

Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland



Annual Report and Receipts and Payment Accounts

for the year ending
31st December 2024

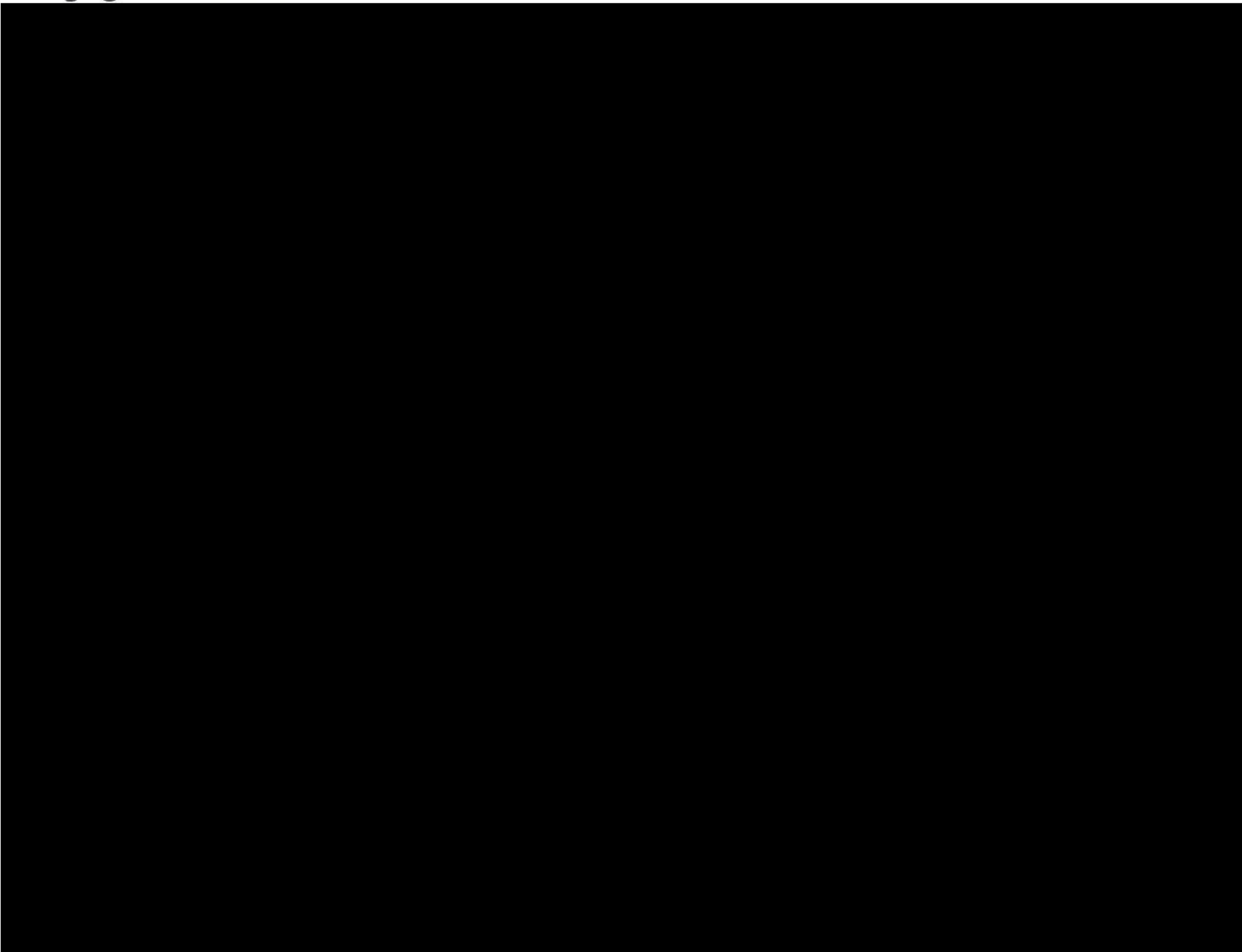
Congregation No: 171081

Charity No: SC018492

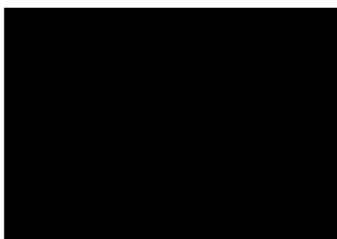
Trustees Annual Report
Year ended 31st December 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Blantyre Old Parish Church
Charity Registration Number:	SC018492
Congregation Reference No.	171081



