

**The Church of Scotland**

**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**



**Trustees' Report  
and  
Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Congregation No: 281683**

**Scottish Charity Number: SC016829**

**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Trustees' Report</b>	<b>3 - 12</b>
<b>Report of the Independent Examiner</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Accounting Policies</b>	<b>16 - 17</b>
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	<b>18 - 26</b>

## **Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**

### **Year Ended 31 December 2024**

#### **Trustees' Annual Report**

The Trustees present the annual report and financial statements of Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies as detailed on pages 16 and 17 and 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) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective from 1 January 2019".

#### **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.

Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland ("the Church") is a parish church. It is the amalgam of four former Church of Scotland congregations (Bridgend Church, Middle Church, West Church and Wilson Church). The pastoral work of the congregation is carried out partly by the Pastoral Care team and members of the Kirk Session and congregation.

The Church utilises three buildings all of which are owned by the Church:-

- The Church Sanctuary – used for worship and other pastoral services, including weddings and funerals and also concerts, exhibitions and talks;
- The Church Halls – a suite of hall accommodation which is used for midweek worship, meetings, Church organisational activities and hire to the external community;
- The Manse – the home of the Minister and her family.

At 31 December 2024 the congregational roll of full communicant members totalled 331 (2023 – 341) and there is an additional supplementary roll containing the names of 25 members.

During the year ended 31 December 2024 there were 4 funerals and 1 wedding conducted at St. Matthew's Church.

#### **Worship**

Worship is a primary function of the congregation. Regular services take place each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, with additional services at Christmas. In 2024 services were held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Services have continued to be live streamed on Zoom and available on "YouTube".

The congregation has enjoyed and been challenged by the worship leadership of [REDACTED]

Services during [REDACTED] absences were conducted by members who were retired ministers. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated 3 times during the year at the Sunday service in the sanctuary in the months of February, May and October. The Remembrance Service on Sunday 10 November 2024 was attended by the uniformed organisations affiliated to St Matthew's Church.



**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Objectives and Activities (continued)**

**Worship (continued)**

Worship also takes place in a more informal way. In April 2024 there were Lent meditations each morning of Holy Week and in December 2024 there was a week-long series of Christmas meditations held in the sanctuary, each led by members of the congregation. Throughout most of 2024 there were weekly "Meditations" on a Wednesday morning on Zoom led by members of the congregation.

**Pastoral and Communication**

Members of the Pastoral Care team regularly visited hospitals and care homes where possible. The Pastoral Care team plays a major and important role in keeping in touch with the bereaved, housebound and others in need of pastoral care.

The Magazine Editor compiled a Church Newsletter of which around 250 were distributed monthly during 2024 as a way of communicating with the congregation.

**Church Organisations**

In addition to worship and pastoral care, the Church has a number of groups that provide an opportunity of service and meeting socially within our buildings.

- *The Guild* – as part of the Church of Scotland Guild, one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations, those who attend the Church Guild, which meets fortnightly, aim to fulfil the objectives of invitation, encouragement, commitment and fellowship which lead to providing opportunities for continuing growth in Christian faith. The Guild lives out these objectives through project work, exploration of discussion topics and a wide variety of meetings and other times of fellowship.
- *Boys Breakfast Blether* – once a month there is an open invitation to all men to meet for fellowship and breakfast in the pub/restaurant next door.
- *The Flower Group* – this group organises flowers for Church each week and is also responsible, in conjunction with the Pastoral Care team, for the subsequent distribution of these to members of the congregation after the services. This group also took responsibility for the decoration of the Church at Christmas and for other special services during 2024.
- *The Sunday Coffee Group* – this group operates on a rota basis and has organised the serving of coffee, tea, juice and biscuits to the congregation in the sanctuary after morning services.
- *Catering Team* – this team provides tea, coffee and biscuits and lunches when required to some regular users of the sanctuary and at concerts and events and thus undertakes a ministry of hospitality.
- *Social Group* – in 2024 this group organised social and fellowship events including the annual Burns Supper and Pitlochry Theatre outing.
- *Scottish Country Dance Club* – this group meets on Wednesday evenings from September to April in the main hall and is open to all.
- *Badminton Club* – this group meets on Thursday evenings from September to April in the main hall and is open to all.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland  
Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Objectives and Activities (continued)**

