

Scottish charity number: SC038275

Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2025

Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland

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Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:	Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland
Charity registration number:	SC038275
Church address:	173 Bank Street Coatbridge ML5 1HA
Bankers:	Bank of Scotland Main Street Coatbridge ML5 3EF
Independent Examiner:	Alison Franks CA Cornerstone Accounting 11 Erngath Road Bo'ness EH51 9DP

Constitution and governance

Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland is a congregation of the national Free Church of Scotland.

The Free Church of Scotland dates from 1843. With its roots in the Reformation, it owes its distinctive title to its historical struggle to remain 'free' from state interference in its internal affairs. It has close and active relations with many other Reformed churches of Jesus Christ throughout the world and stands firmly in the tradition which accepts the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God and, therefore, derives its forms of teaching, worship, ministry and government from it. The main emphasis of our worship is the preaching of the gospel - the good news of a free and sovereign salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

The Church is established under the unitary form of constitution. The Church is Presbyterian in government and its day-to-day running is undertaken by the Elders (the Kirk Session) and the Deacons (the Deacons' Court). Elders are charged with the spiritual oversight of the congregation and the Deacons with the property and finance. The Minister and Elders serving on Kirk Session are also members of the Deacons' Court who, for the purposes of Charity Law, are the Trustees of the Charity.

The congregation is within the Free Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. The congregation is authorised by the Church to have a minister paid from central funds. The Church building and the Minister's manse are the property of the congregation.

The appointment of new Elders and Deacons is at the discretion of the Kirk Session and must involve the communicant members of the congregation. There is no fixed term. Prior to their appointment, new Trustees would have served the Church for some time in various roles and would be familiar with the Church's values, aims and objectives. As part of their induction, new Trustees are required to understand their statutory responsibilities as well as their responsibilities as Elder or Deacon.

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

J Colquhoun	Elder	J Fallon	Deacon
C MacIver	Elder	A MacAulay	Deacon
I Macleod	Elder	J Neilson	Deacon
R Robertson	Elder	G Russell	Deacon
A Walker	Elder		

Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

Achievements and performance

During the year, Hope Church met regularly for worship and for prayer and other meetings, fellowship and outreach. The congregation continued its commitment to support the national Free Church of Scotland both spiritually and financially. The church plant at Christ Church, Glasgow being a separate congregation of the Free Church, was no longer supported by Hope Church

Significant highlights, events and developments of note in the year include the following:

- Attendances at worship services declined slightly in the year and through death, transfers to other Free Churches and other removals the communicant membership reduced and numbered fifty-three at 31 December 2025 (2024: fifty-seven).
- The congregation is presently without a minister and Rev Thomas Penman continues as Interim Moderator. The supply arranged by Mr Penman has been of great benefit.
- Exploratory work continued on the possibility of planting a new church in the Chapelhall area and our Community and Youth Worker worked there and in Coatbridge with our own young people. She resigned in October 2025 to take up a new position with Scripture Union.
- The congregation continued its various outreach activities such as its weekly community café, toddler group and sports evenings, monthly street outreach and care-home services, annual Holiday Club and other occasional events. The building is also made available to a numeracy class organised by North Lanarkshire Council.
- The Kirk Session and Deacons' Court are very grateful to the volunteers who help with our Sunday School and the events listed above, and to all contributors to the congregation's funds.
- In financial terms our contributors responded well to requests for funds and financial commitments were met. In particular, the establishment of a manse repair fund met with a good response.

Financial review

Change of accounting basis

The accounts have been restated this year to the Receipts and Payments Basis of accounting, permissible for all charities with annual income of less than £250k. The figures for 2024 have also been restated on the new basis to provide comparability to users of these accounts.

Principal sources of funding

The Church is primarily funded by church members through their offerings and the associated Gift Aid.

Results for the year

The Accounts for the year are set out on pages 4 to 8. The Receipts and Payments Account on page 4 shows a surplus of £16,281 (2024: deficit of £31,188), comprising a surplus on unrestricted funds after transfers of £24,582 (2024: deficit of £7,192) and a deficit on restricted funds after transfers of £8,301 (2024: deficit of £23,996).

The total funds of the church at the year-end are £37,905 (2024: £21,624). The balance due on the loan fund has reduced in the year from £128,938 to £110,546.

