

**Mid Deeside Parish
Church of Scotland**

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st December 2024

Congregation No: 321931

Charity No: SC 012967

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Reference and administrative information

Charity name: Mid Deeside Parish, Church of Scotland

Charity registration number: SC 012967

Congregation reference no: 321931

Contact address: St Marnan Road
Torphins, Banchory
Kincardineshire
AB31 4JQ

Trustees - Kirk Session members:

Mr Bob Auckland	Mr Iain Maclean
Mrs Pam Auckland	Mrs Mary Marshall
Mr Alan Bainbridge	Mr Neil Mathers
Mrs Irene Bonner	Mr Dave McGregor
Mr David Cockburn	Mr Andrew McMurtrie
Mr Frank Crichton	Mrs Sheila McMurtrie
Mrs Shiona Davidson	Miss Maureen Mearns
Mrs Alison Findlay (until 22.12.24)	Mrs Alison Orren
Mr Archie Findlay	Mr Richard Orren
Mr Colin Guy	Rev Holly Smith
Mrs Sharon Guy	Mrs Margaret Stewart
Mr Charlie Hilton	Mrs Lesley Stone
Mr Pete Howe	Mrs Karen Whyatt
Mrs Dorothy Keir (until 19.12.24)	Mr David Wildgoose (until 20.5.24)
Mr Rob Mackay	Mrs Edna Wildgoose (until 20.5.24)

Principal office-bearers:

Minister: Rev Holly Smith

Session Clerk: Mrs Pam Auckland

Church Treasurer: Mr Bob Auckland

Independent examiner:

Mr Raymond Donald
8 Battock Terrace
Torphins
AB31 4JD

Bankers:

Virgin Money Bank
1 Queens Cross
Aberdeen
AB15 4XU

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
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Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Mid Deeside Parish, Church of Scotland ("Mid Deeside") is a charitable trust and is administered in accordance with the Unitary Constitution of the Church of Scotland and is subject to the Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Mid Deeside is one of the many congregations within the Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles ("Presbytery").

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Communicant members of the congregation considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills are nominated by existing Kirk Session members to be ordained as elders. This lifelong ordination is carried out by the Minister and most of the elders serve on the Kirk Session. The Charity Trustees comprise the Minister and all elders who are members of the Kirk Session.

Organisational structure

The Kirk Session is responsible for both the spiritual and business affairs of the Church. Session meets every month (except July). It is represented at Presbytery by an elected elder. Property matters are dealt with by the Facilities Management Team which reports regularly to Kirk Session. The Congregational Roll of Church members at 31st December 2024 stood at 410 (2023: 415).

Objectives

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.

The Kirk Session is keen to encourage young people and their families to become involved in the work and worship of the Church through activities such as Sunday Club, Messy Church, Youth Club, Music and Play and social engagement.

Activities, achievements and performance

Morning worship takes place each Sunday at 11am and we have welcomed several new families and individuals during the year including 11 new communicants who made their profession of faith on the same day. The morning service continues to be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook and there are regular participants on this platform too. There were also five weddings held in the church in 2024 (2023: none).

The AV Team work hard to make the broadcasts the best quality possible. The Minister visits the local schools and conducts assemblies and Torphins School held some of their end of term assemblies in the church.

Members of the congregation, community and friends from further afield continue to knit and sew garments and toys for the babies at the Joyful Motherhood Project in Malawi and regular updates from the staff there tell how appreciative they are of the support. In 2024 17 parcels (2023: 24 parcels) of items were sent to Malawi. The Knit and Natter Group in Mid Deeside also make garments and toys for Joyful Motherhood as well as dishcloths, Easter decorations, winter hats & scarves and other items which they sell to raise funds to cover the postage costs.

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Activities, achievements and performance (continued)

The Charity Shop celebrated its 10th birthday during the year and continues to raise funds for good causes within the Parish, giving out grants totalling £13,762 in 2024.

