

Scottish Charity No. SC016070



Elgin Free Church of Scotland
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Reference and administration details

Charity Name: Elgin Free Church of Scotland

Registered charity number: SC016070

Charity's principal address:



Names of charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. |  | Treasurer |
| 2. |  | Trustee |
| 3. |  | Trustee |

Each person named above has acted as a trustee for the full period of this report.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|
| 4. |  | |
| 5. |  | |
| 6. |  | trustees since April 2024. |

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Deed of Constitution of the Commission of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

Aims and Affiliation

The Free Church of Scotland has more than 100 congregations in Scotland, as well as one in London and three in North America, and sister Churches founded by mission work in India, Peru and South Africa. The Church also has a full time degree awarding college in the heart of Edinburgh for the training of Ministers and other Christian workers and sustains an extensive Missionary programme relative to the size of the church.

Dating from 1843 but with its roots in the Reformation, it owes its distinctive title to its historical struggle to remain 'free' from state interference in its internal affairs. It has close and active relations with many other Reformed churches of Jesus Christ throughout the world and stands firmly in the tradition which accepts the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God and, therefore, derives its forms of teaching, worship, ministry and government from it. The main emphasis of our worship is the preaching of the gospel - the good news of a free and sovereign salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

The Free Church of Scotland is a Presbyterian church adhering in its worship and doctrine to the position of the Church of Scotland at the Reformation. There is an explanatory document which explains the origins of the Church and which gives the historical background to the Church coming into being in 1843 and lists documents in which is embodied its constitution.

Elgin Free Church of Scotland is a congregation of the national Free Church of Scotland working towards the common aims set out above. The congregation is within the Inverness, Ross and Lochaber Presbytery and is authorised by the Church to have a minister paid from the central funds of the Church. The Church building, halls and Church Manse are the property of the congregation and are held in trust by locally elected congregational trustees.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The Finance Committee exercises its discretion in determining the most appropriate method of electing new trustees. Any election must involve the communicant membership of the congregation. There is no fixed term for Trusteeship. Prior to their appointment, new trustees would have served the church for some time in various roles and would be familiar with the church's values, its aims and objectives as well as its day-to-day operations. As part of their induction programme, new Trustees are required to understand their statutory responsibilities.

Objectives and activities

Charitable Purposes

The advancement of religion.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives

During the year, the church met regularly for worship and carried out various activities in pursuit of the above stated aims. Church services continue to be broadcast on-line with the use of social media allowing members and adherents to worship together. The congregation continued its commitment to support the National Free Church of Scotland both spiritually and financially.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period:

1. Provided ministry for children.
2. Provided ministry for women.
3. Provided ministry for men.
4. Provided ministry for young adults.
5. Provided pastoral and outreach ministry.
6. Conducted funerals.
7. Provided craft events.

Financial review

Reserves – Results for the year

Now that Elgin Free Church of Scotland have linked with Burghead Free Church of Scotland both congregations share a minister and each congregation contributes to the stipend for the minister. This has allowed Elgin Free Church to build up some reserves, allowing the trustees to plan for the future. Both congregations also share an assistant minister, a missionary from U.S.A who is financed by his home congregation in St Louis, Missouri. Each church remains a separate financial entity with separate Finance Committees.

As a result, there was surplus for the year of £24,055 with church held funds amounting to £34,966 at the year end. That consisted of the General Fund having a surplus amounting to £26,648 and the Fabric Fund Account (Restricted) a surplus of £47. The Designated Fund (Restricted)(Charitable Donations) was closed with the funds being donated to charity in 2023.

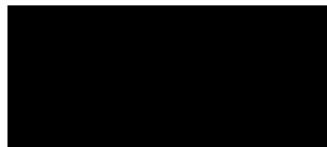
The trustees are satisfied with the level of reserves retained by the charity.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees

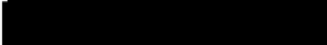
Signature:



Date:

14-2-25

Full Name:



Position:

Treasurer/ Clerk to Finance Committee

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

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 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 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 accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave 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.

