



**The Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth  
(SCIO)**

**Charity Number SC 047919**

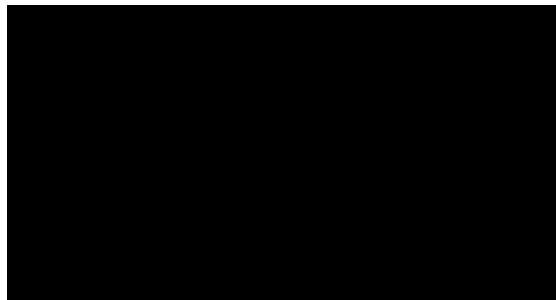
**Trustees' Report to OSCR for Year Ending 31st March 2024**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

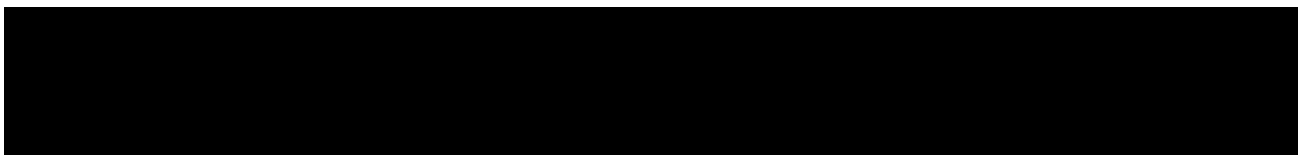
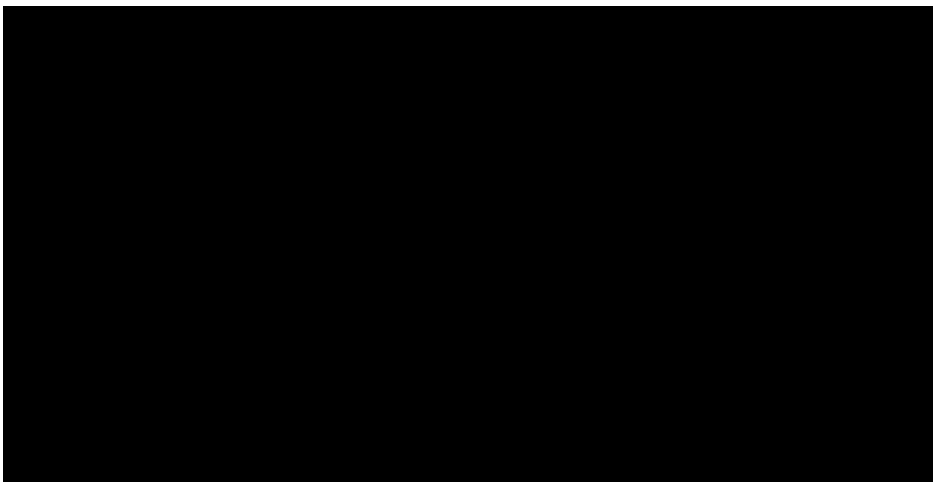
**Charity Name:** The Friends of St. John's Kirk of Perth (SCIO)

**Charity Registration Number:** SC 047919

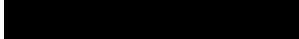
**Contact Address:**



**Trustees:**



**Independent Examiner**



Morris & Young, 6 Atholl Crescent, Perth. PH1 5JN

**Banker:**

Virgin Money, St. John's Centre, 158/162 High Street, Perth. PH1 5UH

## **The Governing Document:**

The Governing Document of the organisation is its Constitution, as amended on the 16th of June 2021.

## **The Purposes of the organisation:**

- 1 To ensure that the sacred environment that has existed in St. John's Kirk for over 800 years is appropriately maintained and to promote the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture of Scotland and the advancement of religion.
- 2 To provide a Christian mission for the thousands of tourists who visit St. John's Kirk every year and so to promote the advancement of religion
- 3 To enhance the public's experience of Scotland's architectural, cultural, religious and artistic heritage that is exemplified in St. John's Kirk of Perth, and so to promote the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture of Scotland.
- 4 To advance the knowledge of the history of St. John's Kirk, and the religious community associated with it, and so to promote the advancement of education.

## **General structure of the organisation:**

### **Members:**

The Friends of St. John's Kirk is a membership organisation. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16 who subscribes to the purposes of the organisation. Members may attend members' meetings, in particular the AGM, and appoint people to serve on the Board. .

