

Stockethill Church of Scotland
Congregational Accounts – Receipts and Payments
For the Year 2024

Congregation No: 311883

Charity No: SC030587

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name: Stockethill Church of Scotland

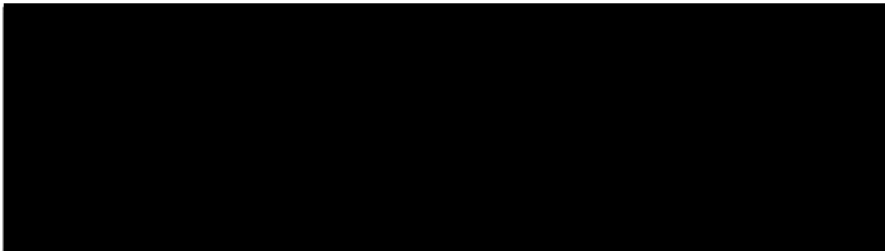
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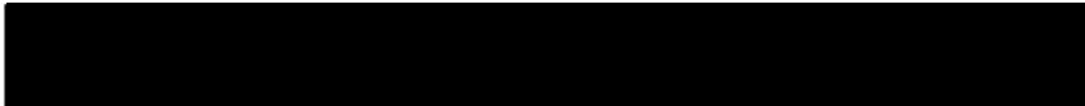
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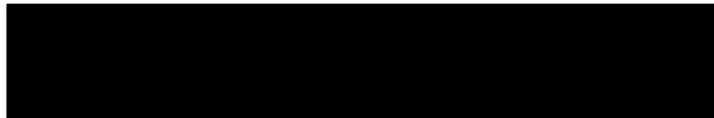
Trustees for the entire year:



Trustees for part of year:



Parish Minister:



Session Clerk:



Church Treasurer:



Independent Examiner:



Bankers:

Bank of Scotland
Edinburgh BX2 1LB

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document

The church is governed in accordance with the unitary constitution of the Church of Scotland.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

Stockethill Church, as a church in full status, has, as its Trustees, a Kirk Session, comprising six elders and the parish minister. These elders were chosen on the basis of having the appropriate gifts and skills for the role and having undertaken appropriate training.

Organisational Structure

The control of the affairs of the Congregation, both spiritual and temporal, are vested in the Kirk Session of the Congregation (which comprises the Minister and those ordained elders who are members of the congregation and appointed to the Session). Its functions include those set out in the Consolidating Act anent Church Courts (Act III, 2000) and all those devolving in terms of General Assembly legislation on the Session and on the Financial Board of a Congregation. In order to fulfil its duties, the Kirk Session will, from time to time, delegate responsibility to ad-hoc groups made up of church members.

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 the distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish in Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

In accordance with these aims, the Kirk Session of Stockethill Church, through worship, community building, teaching and service, seeks to enable its members, individually and corporately, to love their neighbours and reveal the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Achievements and Performance

Through four worshipping congregations and two small Community Groups, over 120 people (members, adherents and enquirers) meet regularly for worship, teaching and prayer, as well as to minister to each other and help each other minister to others. Courses, social events and individual discipleship relationships add to these opportunities. Others in the local community, the city and beyond, are primarily helped and served through individual acts of kindness, love and prayer from congregation members, but opportunities also exist to provide services to the community in general through, for example, schools work, bereavement care, marriage preparation, family support and the general support of community-based programs.

In 2024, the congregation ran a weekly children's club (Sams Club) for thirty children, which also involved volunteer helpers from the church.

In 2024, the congregation employed a part-time Community Worker to serve the local community and work in partnership with other agencies. Grants were received from The Baird Trust and Benefact Trust to help cover the cost of this post with the church also contributing.

Small grants were also received from Aberdeen City Council to help fund holiday clubs for local families.

In accordance with Article 1 of the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland in Matters Spiritual there is a commitment to work "for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the world". Therefore, the mission and outreach of the congregation includes supporting work done by other Church of Scotland bodies and Christian-based work done by other charities. As there are not sufficient resources to undertake the full extent of missions of this type at a local level that we would wish, it is more cost-effective and more appropriate, because of economies of scale, to support work being undertaken on a wider basis. This is done through retiring offerings at our main services and through social events. Groups so supported are chosen by the Congregation which commits to support them through prayer, correspondence, awareness-raising and in any other appropriate way. In 2024, Sisterland was supported in this way.

