

Banff Parish Church of Scotland

Scotland · Charity number SC015501

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Part of	The Church of Scotland (SC011353)
Registered	1996-09-14
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address
Church Office
Back Path
Banff
Aberdeenshire
AB45 1AE

Website www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of religion'

What the charity does: 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 cooperates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

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

Objectives: The advancement of religion.

Geography

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

Finances

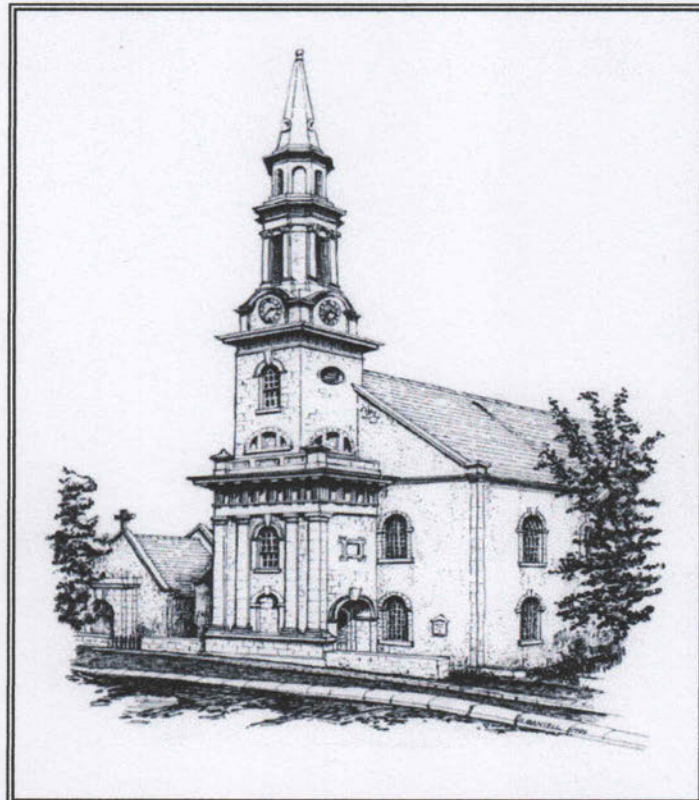
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£72,650	£76,390	-	3
2023-12-31	£54,097	£83,998	-	3
2022-12-31	£56,850	£52,809	-	3
2021-12-31	£69,915	£74,634	-	3
2020-12-31	£133,127	£143,023	-	3

Banff Parish Church of Scotland

Scotland - Charity number SC015501

Accounts

The Church of Scotland
Banff Parish Church of Scotland



Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Congregation No: 342010
Scottish Charity No: SC015501

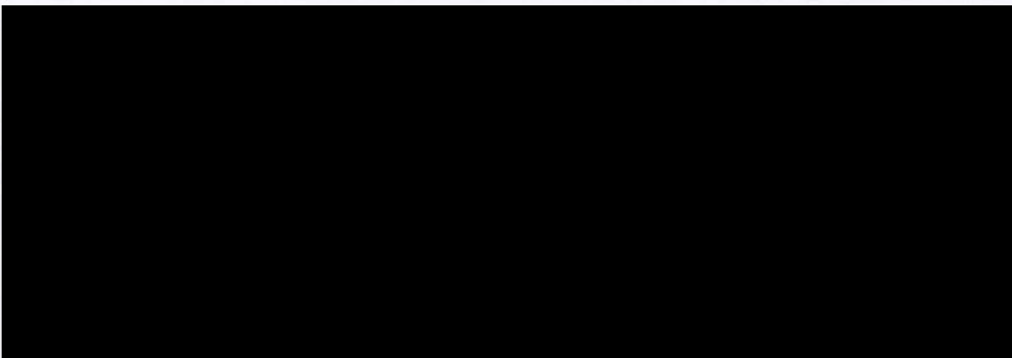
Banff Parish Church of Scotland

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Charity Number: SC015501
Congregation Ref No: 342010
Contact Address: [REDACTED]
Facebook: [REDACTED]

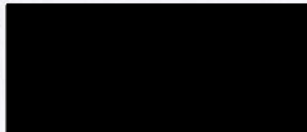
Trustees

Members of Kirk Session



Office Bearers

Interim Moderator
Session Clerk
Acting Treasurer



Independent Examiner:



Bankers:

Virgin Money, 161 Mid Street, Keith, AB55 5BL
Bank of Scotland, 90 High St, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1BJ

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

The trustees have the pleasure of presenting the annual report and financial accounts for Banff Parish Church for the year ended 31st December 2024. The financial statements 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).