Reserves

The Trustees have set a reserves policy to maintain unrestricted funds of at least 1 month's running costs which was calculated as £7,000 for 2025. This allows sufficient funds to enable the ongoing work of the Church to be maintained. Per the Statement of Balances on page 5, the general fund at 31 December 2025 amounted to £20,038 (2024: -£4,544) which is above this threshold.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 16 February 2026.

Cameron MacIver

Cameron MacIver
Trustee

Hope Church Coatbridge – Free Church of Scotland

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 8.

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's 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 (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 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 9 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.

Alison Franks

Alison Franks CA

Director

Cornerstone Accounting Ltd
Chartered Accountants

11 Erngath Road
Bo'ness
EH51 9DP

Date: 16 February 2026

Hope Church Coatbridge - Free Church of Scotland

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £
Receipts							
Member offerings		61,352	28,340	89,692	55,484	21,626	77,110
Donations		-	23,200	23,200	3,364	-	3,364
Gift aid recovered		14,903	12,142	27,045	13,392	4,752	18,144
Grants	2	-	-	-	-	2,750	2,750
Toddler group income		355	-	355	-	-	-
Deposit account interest		-	299	299	-	378	378
Other income		180	289	469	131	-	131
Total receipts		76,790	64,270	141,060	72,371	29,506	101,877
Payments							
FCOS Central Fund Contribution		48,563	-	48,563	45,368	-	45,368
Presbytery dues		916	-	916	1,401	-	1,401
Staff costs		4,979	8,913	13,892	2,598	21,183	23,781
Preaching fees		4,107	-	4,107	960	-	960
Minister/Moderator expenses		68	-	68	1,835	-	1,835
Toddler group costs		264	-	264	3,634	-	3,634
Youth and other outreach costs		1,632	-	1,632	969	-	969
Church and manse insurance		1,806	-	1,806	2,073	-	2,073
Church repairs and maintenance		739	-	739	774	-	774
Church utility costs		6,769	-	6,769	4,045	-	4,045
Church building costs		-	-	-	5,527	308	5,835
Manse council tax		2,619	-	2,619	2,398	-	2,398
Manse repairs and maintenance		-	8,400	8,400	405	-	405
Manse heat and light		3,795	-	3,795	3,016	-	3,016
Manse telephone and internet		99	-	99	362	-	362
Administration and telephone costs		1,122	49	1,171	1,650	-	1,650
Travel expenses		-	-	-	458	-	458
Publications		837	-	837	808	-	808
Subscriptions		153	-	153	163	-	163
IT and website costs		1,061	-	1,061	1,078	-	1,078
Independent examination fees		1,200	-	1,200	900	-	900
Loan repayments	3	-	24,208	24,208	14,708	-	14,708
Transfer to Christ Church Glasgow		-	-	-	-	16,444	16,444
Charitable donations	4	2,480	-	2,480	-	-	-
Total payments		83,209	41,570	124,779	95,130	37,935	133,065
Surplus/(deficit) for the year before transfers		(6,419)	22,700	16,281	(22,759)	(8,429)	(31,188)
Transfers		31,001	(31,001)	-	15,567	(15,567)	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year after transfers		24,582	(8,301)	16,281	(7,192)	(23,996)	(31,188)
Total funds brought forward		(4,544)	26,168	21,624	2,648	50,164	52,812
Total funds carried forward		20,038	17,867	37,905	(4,544)	26,168	21,624

The notes on pages 6 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Hope Church Coatbridge - Free Church of Scotland

Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	Opening balance £	2025 Surplus for year £	Closing balance £	Opening balance £	2024 Deficit for year £	Closing balance £
Bank and cash							
Church current account		21,624	16,281	37,905	52,812	(31,188)	21,624
Total bank and cash		21,624	16,281	37,905	52,812	(31,188)	21,624
Represented by:							
Unrestricted funds	7						
General fund				20,038			(4,544)
				<u>20,038</u>			<u>(4,544)</u>
Restricted funds	8						
Chapelhall outreach fund (previously mission fund)				831			26,168
Building fund				2,739			-
Manse refurbishment fund				14,297			-
				<u>17,867</u>			<u>26,168</u>
Total funds				<u>37,905</u>			<u>21,624</u>
Statement of assets							
Freehold property - at cost				1,040,000			1,040,000
Gift aid due				4,254			4,917
				<u>1,044,254</u>			<u>1,044,917</u>
Statement of liabilities							
Building loan	3			110,546			128,938
FCoS Central funds				1,950			-
Salaries due				431			-
Trade creditors				-			1,565
Other creditors				-			1,703
				<u>112,927</u>			<u>132,206</u>

The financial statements on pages 4 to 8 were approved by the Trustees on 16 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:

Iain Macleod

Iain Macleod
Trustee/Treasurer

Hope Church Coatbridge - Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Acts and Regulations of the Scottish Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. All voluntary income, income from tax recoveries on Gift Aid and bank interest is accounted for when received. Expenditure is recognised when paid.