The Charity Shop volunteers are always grateful for the good quality donations of clothes, shoes, books, toys, bric-a-brac and household items which draw in our loyal customers. The Christmas sale is the highlight of the year and in 2024 the takings totalled over £1,500.

The Parish Pantries in Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins continue to be appreciated by many in the communities and they are kept stocked by donations of goods from members of the community and monetary donations and vouchers from The Bread of Life, the local Scotmid and others.

We were once again pleased to host a concert in October by Christian singer/songwriter Gareth Davies Jones who treated us to a retrospective of his various concerts and albums over the years. Those in attendance agreed it was his best concert yet.

The Guild continues to meet monthly over the winter with a variety of speakers at their meetings and has a loyal and supportive membership. The Guild supports the national Guild and other projects through fundraising events raising £990 in 2024 (2023: £1,138). Coffee mornings are always well attended and make for a happy social occasion.

The Garden Gang continue to ensure that the church grounds and accesses are well maintained and contain a good variety of plants. They appreciate donations of plants from members' gardens. A number of individuals also 'own' a planter which they look after and stock with seasonal plants for colour.

Sunday Club, which meets during morning worship, has grown in numbers again this year with between 10 and 14 youngsters regularly attending church on a Sunday. The Youth and Families Worker and her team of volunteers work hard to make the lessons interesting and age appropriate and we have introduced a new curriculum this year which works well with a variety of age-groups. The young people once again led the Christmas Nativity Service by telling their version of the story in word and song.

A group of our teenagers attended a residential Christian youth festival at the Lendrick Muir Outdoor Activity Centre near Kinross during the summer of 2024. They helped fund the costs of this trip by organising a car wash and baking stall in the church carpark.

We held Messy Church afternoons in March, and June and Back to School Sunday in August. These sessions provide an opportunity for inter-generational contact with members of the congregation helping out with the activities.

The monthly Youth Club on a Friday evening for young people from P3 upwards goes from strength to strength with between 50 and 70 young people attending the sessions. Children from P3-P6 attend for the first hour then the P7 and older children for the second hour. They enjoy a variety of games, activities and a Christian video and message. It is encouraging that some parents who are not involved with the church are volunteering to be helpers at the Youth Club.

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Activities, achievements and performance (continued)

Music and Play, for pre-school children with a parent/carer, meets weekly in Lumphanan for singing, play and stories and is well attended. Our Youth and Families Worker is very good at networking and encouraging young people and their families.

Our Christmas Tree Festival was combined with the local farmers' Tractor Run who parked their colourfully lit and decorated tractors in the car park after touring the village. Local crafters and other charities ran stalls in the hall and the Saturday evening's activities was well-attended by the community once again. A mini tractor run for pre-school children joined the parade as it arrived at the church.

Our Christmas charities were The Forget-Me-Not Club and the Disasters Emergency Committee Middle East Appeal. We raised funds for these through a Christmas Soup Lunch, hosting the teas at the Tractor Run and the Christmas Eve offerings.

Financial review

Presentation of accounts

The Accounts only include those funds held locally by the congregation. Those funds held on behalf of the congregation by the General Trustees at the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh are shown in the Appendix. Legal titles for all church properties are also held by the General Trustees.

General Fund

The General Fund is an 'unrestricted' fund and is used for running most of the congregation's activities. This financial review will focus mainly on the receipts and payments flowing through the General Fund.

Before any transfers from other funds and before accounting for fundraising for other charities and good causes, there was a surplus on the General Fund in 2024 of £2,366 (2023: £2,619 surplus).

General Fund - income

The principal source of income for Mid Deeside is the 'giving' from members of the congregation (and tax reclaims thereon from the government). In May the minister wrote to the congregation requesting that they prayerfully consider the amount of their giving since the church's income was not keeping up with cost inflation. A good response was made by many and this was much appreciated. Overall, during 2024 giving through the General Fund totalled £60,310 which was 5% higher than the previous year (2023: £57,220), which in turn had been 5% lower than in 2022.