Independent Examiner



Bankers

Virgin Money
135 Almada Street
Hamilton
ML3 0EX

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Blantyre Old Parish Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Unitary Deed of Constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session are the Charity Trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. The Minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is elected by the congregation and inducted by Presbytery.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session which meets approximately nine times a year is responsible for spiritual and temporal affairs within the church, and certain responsibilities are delegated to the Pastoral Care Team, the Church Development Team and the Finance and Property Team. Each of these teams report to the Kirk Session on a regular basis.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine. Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in policy. 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 parish of Blantyre Old covers predominantly what is known as High Blantyre and works within Blantyre alongside Blantyre Livingstone Memorial and Blantyre St. Andrews, both Church of Scotland.

Achievements and Performance

Worship

The church family of Blantyre Old is varied with people of all ages and experience involved, numbering around 100-110 each Sunday. Sunday worship is held at 11am and we offer activities for the children within the Sanctuary at the beginning of the Service, where we provide written material and crayons etc. for their pleasure. [REDACTED] includes them in the Childrens' address, thereafter they leave with the Sunday Club leaders and continue their spiritual journey in the Church halls.

Worship is varied with a mixture of traditional and contemporary styles, thereby meeting the needs of differing generations and personalities.

[REDACTED] joined us at the beginning of 2021 as a locum minister and has been in this position ever since. [REDACTED] is welcomed by all who attend and excels himself in Pastoral Care. We have seen an increase in attendance and welcome many visitors on a week to week basis. [REDACTED] also has links with the local schools and youth groups in the Blantyre area. We often have the school service held within the Church.

Discipleship

We have various group activities within the Church. We have a Bible study group who meet fortnightly, we have a Leisure group who meet weekly, we have a Warm Hub group who are open to the public weekly and we have a Craft group who meet on a Saturday morning. We also do after Service refreshments on a Sunday after worship and this is welcomed and very well attended by the congregation. These groups are found to be welcoming and appreciated by all who attend. The Warm Welcome has been going now for just over 2 years and is getting more popular. We open on a Wednesday between 12-2pm and serve free soup, rolls with sausage, tea/coffee and sweet treats. We now have a local company offering free bus travel to and from the event on a weekly basis. We have various groups attending offering advice and guidance to the guests. We can now be accommodating around 60+ on a weekly basis. Our halls are busy with weekly bookings from the local community and outwith. Our halls are booked Monday to Friday evenings and most afternoons with regular groups.

We joined the local Churches for the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph where Rev. Jim Murphy and 2 other local ministers conducted the Service, followed by refreshments, fellowship etc. afterwards in the local halls.

We welcomed the local Primary school for Services within the Sanctuary, conducted by [REDACTED] on a few occasions throughout the school year.

We hosted/joined other Churches for a Christmas Carol Service which would usually be around the Christmas tree at the Miners Monument, however with the weather we held it in our Church halls where we sang, celebrated and then shared refreshments, hot mince pies and home baking. This was enjoyed by all.

We held our annual Christmas Fayre within our Halls, although this year it was doubtful whether it would go ahead as it was taking place on one of the 'snowiest' days of the year. Many of the stallholder were unable to make it due to the weather conditions, however the local community faced the weather, and it was surprisingly very well attended considering the conditions. We offered free selection boxes to all Children who attended and a free visit to Santa. We raised a staggering £4749.41 (£2,000 of this was an anonymous donation) and this was put towards Church funds. A massive thank you to all who attended and all who put the hard work in to making it happen.

We held a Christmas Eve Carol Service @ 11pm on Christmas Eve followed by a Service at 11.30pm taken by [REDACTED] welcoming in Christmas Day.

We also held a Service on Christmas Day @ 11am.

We held an afternoon Memorial Service conducted by [REDACTED] and this was attended by members of the public who had lost a family member or friend recently or in the past and wanted to remember them in Prayer and song. This Service was open to anyone wishing to attend for whatever reason. The Service included some of the local undertakers and staff.

Stewardship

We have seen an increase in our regular Sunday worshippers. We live stream our Services on Facebook each week and we have regular viewers home and abroad, as far as Canada and America. This enables anyone unable to attend morning Worship, to view online at their convenience.

██████████ has done a number of weddings and funerals outwith our Church and this has encouraged some of those family members to join us in Church on a Sunday on a regular basis.

We welcomed our new Interim Moderator, ██████████ to Blantyre Old and the Kirk Session look forward to working alongside her.

