

The Church of Scotland
Edinburgh and West Lothian
St John's Colinton Mains Parish Church

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

Year to 31 December 2024

Congregation No: 010096

Charity No: SC015982

Trustees Annual Report

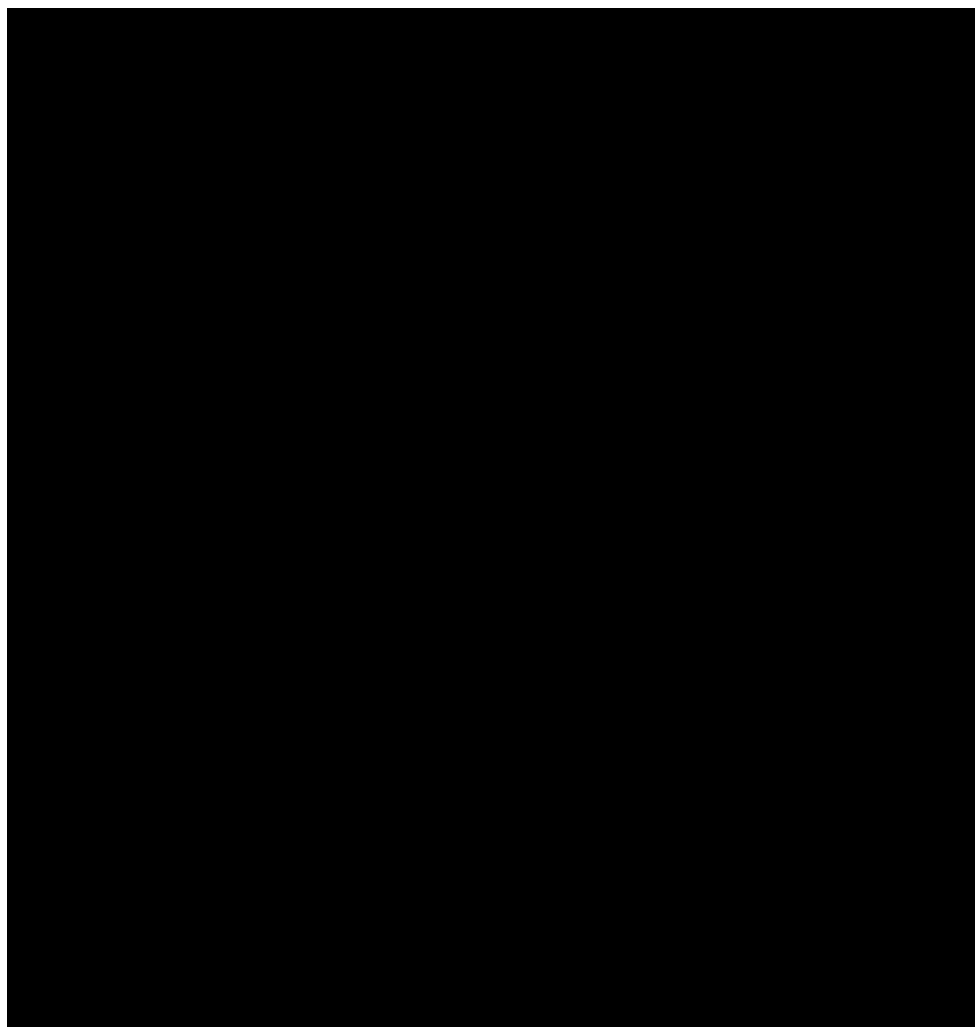
Year Ended 31 December 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Edinburgh and West Lothian: St John's Colinton Mains Church of Scotland

Charity Registration Number: SC015982

Congregation Reference No: 010096



Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC
239 St John's Road
Edinburgh

Edinburgh St John's Colinton Mains Church is a united congregation formed from the two former congregations of Colinton Mains and St John's Oxbgangs. The congregation is led by the Rev [REDACTED]. The congregation operates under a Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) whereby control of the affairs of the congregation, both spiritual and temporal, are vested in the Kirk Session.

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 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 chairs the Kirk Session meetings.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session, which meets regularly throughout the year, is responsible for the spiritual and temporal affairs within the church.