Within the total for giving in 2024, the 'open plate' was up 13% to £3,151 (2023: £2,782), 'Free Will Offering envelopes' giving were down 30% to £1,405 (2023: £2,009) and other giving and bank standing orders were up 7% to £43,273 (2023: £40,374). The Gift Aid tax reclaimed from the government generated £11,813 in 2024 (2023: £11,712).

Income from the church's electronic card machine while still small at £668 (2023: £343) is growing gradually as more people prefer to use cards rather than cash.

Total rental related income increased by 30% to £16,842 in 2024 (2023: £12,975) as local groups continued to increase their use of the church's facilities.

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
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Financial review (continued)

General Fund (continued)

Charges made for weddings and funerals in 2024 totalled £2,400 (2023: £1,650); income from letting out Lumphanan Hall was £179 higher at £544 and income from letting out the rooms in the church buildings was £2,236 higher at £10,053. Income from letting out Ha'berry to Torphins Playgroup was £702 higher at £3,845. The supply contract for electricity at Ha'berry continues to remain with the church and receipts from recharging the cost of electricity used by the Torphins Playgroup decreased to £4,147 from £4,606 in 2023 even though the actual electricity costs for Ha'berry increased to £5,526 in 2024. This is mainly due to the timing of when recharging invoices were raised by the church and when they were settled.

Interest from bank balances and deposits increased by £205 to £1,342 in 2024 (2023: £1,137) as interest rates continued to remain quite high. There was also a recovery of £600 from an insurance claim for a damaged laptop computer (2023: £nil).

General Fund - expenses

The congregation's largest ongoing cost is the gross allocation made under the central Church of Scotland's 'Giving to Grow' regulations which totalled £44,500 in 2024 (2023: £48,469). This cost to the congregation was reduced when endowment income of £10,053 (2023: £11,703) and transitional funding from Presbytery of £2,759 (2023: £5,424) is taken into account. The 'Giving to Grow' scheme covers the payroll and pension costs of ministers in the Church of Scotland (including our own) together with a contribution towards the wider work of the Church. Mid Deeside's contribution in 2024 was calculated using an Income Base derived from our 2022 accounts.

Our part time Youth & Families Worker was paid a salary through the Development Fund in 2024 of £7,674 (2023: £7,085). The congregation paid fees to organists of £2,432 in 2024 (2023: £2,910) and the cleaner was paid £3,880 (2023: £3,368) as the scope of work increased.

An analysis of the cost of maintaining fabric & equipment in our buildings and the upkeep of grounds is included towards the end of this report

The total cost of heating and lighting all our buildings in 2024 rose by £4,329 or 42% to £14,649 (2023: £10,320). This total includes a cost for Ha'berry of £5,526 which was a 51% increase on 2023 (£3,659). The costs for other buildings were £9,123, which was a 37% increase on 2023 (£6,661). These increases reflect higher charges but also higher consumption with the buildings' usage increasing.

Electricity costs for the church complex and Lumphanan Hall rose by a total of £1,887 or 96% from £1,959 in 2023 to £3,846 in 2024. There was an increase in the number of units used during the year at the church complex (+3%) and Lumphanan Hall (+26%) partly reflecting greater use of our buildings.

Heating oil costs rose 12% from £4,692 in 2023 to £5,277 in 2024 and while the average cost per litre reduced from 76p to 68p the number of litres of kerosene purchased increased by 26%. It is difficult to be more precise about the amount of fuel consumed within the calendar year as there are no year-end stocktakes of kerosene.

The cost of council tax, water rates and sewerage costs for the New Manse were slightly higher at £3,632 in 2024 (2023: £3,551).

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Financial review (continued)
General Fund (continued)

Charges in the church complex relating to broadband, telephone and toilet hygiene services were similar to 2023 at £1,107 (2023: £1,120). A total of £4,754 (2023: £4,596) was spent on insurances. The amount paid to assist with the costs of running the Presbytery this year increased to £1,912 (2023: £719).

A summary of the main constituents of General Fund income and expenditure is set out in the table below.