Malawi Church Team

We still exchange news with our Missionary Partner ██████████. We continue to send 'banana boxes' via Dundee – for shipping to Malawi. A number of ladies take part in this venture, both through knitting garments, receiving donations of pencils, pens, books, medicines, walking aids, glasses etc. to mention a few. These are packed in 'banana boxes' and delivered to the depot in Dundee for the next shipment to Malawi. Many thanks to all the volunteers and Church members who give generously and carry out this worthwhile work. Thanks also to volunteer drivers for their time and effort. The Kirk Session decided that a contribution from the Church tea monies would be given monthly to the Malawi appeal alongside the contributions of the 'jar of grace' which already helps with the cost of shipping the goods from Dundee.

Sunday Club

The Sunday Club has now restarted. This had been ceased due to a reduction in the number of children attending Sunday services. For that period, we offered activities within the Sanctuary during Sunday worship where the children could gather and draw, play, sing and take part in the Service. The numbers are increasing, and leaders are preparing activities and workshops for the children when they leave the Sanctuary and go to the halls for religious activities after the Children's address by the Minister.

The Leisure Group

The Group has proved exceptionally successful. The group meets every week and has either a speaker, a particular theme from those with various talents, musicians, singers, crafts etc. and there is lots of fun, fellowship, followed by refreshments. We have been blessed with people sharing their various talents both from the Church family and from other organised groups. Usually, we would have a Christmas outing, but this year it was decided that we would have a Christmas 70's themed lunch in the halls. Many of the regulars participated with their costumes and fun, song, dance and a delicious lunch took place. It was a massive success, and it might be difficult to top it with next year's event? We have seen the numbers increase week by week, especially with younger members of the community and congregation. This is a most joyous event for many who attend on a Monday afternoon.

Local Charities

Susan Henderson, one of our Elders is a trustee with Hamilton District Foodbank and coordinates the donations that members bring to Church. Susan has been a volunteer with the Foodbank for many years.

Along with our regular donations, we asked for non-perishable foods for our Harvest Service, which was shared between the Hamilton Foodbank and the foodbank within Gilmour and Whitehill Church.

We had our Annual Christmas Toy Appeal. This is usually new toys which are generously donated by the congregation and given to the Hamilton Advertiser Toy Appeal and Hamilton Foodbank. However, this year the Masons offered to donate the toys as they were having an evening Carol Service which Rev. Jim Murphy was conducting and those attending brought numerous gifts. The number of gifts donated was phenomenal and we were able to give to the above two appeals as usual and also give a large number of gifts to Bonnie Blantyre Toy Appeal who were supplying the local schools with gifts and selection boxes for all the local school children.

Another appeal we take part in is the HCDIC. We have 2 teams of approx. 4 members who attend Hamilton Drop In Centre once a month to provide meals to the homeless and hungry. This centre is open every evening from 7pm – 8pm for anyone wishing to attend to have a hot meal, receive articles of clothing, toiletries etc. if required, and have a chat. This is all run by volunteers and provided through public, charitable donations. All visitors are really appreciative of the volunteers, and it is nice to welcome them regularly and get to know them. We are very grateful to all from the Churches who are willing to give up their evenings, make and serve meals and welcome those who find the need to attend.

Blantyre Old also held a Daffodil Tea in aid of Marie Curie. This was well attended and supported by the Congregation, and several members of the Marie Curie organisation attended to give a presentation. A massive thank you to the bakers from the Congregation and community and the Tea Ladies for all their hard work to be able to make this happen. The Congregation are regular supporters of the Marie Curie events within the Community too, as one of our Church members is heavily involved with this charitable organisation and works tirelessly to support them. A massive thank you to [REDACTED] for all her hard work on the day and her continual support to the Charity.

Church Development Team

This is the team who promote fundraising. We had the Christmas Fayre as a fundraising event. We have a Car Boot Sale being organised and the team are considering other ideas on further fundraising events. We have not had our Summer Fete over the last few years but this is something that the team will be discussing again in the foreseeable future.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team within Blantyre Old Parish Church is a small team of dedicated people who endeavour to support people in a variety of settings. These include Hospital visits, home visits, care home visits and wider visits in the community as required.

[REDACTED] does many visits and many re-visits regularly.

