

The Church of Scotland

Thurso St Peter's & St Andrew's

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Congregation No: 412285

Charity No: SC 016691

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's Church of Scotland

Charity Registration Number: SC016691

Congregation Reference No: 412285

Contact Address:



Trustees

See attached Schedule

Principal Office-bearers

Minister:



Session Clerk:

Church Treasurer:

Independent Examiner



Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland,
Olrig Street,
Thurso

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 (Unitary Form). Previously the Church was administered under a traditional Deed of Constitution which required a Kirk Session and a Congregational Board. On 21st May 2015, the new Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) was signed by the Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland and on that date the Congregational Board was disbanded.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Kirk Session are the charity trustees. Previously members of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board were 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 Kirk Session is responsible for all material as well as spiritual matters working through six teams: Finance, Property, Pastoral, Hospitality, Outreach and Ministry. The members of the teams are drawn from the eldership, former members of the Congregational Board and other members of the congregation with the necessary gifts and skills.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session is chaired by the minister and meets four times in a year, with additional meetings as required.

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.

The vision of the congregation of Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's is to serve God in His church and, through Him, the community. Public worship on Sunday is the key activity of the church, with morning services being held and live streamed and evening services held once a month. Organisations within and affiliated to the congregation include the Sunday School, Ladies Bible Study, Bible Study / Fellowship Groups, and midweek Prayer Meeting. The church provides a twice weekly Community Warm Space, a weekly Mother & Toddler group and periodically runs courses for those interested in finding out about the Christian faith (Alpha and Youth Alpha course).

Trustees' Annual Report (cont)

Year ended 31 December 2024

Achievements and Performance

Church membership at the end of the year was 108. There are a further 100 adherents. Six baptisms, eight weddings and sixty-nine funerals were conducted by the Minister during the year.

Church Sunday worship was conducted all year, with services being livestreamed to the Church Facebook page and evening services being reintroduced once a month. Weekly prayer meetings and bible studies, as well as fellowship groups, were held. A Warm Space re-started in the autumn to support those in the local community impacted by fuel poverty etc. In addition, Home Start Caithness are using our church to provide a location for people looking after young children to meet in a safe environment with toys to play with and staff to offer help and offer advice.

Financial Review

The attached financial statement shows an excess of payments over receipts of £21,273 for the year to 31 December 2024, compared with an excess of receipts over payments of £302 in the previous year 2023. Total receipts for the year amounted to £51,939 (2023 £55,613). The principal recurrent source of income is offerings / donations amounting to £50,520 in the period (2023 £49,984).

Total payments amounted to £73,212 (2023 £55,311).

Overall, there was an excess of payments over receipts of £7,694 on unrestricted fund for the period. This position was in part caused by ongoing issues with the Church utilities bills leading to an overpayment for 2024. It is assessed that the overpayment explains £4,615 of the unrestricted loss. Resolution of the overpayment position will benefit the 2025 financial year.

There was also an excess of payments over receipts of £13,579 on restricted funds. This position was expected and planned reflected the utilisation of the funds held by the General Trustees in a Consolidated Fabric Fund. and are available to the Congregation for fabric purposes. The fabric expenditure included the installation of a new gas boiler in the church building.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to rebuild appropriate reserves. This is medium to long term aspiration. The short-term objective is to balance total receipts with total payments.

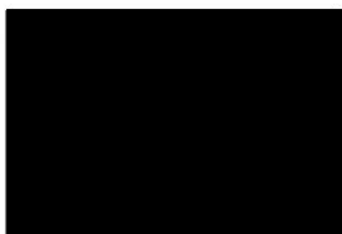
At 31st December 2024 the total reserves amounted to £33,540, of which £27,671 were unrestricted and £5,869 restricted.

Trustees' Annual Report (cont)
Year ended 31 December 2024

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 as amended by the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2012. 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.

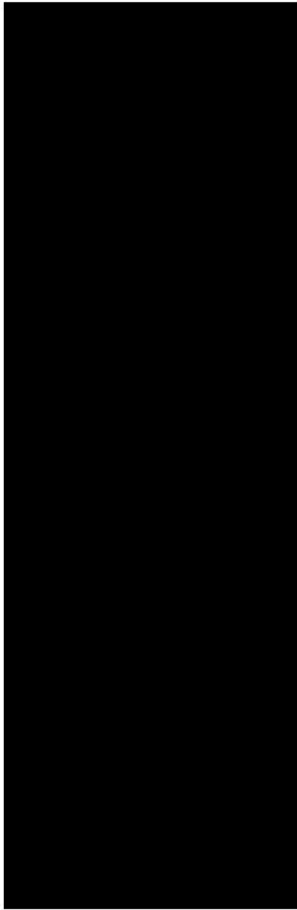
Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Date 18th May 2025

SCHEDULE OF TRUSTEES

1. ELDERS



Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's Church
SC 016691

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's Church

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31ST December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

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 our responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us 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 our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Address:

Date:

Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's Church

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	3	50,520	-	-	50,520	49,984
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Activities for Generating Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Bank & Deposit interest		626	673	-	1,299	1,027
Investment income		-	-	-	-	-
The Guild		-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Club		-	-	-	-	-
		51,146	673	-	51,819	51,011
Grants		-	-	-	-	3,744
Other Receipts	5	120	-	-	120	858
<u>Total Receipts</u>		51,266	673	-	51,939	55,613
<u>Payments</u>						
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	58,960	14,252	-	73,212	55,311
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	-
The Guild		-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Club		-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total Payments</u>		58,960	14,252	-	73,212	55,311
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		(7,694)	(13,579)	-	(21,273)	302
Transfers						
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(7,694)	(13,579)	-	(21,273)	302