The annual membership subscription is £10 for single membership, £15 for a couple.

The financial year for the Friends runs from the 1st of April to 31st of March. The AGM of the Friends is held at a convenient date after the end of the financial year

### **Board:**

The Board holds meetings, determines the activities of the organisation and monitors and controls its financial position. Those serving on the Board are referred to as Charity Trustees. All the charity trustees retire at each AGM, but may be available for re-election.

The minimum membership of the Board is nine and the maximum is twelve. Three of the trustees may be nominated by the Session of St. John's Kirk of Perth, and one by the Trust for St. John's Kirk, the others are elected at the AGM. As from the AGM on 16th August 2022 there are 12 trustees. The Charity Trustees elect (from their number) the office bearers of the organisation.

### **Context:**

The Friends forms one of the three organisational and financial pillars of St. John's Kirk. These are:

1. The Kirk Session, to which the Trust and Friends both report, is responsible for all the outreach and religious work of, and activities within the Parish Church, and to which (through Perth Presbytery and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland) is devolved responsibility for the upkeep of the building.

2. The Trust for St. John's Kirk, which undertakes major financial appeals on behalf of the Session.
3. The remit of Friends of St. John's Kirk (SCIO) is to promote St. John's as a tourist attraction, to assist (in conjunction with the Session) in managing the visitors who come to the Kirk, and to assume some of the financial responsibilities associated with making the Kirk a welcoming place for people to visit and to worship. To promote these ends it was decided to register the Friends with OSCR as a separate charity with a new model constitution. This was achieved in November 2017.

In pre-Covid years St. John's Kirk was open for visitors from Easter until the end of September, on Remembrance Day, at Advent, on Door's Open Day, and irregularly on other occasions during the year. In those times the Kirk welcomed between 10,000 and 12,000 visitors annually. Although the Covid pandemic has abated, footfall around the Kirk has been seriously affected by the disruption caused by the reconstruction of the City Hall, and the closure of some major shops in St John's Street. Visitor numbers were approximately 3,000 in the year to March 2023. When the City Hall opens as a museum dedicated to mediaeval Perth in April 2024, visitor numbers to the kirk are expected to increase dramatically, perhaps to as many as 30,000 annually. Entry for visitors is free, but donations are requested.

St John's Kirk is also used approximately 50 times each year for concerts and other activities. These include:

- A series of lunch-time organ recitals organised by the Kirk's director of music ( [REDACTED] ) during the winter and spring;

- Around 14 carillon recitals;

- A number of events each year during the Perth Festival of the Arts;

- Exceptionally, in October 2022, several events during the Gaelic Mod;

- And irregular externally organised events such as for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, visiting choirs etc.

## **Report for the year to 31st March 2024**

### **Trustees:**

There were no changes in the Board of Trustees during the year.

### **Statutory and other meetings held during the year 2023 - 2024**

#### Open Day. 24 June 2023

This was held in conjunction with the Session. Invitations were sent to the City Centre churches, other religious organisations, YMCA, etc. Its main purpose was to increase recruitment of Stewards, and to prepare for the opening of the new Perth Museum in 2024. Before Covid around 10,000 - 12,000 visited the Kirk annually. It is predicted that the opening of the Museum will increase the numbers three fold. The attendance was encouraging, and a significant number of new stewards were recruited.

The AGM was held in person on August 16th 2023.

Board meetings were held on April 5th, 2023, after the AGM on August 16th 2023, and after the general meeting of the Friends on 14th February 2024 (see below).

#### General Meeting of the Friends, 14 February 2024.

This meeting, addressed by [REDACTED] the general manager of Perth Museum, is reported below under the heading 'Perth Museum'.

## Overview of the year

The Coronavirus pandemic had a lasting effect on the activities of the Friends of St John's Kirk. Shop closures in the centre of Perth, and the resulting drop in footfall in the vicinity, were compounded by the building work being undertaken on the conversion of the City Hall to the new Perth Museum, and the fact that several of our stewards felt unable to resume their duties, when the covid restrictions were lifted.

### VisitScotland:

An incognito inspection of St John's Kirk took place on 21st September 2022 and St John's was successful in retaining its Four Star status in the Quality Assurance Scheme.