**Church Organisations**

- *Walking Group* – this group meets on a monthly basis for healthy exercise and fellowship and are part of Ramblers UK.
- *Knit and Stitch* – this group meets on a Wednesday afternoon in the cafe area over the summer months and is open to all.
- *Warm Spaces* – this group opens the sanctuary on Wednesday and Friday afternoons during the winter providing fellowship and activities – particularly for people who look for a warm space when heating their own home becomes difficult. Warm Spaces are part of a city-wide initiative with financial support from Perth and Kinross Council. Following the success of the previous year, we once again hosted “Warm Spaces” on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon throughout January, February and March and welcomed 368 people into our “Warm Space”. There were games afternoons with carpet bowls, musical events and a variety of very interesting and informative talks on a diverse range of subjects.
- *Uniformed Organisations* – during the week various uniformed organisations associated with the church meet. These are 22nd Perthshire Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, 20th Perth Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and Riverside Explorer Scout Unit. Approximately 150 young people are involved in these organisations using St Matthew's halls throughout the week. They also took part in our Remembrance Sunday service and took part in the annual Founders and Thinking Day service.

**Contribution to Mission**

The church is part of the wider Church of Scotland and is therefore a part of the wider mission of the national Church.

At a local level the congregation participates in World Mission in a number of ways. Members support the work of, amongst others, Christian Aid and St. Matthew's Church is a member of Perth Action of Churches Together (PACT) and members are involved with various charities as well as supporting Perth & Kinross Foodbank, Christian Aid, Starter Packs, CrossReach, Blythswood Care and Perth Street Pastors.

The retiral offerings at Communion and any special offerings at Christmas and other times are sent to relevant charities and details of these are shown at note 13 to the financial statements.

**Future Mission – Perth City Mission Plan**

The Presbytery Plan for the city of Perth states:

*St Matthew's Church to take on Pastoral responsibility for Parish of St John's Kirk of Perth. To work closely with Perth North Church and St John's Kirk of Perth to minister to the needs of the city centre. For restricted status to be moved to unrestricted.*

*St Matthew's is located near to St John's Kirk of Perth. St Matthew's' parish is to be extended to take on more responsibility for the city centre. Parish boundaries are to be adjusted accordingly. St Matthew's, St John's and Perth North Church to work collaboratively to develop a city centre mission.*

*St Matthew's has benefitted from a major internal refurbishment that has great potential for outreach to the city centre of Perth.*



**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Objectives and Activities (continued)**

**Future Mission – Perth City Mission Plan (continued)**

During 2024 a working group from the three congregations has been working towards A Mission Plan – looking at what others are doing so that we can focus on gaps and not reinvent or duplicate what is already being done. An application is being submitted to the Presbytery for funds to speed up the process by appointing a consultant in the hope of drawing up a plan during 2025.

We have also been looking at ways in which the churches can work together, especially with St John's Kirk, on pastoral responsibility for the city centre.

**Wider Use of Our Buildings**

The church provides a "home" for several wider church groups and local organisations that meet regularly within the building. Most are not related to our immediate parish but our location within the city and the quality of our facilities are attractive to them. The halls were fully refurbished a number of years ago as was the sanctuary in 2016.

St Matthew's has become "home" to the new Presbytery of Perth's regular meetings as it is a central location. Spill the Beans, a group which develops worship resources, regularly enjoys our central Scotland position. The Rock Choir has met weekly for several years and Perth Choral Society also enjoys St Matthew's as its rehearsal venue. Perth U3A, Perth Gaelic Society and RVS meet monthly in St Matthew's and Royal Scottish Country Dance Society meet weekly with weekly Yoga sessions also being held. There are also a number of others who meet regularly.

St Matthew's is developing a reputation as a cultural centre within Perth. The flexibility of the sanctuary and its fine acoustics attract competitions and performances. In 2024 there were concerts by, among others, our own organist [REDACTED] Tayside Big Band and the Bohemians.

The sanctuary was kept open by volunteers on a rota basis from April to June providing guided tours and refreshments to locals and visitors alike.

Once again a volunteer team and the Facilities and Outreach Manager organised a summer festival which included an exhibition of local artists showing their craft, painting, photography and needlework weekly throughout July and August. In 2024 this festival also included a weekly evening concert organised by our own Andy Turnbull. St. Matthew's also took part in the annual Doors Open Day event in September.