<u>General Fund</u>		2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
Operating income	Giving & Gift Aid reclaimed thereon	60,310	57,220	60,410
	Legacies	-	1,000	-
	Rental income (incl. funeral/wedding fees)	16,842	12,975	8,470
	Recharged electricity costs (Ha'berry)	4,147	4,606	2,380
	Investment income & bank interest	1,342	1,137	265
	Other income (incl. insurance recovery)	639	30	47
		83,280	76,968	71,572
Operating expenses	Giving to Grow /M&M allocation (net)	(31,688)	(31,342)	(31,339)
	Locum & pulpit supply	(60)	-	-
	Minister's travel, telephone & coms.	(1,402)	(1,511)	(1,650)
	Youth & Family Worker's salary	-	-	(4,804)
	Presbytery dues	(1,912)	(719)	-
	Organists & cleaners	(6,312)	(6,278)	(5,351)
	Fabric, equipment & upkeep of grounds	(11,273)	(10,025)	(10,667)
	Heat & light	(14,649)	(10,320)	(6,906)
	Misc. building service costs	(1,107)	(1,120)	(1,008)
	Insurances	(4,754)	(4,596)	(4,158)
	Council tax & water charges (New Manse)	(3,632)	(3,551)	(3,410)
	Public entertainment & VHF licences	-	(135)	(198)
	Copyright fees	(645)	(613)	(568)
	Study, music, worship	(408)	(566)	(251)
	Children's Christian education	(512)	(869)	(749)
	Website & electronic communications.	(395)	(395)	(395)
	Newsletters & publicity	-	(181)	(405)
	Stationery supplies & postage	(464)	(83)	(140)
	Community outreach initiatives	(241)	-	(60)
	Catering supplies & costs	(188)	(429)	(370)
	Training & conference costs	(350)	(625)	(200)
	Payroll set-up & monthly running costs	(608)	(575)	(514)
	Digital giving running costs & fees	(180)	(187)	(120)
	Other costs & expenses	(134)	(229)	(132)
		(80,914)	(74,349)	(73,395)
General Fund surplus/(deficit)		2,366	2,619	(1,823)

General Fund – surplus/(deficit)

Before any transfers from other funds and before accounting for third party fundraising, there was a surplus on the General Fund of £2,366 (2023: £2,619 surplus).

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Trustees' Report
Year ended 31st December 2024

Financial review (continued)

General Fund (continued)

The proportion of operating expenses that is covered by congregational giving in 2024 was 74.5% (2023: 77.0%). The Trustees' aim has been to move this stewardship performance indicator closer towards 100% through stewardship programs and by careful control over costs. This indicator was strong in 2019 (93.5%) towards the end of the last ministerial vacancy but dropped back in 2020 and 2021 largely due to the exceptional circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery in 2022 reversed in 2023 and 2024 largely because of large increases in the costs for heat & light. This decline in financial performance will need to be addressed by the Trustees.

General Fund		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£	£
Giving	Included as part of operating income	60,310	57,220	60,410	59,635	59,642
Operating expenses	In total	80,914	74,359	73,395	76,430	74,161
Proportion of operating expenses covered by giving		74.5%	77.0%	82.3%	78.0%	80.4%

General Fund - reserves policy

It is the Trustees' intention to hold liquid reserves of around 6-9 months' expenditure in its General Fund at any time using a rolling five year average – i.e. between £35,000 and £55,000 approximately.

At 31st December 2024, the Church held £51,000 (2023: £50,434) in its General Fund (see Note 8). While this balance in the General Fund is strong, the Trustees are aware of the continuing need to avoid large financial deficits and maintain general reserves in order to meet unexpected items of expenditure. The Kirk Session has plans for using part of the strong balance in the General Fund to finance church growth and increase reserves for future large expenditure on fabric such as improving energy efficiency.

At 31st December 2024, Mid Deeside held in total funds locally with a value of £149,416 (2023: £142,264) which have been provided for the purposes explained in Note 2. A breakdown of the £149,416 balance can be found in Note 8.

