

Central and East Sutherland

Church of Scotland

**CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Congregation No: 422335

Charity No: SC020871

Receipts and Payments

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
Charity Registration Number: SC020871
Congregation Reference No: 422335
Contact Address: Rev Hilary Gardner
Cayman Lodge
Wester Kincardine Hill
Ardgay
Sutherland
IV24 3DJ

Interim Moderator Mr J H Lamont

Church Treasurer Rev Hilary Gardner

Trustees

Elders

Mrs M Irving
Mrs R Allan
Mr S Barnett
Mrs M Campbell
Mrs M Mackintosh
Mrs D Wares
Mrs I Chisolm
Mrs C Cowie
Mrs I Macpherson
Mrs V Colquhoun (deceased 3 Jan 2026)

Session Clerk Mrs I Macpherson

Independent Examiner

Bankers

Bank of Scotland

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 December 2025
Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Quoad Omnia).

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 new charge was formed on 1st July 2025 combining the previous charges of Lairg, Rogart, Clyne and Kildonan, Loth, Helmsdale. The new charge is without a Minister and throughout the year has had an Interim Moderator appointed by The Presbytery of Cleir Eilean I.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session which meets regularly and is responsible for spiritual affairs within the church and as the congregation is Quoad Omnia for temporal affairs as well.

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.

Since formation of the new charge services are held across the large geographical area with two services each week, rotating in the four church buildings currently still owned by the Church of Scotland. Services are led by a variety of lay readers, retired ministers, OLM's and Auxilliary Ministers.

Achievements and Performance

All the congregations that make up the new charge have been without a minister for the full year. Services have taken place on alternate Sundays in Clyne and Lairg on first and third Sundays each month and in Helmsdale and Rogart on second and fourth Sundays. When there is a fifth Sunday a special service that brings together all four congregations has been arranged and an invitation extended to the congregation in Golspie which will in due course become linked in a deferred union with Central and East Sutherland.

In the absence of a regular minister activities within the parish has been limited but pastoral support has continued to be provide by members of the congregation and the elders. The Clyne Fellowship meets on a monthly basis and since the union has welcomed members from the joining congregations. In Lairg a monthly ecumenical prayer meeting takes place in the home of congregational members who are unable to attend church due to failing health. A successful craft fayre was held in December to raise much needed church funds. This was well attended by both church members and the wider community. Since the formation of the new charge in July 2025 the Kirk Session has been working to combine the administrative affairs of the former congregations. New Members Rolls and Communicant roles have been drawn up, the financial records of the four separate congregations have been merged with cash balances being transferred into the account of the new charity. While there are a few matters outstanding the creation of the new united charge has gone remarkably smoothly and the congregations are beginning to work together. Work has started on creating a new website and initial steps taken to form a Nominating Committee in the hope that we can begin the search for a new full-time minister in the very near future.

Financial Review

The financial results for the full year 2025 have been prepared within the former Lairg Church of Scotland Charity which has now been renamed as Central and East Sutherland. The accounts for the first six months of the year only contain the financial transaction of the former Lairg Charity while the second half of the year is the combined financial activity of all four former charities. For this reason it makes any comparative between the current year under review and the previous year somewhat meaningless because the figures and the activity they represent are not comparable.

The accounts show income of £95,535. However, £55,433 of this is the funds transferred across from the three old church charities that have now closed. In addition another £9,508 was monies from the Consolidated Fabric Fund held centrally by the Church of Scotland for repair works undertaken in Helmsdale the cost of which are not recorded in these accounts as they were incurred in the first half of the year. A more meaningful figure of the charity's income is therefore £30,594. The

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (cont) Year ended 31 December 2025 Structure, Governance and Management

corresponding expenditure for the full year amounts to £55,149, this being £7,210 for the first six months by the Lairg charity and then £47,939 for the new united charge. While difficult to analyse the figures in detail because of the changed circumstances the underlying picture is that currently the expenditures in the enlarged united charge greatly exceed the income. The shortfall between current income and the current level of expenditure is of the order of £25,000. This is clearly not sustainable and the Charity will need to look in detail at how it is going to move into the future and seek ways of increasing its regular income while looking very carefully at all ongoing costs. While the congregation does have access to funds held centrally by the Church of Scotland these will not sustain an operating deficit of this magnitude for very long.