Our Facilities and Outreach Manager not only supported the various events but organised other events to ensure that the church opens its doors to a wide range of people. Unfortunately, the weather forced Perth and Kinross Council to cancel the Christmas lights switch on. Tay Street, on which St Matthew's is located, is often used for parades and the church has the opportunity to be part of these events.

The letting of the halls and sanctuary also provides a useful source of finance. While this income still suffers from the effects of the Covid pandemic as certain groups did not restart some new bookings came in 2024 – particularly related to the Presbytery for training and other related meetings.



## **Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

### **Objectives and Activities (continued)**

It is also important to recognise the contribution of everyone whose work for the Church enables it to function. Beyond the work of the Minister whose contributions are already noted in this report, valuable contributions come from those who receive salaries (facilities and outreach manager, caretaker and organist) and the army of other office bearers, members and volunteers who undertake a wide miscellany of work in the life of the Church.

The voluntary contribution to the work is immense but not readily quantifiable in a financial sense.

### **Buildings**

Physical building work to the exterior of the church and halls was started in the autumn of 2024 and will continue until Easter 2025. Maintenance had not been a priority during the Covid years and some remedial work was also required to roofs, walls and steeple. Following the appointment of Tod and Taylor Architects and Morgan Munro, QS in 2023 an application to the General Trustees for grant support resulted in a grant of £170,000 and a loan of £30,000 (which reflect the VAT element and is planned to be repaid through the Government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme). We are very grateful to the General Trustees for their generous support.

The General Trustees also commissioned a survey of the manse at the end of the year.

The Trustees were required to consider the impact of the Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land (RCI). This publicly searchable register is managed on behalf of Scottish Ministers by Registers of Scotland and holds the names of the persons holding the controlled interest. The Register applies to Church of Scotland properties. However, the agreement between the General Assembly and the Registrar is that where titles held are vested in the General Trustees there is no need to list individuals on the Register since they are part of the legal body – the General Trustees. However, where titles are vested locally, as in the case of St Matthew's, separate registration is required with the public register naming those whose name is on the titles. In our case this is the Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer and it is the name and address of the post holder which is included. Every time any of these people change or change address the register must be updated at a cost. After much consideration the Kirk Session agreed unanimously to seek a transfer of the titles of the church and halls to the General Trustees. This transfer process is underway and should be concluded in 2025. It has no impact on the way our buildings are managed.

### **Achievements and Performance**

In addition to the many uses and activities in our halls and sanctuary mentioned in the previous section the flat attached to the church premises continued to be used as a holiday let and allowed the ongoing work of the church to continue in 2024. It is intended that any surplus from this source be used for mission work.

### **Financial Review**

Results for the year ended 31 December 2024 are given in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 14. The assets and liabilities are given in the Balance Sheet on page 15.

The trustees regard the financial position of the charity at 31 December 2024 to be satisfactory and are content that, once the situation fully returns to normal and with the increased use of the refurbished sanctuary and the ongoing review of income and expenditure, this leaves it with a sound base from which future activity can be built upon.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Financial Review (continued)**

In summary, total income amounted to £198,880 (2023 - £184,465), total expenditure amounted to £206,678 (2023 - £185,855) resulting in a deficit for the year of £7,798 (2023 - deficit £1,390).

In analysing the underlying financial position of the charity it is necessary to look individually at the activity for the year, split between restricted and unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds reflect the financial intrusions stemming from core day to day activity, whereas restricted funds tend to reflect the outcome of transactions and funds which have specific, donor related conditions attached.

On a day to day basis, we are pleased to report that direct offering income and donations increased from £92,570 in 2023 to £99,267 (both figures including tax recovered on gift aided receipts) – an increase of 7.2%. Income from hall and sanctuary hire increased to £27,231 from £23,985 in 2023. This continues to remain well below pre-pandemic figures but is a very satisfying increase. Fund raising income increased from £14,390 in 2023 to £16,391 in 2024. Income from weddings and funerals increased to £3,750 in 2024 from £2,350 in 2023. The income from the café increased from £4,889 in 2023 to £5,396 in 2024 due once again, in no small part, to the various fundraising events which were held during the year. The income from the use of the flat as a holiday let decreased to £25,625 from £28,224 in 2023. While it is disappointing to see a decrease in this source of income this amount continues to far exceed pre-pandemic levels and remains a very encouraging contribution to the income and work of the congregation.