Structure, Governance, and Management

Banff Parish Church is a registered charity, number SC015501, and is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) and is subject to the Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the active elders of the Church and are chosen from those members of the Church who are considered to have the appropriate spiritual gifts and skills, following the teaching of the Bible. The minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is elected by the congregation and inducted by Presbytery. The charge being currently vacant, an Interim Moderator has been appointed by Presbytery and is a member of Kirk Session *ex officio*.

The Kirk Session has oversight of the whole life and service of the Church within its Parish; responsibility for the spiritual and temporal oversight of the Congregation's affairs. Its spiritual responsibility involves "leadership, nurturing the spirituality of the congregation and its members, caring for the spiritual welfare of the parish and parishioners, encouraging members to participate in the worship and life of the congregation, and promoting mission and evangelism in the parish" (James L. Weatherhead: The Constitution and Laws of the Church of Scotland).

The Kirk Session embraces both the letter and the spirit of the Unitary Constitution in operating a structure that enables it to carry out its work flexibly and efficiently.

Decision-making is largely delegated to a number of sub-groups:

Leadership Group; Finance Group; Property Committee; Outreach Team (which subsumes the Children and Family Worker Group); Pastoral Care Team; Fundraising Group; Safeguarding Team; Halls Team.

These groups meet as necessary, and report to the Kirk Session, which meets quarterly. Urgent matters arising between Session are brought before the Leadership Group.

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 cooperates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Achievements and Performance

The Presbytery Mission Plan made considerable progress in 2024, with broad consensus being reached on the principle of Union with our Grouping partner churches in Macduff and Whitehills - underpinned by a range of shared events during Holy Week and Advent.

In counterpoint, on Sunday 25 February, we held a final joint service with our former partner charge at King Edward as its Turriff Grouping progressed towards Union, as the new Strathdeveron congregation, in consequence of which the King Edward Church is now closed.

Our Church continues its vision to be a hub of the community and a beacon of light where all can gather for friendship, service and spiritual support, welcoming people of all ages and from all Church backgrounds or none.

To this end, our church is open to members and visitors alike, for regular Sunday worship, normally at 11:00am, and monthly services of worship continue to benefit residents at the Doocot View very-sheltered housing complex in Banff. Special services and worship events are held, including the annual Memorial Service, Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday (in collaboration with the wider BACAC Group).

On Sunday 17 March we were pleased to host the Boys' Brigade Banffshire Battalion annual parade, welcoming companies from Buckie and Turriff, as well as our own 1st Banff Company.

We were delighted to welcome Banff Primary School back to Church, for their Easter and Christmas Services.

Our suite of Halls hosts a range of community activities, including our own Friendship Group, Busy Hands Group and Tots & Teas.

Our annual Coffee Mornings, Soup-and-Sweet lunch, Book Sale and Thrift Shop continue to be well supported in the community.

We participated in this year's Doors Open Day, and were delighted to welcome a good number of visitors, showing an interest in the building's ecclesiastical, as well as architectural heritage.

Financial Review

The financial position of Banff Parish Church remained under close scrutiny throughout 2024 due to ongoing challenges with income generation and high operational costs.

Receipts and payments:

Total receipts for the year were £74,018, up almost £20k on last year. Increase primarily driven by insurance receipts and accumulated funds drawn down from centrally held Revenue account. General donations accounted for £44,881, a 9% increase on prior year.

Expenditure totalled £74,994, with the most significant costs relating to staffing and the "Giving to Grow" contribution. This is a reduction from prior year of circa £9k, the biggest saving being on Giving to Grow contribution. In addition, the Kirk Session and Presbytery agreed to temporarily suspend "Giving to Grow" payments in December 2024, due to cash flow concerns. Vacant property relief for the manse was for a limited time only and so results in a higher cost in 2024.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Financial Review (continued)

The net deficit for the year was £976. Note, however that this was achieved by i) transferring £13,954 from the Revenue account held on behalf of Banff Parish Church by the Church of Scotland Trustees, built up over several years, ii) receiving an insurance payout of circa £2.5k, as well as iii) deferring circa £3k of Giving to Grow payments.