Surplus reported for 2024

For 2024 an overall surplus of £7,051 is reported on page 12 (2023: deficit of £26,922, 2022: deficit of £262).

The large deficit in 2023 arose largely because the organ was refurbished incurring a cost of £27,048 and the wall heaters were replaced in Ha'berry costing £2,498. The ensuite shower room in the New Manse was also upgraded at a cost of £10,072. These were exceptional costs in that year and funding had been built up in earlier years to meet the cost of these large items of expenditure. The Trustees do not expect this level of spending will be repeated in any one year in the foreseeable future.

Investment policy and performance

It is the Trustees' policy to hold most of its funds in bank and deposit accounts in order to have sufficient liquidity to meet short term emergencies and commitments to contractors. The remaining balance of the Church's capital resources is held in the Income Fund which is administered by the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
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Year ended 31st December 2024

Financial review (continued)

Church buildings, equipment and grounds

[a] Church complex

In 2024 work continued on improving and maintaining Mid Deeside's facilities. The largest individual item of expenditure was the £3,636 spent on upgrading the video matrix system followed by £2,500 to repair a boundary wall which was becoming dangerous. Trees in the grounds were removed or cut back (costing £2,304) to improve safety and to assist with future maintenance.

Fabric, equipment & grounds (including repairs & maintenance):		2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
Church & extension	Service & repairs to boiler	249	-	173
	Service & repairs to heating/heat recovery system	53	215	736
	Service for fire alarm system & extinguishers	385	592	348
	Service & repairs to electricals & PAT testing	438	148	378
	Replacement broken boiler	-	5,221	-
	Roller blinds	329	-	-
	Wall mounted pin boards	-	406	-
	Folding long tables (x2)	340	-	-
	Vacuum cleaner	-	166	-
	Other – window cleaning, keys, mountings, etc.	94	58	398
Organ	Refurbishment project	-	27,048	2,592
Upkeep of grounds	Grit & salt, grit spreader, boxes & shovels	238	199	230
	Snow clearing charges	320	290	260
	Boundary wall repair	2,500	-	-
	Tree surgery & pruning	2,304	-	860
	Bedding plants, young trees, mower & gardening	-	136	-
	Garden shed & planning application	-	-	358
Electronic equipment	Video camera, matrix & streaming system	3,636	-	1,231
& software	Laptop computers and printers	810	-	442
	Audio visual desk stations (x2)	1,148	-	-
	Digital giving equipment	-	-	329
	Software, microphones, cables etc.	740	612	192
		13,584	35,091	8,527

[b] New Manse

The main project carried out in 2024 at the New Manse was to replace the fusebox which no longer complied with regulations.

Fabric, equipment & grounds (including repairs & maintenance):		2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
New Manse	Multi-fuel stove (Sheraton 5)	-	-	5,587
	Upgrade to en-suite shower room	-	10,072	-
	Fusebox replacement	1,128	-	-
	Extractor fan	108	-	-
	Kitchen equipment & white goods	381	-	553
	Service & repairs to boiler	151	169	-
	Tree surgery	-	1,176	-
	Other gardening services	812	825	1,000
	Other – painting & decorating, flooring, etc.	334	67	241
		2,914	12,309	7,381

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Trustees' Report
Year ended 31st December 2024

Financial review (continued)

Church buildings, equipment and grounds (continued)

[c] Ha'berry, charity shop & Lumphanan church hall

Minimal repair and inspection work was carried out by the church on these properties during 2024.

Fabric, equipment & grounds (including repairs & maintenance):		2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
Ha'berry	Replacement heaters & safety guards	-	3,498	-
	Children's bathroom - plumbing & joinery work	-	-	1,464
	Fusebox upgraded	-	-	912
	Other repairs, including inspection costs	55	75	63
Charity shop	Joinery, electrics, heating, inspections, etc.	343	177	355
Lumphanan church hall	Fusebox & emergency lighting	-	1,080	-
	Drains, inspections, electrics, vacuum cleaner etc.	129	238	309
		527	5,068	3,103

The fabric related costs disclosed in the tables above were funded variously through funds held locally and a fund held with the General Trustees as set out in the following table. In 2024 a generous grant of £1,750 was also received from the Benefact Trust (based in Gloucester) to assist with the costs of the video matrix project. The Benefact Trust is one of the UK's largest Christian grant-making trusts and has given more than £235 million in grants since it was founded in 1972.