Financial Review

The principal source of income is through regular giving of the church members. Membership has remained more or less constant, but giving increased by 24%. Gift aid giving increased by 16.7% over the year, and cash offerings increased by 40%. Tax recovered on gift aid donations increased by 7.2%. Giving by standing order was steady. The church may also apply to Trust Funds, grant awarders, local businesses etc. to seek funding for specific projects but does not engage in fund-raising from those to whom it is called to minister, beyond its own members.

Donations given by non-church members are used in the discretionary fund. Small donations are sometimes made by those who have used the services of the minister at funerals and weddings.

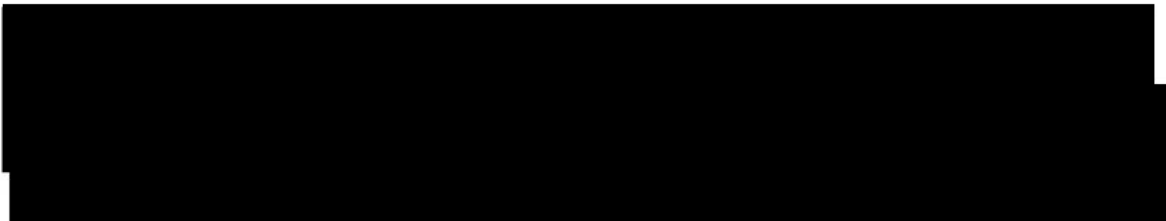
Reserves Policy

The Kirk Session's policy is to hold some reserves to provide some financial resilience, fund new initiatives and the next stage of the development of the church.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session must receive and approve financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the church during the financial year. The church treasurer and members of the Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which on request, must reflect the financial position of the church at any time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Account (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,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

10 April 2025
Stockethill Church of Scotland
Charity No. SC030587

Report of the Independent Examiner

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) 2005 Act and the Charity's 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

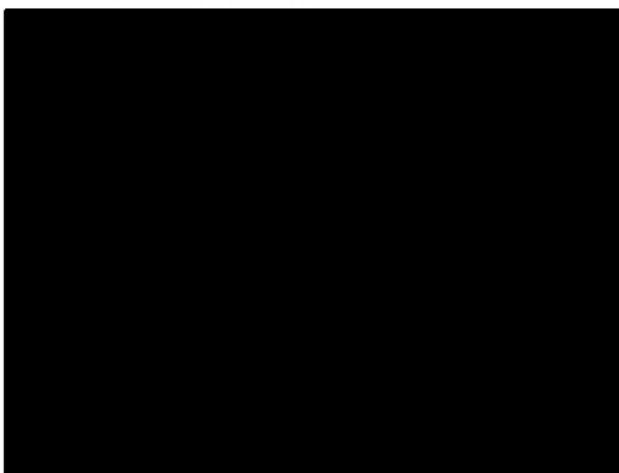
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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, 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.



Stockethill Church of Scotland
Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended December 2024

	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund 2024 (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund 2024 (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds 2024 (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>						
Donations						
Offerings	28,796.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,796.58	23,213
Other giving	130.00	1,880.00	0.00	0.00	2,010.00	2,980
Grants & Legacies	0.00	0.00	13,621.78	0.00	13,621.78	19,084
Refunds of tax on gift-aided giving	6,890.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,890.13	6,424
Bank & deposit interest	4,107.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,107.17	3,373
Total Receipts	39,923.88	1,880.00	13,621.78	0.00	55,425.66	55,075
<u>Payments</u>						
Costs of generating funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charitable activities	27,504.65	1,693.61	17,143.13	0.00	46,341.39	54,741
Governance costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Total Payments	27,504.65	1,693.61	17,143.13	0.00	46,341.39	54,741
Excess of Receipts over Payments before transfers	12,419.23	186.39	-3,521.35	0.00	9,084.27	334
Transfers between funds	-7,350.00	0.00	7,350.00	0.00	0.00	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments for 2024	5,069.23	186.39	3,828.65	0.00	9,084.27	334

