above as 'Net Change in Fund'
Contingent Liabilities		Note 9	Financial Statements present the receipts received and payments made during the year. If there are any material outstandings, contingent liabilities and /or commitments, these are noted below:- There are no contingent liabilities at the date of this Report and Financial Statement.
Payments to Trustees		Note 10	No payments have been made to any Trustee for the performance of their duties as Trustees of the Congregation.

Approval of Congregation Financial Statements for the Year ending 31 December 2024

as set out on Pages 7, 8, and 9, by Office Bearers authorised to sign

Fund		General Unrestricted £	Investment Unrestricted £	Small Funds Designated £	Benevolent Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Notes Details	Total 2023 £
Receipts								
Offerings	Open	1,036.09				1,036.09		1,114.89
	Freewill	3,294.30				3,294.30		3,055.00
	Freewill (gift aid)	13,368.32				13,368.32		15,715.00
	Gift Aid Tax	5,456.51				5,456.51		4,643.46
	Other	409.00				409.00	Page 9.1	82.00
	Sub Totals	23,564.22				23,564.22		24,610.35
Donations	Organisations	100.00				100.00	Page 9.2	100.00
	Other	260.00		5,803.04	152.00	6,215.04		995.58
	Sub Total	360.00		5,803.04	152.00	6,315.04		1,095.58
Other	Interest							
	Revaluations		6,088.05			6,088.05		
	Stedfast	65.00				65.00		60.00
	Miscellaneous						Page 9.3	
	Sub Total	65.00	6,088.05			6,153.05		60.00
Events	Fundraising	185.00				185.00		849.98
Extra-ordinary	Legacy/Gifts (e.g.)	0.00				0.00	Page 9.4	
Missions	Other charities	171.53				171.53	Page 9.5	695.50
Total Receipts		24,345.75	6,088.05	5,803.04	152.00	36,388.84		27,311.41
Payments								
Ministry	Stipend/Salary & NIC	33,178.50				33,178.50		31,574.00
	Expenses							
	Pulpit Supply	430.00				430.00		310.00
	Int Moderator Fee, Exp							
	Sub Total	33,608.50				33,608.50		31,884.00
Other Salary Property	Ch. Officer/ Cleaner	1,911.00				1,911.00		1,479.00
	Council Tax	2,609.91				2,609.91		2,541.01
	Insurance	2,298.39				2,298.39		2,128.16
	Heat & light	7,410.84				7,410.84		2,750.45
	Repairs, upkeep	922.59				922.59		1,504.80
	Equipment, Furnishing	179.41				179.41		439.84
	Sub Total	15,332.14	0.00	0.00		15,332.14	Page 9.6	10,843.26
Other	Stedfast Magazine	156.00				156.00		156.00
	Office & Publicity	283.46				283.46	Page 9.7	585.13
	Kirk Session	786.55				786.55		473.96
	Miscellaneous	65.39	407.83	698.71	110.00	1,281.93	Page 9.8	275.72
	Organisations Support					0.00		
	Sub Total	1,291.40	407.83	698.71	110.00	2,507.94		1,490.81
Fundraising	expense	0.00				0.00		0.00
Contributions	Denomination	4,463.00				4,463.00		4,219.00
	Presbytery	78.00				78.00		78.00
	Missions	0.00				0.00	Page 9.5	0.00
	Sub Total	4,541.00				4,541.00		4,297.00
Extra-ordinary	Refurbishment	0.00				0.00		0.00
Mission	Other charities	1,080.53				1,080.53	Page 9.5	1,516.00
Total Payments		55,853.57	407.83	698.71	110.00	57,070.11		50,031.07
Surplus (Deficit) Net Recpts (Paymnts)		-31,507.82	5,680.22	5,104.33	42.00	-20,681.27		-22,719.66
Transfers between Funds		15,000.00	-15,000.00	0.00		0.00		20,000.00
		0.00				0.00		-70.00
Net Movement on Funds		-16,507.82	-9,319.78	5,104.33	42.00	-20,681.27		-2,789.66

Note Details of Receipts

£

1 Offerings - Other	General
	409.00
2 Donations - Organisations	General
Women's Association	100.00
	100.00
3 Other - Miscellaneous	General
Donations	260.00
4 Extra-ordinary	All Funds
	0.00
5 Receipts for and Payments to Missions	General
Donations	171.53
	171.53
Contributed to:	
Leprosy Mission	49.78
WH&O Committee	50.00
Anchored Magazine	50.00
Global Focus Calendars	21.75
	171.53
From General Funds	
5% of offerings	
Other	0.00
Contributions to:-	
Benevolent Fund	152.00
Easter Scheme	65.00
Leprosy Mission	49.78
Dr I Hepburn	142.00
WH&O Special Gift	50.00
Anchored Magazine	50.00
John Pizzuto-Pomaco	200.00
Cogwheel Trust	240.00
Global Focus Calendars	21.75
Harvest Meal for Foodbank	50.00
Mission Fund	60.00
	1,080.53
Total payments to Missions	1,080.53

Note Details of Payments

£

£

£

6

Property

	General		
	Church	Manse	Total
Council Tax	0.00	2,609.91	2,609.91
Insurance	1,871.84	426.55	2,298.39
Heat and Light	7,410.84	0.00	7,410.84
Repairs, maintenance	922.59	0.00	922.59
Equipment, Furnishing	179.41	0.00	179.41
Sub Total	10,384.68	3,036.46	13,421.14

Fabric			
Repairs		0.00	
		0.00	
Sub Total	0.00	0.00	
Property Total	10,384.68	3,036.46	13,421.14

7

Office & Publicity

General	
Stationery	229.17
Catering	54.29
	283.46

8

Miscellaneous

General	Benevolent	Total
65.39		65.39
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
65.39	0.00	65.39