However, VisitScotland is discontinuing the Quality Assurance Scheme in 2025. There will be one last incognito inspection later this year. Thereafter the scheme will be replaced by specialist advice given directly to participants. How this will work out for St John's is difficult to gauge.

## Current activities:

### The Cockerel is Back!

The cockerel was returned to St John's on 28th February 2024. Shining in its new coat of gold leaf, and mounted on a neat stand it will be displayed in the kirk until the time is right to replace it on its historic place atop the spire. Then it can resume its 500 year long watching brief over the City of Perth, its people and St John's Kirk.

Ratho Byres Forge, near Edinburgh, where it was refurbished, has done a marvellous job - repairing the splits and dents in the cockerel, applying the gold leaf, and restoring the heavy 10 foot shaft on which it is mounted.

A video record of the restoration has been made by Ratho Byres Forge for Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, and a Master Class in gilding organised by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, and facilitated by Ratho Byres Forge took place on the 24th of April 2024 (after the period to which this report refers).



The cost of the project was £ 9,552 including the cost of creating the video and VAT (which we are hoping to recover). We received a grant of £ 2,930 from the Perth Common Good fund, and £ 5,000 from Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust which includes £ 720 for the cost of creating the video. We also received a generous donation of £ 1,000 from a member of the Friends, which left just £ 622 to be met from the resources of the Friends.

The replacement of the cockerel on the top of the spire will have to await the essential repairs to the spire which has suffered from water penetration through leaks in the lead covering which is more than two and a half centuries old.

### Perth Museum

The new Perth Museum opened as the year covered in this report ended. There has been considerable co-operation between the museum authorities and the Kirk with a view to

encouraging those attending the museum to visit the Kirk as well, and see the only mediaeval building still in use in Perth, and hear about the many important events which took place in it. This collaboration culminated in a General Meeting of the Friends of St. John's Kirk to which members of the congregation and representatives of the other city centre churches were invited. It took place on 14th February and was addressed by [REDACTED], the general manager of the museum. It proved to be a very interesting and informative meeting. It was clear that the Museum is keen to work with the kirk as much as possible to broaden its own appeal and expand the visitors' experience of Perth.

## **Brown Signs**

Some years ago the Friends was instrumental in persuading Perth & Kinross Council to include St John's Kirk on its brown tourist signs erected on the six main roads entering the City. With the impending closure of the VisitScotland tourist information office, and the opening of the museum, these signs will all have to be changed. Once again the Council has done this without asking for the fee which would normally be charged, for which The Friends is very grateful.



## **Through a Glass Brightly**

In 1967 an illustrated booklet about the windows of St John's kirk was produced by [REDACTED], a member of the kirk who sadly died in 1972. In 2000 an updated edition, edited by [REDACTED] was published. This has long been sold-out. A new edition incorporating new photographs of the windows is now being produced by [REDACTED], one of the Trustees of The Friends. It is expected that this will be published later this year.

## **St William of Perth:**

In the reports to OSCR last year and in 2022, it was noted that The Friends had commissioned a play about St William, the only citizen of Perth to be sanctified. In brief, the story is that William, a 12th century Perth baker adopted a baby boy abandoned on the steps of St John's kirk. Some 20 years later William and his adopted son embarked on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. As they passed through Rochester, William was murdered for his money by his adopted son. His body was found by a mad woman who plaited a garland of honeysuckle, and placed it on his forehead. She was immediately cured of her madness. Other miracles followed and William was sanctified by Pope Innocent IV.

Although the play has been widely commended, to date we have not been able to find a group willing to produce it. Perth Theatre delayed a decision on it for a year, and then said that they would need a subsidy from the Kirk of £17,000 to put it on. Clearly this was quite impossible. Very recently Perth Drama Club has also said that they would not be able to put on the play (once again after a delay of nearly a year). At the present time we are considering other options.

## **Accounts**

A copy of the accounts is appended to this report.

The accounts show a cash balance on 31st March of £9,660. However, the repair of the cockerel attracted a grant of £2,390 from the Perth Common Good fund, which had been approved, but had not been received by 31st March. It has since been received and the loan of £9,552, has been repaid to the Session of St John's Kirk. Furthermore, we hope to be able to reclaim the VAT on the cockerel repair.

## Looking forward to the year 2024 - 2025:

The kirk was opened for visitors for the summer of 2024 from Monday 25th of March, the beginning of Holy Week

Since the Museum opened, visitor numbers to the kirk have already increased very significantly, as the figures below show.