To enable our **Vision and Mission Priorities** to be fully addressed, our **Mission Steering Group** considers all aspects of our Vision, Mission and Strategy from a spiritual leadership aspect. This Group is responsible to, and reports back to, the Kirk Session on a regular basis and identifies opportunities for Growing our church - upward, inward and outward looking. The Remit of the Mission Steering Group includes Discipleship, Worship, Pastoral Care, Fellowship and Community Links. Communication activities, including our website, correspondence, other leaflets and publications cover all the above Mission activities. The existing responsibilities for Stewardship, Finance, Fabric and Social will continue as before through separate working groups.

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.

Our Vision

Our congregational vision for our church is as follows:

Our Goal Is Growing

Growing in love for God, each other and our neighbour

Growing in Love for God

Our goal is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We seek to know and understand the truth contained in the Bible and grow in dependence on Him.

Growing in love for each other

Our goal is for our own lives to reflect the character of Christ. We seek to grow in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience with one another as we unite in our love for Him.

Growing in love for our neighbour

Our goal is not only to 'grow up' and 'grow in' but also to 'grow out'. We seek to have an effect on the community in which we live so that the lives of others will be touched by the Good News of the Gospel.

We want every aspect of our church life to reflect our vision statement, recognising that, although we aspire to spiritual growth, only God can produce fruit in our Church life and witness.

Review of 2024

Throughout 2024 we have established a very full church diary with a range of activities, in addition to worship services, including Bible study, in-person and online prayer meetings, social and fellowship events and other activities. We have been greatly encouraged by a continued increase in the numbers of new people attending worship services, and this is supported by streaming the services live online through Facebook for those who cannot attend church. This **Trustees Report** gives more information on these mission opportunities and activities.

One continuing feature of the church year in 2024 was the focus on the development of the **Presbytery Mission Plan** ("the Plan"). Following the decision by the Deployment Committee ("DC") that our church would no longer form part of the discussions with three other local churches, we had meetings with the DC representatives to explore together how things might move forward and we provided information arising from our elders' away-day discussions that were well received by the DC. It was agreed that we would work together to find an appropriate way forward over the months ahead. We have focused on developing our Mission narrative for our church, and continued to develop the good relationships we have already established with other local churches.

We held an **elders' away day** in the Spring of 2024, with a focus on the Presbytery Planning process, and Discipleship. This was well attended and provided an opportunity to explore and consider many aspects of both of these very relevant topics. The outcomes were

summarised and have been applied in our on-going consideration of both these areas of church life and witness. The away-day finished with sharing the communion elements.

Our proposed **property development** has now reached the stage of finalising a tender specification and update of project cost estimates and funding availability. The tender documents have been issued to potential contractors. The property redevelopment has been approved by our Kirk Session, and the Presbytery Property Committee and General Trustees have considered the plans and our final updated Business Plan for the project, with final approval being sought by Presbytery in February 2025 for the redevelopment project.

The development programme anticipates that construction activity on the site may start after Easter in 2025. The whole site will thereafter not be accessible for the duration of the construction and development contract. We are actively looking at an alternative local venue for our Sunday morning worship services and our Little Steps toddler group. The organisations that use our halls regularly have been informed of the proposed closure dates and they are making alternative arrangements for their organisations to meet. The congregation is being kept up to date on these developments, and a congregational meeting is arranged in early February 2025 to share more information with the congregation.

Achievements and performance

We have continued to respond to the many opportunities we see, as well as challenges we face, with the aim of continuing to provide a spiritual and pastoral presence in our community. We comment below in more detail on the different developments in 2024.

Worship

Our regular Sunday morning worship services continue in person, and we also use enhanced online technology to stream these services live (and available as recordings) using Facebook. This enabled those who cannot attend church to have access to our worship services. Our children's groups (Transformers and Creche) meet each Sunday morning where they join the first part of the service in church, then meet separately for relevant Bible stories, reflections and related activities. Transmission (our teenagers' group) meets regularly on a Sunday evening. We have continued to invest in our sound and visual systems in church. The praise band and singers lead the praise each week.

We have **monthly evening gatherings** which provide an opportunity for evening worship, praise, discussion on different topics and a time of fellowship. Every second month we share communion as part of this gathering time and, taken with Sunday morning communions during the year, this enables us to celebrate communion once a month during the year.