Signature: 

Qualification: Independent Examiner

Date: 14/02/25

Elgin Free Church of Scotland
Report of the Trustees

Receipts and Payments Account

As at 31.12.24

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total	Total
	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
	Fund	Fund	Fund		
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Envelope Scheme	23,905			23,905	19,397
Income Tax Recovered	6,143			6,143	5,806
Sunday School Collections				0	0
Church Door Collections	3,056			3,056	6,766
Donations	9,379		0	9,379	5,436
Transfer from General Fund			0		0
Church Worker Donations				0	0
Charity Aid Donations				0	0
Rent	955			955	368
Magazine sales, etc	0			0	0
Interest Received	0			0	132
Reimbursements: Tuesday Club	0			0	172
Other Income (included above) - See Note 7	245			245	1,920
Total Receipts	43,682.31	0	0	43,682	39,996
Payments					
<i>Payments for charitable activities</i>					
Head Office Remittances	6,000			6,000	12,780
Other Head Office Payments	148			148	29
Presbytery Levies	906			906	0
Minister's Expenses	2,178			2,178	183
Church Heat & Light	1,189			1,189	2,243
Manse Heat & Light	1,094			1,094	1,029
Gas	1,373			1,373	4,694
Internet	495			495	360
Council Tax	816			816	2,483
Insurance	2,080			2,080	2,406
Transfer to Fabric Fund	0			0	1,916
Church Repairs	0		1,029	1,029	840
Manse Repairs			1,564	1,564	0
Printing/Media	0			0	208
Charitable Donations	150	0		150	450
Supply Expenses	32			32	60
Magazines	54			54	54
Presentations	178			178	2,080
Outreach Expenses	343			343	122
Equipment	0			0	157
Communion Expenses	0			0	0
Total Payments	17,034.09	0	2,593	19,628	32,094
Surplus for the year	26,648	0	-2,593	24,055	-2,329
Transfers		0			
Net movement in funds after transfers	26,648	0	-2,593	24,055	-2,329
Total funds brought forward	8,272	0	2,640	10,912	5,338
Total funds carried forward	34,920	0	47	34,966	3,010

Elgin Free Church of Scotland
Report of the Trustees

Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Bank & Cash in hand			
Opening Balance		10,912	3,010
Surplus /(Deficit) for the year		24,055	-7,902
Transferred Funds		0	
Closing balances		34,966	3,009

Total of monetary assets held

34,966 3,009

Reserves

Unrestricted funds		34,920	8,272
Designated funds		0	0
Restricted funds		47	2,640
		34,966	10,912

Funds held by central offices

Endowment	2	2,809	2,475
Legacy		32,255	0
All held by General Fund		35,064	2,475

Statement of Assets held for Charitable Purposes

Church		1,696,000	1,696,000
Manse		300,000	300,000
Sub total:		1,996,000	1,996,000
Less:			
Outstanding loans		0	0
Total:		1,996,000	1,996,000

Statement of liabilities as 31 December 2024

Invoices due for payment		0	0
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Approved by the Trustees on

14-02-25

and signed on their behalf by the undernoted

Trustee / Treasurer

Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Investments

Investments are noted in paragraph 2 below and are shown at market value.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments Account as shown on page 6, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds: comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the church without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds: represent restricted funds which have been earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes and currently being used as Training Fund to support the Trainee Minister.

Restricted funds: comprise income which has been received for the objects of the church and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

2 Investments held at Market Value

	2024	2023
	£	£
Congregational Endowment	2809	2475
Legacy	32255	22500
Total investments held by Edinburgh.	35064	2475

3 Transactions by Trustees

There were no transactions with trustees during the year.

4 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance 01.01.24	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
General Fund	8,272	43,532	16,884	
Grants Paid:				
Steadfast Global		150	150	
Total unrestricted funds	8,272	43,682	17,034	34,920

5 Restricted Funds

	Balance 01.01.24	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Fabric Fund	2,640	0	2,593	
Total restricted funds	2,640	0	2,593	47

Elgin Free Church of Scotland

Report of the Trustees

6 Designated Funds	Balance 01.01.24 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance 31.12.24 £
Charitable Donations Fund	0.00	0.00		
		0.00		
Total designated funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Restricted Fund - represents gifts received specifically for the Fabric Fund

Designated Account - represents a fund for charitable donations.

7 Rounding

There are minor discrepancies in some of the figures shown due to 'rounding' (i.e. omitting pence)

8 Other Income General Fund	£	Other Income Restricted Funds	£
External users rent	955		
Donation Burchhead Free Church	0		
	955		0

9 Additional Notes

Legacy monies from late Rev Alexander Fraser of £22,500 (23.08.23) plus additional sum of £8410.52 (currently £32,255 including interest) - monies held by Edinburgh for Elgin Free Church

The Designated Fund is currently closed.