### Visitor numbers to the Kirk and the Museum

#### St John's Kirk Visitor Numbers

	<u>2024</u>	<u>% Increase compared to Max for Month Pre-covid</u>
From 25 <sup>th</sup> March	757	
April	3,399	+200% (2015 was our best April)
May	2,197	+40% (2018 was our best May)
Total since opening	6,353	+132% (overall 2018 was our best year)

#### Museum Visitor Numbers

March (1.5 days)	4,404
April	42,710
May	28,071
Total since opening	75,185

Currently we seem to be attracting 8% of Museum visitors into the Kirk, but it is hoped that this can be increased.

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The Stewards are now wearing a new colourful blue sash with the Kirk emblem (the Lamb of St John), which enables them to be clearly identified.

The Gilding Master Class which was held on 24th April 2024 in conjunction with Ratho Byres Forge and Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, was very successful. There were fourteen participants, each of whom received very individual instruction. They were each provided with a small metal leaf by Ratho Byres Forge which they were able to gild and keep as a souvenir.

## Conclusion:

The Board of Trustees believes that the Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth is in good heart, and it is keen to tackle the challenges that will arise in the next few years.

,  
Chairman.

26 June, 2024.

## Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth (SCIO)

SC047919



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2023		31	03	2024

## Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations		1,000			1,000	
Legacies					-	
Grants		5,000			5,000	300
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	982
Loans		9,552			9,552	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities- subscriptions	257				257	235
Gift aid repayment	350				350	
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>15,552</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,159</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>15,552</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,159</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,146				1,146	1,016
Refurb.of Spire Cockerel on St.Johns		9,552			9,552	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Posters for Goodbox in St John's Kirk					-	107
Setting up QR in St John's Kirk	167				167	
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>1,123</b>
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>1,123</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>394</b>



## Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	3,513	853			4,366	3,972
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(706)	6,000			5,294	394
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	2,807	6,853	-	-	9,660	4,366
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	Loan from St John's Kirk to enable refurbishment of Spire Cockerel	Restricted to Cockerel	9,552	
		Total	9,552	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

			31 July 2024

## Section C Notes to the Accounts

**C1 Nature and purpose of funds** (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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### C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
<b>Total</b>			-

### C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	<b>x</b>
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### C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£

### C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	<b>x</b>
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### C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

### C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

### C6 Other information

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## Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth (SCIO)

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**Additional analysis (1)****Analysis of receipts and payments****1 Donations**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donation from Mrs Ogston towards cost of refurbishing Spire Cockerel		1,000			1,000	
					-	
					-	
		-			-	
<b>Total</b>		1,000	-	-	1,000	
	-	-	-	-	-	-

**2 Grants**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Perth and Kinross Common Good Fund		5,000			5,000	300
	-				-	
<b>Total</b>	-	5,000			5,000	300
	-	-			-	-

**3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Members Subscriptions	257				257	230
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	257	-	-	-	257	230
	-	-	-	-	-	reference error

**4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

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## Additional analysis (2)

### 5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	300
Receipts from fundraising activities-CD Sales					-	982
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Gift aid repayment	350				350	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities-subs.	257				257	235
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>607</b>	-	-	-	<b>607</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities-C.D. Costs					-	1,016
Banners for advertising	672				672	
Visit Scotland Membership	174				174	
Payment Allan Laing re proposed Drama	300				300	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Posters for Goodbox in St John's Kirk					-	107
Setting up QR in St Joh;s Kirk	167				167	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,123</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,123</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(706)</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						

## Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth (SCIO)

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## Additional analysis (3)

## 6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
	Kitchen equipment St John's Kirk	Cockereel refurbishment				
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations		1,000			1,000	4,065
Legacies					-	
Grants		5,000			5,000	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Loan from St John's Kirk		9,552			9,552	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	15,552	-	-	15,552	4,065
					-	
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	15,552	-	-	15,552	4,065
					-	
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	3,212
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Refurbishment of Spire Cockereel		9,552			9,552	
					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	9,552	-	-	9,552	3,212
					-	
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	9,552	-	-	9,552	3,212
					-	
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	-	6,000	-	-	6,000	853
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	-	6,000	-	-	6,000	853
					-	
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						