Mission and Discipleship

The **Mission Steering Group** has continued to meet online to consider how we can respond to and develop the spiritual aspects of church life and witness, and identify different opportunities for the church's presence in our community to grow and seek to serve and respond to our community's needs.

Regular **prayer meetings** are held online, and there is a twice-monthly morning prayer meeting in church for those who prefer in-person prayer time. We also have a time of prayer on a Sunday morning before worship.

We ran a **Sunday evening prayer course** in the early part of the year, which was both popular and very well attended.

The three **Bible study groups** have continued to meet either online or in person and these are open to everyone. These groups are well attended and focus on Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

We ran a three-week **Hope Explored** course in the Autumn, which was an informal course exploring three aspects of what Jesus can offer: Hope, Peace and Purpose. The response to this course was very positive.

We are also running over the Winter months **The Bible Course**, created by the Bible Society, comprising eight sessions that are interactive, with sections on teaching (with short videos), discussion time and personal reflection. The course has been well attended and the materials and presentations have been very effective.

Volunteers have continued throughout the year to work regularly with the **Bethany Care Van** taking soup, rolls, fruit and hot drinks to the homeless in the city centre. Members of the congregation, are also involved with the **Street Pastor** teams in Edinburgh.

Our **Baby & Toddler Group, "Little Steps"** is an outreach initiative designed to meet the needs of young families in our community. We want to encourage parents, carers and young children to come along, share in the fun and get to know each other as well as ourselves. As we build relationships, it provides opportunities for us to support young families and also to introduce the good news of Jesus to those with little or no church connection. **Little Steps** meets weekly in term time and currently has around 30 children registered. A nativity service for Little Steps families was held in December, and it is encouraging that families from Little Steps have attended our services around Christmas and our congregational lunch in the summer.

We host a summer **Holiday Club** every year in conjunction with **Scripture Union** and other local churches. This attracts a large number of primary school age children for a week of fun activities, and always with a focus on God's love and care for them.

The Church premises are regularly used by **Scripture Union**, **The Cheyne Gang**, and **Gamblers' Anonymous**. In addition, many **youth organisations** use the halls during the week, including BBs, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.

We have provided ongoing support through prayer and other activities to help deserving causes in the following ways:

- Our **harvest thanksgiving donations** of foodstuffs enabled us, working with other groups, to help support families in need within our community and our city;

- We continue to support the ***Link to Hope*** shoebox appeal with filled shoeboxes containing Christmas gifts and essential items being delivered to countries in Eastern Europe just before Christmas;
- The **Christmas gifts appeal** this year was very well supported, with gifts for women and children given to families supported by The Salvation Army, and other gifts were given to adult residents at Cunningham House;
- Our **Christmas appeals** in 2024 focused on raising funds for the **Bethany Welcome Centre**, which provides emergency accommodation and support for those who would otherwise be sleeping rough in Edinburgh, and **Comfort International**, an organisation that works with partners in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and other central African countries to bring lasting change and transformation to peoples' lives and communities in a whole range of areas. Our Little Steps toddler group separately raised £600 towards the Bethany Welcome Centre, an incredibly generous response to these appeals;
- The **Christmas Eve retiral offering** was for **Tearfund** in support of the Disasters Emergency Appeal in the Middle East covering Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank.

There has been regular communication to our church fellowship either by email or letter correspondence keeping them updated on relevant matters relating to our church life and events, how we are trying to reach out to our local community, and the different ways in which we can support them.

Community engagement

We are currently carrying out a community engagement review, which is a significant opportunity to understand more fully the wider needs within our local community, the different community organisations that seek to provide support, help and encouragement to the people who live here, and how these organisations respond to the challenges and opportunities they face daily.

We also want to understand and appreciate more clearly how we, as a local church fellowship, can respond, provide support, and become more involved in those areas where there may be mutual interests and benefits. This will help us as we develop our mission priorities, with a more outward-focused view on how we can be involved in different ways within our community and try and make a difference to people's lives.