Stockethill Church of Scotland
Statement of Balances
Year Ended December 2024

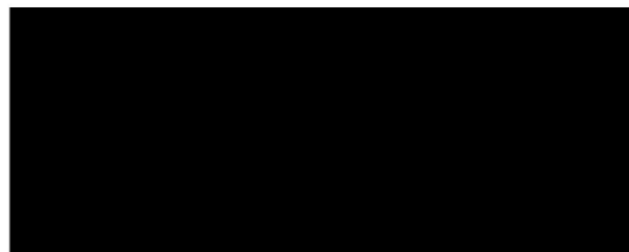
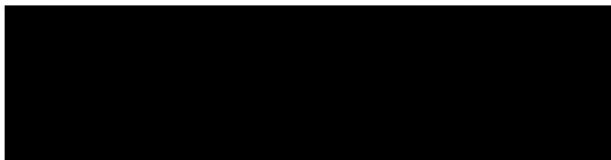
	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund 2024 (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund 2024 (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds 2024 (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Bank & Cash Balances</u>						
Balances brought forward	71,747.17	1,574.42	25,604.75	0.00	98,926.34	98,592.73
<u>Movement in year</u>						
	5,069.23	186.39	3,828.65	0.00	9,084.27	333.61
Third party collection held at prior year and paid over in current year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Third party collection held at year end.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank balances at 31 December 2024	76,816.40	1,760.81	29,433.40	0.00	108,010.61	98,926.34

Investments (Note 6) 70,153.58

Assets None

Liabilities None

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 10 April 2025
For and on behalf of the Trustees



Stockethill Church of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

Five trustees received reimbursement of expenses during the year. The total reimbursement of expenses was £1,522.62. No trustee received remuneration.

No trustee or a person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

No payment was made to the minister regarding heat & light costs for the manse during the year.

2. Purposes of the Unrestricted, Designated Fund

Alms fund: This is a fund set aside to provide financial assistance to people in the parish. It is used at the discretion of the Minister.

3. Purposes of the Restricted, Designated Funds.

These are capital reserve funds for future spending in IT equipment, equipment for worship, manse repairs, training, special projects and community support projects.

Income was from three sources of Grants/Legacies and transfers from the General Fund.

4. Purpose of the Unrestricted, Non-designated Fund

This fund is used on a regular basis in order to achieve the objectives outlined in the Trustees' Annual Report.

5. Ministers' Stipends

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 and the maximum stipend in the fifth and subsequent years of service was £38,884. 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 the Housing and Loan Fund.

6. Church of Scotland Investors Trust

The market value of an investment in the Income Fund is £70,153.58; cost is £75,636.93.

7. Third party collection held at year end

No money was collected for third parties and not disbursed.

	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 0.00	Total 2024	Total 2023
8. Analysis of donations						
Gift aid donations	18,570.00				18,570.00	15,906.00
Ordinary offerings	10,226.58				10,226.58	7,307.15
Tax recovered on gift aid donations	6,890.13				6,890.13	6,424.31
Grants, legacies, donations.	130.00	1,880.00	13,621.78		15,631.78	22,063.90
	35,816.71	1,880.00	13,621.78	0.00	51,318.49	51,701.36

9. Analysis of payments

Costs of generating funds

None

Charitable activities

Ministries & Mission allocation	8,629.00				8,629.00	17,034.00
Other staffing costs	0.00		13,908.90		13,908.90	12,730.65
Training & teaching	468.25				468.25	468.88
Manse costs	6,258.72		1,735.00		7,993.72	10,200.35
Administration	5,342.20				5,342.20	4,171.42
Hospitality	989.14				989.14	657.84
Services & Events	12,775.58		318.97		13,094.55	7,474.47
Community Involvement	391.76	1,693.61	1,180.26		3,265.63	4,353.63
	34,854.65	1,693.61	17,143.13	0.00	53,691.39	57,091.24

Governance costs

None

Other payments

None

10. Collections for Third Parties

	2024	2023
Sisterland	91.00	260.00
cFine	0.00	128.80
Samuel Trust	0.00	189.00
	91.00	577.80

11. Movements in Funds

	Opening			Transfer from	Closing
Restricted, Designated Funds	Balance	Receipts	Payments	General Fund	Balance
Manse	4,447.28	0.00	-1,735.00	2,000.00	4,712.28
IT	506.49	0.00	-318.97	350.00	537.52
Worship Equipment	1,257.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,257.45
Mission	555.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	555.00
Community Worker Support	13,255.67	12,296.00	-13,908.90	5,000.00	16,642.77
Lunch Club - Holidays	309.31	1,325.78	-1,180.26	0.00	454.83
Story Project	1,892.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,892.00
NYNO Project	329.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.12
Church Development	191.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.05
Prayers For Healing	828.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	828.33
Memorial	2,033.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,033.05
	25,604.75	13,621.78	-17,143.13	7,350.00	29,433.40
Unrestricted, Designated Fund	1574.42	1880.00	-1693.61	0.00	1760.81
Unrestricted, Non-Designated Fund	71747.17	39923.88	-27504.65	-7350.00	76816.40
Total Funds	98,926.34	55,425.66	-46,341.39	0.00	108,010.61