Parish and Community

School Chaplaincy: [REDACTED] regularly attends the local Primary school and youth groups throughout Blantyre. He has also attended groups within Asda Blantyre where various services, advice is offered to the public. [REDACTED] is forever visiting people in hospital and in their own homes. [REDACTED] has conducted weddings outwith the Church and many funerals within and outwith the Church over the past year.

HIGHLIGHTS of 2024

Most of what we did is highlighted in other parts of the report.

One of the biggest highlights was when Blantyre Old hosted Greater Glasgow NHS Choir in the Sanctuary in November, in aid of 'Maggie's' Lanarkshire. This was co-ordinated by our Minister and with our Deputy Session Clerk and was an incredible evening of Christmas fun and song. The concert was well attended with all monies going to 'Maggie's'.

In March 2024 we hosted the Caley Choir and Coalburn Bronze Band's annual concert. Again, this was an evening of music and song and was well attended by the local community, the congregation and members of the choir/band's friends and families. The takings from this event helps both parties finance their continual success. The Caley Choir have been in touch again to arrange another evening of song for 2025. This is something that is in our diary and something we look forward to hosting again.

We were delighted to be able to start making plans for the Memorial Garden which we have talked about for many years. Blantyre Old received a grant of £4,000 towards this from South Lanarkshire Council and with that sum and a few legacies left to Blantyre Old, this has been made possible. The work is due to start in January 2025, weather permitting.

On the 18th June 2024, Blantyre Old hosted the local high school's Leavers Service. This was conducted by the [REDACTED] but the majority of the Service was enacted by the pupils themselves. It was a Wonderful and 'touching' Service, and the pupils were a credit to their teachers and their school. It was well attended by the whole school, the teachers and many parents, grandparents and siblings. We were blessed to be able to be part of it.

As mentioned, we are very proud to partake in our Voluntary work, with the Hamilton Drop In Centre, the Warm Welcome, the Community Christmas Fayre, the regular Foodbank donations, the Hamilton Advertiser and wider Christmas Toy Appeals, our annual Harvest Appeal Service for the foodbank, our Malawi connection and supplies and with all other good work that the Church representatives and Congregation contribute too.

FUTURE PLANS

We are strengthening our faith by promoting the Sunday Club again and encouraging more Children back on a Sunday.

We aim to continue our multi-faceted worship and look ahead to how we can continue to support and encourage our local community and play our part in the life of the wider Church.

We have seen a massive increase in our Hall lets and through this we hope to encourage growth/attendance at our Services.

Our aim is to carry on the good work that we undertook in 2024 into the coming year and foreseeable future and support and nurture our community contributions.

As mentioned, we are hosting a further concert by the Caley Male Voice Choir and are really looking forward to the event.

There was discussion about possibly hosting the NHS Choir again, so as they say ‘watch this space’.

We are starting our long-awaited Memorial Garden for the community, which will be housed in the Church grounds. This will be a work in progress for some time, but we are delighted to have the initial start date and discussions with the congregation and the local community groups e.g. Bonnie Blantyre for their gardening expertise and the Men’s Shed group for their knowledge re planters etc. will follow. This is an exciting opportunity for the Church to share this project with the community as a whole. This is not just a Church Memorial Garden, this is a Community Memorial Garden as previously detailed in last year’s report.

Financial Review

During the year due to the generosity of the congregation Blantyre Old received £49,828 by way of givings and donations, this figure also includes tax recovered on Gift aid of £7,021. Income from hall rental amounted to £14,025 an increase of £2,873 on last year. Fund raising at £6,554 again an increase on last year due to a successful Christmas Fayre, tea/coffee donations on Sunday mornings following church and a very generous anonymous donation from a member of the congregation. We received a grant of £4,000 from South Lanarkshire Council towards our garden project. £15,113 was transferred from our Consolidated Fabric Fund, this is rental money we receive from the Manse and Beauty Salon, and we received £7,015 investment interest. Total income for the year was £98,163. Expenditure for the year amounted to £68,278. Largest expense was our Giving to Grow contribution of £21,897, as detailed below. Repairs and maintenance were less than the previous year at £5,908. Heat and light show a marked increase at £7,123 which was due to renewal of our gas and electricity contracts. All other expenses were on par with last year. During the year we were able to meet all ongoing costs of the church and the accounts for the year show an excess of £29,885.

Both Complexions Beauty Salon and the Manse continue to meet their monthly rental commitments.