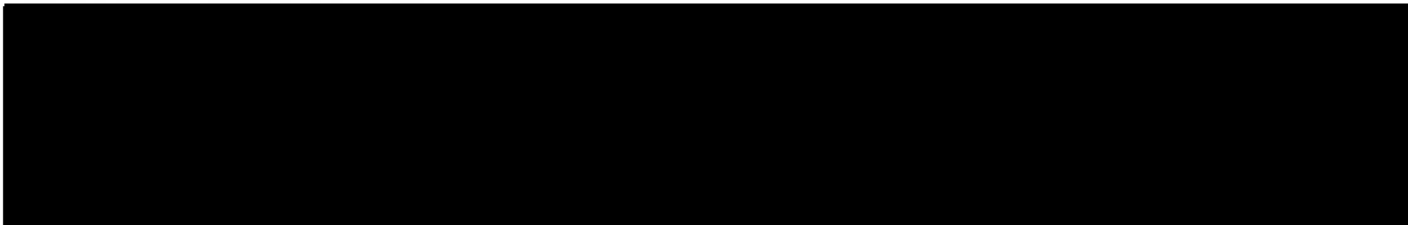
**Thurso St Peter's and St
Andrew's Church**
Statement of Balances

At 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Bank & Deposit Balances</u>					
Bank & deposit balances brought forward	35,365	19,448	-	54,813	54,511
Movement in year:					
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	(7,694)	(13,579)	-	(21,273)	302
Transfers			-	-	-
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	<u>27,671</u>	<u>5,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,540</u>	<u>54,813</u>
<u>Assets</u>					
Gift Aid Receivable (estimated)				-	-
<u>Liabilities</u>					
	-	-	-	-	-

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 18th May 2025.

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session



Thurso St Peter's and St Andrew's Church

Notes to the Accounts

1 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year three (3) trustees received reimbursement of expenditure incurred totalling £610.

No remuneration was paid to the trustees.

2 Movements in Funds

	At 1 January				At 31 Dec
	2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
Designated Fabric Fund	1,574	-	-	-	1,574
Designated Sunday Club Fund	28	-	-	-	28
General Fund	33,763	51,266	(58,960)	-	26,069
	<u>35,365</u>	<u>51,266</u>	<u>(58,960)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,671</u>
Restricted funds					
Consolidated Fabric Fund	16,809	673	(14,252)	-	3,230
Church Trust Fund	2,639	-	-	-	2,639
	<u>19,448</u>	<u>673</u>	<u>(14,252)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,869</u>
Total funds	<u>54,813</u>	<u>51,939</u>	<u>(73,212)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,540</u>

Purposes of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund: The Congregation's policy for fabric expenditure is that normal repairs and maintenance are met from the General account whilst major fabric work is defrayed from this fund.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Church Trust Fund: For many years, the interest earned from the bank deposit representing this fund was transferred to the Fabric Fund. However, having taken appropriate advice part of this fund was used to finance the renovation and extension at the Manse.

Consolidated Fabric Fund: During 2020, the Church Manse was sold and a replacement manse purchased. The surplus funds are held by the General Trustees in a Consolidated Fabric Fund and are available to the Congregation to fund fabric expenditure.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Analysis of Donations					
FWO Scheme (non-Gift Aid)	9,240	-	-	9,240	8,015
Gift Aid Donations	21,060	-	-	21,060	21,060
Tax Recovered	7,463	-	-	7,463	8,134
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	12,307	-	-	12,307	12,555
Other Offerings, Donations etc	450	-	-	450	120
Weddings & Funeral Fees	-	-	-	-	100
	50,520	-	-	50,520	49,984

4 Analysis of Payments

Costs of generating funds

Offering envelopes	-	-	-	-	-
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Charitable activities

Ministries & Mission allocation	31,934	-	-	31,934	29,909
Presbytery dues	135	-	-	135	1,338
Ministry expenses	1,885	-	-	1,885	1,512
Pulpit supply	125	-	-	125	-
Other staffing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric repairs & maintenance	557	14,252	-	14,809	8,767
Congregational Organisations	-	-	-	-	-
Heat and light	14,093	-	-	14,093	4,030
Water Charges & Insurance	4,922	-	-	4,922	4,691
Manse upkeep and restoration	1,783	-	-	1,783	2,002
Council Tax	2,538	-	-	2,538	2,479
Printing, stationery, and postage	59	-	-	59	-
Other expenses	929	-	-	929	583
	58,960	14,252	-	73,212	55,311

5 Consolidated Fabric Fund

During 2020, the Church manse was sold and a replacement manse purchased. The surplus funds generated are held by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and invested in the Consolidated Fabric Fund on behalf of the Congregation. During the year a total of £14,252 was utilised, with Kirk Session and Presbytery approval, for fabric purposes including the replacement of the church boiler.

At 31st December 2024 the remaining funds held by the General Trustees amounted to £3,230.

6 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 2024 the minimum stipend was £31,642 and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years of service) £38,884.

7 Collections for Third Parties

A total of £673 was collected at Christmas services towards the Caithness FM Toy Appeal. These funds are not included in the 2024 accounts.