Fellowship and Pastoral care

Our Pastoral care team has been focusing on how we can pastorally support our church fellowship, particularly those who are older, living on their own or lonely. We continue to respond in different ways to offer support, including:

- Regular contact through home visits by elders and church visitors;
- Regular contact by email or letter keeping people up to date on relevant developments and activities in church life;
- Offering help and support to those who need that help in many practical ways e.g. in shopping, arranging lifts or in other ways;

- Christmas gift bags containing a range of different Christmas treats were handed out before Christmas to around fifty of the more lonely or isolated members of our church fellowship;
- We held a light lunch and carol service in December for people in our fellowship, as well as some who reside in a sheltered housing complex in the parish. The response was very encouraging;
- We held a congregational lunch after the family service in June, which was a celebration of our church year and all that has been achieved.

Relationships with the wider church

We have continued our relationships with St. Cuthbert's church through sharing monthly worship services in two local care homes, as well as working as part of the team leading the SU group in one of the local primary schools. In addition, we have continued our relationship with Oxfangs Community Church with the intention of having a joint worship service with them in 2025.

Stewardship

As part of our regular communication with our church fellowship, we encourage everyone about the importance of supporting our church, both financially and in service. We continue to face a time of uncertainty and financial challenges, particularly acute with the cost of living and inflation impact on families. Our offering income for 2024 shows a small decrease in our giving compared with 2023, and we continue to monitor this situation regularly. In 2025 with the likely closure of our buildings for redevelopment, we are actively considering the potential impact that may have on our congregation, our sustainable income levels and the various one-off costs that may arise during the time the buildings are closed.

Financial Review

The Church's principal source of income remains offerings, Gift Aid and other donations, which totalled £74,247, an encouraging increase of 4.6% on last year. Total income was £105,973, which included £28,443 received from the Fabric fund held on our behalf by The Church of Scotland General Trustees, in reimbursement of building and property costs, and £2,283 recovery of VAT incurred on these items. Total expenditure was £99,268 which included £27,261 in respect of our Property Development Project, and the year ended with a surplus of £6,705.

We are blessed by the continued faithful giving and support, and by a significant amount of work undertaken on a voluntary basis by so many in all aspects of our church life, and we express our grateful thanks to them all. In the current circumstances, we do face financial challenges but we consider that our finances are adequate to meet our commitments in the year ahead.

Reserves Policy

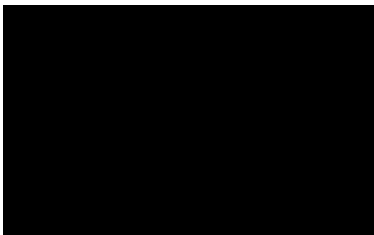
It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that the underlying finances are secure and closely monitored. As at the year end the church held unrestricted cash funds of £174,011. Given the age of the church buildings, these reserves are not considered in any way excessive and provide

a measure of financial security should unplanned fabric expense be incurred or a down turn in congregational giving be experienced. There are also Fabric Capital and Fabric Revenue accounts held on behalf of the Congregation by The Church of Scotland General Trustees, as shown in the Appendix, to which application can be made to finance major fabric expenditure.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session 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 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 by:



Session Clerk

3 March 2025

St John's Colinton Mains Church
SC 015982

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John's Colinton Mains Church

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

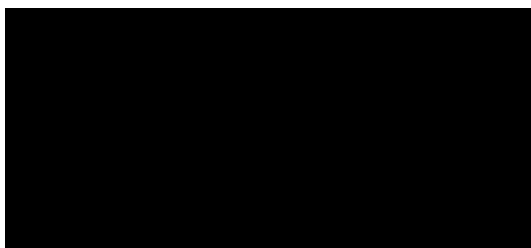
Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 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.