Routine, ongoing charitable expenditure for 2024 is shown at note 4. Apart from the assessed contributions which are paid to the national Church centrally and our ongoing staff costs, our major costs in 2024 continue to be in respect of the premises.

The trustees continue to review the overall cost position on an ongoing basis with a view to identifying appropriate cost control and cost saving measures in the year ahead. This is obviously difficult due to the ongoing situation in which everyone finds themselves with the current cost of living crisis.

At the end of the financial year the charity held funds of £420,487 (2023 - £428,285) of which £32,530 (2023 - £42,368) was restricted and £387,957 (2023 - £385,917) was unrestricted. Of the total unrestricted funds, £373,314 (2023 - £378,081) was designated for specific purposes including £366,636 (2023 - £366,636) being the cost of the manse. Details of all funds held at 31 December 2024 are detailed at note 12.

**Risk Management**

The trustees have overall responsibility for systems of procedure and control over the activities of the charity. Such systems can only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against errors and fraud. Within this framework the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and they are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the exposure to major risks.

**Reserves Policy**

Details of the reserves of the charity at 31 December 2024 are set out at note 12 of the financial statements.

As stated previously, within the total figure of £420,487 (2023 - £428,285) the charity held £32,530 (2023 - £42,368) of restricted funds which have been provided for the purpose set out within note 12. The remaining reserves of £387,957 (2023 - £385,917) are held on an unrestricted basis. However, for reasons of necessity within the life of the charity and in light of activities which are ongoing, £373,314 (2023 - £378,081) of these funds have been designated for particular congregational and charitable purposes as detailed in the notes to the financial statements.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Reserves Policy (continued)**

This leaves a balance of £14,643 (2023 - £7,836) held in the general fund. The aim of the trustees is to build up reserves equivalent to approximately six months' expenditure which would amount to £102,000. As the current balance relates to just under one and three-quarter's months' expenditure the Kirk Session is continuing to consider steps to ensure that our regular income is increased to ensure that the necessary expenditure which is always required on buildings of the size, age and nature of the church and halls contained therein can be met and continue to be confident in moving forward to the next stage in the congregation's development. As stated previously the Kirk Session is continuing to review all expenditure on an ongoing basis.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The Church is a registered charity number SC016829 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 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 the spiritual and temporal affairs within the Church which latter include most notably finance and fabric. The Kirk Session meets in ordinary course on five occasions in the year and on as many other occasions as may be necessary to fulfil its responsibilities. In 2024 the Kirk Session met on eight occasions.

The Kirk Session is chaired by the Minister. The Session Clerk is responsible for all administrative aspects of the operation of the Kirk Session.

Elders and other interested members of the congregation participate in various ministry teams such as Safeguarding, Pastoral Care and Stewardship and Finance (including Fabric). Elders also take their full part in the Presbytery of Perth with two currently serving.

During 2024 a review has been carried out on the structure of the Kirk Session with implementation being carried out in the first few months of 2025. When complete the plan is that the Kirk Session will meet about four times a year with the Kirk Session being able to delegate tasks and an appropriate level of decision taking to a smaller body, the Kirk Session Executive as well as a number of teams. This would encourage more people throughout the church to get involved with the day-to-day activities of the church as well as planning and development. The teams are Faith and Worship, Care, Communities, Communication, Facilities Management, Finance and Administration and Property Maintenance.

The congregation meets in general meeting on at least one occasion during the year to transact the business of its Stated Annual Meeting, which took place on Sunday 9 June 2024. Additional general meetings of the congregation are convened as and when necessary to attend to urgent, unplanned business. There were no such meetings in 2024.

Other than the trustee changes noted below there were no other changes in the structure of the charity during the year or up to the date of this report.

**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland  
Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity Name:** Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland  
**Charity Registration Number:** SC016829  
**Congregation Reference Number:** 281683  
**Contact Address:** St Matthew's Church  
Tay Street  
Perth  
PH1 5LQ

**Principal Office – Bearers**

Minister:

Session Clerk:

Church Treasurer:

**Trustees**

The following is a list of those who served as trustees during the year ended 31 December 2024 and up to and including the date of approval of these financial statements:

The Kirk Session, following the advice of the General Assembly, has reviewed its membership and created a list of elders who are no longer trustees of the charity either because they wished to step back from trustee responsibility (even for a short time) or have not attended meetings of the Kirk Session for a period of time. These elders can return to the Kirk Session and to trusteeship in the future.