Funds:

A review of the church's funds identified opportunities to reclassify internally designated funds, tidy up balances on restricted funds which had been fully drawn down, and clarify the status of historic endowments. This process was supported by Presbytery and the Church of Scotland Law Department and aims to improve both transparency and future fund usability.

Note that the presentation of endowment funds has been amended in line with best practice.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold reserves sufficient to maintain core ministry and mission functions in the event of financial disruptions.

The Kirk Session has agreed that the church should aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least four months of operating expenditure, as this would be enough to capture any invoicing in arrears and any final costs. Based on 2024's expenditure, this equates to approximately £29,000, including any known liabilities relating to prior year.

As at 31 December 2024, unrestricted reserves (General Fund) stood at £36,273, which is adequate to support existing immediate needs in what is a transitional period. There is also £1,793 held in revenue account by Church of Scotland Trustees which could be readily drawn down.

There also exist various restricted and endowment funds.

The Trustees are taking active steps to improve the financial position following a significant deficit in 2023 and a deficit in 2024 offset largely by use of accumulated funds from Revenue account held on behalf of the church by Church of Scotland Trustees, as well as suspension of Giving to Grow payments in this period of vacancy. Staffing and buildings costs are being reviewed, with the sale of the manse and a union with Whitehills and Macduff Church grouping is under discussion.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Financial Review (continued)

The Church of Scotland General trustees also hold funds on behalf of Banff Parish Church, which are listed in the Appendix. These funds may be made available to the Congregation on application to the General Trustees. As at 31st December 24 Capital funds held on behalf of the congregation were £78,306 (market value £100,322). Revenue funds were £1,793.

The investment objectives of the Trustees are to maintain the value of the funds invested to at least match the inflation rate applying, while also giving a reasonable return on capital. The Trustees believe the objective has been achieved given the long-term growth in investment values, while at the same time achieving income greater than that available through short term cash deposits.

All properties are owned by Church of Scotland General Trustees for the use of the Congregation, namely:
Banff [REDACTED]

During 2024, the Kirk Session undertook a comprehensive review of all congregational funds to ensure accurate classification in line with charity regulations. This included assessing the original terms of legacy and endowment funds, and the internal designation of certain reserves.

Where necessary, support has been sought from the Church of Scotland Law Department and OSCR to reorganise funds that no longer serve their original purpose. The 2024 accounts reflect the most accurate classifications available at the time of preparation, and further adjustments may follow in 2025 as the process concludes.


The Trustees are deeply grateful for the generosity and commitment of members, volunteers, and donors throughout this challenging year.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail in order to enable a sufficient appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session 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 or other regularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Session Clerk

Date: 31 July 2025

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 16

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

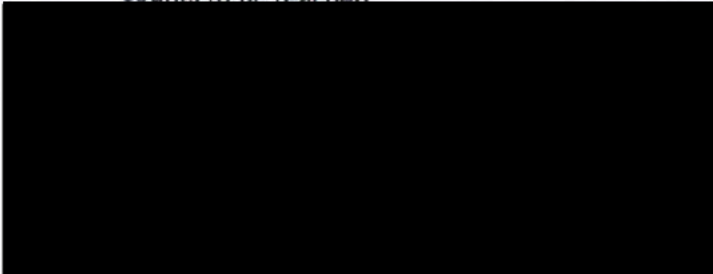
The charity trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations do not apply. It is my responsibility under section 44 (1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

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 Regulations 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



Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Receipts and Payments Account

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts:						
Donations	3	44,881	0	0	44,881	41,225
Legacies		500	0	0	500	1,575
Activities for Generating Funds		5,421	0	0	5,421	5,356
Bank and deposit interest		73	0	0	73	85
Investment income		32	27	1,341	1,400	1,207
		50,907	27	1,341	52,275	49,448
Rental of premises		3,353		0	3,353	3,169
Income From Trustees		13,954		0	13,954	0
Other receipts		2,671		0	2,671	0
Weddings and Funerals		1,765		0	1,765	1,480
Total Receipts		72,650	27	1,341	74,018	54,097
Payments:						
Cost of generating funds		122	0	0	122	145
Charitable activities	4	74,268	604	0	74,872	83,853
Governance activities		0	0	0	0	0
Total Payments		74,390	604	0	74,994	83,998
Excess of receipts over payments for the year, before transfers		(1,740)	(577)	1,341	(976)	(29,901)
Transfers		37,974	(36,633)	(1,341)	0	0
Excess of receipts over payments		36,234	(37,210)	0	(976)	(29,901)