Date: 8 March 2025

St John's Colinton Mains Church
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>	Note	£	£	£	£
Donations	3	66278		66278	66471
Legacies		2000		2000	500
Activities for Generating Funds					
Bank & Deposit interest					
Investment income		5969		5969	4012
		<u>74247</u>		<u>74247</u>	<u>70983</u>
Rental of premises					
Sale of assets					
Sale of investments					
Grants		1000		1000	500
Receipts from General Trustees		28443		28443	44306
Other Receipts – VAT reclaim		2283		2283	1449
Insurance claim					3525
<u>Total Receipts</u>		<u>105973</u>		<u>105973</u>	<u>120763</u>
<u>Payments</u>	4				
Costs of generating funds		320		320	320
Charitable activities		71687		71687	74163
Other payments		27261		27261	24047
<u>Total Payments</u>		<u>99268</u>		<u>99268</u>	<u>98530</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		6705		6705	22233
Transfers					
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		<u>6705</u>		<u>6705</u>	<u>22233</u>

**St John's Colinton Mains
Church
Statement of Balances**

At 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Bank & Deposit Balances</u>					
Bank & deposit balances brought forward		166626	2123	168749	146516
Movement in year:		6705		6705	22233
Projects Fund transferred		680	(680)		
Bank & deposit balances carried forward		<u>174011</u>	<u>1443</u>	<u>175454</u>	<u>168749</u>
<u>Investments at market Value</u>					
<u>Assets</u>					
<u>Liabilities</u>					

These accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 3 March 2025

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session



Session Clerk

Treasurer

St John's Colinton Mains Church
Notes to the Accounts

1.Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year 2024 the [REDACTED] received Minister's Travel Expenses of £960. The church met the cost of Council Tax charges of £3738.

No trustee or 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 £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	127922	101958	99268	130612
Legacy Fund	38704	4015		42719
Transfer from Restricted funds		680		680
	<u>166626</u>	<u>106653</u>	<u>99268</u>	<u>174011</u>
Restricted funds				
Jack White Grounds Fund	143			143
Projects Fund	680		680	
Flower Fund	400			400
Benevolent Fund	900			900
	<u>2123</u>		<u>680</u>	<u>1443</u>
Endowment funds				
Total funds	<u>168749</u>	<u>106653</u>	<u>99948</u>	<u>175454</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Jack White Grounds Fund: This is a fund to assist with the cost of upkeep of the church grounds.

Projects Fund: This fund, having served its purpose, was closed during the year and the remaining balance transferred to the General Fund.

Flower Fund: This is a fund to provide flowers for display during services of worship.

Benevolent Fund: This is a fund, used at the discretion of the Minister and Kirk Session, to assist those suffering financial hardship.

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3 Analysis of Donations					
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	8484			8484	10200
Gift Aid Donations	38598			38598	37642
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	11853			11853	10858
Open Plate Offerings	1209			1209	1497
Other Offerings, Donations etc	6134			6134	6274
	<u>66278</u>			<u>66278</u>	<u>66471</u>
4 Analysis of Payments					
Costs of generating funds					
Offering envelopes	320			320	320
	<u>320</u>			<u>320</u>	<u>320</u>
Charitable activities					
Giving to Grow allocation	36183			36183	33519
Presbytery dues	712			712	587
Fellowship	1134			1134	956
Minister's travel	960			960	960
Outreach	894			894	523
Pulpit supply	500			500	360
Christian Education	588			588	376
Fabric repairs & maintenance	14571			14571	19203
Council Tax	3738			3738	3655
Heat and light	5403			5403	3421
Insurance	2411			2411	2341
Technical equipment	228			228	3325
Church telecoms	1142			1142	1117
Worship & copyright	1900			1900	1958
Printing & postage	388			388	402
Other expenses	935			935	1460
	<u>71687</u>			<u>71687</u>	<u>74163</u>
Governance costs					
Independent examiner's fees					
Other payments					
Property development project	27261			27261	24047
	<u>27261</u>			<u>27261</u>	<u>24047</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 fifth and subsequent years of service) £38,884.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
6. Collections for Third Parties		
Poppy Scotland	45	135
Comfort International	135	356
Scripture Union Scotland EsTeam project	500	500
Tearfund Appeal	490	
SASRA	320	
Bethany Christian Trust	<u>135</u>	<u>403</u>
	<u>1625</u>	<u>1394</u>

APPENDIX

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT (II)</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>1,526,182</u>	<u>1,526,182</u>
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	<u>1,779,820</u>	<u>1,684,855</u>
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	<u>222,461</u>	<u>183,192</u>

Notes

Capital Account (II) above includes the balance of the proceeds of sale of the former St John's Oxfangs church building and hall, received in July 2016, plus the net proceeds from the sale of the former manse at 17 Swanston Green Edinburgh.