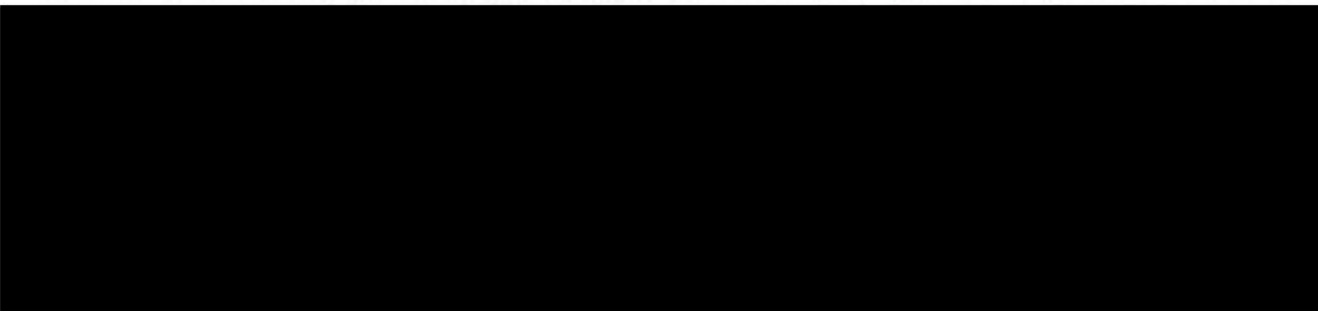
**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Reference and Administrative Information (continued)**

**Kirk Session (continued)**

The following trustee changes took place during the year and up to the date of this report:-



**Independent Examiner**



MMG Chartered Accountants

4 Albert Place

Perth

PH2 8JE

**Bankers**

Royal Bank of Scotland

12 Dunkeld Road

Perth

PH1 5RB

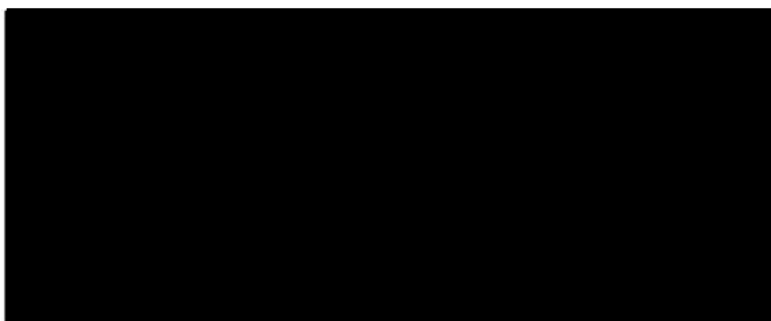
**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**

**Reference and Administrative Information (continued)**

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Deed of Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 13 to 25.

This report is made to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of my engagement. My work has been undertaken to enable me to report my opinion set out below and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees, as a body, for my work or this report.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

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

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements 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 2006 Charities Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 financial statements.

**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 financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 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 financial statements to be reached.

  
**Member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland**  
**MMG Chartered Accountants**  
**4 Albert Place**  
**Perth**  
**PH2 8JE**

**25 March 2025**



Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2024	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>							
Donations and Legacies	1	116,902	3,000	119,902	107,335	-	107,335
Charitable Activities	2	78,608	-	78,608	76,970	-	76,970
Investments	3	-	370	370	-	160	160
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>195,510</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>198,880</b>	<b>184,305</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>184,465</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising Funds	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities		203,470	3,208	206,678	183,619	2,236	185,855
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>203,470</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>206,678</b>	<b>183,619</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>185,855</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(7,960)</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>(7,798)</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>(2,076)</b>	<b>(1,390)</b>
Transfers between Funds		10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>2,040</b>	<b>(9,838)</b>	<b>(7,798)</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>(2,076)</b>	<b>(1,390)</b>
Reconciliation of Funds:							
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>385,917</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>428,285</b>	<b>385,231</b>	<b>44,444</b>	<b>429,675</b>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>387,957</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>420,487</b>	<b>385,917</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>428,285</b>

# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Balance Sheet At 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets	Note						
Tangible fixed assets	7	367,033	-	367,033	367,512	-	367,512
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>367,033</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>367,033</b>	<b>367,512</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>367,512</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Stocks		-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	8	10,976	-	10,976	17,507	-	17,507
Cash at bank and in hand		47,398	32,530	79,928	16,788	42,368	59,156
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>58,374</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>90,904</b>	<b>34,295</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>76,663</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Creditors falling due within one year	9	(7,450)	-	(7,450)	(15,890)	-	(15,890)
Church of Scotland General Trustees Loan		(30,000)	-	(30,000)	-	-	-
		<b>(37,450)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(37,450)</b>	<b>(15,890)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(15,890)</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>20,924</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>53,454</b>	<b>18,405</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>60,773</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>387,957</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>420,487</b>	<b>385,917</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>428,285</b>

### The Funds of the Charity

#### Unrestricted Funds

General Funds	12	14,643	7,836
Designated Funds	12	373,314	378,081
		<b>387,957</b>	<b>385,917</b>

<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>42,368</b>
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<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>420,487</b>	<b>428,285</b>
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**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the current and preceding year in dealing with items which are considered material to the financial statements, are set out below.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective from 1 January 2019, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

**Fund Accounting**

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the charity.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the trustees for a particular purpose they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

**Going Concern**

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of the charity to continue for the foreseeable future and therefore has adopted the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

**Recognition of Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following confirmation when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and the settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity. This is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

The general volunteer time of congregation members is not quantifiable and therefore not recognised in the accounts.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Recognition and Allocation of Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for expenditure.

**Fixed Assets**

All tangible fixed assets costing in excess of £1,000 having a value to the charity greater than one year, other than those acquired for specific purposes, are capitalised. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis to write off the cost or initial value, less residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment – 5 years

**Taxation**

Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland is a registered and recognised charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

**Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

**Creditors**

Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>1. Donations and Legacies</b>						
Offerings – WFO (non Gift Aid)	-	-	-	877	-	877
Offerings – Gift Aid	62,693	-	62,693	63,120	-	63,120
Offerings – Open Plate and General Donations	19,112	-	19,112	11,542	-	11,542
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	17,462	-	17,462	17,031	-	17,031
Legacy	500	-	500	5,000	-	5,000
Church of Scotland Grant	4,518	-	4,518	-	-	-
Warm Spaces Grant	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
The Baird Trust Grant	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Contributions from Organisations -						
Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	3,734	-	3,734	2,426	-	2,426
Guides, Brownies and Rainbows	1,400	-	1,400	1,056	-	1,056
The Guild Subscriptions and Collections	852	-	852	1,352	-	1,352
Scottish Country Dance Club Subscriptions	2,517	-	2,517	2,647	-	2,647
Badminton Club Subscriptions and Collections	914	-	914	979	-	979
Traidcraft Donation	-	-	-	15	-	15
Flower Fund Donations	1,200	-	1,200	1,290	-	1,290
	<u>116,902</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>119,902</u>	<u>107,335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,335</u>



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of  
Scotland**

**Notes forming part of the  
Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>2. Income from Charitable Activities</b>						
Hall Hire and Use of Premises	27,231	-	27,231	23,985	-	23,985
Fiat Rental	25,625	-	25,625	28,224	-	28,224
Sale of Traidcraft Goods	-	-	-	1,052	-	1,052
Café Sales	5,396	-	5,396	4,889	-	4,889
Weddings and Funerals	3,750	-	3,750	2,350	-	2,350
Fund Raising Events	16,391	-	16,391	14,390	-	14,390
Pulpit Supply and Expenses	215	-	215	1,790	-	1,790
Sale of Sundry Items	-	-	-	290	-	290
	<u>78,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,608</u>	<u>76,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,970</u>
<b>3. Investment Income</b>						
Bank Interest	-	370	370	-	160	160
	<u>-</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>

# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
<b>4. Analysis of Expenditure</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
Giving To Grow Allocation	66,814	-	66,814	55,094	-	55,094
Presbytery Dues	2,434	-	2,434	1,422	-	1,422
Minister's and Locum's Expenses	1,285	-	1,285	2,539	-	2,539
Pulpit Supply	400	-	400	2,280	-	2,280
Salaries:						
Organists	4,584	-	4,584	4,671	-	4,671
Hall Keepers	15,641	-	15,641	15,012	-	15,012
Facilities and Outreach Manager	30,701	-	30,701	29,765	-	29,765
AV Operator	540	-	540	295	-	295
Staff Pension Costs	1,071	-	1,071	1,254	-	1,254
Church Office Expenses	3,127	-	3,127	2,930	-	2,930
Repairs, Equipment and Cleaning	13,037	3,000	16,037	18,049	-	18,049
Heat and Light	21,978	-	21,978	12,673	-	12,673
Council Tax and Rates	5,622	-	5,622	5,293	-	5,293
Insurance	8,789	-	8,789	8,362	-	8,362
Letting Expenses	7,052	-	7,052	8,902	-	8,902
Café Expenses	1,084	-	1,084	848	-	848
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	479	-	479	508	-	508
Organisation Expenses	2,577	-	2,577	4,023	-	4,023
Charitable Donations	230	-	230	250	-	250
Independent Examiner	996	-	996	825	-	825
Professional Fees	9,168	-	9,168	2,490	-	2,490
Benevolence	-	208	208	-	2,236	2,236
Other Expenses	5,861	-	5,861	6,134	-	6,134
	<u>203,470</u>	<u>3,208</u>	<u>206,678</u>	<u>183,619</u>	<u>2,236</u>	<u>185,855</u>



## Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

### Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

#### 4. Analysis of Expenditure (continued)

Charitable donations are as under:-

The Guild – Guild Project	200
The Guild – RSPB	<u>30</u>
	<u>230</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
5. Staff costs and numbers		
Salaries	51,466	49,743
Social Security Costs	-	-
Pension Costs	<u>1,071</u>	<u>1,254</u>
	<u>52,537</u>	<u>50,997</u>

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Ministerial Staff	-	-
Administrative Staff	1	1
Music Staff	1	1
Premises and Maintenance Staff	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022 nil).

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 (2023 - £30,135) and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years of service) £38,884 (2023 - £37,032).

#### 6. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year no trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses.

During the year a total of £30,785 (2023 £31,042) was donated to the congregation by trustees.

# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

### 7. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Property	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	366,636	68,952	435,588
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>366,636</u>	<u>68,952</u>	<u>435,588</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	-	68,076	68,076
Charge for year	-	479	479
Eliminated on Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>68,555</u>	<u>68,555</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 December 2024	<u>366,636</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>367,033</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>366,636</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>367,512</u>

The church and halls at Tay Street, Perth are owned by the Trustees of Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland. No valuation is available. The manse at 12 Craigieknowes Avenue, Perth is similarly owned and was purchased during 2020 at a cost including expenses of £366,636.



**Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland**

**Notes forming part of the Financial Statements**

**(continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**8. Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gift Aid Tax Refund Due	6,797	6,264
Debtors	4,179	11,243
	<u>10,976</u>	<u>17,507</u>

**9. Creditors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sundry Creditors	6,538	15,062
Accruals	912	828
	<u>7,450</u>	<u>15,890</u>

**10. Analysis of Net Assets Among Funds**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	397	366,636	-	367,033
Current Assets	50,780	7,594	32,530	90,904
Current Liabilities	(36,534)	(916)	-	(37,450)
Net Assets at 31 Dec 2024	<u>14,643</u>	<u>373,314</u>	<u>32,530</u>	<u>420,487</u>

	<b>General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	-	367,512	-	367,512
Current Assets	13,717	20,578	42,368	76,663
Current Liabilities	(5,881)	(10,009)	-	(15,890)
Net Assets at 31 Dec 2023	<u>7,836</u>	<u>378,081</u>	<u>42,368</u>	<u>428,285</u>

# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

### 11. Volunteers

In common with all congregations of the Church of Scotland the congregation benefits from the contributions made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of the Church. The areas of congregational life which rely on the contribution of volunteers are many and varied and much of the activity would be unable to continue were it not for the commitment shown.