Note: Other receipts consist mainly of insurance receipts in respect of storm damage.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Statement of Balances

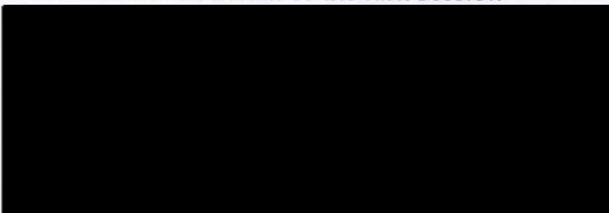
	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Bank and deposit balances</u>					
Bank and deposit balances b/f	(4,400)	40,006	4,407	40,013	69,200
Movement in year:					
Excess of receipts over payments for year	37,648	(38,624)	0	(976)	(29,901)
Movement in amounts held for Third Parties		(983)		(983)	714
Bank and deposit balances c/f	<u>33,248</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>4,407</u>	<u>38,054</u>	<u>40,013</u>
<u>Material amounts owed as at 31.12.24</u>					
Giving to Grow Contribution to Church of Scotland	3,153			3,153	2,181
Manse Council Tax -empty property adjustment	508			508	
Energy bill for 2023, paid 2025	823			823	
Amounts collected for Third Parties still to be paid	0	530	0	530	1,513
<u>Material amounts due as at 31.12.24</u>	<u>4,484</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,014</u>	<u>3,694</u>

Note 1: Giving to Grown Contribution was suspended by Presbytery in December 2024.

Note 2: Energy bill was a final invoice from previous supplier, which was missed and was paid in 2025.

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 31 July 2025

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session



Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Notes to the Accounts:

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions.

During the year, [REDACTED] who is a member of the Kirk Session received £3,099.36 (net of PAYE tax) for providing his services as Church Organist. [REDACTED] who is a member of the Kirk Session received an honorarium of £100 for acting as Free Will Offering Convenor.

Except as stated above, 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. Movement in Funds.

	At 1st January 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Gain(loss) on Investments	At 31st December 2024
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Fabric Fund	(3,748)	16,625	9,914	350	0	3,313
Legacies Fund	12,952	500	0	0	0	13,452
General Fund	(13,603)	55,525	64,476	37,624	0	15,070
						0
	(4,399)	72,650	74,390	37,974	0	31,835
Restricted Funds						
Manse Fund	(952)	0	0	952	0	0
Flower Fund	386	0	0	(386)	0	0
Guild Fund	43	0	0	27	0	70
Organ Appeal Fund	844	0	0	(355)	0	489
Organ & Choir Fund	222	27	604	355	0	0
Special Purposes Fund	1,235	0	0	(1,235)	0	0
Children and Family Worker Fund	12,081	0	0	(12,081)	0	0
Pastoral Worker Fund	(5,876)	0	0	5,876	0	0
Special Projects Fund	25,690	0	0	(25,690)	0	0
Grant Application Fund	625	0	0	0	0	625
Chairs Fund	(668)	0	0	668	0	0
Church Buildings Refurb Fund	4,863	0	0	(4,863)	0	0
Rev Dr Bruce Fund	3	0	0			3
Coal Fund	2,116		0	38		2,154
John Watt Bequest	645	0	0			645
Margaret Robertson's Executry	395					395
Cruikshank & Watt Legacy	513	0	0			513
Chivas Bequest	(177)		0	22		(155)
Evelyn Shield Memorial Fund	217	0	0			217
Sunday Club	694		0	39		733
	42,899	27	604	(36,633)	0	5,689

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Notes to Accounts

2. Movement in Funds (continued):

	At 1st January 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Gain(loss) on Investments	At 31st December 2024
Endowment Funds						
Income Funds:						
FlowerFund	857	20		(20)	81	938
Fabric Fund	26,457	406		(406)	2,495	28,952
Church of Scotland Guild	309	20		(20)	29	338
Organ and Choir	1,166	27		(27)	110	1,276
Trust Funds	3,166	22		(22)	298	3,464
Growth Funds:						
General Fund	2,872	150		(150)	26	2,898
Fabric Fund	7,409	613		(613)	68	7,477
Coal Funds	690	38		(38)	7	697
Guild group	362	7		(7)	3	365
Sunday School	712	39		(39)	7	719
	44,000	1,341	0	(1,341)	3,124	47,124
Total Funds	82,500	74,017	74,994	0	3,124	84,648

Purpose of Restricted Funds:

Guild Fund: Income received from investments held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees

Organ Appeal Fund: The Trustees have raised funds for future repairs to the organ.