Receipts and payments account

For the purpose of the receipts and payments account as shown on page 5, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the church without further specified purpose and are available as general funds. Some unrestricted funds have been defined as **Designated funds** by the Trustees where they have been ringfenced for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the church and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

2. Grant income

During the year, we received the following grants:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Free Church of Scotland - for minister in training support costs	-	2,750
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,750</u>

3. Loans

A loan was received from the Free Church of Scotland for £150,000 in March 2021. It is repayable over 15 years with interest charged at the rate of 2% above Bank of England base rate per annum. Capital due and the timeframe for repayment are listed below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount falling due:		
Within one year	9,394	14,708
Within two to five years	42,633	58,830
Over 5 years	58,519	55,400
	<u>110,546</u>	<u>128,938</u>

4. Charitable donations

The following donations were made in the year:

	2025
	£
Free Church of Scotland appeals	950
Making a Difference Ministries	480
Scripture Union Scotland	480
Centre for Rural Ministry	200
Glasgow Caledonian University - Christian Union	200
Coatbridge Federation of Tenants	100
Benevolent Fund	70
	<u>2,480</u>

Hope Church Coatbridge - Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

5. Transactions with Trustees and related parties

All Free Church of Scotland congregations with a minister are expected to contribute to the Sustentation Fund of the denomination the full costs of ministry, including stipend, NIC, pension and an administration levy. All ministers in charges are paid from the central funds of the Church. In the year under review, the stipend was £29,232 (2024: £27,580).

During the year, 3 trustees (2024: 3) received reimbursement of expenses totalling £2,748 (2024: £3,647) for resources purchased on behalf of the church.

The church cleaner is the wife of one of our Trustees and was paid £4,979 in the year. There were no other transactions with related parties in the year (2024: nil).

6. Volunteer time

The Church relies heavily on the contribution of significant volunteer time for the delivery of its programme of activities. This has not been quantified for the purposes of these accounts.

7. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.25	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	(4,544)	76,790	(83,209)	31,001	20,038
Total unrestricted funds	(4,544)	76,790	(83,209)	31,001	20,038

Explanation of funds

The General Fund represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.

8. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.25	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Chapelhall outreach fund (previously mission fund)	26,168	2,894	(8,962)	(19,269)	831
Building fund	-	40,259	(24,208)	(13,312)	2,739
Manse refurbishment fund	-	21,117	(8,400)	1,580	14,297
Total restricted funds	26,168	64,270	(41,570)	(31,001)	17,867

Explanation of funds

The *Chapelhall outreach fund* (previously the mission fund) represents donations raised to support outreach projects in Chapelhall. The transfer out in the year represents an unrestricted legacy received by the trustees which was designated by them for mission work and incorrectly accounted for last year as restricted.

The *Building fund* represents funds raised for the extension of the church building and to pay off the building loan.

The *Manse refurbishment fund* represents funds received for the upgrade of the manse.

Hope Church Coatbridge - Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

9. Restatement of comparatives

The accounts have been restated this year from the Accruals basis to the Receipts and Payments basis. This has resulted in the following adjustments to the comparatives this year:

2023 brought forward reserves

2023 reserves, as previously stated	956,970
Deduct:	
Tangible assets - church property and fixtures	(1,039,608)
Income due but not received	(7,205)
Add:	
Loans due	137,128
Bills due but not paid	5,527
2023 reserves, restated	52,812

2024 deficit

2024 deficit, as previously stated	(18,480)
Deduct:	
Purchase of fixed assets	(5,258)
Loan repaid	(8,190)
Bills from 2023 paid	(5,527)
Income due but not received	(4,917)
Add:	
Depreciation	711
Income from 2023 received	7,205
Bills due but not paid	3,268
2024 deficit, restated	- 31,188
Restated 2024 reserves carried forward	21,624