

Grahamston United Church

Annual Accounts

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Congregation No: 221349

Methodist Circuit No: 31/3

URC No: 13C10

Scottish Charity No: SC016991

Trustees Report

Year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts 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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Objectives and Activities

Grahamston United is a congregation with roots in three different Protestant denominations: The Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church, and is equally a member of each denomination. It is Trinitarian in doctrine and exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom, both in Falkirk and throughout the world.

Sunday morning worship takes place every week, with occasional less formal Evening Services. Uniformed Youth Organisations meet weekly (Boys Brigade, Guides,) meet weekly in the church halls. The Church Hall and Sanctuary are used for a full spectrum of social and community service events such as Guild, Project Group, Choir, Slimming World, Friendship Group, "United In Song", a memory loss singing group, a local Karate club, Forth Valley Methodist Circuit and Presbytery events.

Achievements and Performance

Grahamston United Church has continued to livestream our services.

We have continued with the maintenance of the church grounds and the ongoing painting of the church boundary fence. Repair and re-felting of the flat roof associated with kitchen, toilets and hall corridor was required due to leaks.

We have continued to support Christian Aid, Falkirk Foodbank, Salvation Army Christmas Gift Initiative, Blythswood Shoebox Appeal and Used stamps for Crossreach and Leprosy Mission.

Ministry

In August the [REDACTED] left her position as Minister of Grahamston United Church, following a prolonged period of absence starting in January. [REDACTED] Superintendent of Forth Valley Methodist Circuit was appointed Interim Moderator from February until September. In October [REDACTED] URC minister at St. Ninians Stonehouse L.E.P., was appointed Interim Moderator From January until the end of the year pulpit cover was supplied by Forth Valley Methodist Circuit supplemented by Church of Scotland readers and URC ministers.

Financial Review

The main source of income is weekly offerings together with giving by Standing Order. The offerings for 2024 show a 3% decrease compared to 2023. Overall income from offerings, legacies, donations, gift aid and misc. has decreased slightly (0.04%) compared to 2023. Fund raising activities in 2024 decreased compared to 2023. Hall lets have decreased by 14% compared to 2023.

Risk Management

There continues to be a downward trend in weekly offerings. It is this along with the ever-dwindling congregation numbers that pose the main financial risks to the congregation. The Trustees and the congregation are continually looking at ways in which to generate income from other sources so that the church is not so dependent on weekly offerings and ways in which expenditure can be reduced.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have considered the reserves required and have taken into account their current and future liabilities. It is the Trustees policy to hold reserves of approximately four months of normal expenditure including designated funds. At the year end the Church held unrestricted funds of £64,356

compared to £62455 in 2023.

The church also held £15,692 of restricted funds compared to £14,861 in 2023

We have benefited from the current climate of high interest rates which has resulted in increased interest being generated from funds.

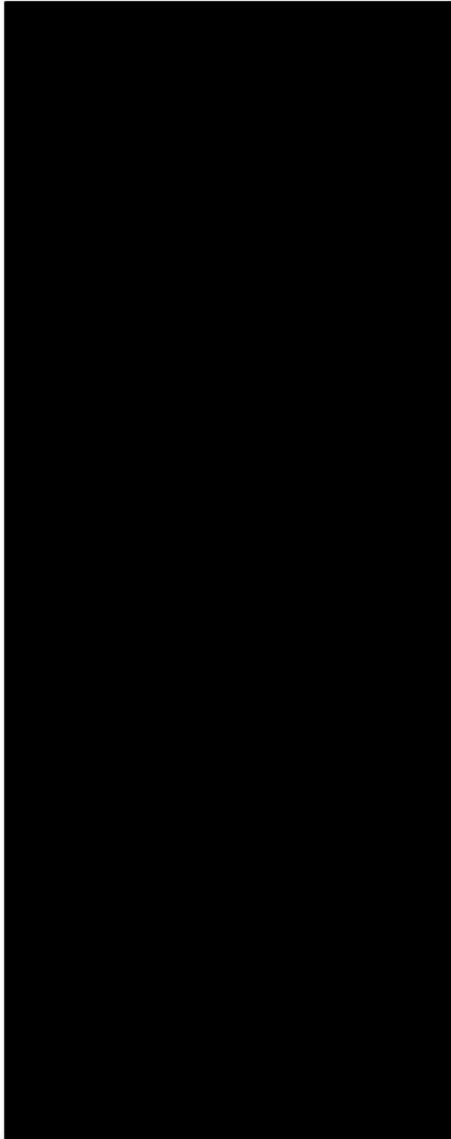
Structure, Governance and Management

The congregation is a registered charity, number SCO 16991 and is administered in accordance with the terms of its constitution, which was approved by OSCR in 2018, as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership.