Organ & Choir Fund: Income received from investments held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees

Grant Application Fund: The Trustees received a donation for external costs incurred in assembling applications for capital grants.

Income from the [redacted] Fund and the Chivas Bequest is to be used for the purchase of bibles.

Income from the Coal Funds are to be used to provide coal for the poor of Banff

Income from [redacted] bequest is for the use of the Minister

Income from [redacted] Executry and [redacted] is for the general use of the Church

Income from the [redacted] memorial fund is to be used for the young people of the Church

Income from the Sunday Club Fund is to be used for the Sunday School

All other funds shown as restricted have been closed as part of a review by Presbytery.

Purpose of Endowment Funds:

These are self evident from the titles, or from description of equivalent restricted fund, held on the Church's behalf by the Church of Scotland, with interest being received then transferred to the equivalent restricted or unrestricted fund.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Notes to Accounts

3. Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
1. Analysis of Donations					
Non Gift Aid donation (WFO)	4,240			4,240	5,151
Gift Aid Donations	25,186			25,186	25,129
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid donations	7,728			7,728	6,330
Ordinary Offerings (open plate)	4,280			4,280	3,139
Other offerings, donations	3,447			3,447	1,476
	44,881	0	0	44,881	41,225

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024 Notes to Accounts

4. Analysis of Payments	Unre- stricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endow- ment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cost of generating funds					
WFO & Gift Aid Envelopes	122	0	0	122	145
	122	0	0	122	145
Charitable Activities					
Giving to Grow Allocation	14,793	0	0	14,793	32,136
Presbytery Dues	1,684	0	0	1,684	502
Minister's Expenses	425	0	0	425	206
Manse Council Tax	4,082	0	0	4,082	1,344
Other Manse costs	0	0	0	0	310
Pulpit Supply	4,731	0	0	4,731	3,115
Staffing Costs	24,776	0	0	24,776	31,484
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance, (inc. prof fees)	5,172	0	0	5,172	2,012
Heat and light	7,920	0	0	7,920	2,684
Insurance	5,282	0	0	5,282	5,299
Organ & Music (inc. payment to organists)	0	604	0	604	215
Tele, Printing, Stationery & Postage	2,880	0	0	2,880	2,990
Honoraria	100	0	0	100	100
IT Equipment	579	0	0	579	0
Cost of Mission, Licences and Other Expenses	1,844	0	0	1,844	1,456
	74,268	604	0	74,872	83,853
Governance costs					
Independent Examiner's Fee	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Total	74,390	604	0	74,994	83,998

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2023 Notes to Accounts

5. Ministers' 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 fifth and subsequent years) £38,884.

6. Fabric Spend

Routine maintenance and repairs expenditure is drawn from Fabric Fund. Major repair or improvement programmes are likely to be funded from a mix of grants, funds drawn down from monies held on the Church's behalf by the General Trustees, and fundraising activities.

6. Collections for Third Parties

Collections For Third Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
Earl Haig Fund	238	241
Children's Hospices across Scotland (CHAS)		132
DEC Earthquake		341
Raised in year	<u>238</u>	<u>714</u>

Funds are generally remitted to charities in the following year - however, in 2024 £1,221 was paid out -£582 from 2023 and £639 from earlier years.

Banff Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Trustees Annual Report for Year Ended 31st December 2024

APPENDIX

FUNDS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION BY THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL TRUSTEES

CONSOLIDATED FABRIC FUND

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2024 £	2023 £
Credit balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>78,306</u>	<u>78,306</u>
Market value of balances at 31 December	<u>100,322</u>	<u>97,038</u>
REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Balance at 31 December	<u>1,793</u>	<u>11,338</u>