Reserves Policy

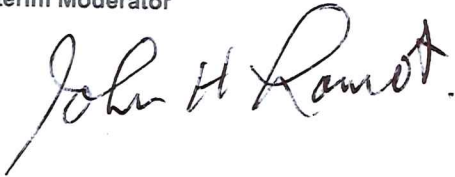
The reserves policy of the new Charity is being reviewed. The Trustees are conscious of their ongoing responsibilities to maintain the assets of the charity and to this end it is anticipated that a level of unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover a minimum of six months operating costs will be necessary. Currently this level of reserves is in place but with the projected shortfalls of income maintaining this policy will be difficult.

Statement of Trustee's 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 in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

Interim Moderator



Date: 30th January 2025

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
SC020871

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland

Report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement


My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning 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 of the statement of account for the year ended 31 December 2019, 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 have not been kept in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - 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.

Signed:


FRANK REITH

Date:

12/04/26

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Designated Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Receipts</u>	Note					
Donations	3	31,084.95	-		31,084.95	9,187.91
Funds transferred on Union		53,610.59	1,822.92		55,433.51	-
Legacies					-	-
Activities for Generating Funds					-	-
Bank & Deposit interest					-	-
Investment income			211.95	296.30	508.25	508.01
		<u>84,695.54</u>	<u>2,034.87</u>	<u>296.30</u>	<u>87,026.71</u>	<u>9,695.92</u>
Rental of premises						
Sale of assets						
Sale of investments						
Grants					-	-
Receipts from General Trustees		9,508.30			9,508.30	-
Other Receipts					-	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>		<u>94,203.84</u>	<u>2,034.87</u>	<u>296.30</u>	<u>96,535.01</u>	<u>9,695.92</u>
<u>Payments</u>						
Costs of generating funds	4	-			-	-
Charitable activities	5	55,148.74	-	-	55,148.74	14,840.71
Governance costs					-	-
Other Payments	6			-	-	-
<u>Total Payments</u>		<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>14,840.71</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		39,055.10	2,034.87	296.30	41,386.27	- 5,144.79
Transfers					-	
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		<u>39,055.10</u>	<u>2,034.87</u>	<u>296.30</u>	<u>41,386.27</u>	<u>- 5,144.79</u>

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
Statement of Balances
Year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Designated Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Note					
<u>Bank</u>					
Bank balance brought forward	17,196.54	883.19	1,055.42	19,135.15	24,279.94
Movement in year:					
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	39,055.10	2,034.87	296.30	41,386.27	(5,144.79)
Bank balance carried forward	<u>56,251.64</u>	<u>2,918.06</u>	<u>1,351.72</u>	<u>60,521.42</u>	<u>19,135.15</u>
Total Bank and Deposit Balances	<u>56,251.64</u>	<u>2,918.06</u>	<u>1,351.72</u>	<u>60,521.42</u>	<u>19,135.15</u>
Church of Scotland Investors Trust					
Balance brought forward	34,809.54			34,809.54	33,328.58
Investors Trust Valuation carried forward	<u>34,809.54</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,809.54</u>	<u>30,556.79</u>
<u>Investments at market value</u>					
Church of Scotland Investors Trust Growth Fund	<u>32,769.44</u>			<u>32,769.44</u>	<u>24,007.94</u>
<u>Assets</u>					
Gift Aid Receivable				-	-
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Church electricity				-	-
Church repairs				-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 30th January 2026

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session

H.M. Gardner.