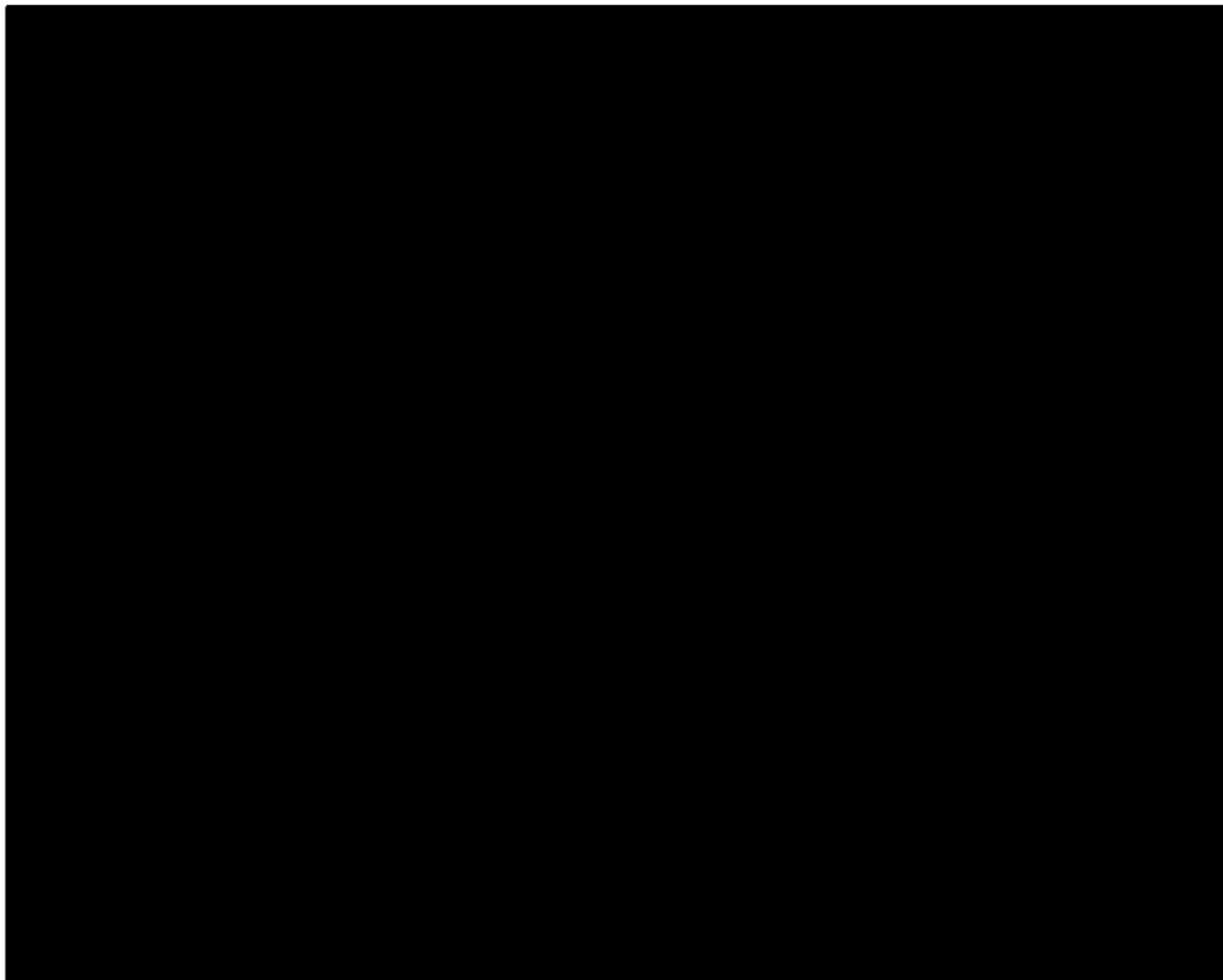
Active members of the Kirk Session and members of the Finance & Property Committee who are not members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. The Kirk Session which meets a minimum of four times a year is responsible for both temporal and Spiritual affairs within the church. Certain responsibilities are delegated to the Finance Committee and Property Committee as appropriate.

Normally, there are four Congregational Church Meetings which are open to all members of the church. The first Church Meeting of the year is normally the Annual General Meeting of the congregation at which a Balance Sheet of the Church Accounts is presented

Grahamston United Trustees at 1/1/24



Principal Office Bearers



Charity No: SC016991

Bank

Royal Bank of Scotland
16 Newmarket Street
Falkirk
FK1 1JX

Independent Examiner

Thomas Barrie
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Atlantic House
1a Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6QE

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 incoming resources and application of resources, 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 that 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 proper accounting records which 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the congregation's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Date 03/09/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grahamston United Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on within.

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 (as amended).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) 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 (as amended). 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 (as amended), and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) 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.