### 12. Movements in Funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General	7,836	117,534	(140,372)	29,645	14,643
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Building	366,636	-	-	-	366,636
Fabric	117	11,228	(23,182)	11,837	-
Community	1,238	35,640	(23,144)	(13,734)	-
Flat	3,716	25,625	(13,925)	(13,000)	2,416
Flower	195	1,200	(1,170)	-	225
Garden	81	-	(40)	(41)	-
The Guild	908	852	(715)	(300)	745
Scottish Country Dance	3,092	2,517	(922)	(1,500)	3,187
Badminton	91	914	-	(900)	105
Traidcraft	2,007	-	-	(2,007)	-
	<u>378,081</u>	<u>77,976</u>	<u>(63,098)</u>	<u>(19,645)</u>	<u>373,314</u>
	<u>385,917</u>	<u>195,510</u>	<u>(203,470)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>387,957</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Benevolence	42,368	3,370	(3,208)	(10,000)	32,530
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>428,285</u>	<u>198,880</u>	<u>(206,678)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>420,487</u>



# Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

### 12. Movements in Funds (continued)

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General	4,042	103,515	(109,021)	9,300	7,836
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Building	366,636	-	-	-	366,636
Fabric	4,003	7,035	(16,824)	5,903	117
Fabric Reserve	3,130	-	(7,330)	4,200	-
Community	3	38,196	(27,058)	(9,903)	1,238
Flat	1,039	28,224	(19,047)	(6,500)	3,716
Flower	140	1,290	(1,235)	-	195
Garden	147	-	(66)	-	81
The Guild	949	1,352	(893)	(500)	908
Scottish Country Dance	1,955	2,647	(910)	(600)	3,092
Badminton	54	979	(42)	(900)	91
Traidcraft	3,133	1,067	(1,193)	(1,000)	2,007
	381,189	80,790	(74,598)	(9,300)	378,081
	385,231	184,305	(183,619)	-	385,917
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Benevolence	44,444	160	(2,236)	-	42,368
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>429,675</u>	<u>184,465</u>	<u>(185,855)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>428,285</u>

### Purposes of Funds

#### Restricted Funds

*Benevolence Fund* – this fund is under the control of the Kirk Session with the purpose of making payments of a benevolent nature, at the discretion of the Minister and Benevolence committee, to people in need within the congregation.

#### Unrestricted Funds – Designated Funds

*Building Fund* – this fund was created by the trustees as a result of the incorporation of the manse into the 2007 financial statements at an estimated valuation of £400,000. It now comprises of the cost of the new manse.

*Fabric Reserve Fund* – this fund has been created by the trustees from the net difference between the sale of the old manse and the purchase of the new manse. This fund will be used to pay for the maintenance of the manse and exceptional repairs to the sanctuary and halls. This fund was closed in 2023.

*Fabric Fund* – the trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of church properties. At their meeting on 13 November 2024 the Kirk Session made the decision to close the Fabric Fund and incorporate it into the General Fund.

## Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland

### Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

#### 12. Movements in Funds (continued)

##### Purposes of Funds (continued)

##### Unrestricted Funds – Designated Funds (continued)

*Community Fund* – this fund was created by the trustees from the income arising from the use of the sanctuary by members of the community and community organisations to meet the maintenance and other costs related to the sanctuary. At their meeting on 13 November 2024 the Kirk Session made the decision to close the Community Fund and incorporate it into the General Fund.

*Flower Fund and Garden Fund* – in earlier years the trustees set aside funds, from bequests and ordinary funds, to meet the necessary expenses in these areas. At their meeting on 13 November 2024 the Kirk Session made the decision to close the Garden Fund and incorporate it into the General Fund.

*Flat Fund* – this fund has been created by the trustees from the letting of the flat attached to the building with the intention of any surplus funds being utilised for external mission.

*All Other Designated Funds* – the activities of each of these active groups in the life of the Church are described in detail in the Trustees' Report. Each group operates under the Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland Charity reference and as such the outcome of their financial activities is amalgamated into the full church financial statements. Each group appoints an appropriate individual to record the financial transactions and all groups operate a separate bank account.

#### 13. Collections for Third Parties

2024

2023

£

£

During the year special offerings were uplifted and made online for the following charities:

Poppyscotland	119	191
Christian Aid	340	405
Christian Aid Gaza Appeal	404	-
Perth & Kinross Foodbank	230	-
NWG DEC Earthquake	-	326
Perth Street Pastors	-	82
Wateraid	-	227

1,093

1,231

#### 14. Organisations

The amounts shown as transfers from The Guild, Scottish Country Dance, Badminton and Traidcraft in note 12 represent their respective contributions to the running costs of St. Matthew's Church.