Treasurer

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year £350 was paid to Rev H Gardner (pulpit supply fee), £375 was paid to S Barnett, organist, £478 paid to J Lamont as Interim Moderator

2. Movements in Funds - Bank Balances

	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	16,915.74	94,203.84	55,148.74	140.00	56,110.84
Flower Fund	163.32				163.32
Designated Organ Fund	-	1,822.92			1,822.92
Designated Fabric Fund	1,000.67	211.95			1,212.62
	<u>18,079.73</u>	<u>96,238.71</u>	<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>140.00</u>	<u>59,309.70</u>
Restricted funds					
Corra Foundation Hardship Fund	140.00		-	- 140.00	-
Hector Mackay & Cpt Hugh Mackay	559.22	296.30			855.52
Hector Mackay & Cpt Hugh Mackay	356.20				356.20
	<u>1,055.42</u>	<u>296.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>- 140.00</u>	<u>1,211.72</u>
Endowment funds					
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>19,135.15</u>	<u>96,535.01</u>	<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,521.42</u>

Purposes of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of the Church and Manse Properties
Hector Mackay & Cpt Hugh Mackay: Represents sums from Hector Mackay & Hugh Mackay Funds still to be used to buy additional units in Investor's Trust Growth Fund

Central and East Sutherland Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (cont)

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
3. Analysis of Donations					
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	3,215.00			3,215.00	1,580.00
Gift Aid Donations	10,241.80			10,241.80	2,620.00
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	3,623.10			3,623.10	1,167.60
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	5,706.35			5,706.35	1,849.31
Pulpit Supply Recovery	3,650.00			3,650.00	-
Other Offerings, Donations etc (donations for use of facilities £2025, Funeral fees £1870, Fund raising £753.70)	4,648.70			4,648.70	1,971.00
Monies held on behalf of 3rd parties	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>31,084.95</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,084.95</u>	<u>9,187.91</u>
Analysis of Payments					
4 Costs of generating funds					
Advertising				-	-
Offering envelopes				-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
5 Charitable activities					
Ministries & Mission allocation	27,690.52			27,690.52	1,493.00
Presbytery dues	1,926.00			1,926.00	-
Minister's expenses				-	-
Pulpit supply	6,285.84			6,285.84	2,095.90
Interim Moderator Costs	478.35			478.35	-
Other staffing costs	2,174.50			2,174.50	1,440.00
Manse Costs				-	462.92
Telephone	188.49			188.49	-
Heat and Light	255.26			255.26	-
Fabric repairs & maintenance				-	-
Church	2,146.78			2,146.78	499.60
Manse	270.00			270.00	261.14
Heat and light	7,587.70			7,587.70	5,938.54
Insurance	5,348.82			5,348.82	2,490.33
Printing, stationery and postage				-	-
Other expenses	380.48			380.48	159.28
Website	416.00			416.00	-
Special collections	-			-	-
	<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,148.74</u>	<u>14,840.71</u>
Governance costs					
Independent examiner's fees				-	-
6 Other payments					
Purchase of assets				-	-
Purchase of investments				-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Central and East Sutherland 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 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 £32,433 and the maximum in the 5th and subsequent years of service £39,856

6. Collections for Third Parties

Helmsdale Primary School
 Earl Haig
 TEAR Fund
 Mission Boxes
 Children's Society

	2025	2024
	£	£
	200.00	
	144.00	
	65.95	
	<u>409.95</u>	<u>-</u>

Guild Account held elsewhere balance £455.45

Party Account of £136.09 included in the Guild Account

APPENDIX

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

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	<u>113,488.13</u>	<u>906.74</u>
<u>CAPITAL CONSOLIDATED FABRIC FUND ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>325,737.81</u>	<u>12,611.80</u>
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	<u>403,495.80</u>	<u>12,611.80</u>
<u>TEMPORARY ACCOUNT</u>	(4,570.00)	