Name:

Professional Qualification/Professional Body:

Address: Thomas Barrie & Co
Chartered Accountants
Atlantic House
1A Cadegon Street
Glasgow
G2 6QE

Date:

Granamston United Church of Scotland

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	1	56,849		56,849	56,873
Charitable activities	2	5,990		5,990	10,663
Other trading activities	3	4,228		4,228	4,928
Investments	4	2,710	831	3,541	3,162
Other	5	26,510		26,510	8,786
Total income		<u>96,287</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>97,118</u>	<u>84,412</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	94,206		94,206	100,816
Total expenditure		<u>94,206</u>		<u>94,206</u>	<u>100,816</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>2,081</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>2,912</u>	<u>-16,404</u>
Transfers between funds					28,250
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>62,455</u>	<u>14,861</u>	<u>77,316</u>	<u>93,720</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>64,536</u>	<u>15,692</u>	<u>80,228</u>	<u>77,316</u>

Grahamston United Church of Scotland
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Note				
Current Assets					
Debtors	9				
Cash at bank and in hand		13,777	0	13,777	14,406
Total Current Assets					
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within one year	10				
Net Current Assets		13,777	0	13,777	
Creditors falling due after more than one year					
Net Assets		13,777	0	13,777	
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			15,692	15,692	14,861
Unrestricted income funds		50,758		50,758	48,048
Total charity funds		50,758	15,692	80,227	77,315

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

03/09/25 Session Clerk
03/09/25 Treasurer

Granamston United Church of Scotland
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
1 Donations and Legacies				
Offerings	44,986		44,986	46,598
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	8,724		8,724	8,541
Legacies	0		0	1,000
Other	3,139		3,139	735
	<u>56,849</u>	<u></u>	<u>56,849</u>	<u>56,874</u>
Total income from donations and legacies was £56,849 (2023 £56,874) of which £56,894 was unrestricted (2023 £56,874) and £0 was restricted (2023 £0)				
2 Income from charitable activities				
Weddings and funerals	424		424	300
Fund raising	5,566		5,566	10,363
	<u>5,990</u>	<u></u>	<u>5,990</u>	<u>10,663</u>
Total income from charitable activities was £5,990 (2023 £10,663) of which £5,990 was unrestricted (2023 £10,663) and £0 was restricted (2023 £0)				
3 Income from other trading activities				
Use of premises	4,228		4,228	4,928
	<u>4,228</u>	<u></u>	<u>4,228</u>	<u>4,928</u>
Total income from other trading activities was £4,228 (2023 £4,928) of which £4,428 was unrestricted (2023 £4,928) and £0 was restricted (2023 £0)				
4 Investment income				
Deposit interest	2,710	831	3,541	3,162
	<u>2,710</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>3,541</u>	<u>3,162</u>
Total investment income was £3,541 (2023 £3,162) of which £2,710 was unrestricted (2023 £2,644) and £831 was restricted (2023 £51)				
5 Other Income				
Receipts from General Trustees	26,510			£ 8,786.00

Granamston United Church of Scotland
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
6 Analysis of Expenditure				
Charitable Activities				
Ministries & Mission CofS	234		234	0
Ministries & Mission URC	700		700	667
Ministries & Mission Methodist	30,000		30,000	36,959
Ministers Expenses	0		0	1,200
Pulpit Supply	800		800	0
Salries	12,672		12,672	12,995
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	23,172		23,172	23,982
Council Tax	2,741		2,741	5,216
Other Building Costs	16,873		16,873	11,262
Church Office Expenses	1,798		1,798	4,411
Organ Maintenance	720		720	720
Organ Repairs	0		0	0
Other expenses	4,497		4,497	3,405
	<u>94,206</u>		<u>94,206</u>	<u>100,817</u>

Support costs have not been separately identified as the trustees consider there is only one charitable activity. Therefore support costs relate wholly to that activity and have not been separately identified.

Granamston United Church of Scotland
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
7 Staff costs and numbers		
Salaries and wages		
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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

	2024	2023
Church Officer	1	1
Organist	1	1
Caretaker	1	1
Cleaners	2	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee had employee benefits in excess of £50,000 (2023)

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 £28,317 and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years) £34,577.

7 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

██████████ who is a member of the Kirk Session received £1,556 for providing his services as Church Officer and
 ██████████ who is a member of Kirk Session received £3,720 for providing her services as Church Organist.

Granamston United Church of Scotland
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

14 Movements in Funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	At 31 December 2024 £
Restricted Funds				
Pension Fund	2,923	153		3,076
McCulloch Fund	609	55		664
Organ / Music Fund	567	51		618
Margaret Cheyne Fund	10,762	572		11,334
	<u>14,861</u>	<u>831</u>		<u>15,692</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
Development Fund	5,307	278		5,585
Legacy Fund	42,518	2,420		44,938
BB Project Fund	223	12		235
General Fund	14,406	93,577	94,206	13,777
	<u>62,454</u>	<u>96,287</u>	<u>94,206</u>	<u>64,535</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>77,315</u></u>	<u><u>97,118</u></u>	<u><u>94,206</u></u>	<u><u>80,227</u></u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Pension Fund This is a fund to provide a contribution towards the cost of a private pension set up by the Minister.

McCulloch Fund Income arising in this fund is to be used at the discretion of the Guild.

Organ and Music Fund This is a fund set up by an initial contribution from the 'Chimes Group'

Granamston United Church of Scotland
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

15 Collections for Third Parties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Christian Aid		1,103
Maggies		804
	<u>0</u>	<u>1,907</u>