Going forward, this year our Giving to Grow contribution will increase from £21,897 to £33,844 an increase of £11,947. Due to a review by the Church on how locum ministers are paid we no longer receive a vacancy allowance. In future Edinburgh will meet locum costs up to 1 Sunday service and 2 pastoral days per week (£1,129.33) however as we increased Rev J Murphy's hours Edinburgh will invoice us for the difference. We will also see a significant increase in our gas and electricity invoices.

Giving to Grow Allocation

Blantyre Old Giving to Grow Contribution 2024	£43,744
Less: Stipend Endowment Income	<u>£10,651</u>
Net Contribution	£33,093
Less: Vacancy Allowance	<u>£11,196</u>
Net Requirement	<u>£21,897</u>

This was paid by 10 monthly payments of £2,189.70.

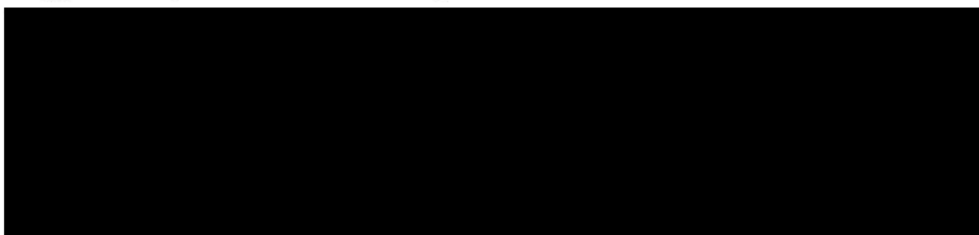
Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately six months' normal expenditure. At the year end the Church held unrestricted cash funds of £74,787 with £276,330.56 at current market value invested through the Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George Street. There are restricted funds of £7,139 for use by named organisations. The Trustees are satisfied that, taking into account the amount which has been invested, sufficient reserves are available.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request must reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take responsible steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



Report of the independent Examiner to the Trustees of Blantyre Old Parish Church

I report on the account of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

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 state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

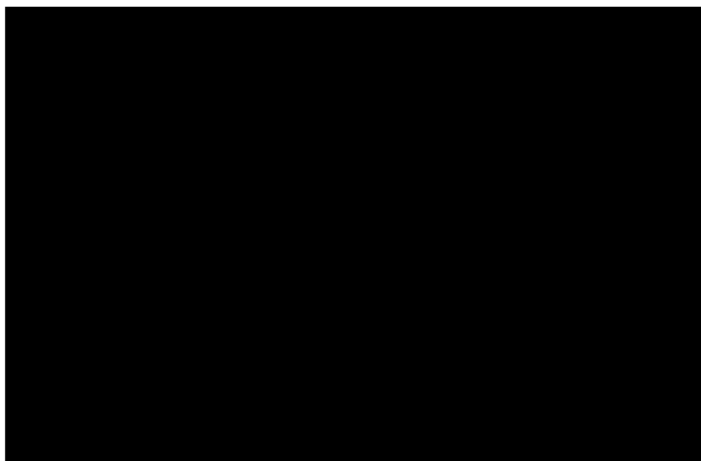
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. My examination included 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland
Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		2024	2024		
Receipts	Note 3	£	£	£	£
Donations		49828		49828	41596
Organisation Dons		1350		1350	310
Weddings/Funerals		215		215	790
Activities for Generating Funds		6554		6554	4089
Rental of premises		14025		14025	11152
Miscellaneous		63		63	0
Charities			500		721
Organisations			7059		12021
Messy Church			0		0
Sunday Club			0		0
Extra-ordinary Income:					
Grant - SLC		4000		4000	1100
Legacy		0		0	5000
Gen. Trustees Fab Fnd		15113		15113	16082
LPW - VAT Refund		0		0	597
Investment Int		7015		7015	5657
Total Receipts		98163	7559	105722	99115
Payments	Note 4				
Costs of generating funds		146		146	139
Charitable activities		68132	500	68632	67821
Investments		0		0	31000
Organisations			8925	8925	5718
Messy Church		0	0	0	115
Sunday Club		0	51	51	
Total Payments		68278	9476	77754	104793
Excess of Receipts over					
Payments for the year		29885	-1917	27968	-5678

Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland
Statement of Balances
Year Ended 31st December 2024

Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024	Total 2023 £
Bank and Dep. Acc at 1/1/24	44902		44902	56768
Messy Church Incl In Bank		480	480	480
Sunday Club incl in Bank		87	87	202
Organisations at 1/1/24		8489	8489	2186
	<u>44902</u>	<u>9056</u>	<u>53958</u>	<u>59636</u>
Movement in year:				
Excess of Receipts over				
Payments for 2024	29885	-1917	27968	-5678
	<u>29885</u>	<u>-1917</u>	<u>27968</u>	<u>-5678</u>
Bank and Dep Acc at 31/12/2024	74787		74787	44902
Messy Church included in Bank		480	480	480
Sunday Club included in Bank		36	36	87
Organisations at 31/12/2024		6623	6623	8489
	<u>74787</u>	<u>7139</u>	<u>81926</u>	<u>53958</u>
Investments	<u>276330</u>		<u>276330</u>	<u>236511</u>
Assets due 2024				
Gift Aid Receivable	<u>£4,085</u>			

The Accounts were approved by the Kirk Sesion on

3/3/2025

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts

1 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year Rev Jim Murphy, our ILocum Minister received received salary of £16,857 and £1,850 in reimbursement of travel expenses.

2 Movements in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Receipts £	Expenses £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
Bank and Dep Acc	44902	98163	68278	74787
	<u>44902</u>	<u>98163</u>	<u>68278</u>	<u>74787</u>
Restricted funds in Church Account				
Messy Church	480	0	0	480
Sunday Club	87	0	51	36
Charity Fund	0	500	500	0
	<u>567</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>516</u>
Restricted Funds				
Leisure Group	1391	988	1139	1240
Festival Group	544	438	564	418
The Church Team (Ekwendeni)	350	1813	1000	1163
Warm Welcome	6204	3820	6222	3802
OrganisationsTotal	<u>8489</u>	<u>7059</u>	<u>8925</u>	<u>6623</u>
Total funds	<u>53958</u>	<u>105722</u>	<u>77754</u>	<u>81926</u>

Charity Fund: These monies are from special collections for specific charities

Purposes of Designated Funds

Messy Church, Sunday Club Fund, Leisure Group Fund (Fellowship Group), Festival Group Fund (Church Flowers), Church Team (Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi), Warm Welcome (Outreach) are held and operated by the respected groups.

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing these funds.

Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts (Cont.)

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total £	Total 2023 £
3 Analysis of Donations				
FWO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	10519		10519	10148
Gift Aid Donations	23277		23277	19050
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	7021		7021	6949
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	7542		7542	5229
Donations etc	1469		1469	220
	<u>49828</u>		<u>49828</u>	<u>41596</u>
4 Analysis of Payments				
Costs of generating funds				
Offering envelopes etc..	146		146	139
	<u>146</u>		<u>146</u>	<u>139</u>
Charitable activities				
Giving to Grow	21897		21897	16460
Presbytery dues	1276		1276	1120
Wages	3567		3567	3777
Tax & NI	1281		1281	891
Pulpit supply/Locum	16857		16857	13706
Minister's expenses & travel	1850		1850	1963
Fabric repairs & maintenance	5908		5908	16318
Heat and light	7123		7123	3859
Insurance	3462		3462	3264
Cleaning Materials / Grounds	3273		3273	3857
Printing, stationery, postage and transport	1031		1031	827
Charities (Collections)		500	500	721
Miscellaneous	607		607	1058
Messy Church		0		
Sunday Club		51	0	115
Investments	0		51	31000
	<u>68132</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>68683</u>	<u>98936</u>
Church Expenses	68278	551	68829	99075
Organisations Expenses		8925	8925	5718
Total Payments	<u>68278</u>	<u>9476</u>	<u>77754</u>	<u>104793</u>

Blantyre Old Parish Church of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts (Cont.)

5 Minister's Stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pension and housing ad loan fund. Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the National Stipend Scale which is related to years of service, for year under review the minimum was £31,642 maximum stipend in 5th and subsequent years of service £38,884.

6 Collections for Third Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
Christian Aid	500	0
Turkey/Syria Earthquake		675
Poppy Scotland		46
	<u>500</u>	<u>721</u>

APPENDIX

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

	2024	2023
REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Balance at 1/1/2024 Consolidated Fabric Fund	61.53	1019.9
Rental Income	16248.00	15816
Interest	<u>75.63</u>	<u>76.14</u>
	16323.63	15892.14
		<u>16912.04</u>
Less: Repayment	15112.84	16082.61
Admin Costs	<u>1321.21</u>	<u>767.9</u>
Closing Balance at 31/12/2024	<u>-48.89</u>	<u>16850.51</u>
		<u>61.53</u>