		2024	2023	2022
		£	£	£
General Fund	Unrestricted fund - locally held	11,273	10,025	10,667
Fabric Fund	Unrestricted fund - locally held	5,519	10,072	-
Charity Shop	Restricted fund - locally held	233	102	165
Organ Restoration Fund	Restricted fund - locally held	-	27,048	2,592
		17,025	47,247	13,424
Miss J Spark Fund	Restricted fund - held with the General Trustees	-	5,221	5,587
		17,025	52,468	19,011

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Kirk Session is required to prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of Mid Deeside 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. The Trustees 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.

This Trustees Report is approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf, by

Pam Auckland
Session Clerk,
20th March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland

I report on the Accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

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, 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.

Raymond Donald

8 Battock Terrace
Torphins
AB31 4JD

4th April 2025

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endow ment funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Note</u>	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	[4a]	60,599	7,051	-	67,650	66,392
Legacies		-	-	-	-	2,000
Grants received		1,750	-	-	1,750	5,340
Activities for generating funds	[4b]	8,263	32,343	-	40,606	37,351
Bank & deposit interest		4,301	479	-	4,780	3,505
Investment income:						
- from Income Fund		566	43	-	609	507
- from Growth Fund		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>75,479</u>	<u>39,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,395</u>	<u>115,095</u>
Rental of premises	[4c]	16,842	-	-	16,842	12,975
Insurance recovery		600	-	-	600	-
		<u>92,921</u>	<u>39,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,837</u>	<u>128,070</u>
Total receipts						
<u>Payments</u>						
Costs of generating funds	[5a]	-	(10,385)	-	(10,385)	(8,106)
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	[5b]	(86,756)	(9,331)	-	(96,087)	(121,540)
Grants and donations	[9d]	(3,221)	(16,093)	-	(19,314)	(25,346)
		<u>(89,977)</u>	<u>(35,809)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(125,786)</u>	<u>(154,992)</u>
Total payments						
Excess of receipts over payments /(payments over receipts)		<u>2,944</u>	<u>4,107</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,051</u>	<u>(26,922)</u>

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland

Statement of Balances

At 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Bank & deposit balances:</u>					
Bank & deposit account balances b/f (including £86,871 with the Investors Trust Deposit Fund)		109,805	21,335	131,140	158,062
<u>Movement during the year:</u>					
Excess of receipts over payments/(payments over receipts) for the year		2,944	4,107	7,051	(26,922)
Transfers between funds		(2,000)	2,000	-	-
Bank & deposit account balances c/f (including £99,143 with the Investors Trust Deposit Fund)	[2]	<u>110,749</u>	<u>27,442</u>	<u>138,191</u>	<u>131,140</u>
<u>Investments at market value:</u>					
(With a cost of £5,188)	[7]	<u>10,429</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>11,225</u>	<u>11,124</u>
Total funds	[8]	<u>121,178</u>	<u>28,238</u>	<u>149,416</u>	<u>142,264</u>

There are no other assets or liabilities. Titles for all church properties are held by the General Trustees in Edinburgh.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees of Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland on **20th March 2025** and are signed on their behalf by:

Pam Auckland, *Session Clerk*

Neil Mathers, *Finance Team*

Bob Auckland, *Treasurer*

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2024

1. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

During the year eight (2023: seven) Trustees received reimbursement for day to day church expenses, equipment purchases and other costs incurred on behalf of the congregation totalling £3,721 (2023: £2,052). In 2024 two Trustees (including their close relations) received fees totalling £1,010 (2023: £650) for carrying out beadle and audio visual duties at weddings and funerals (2023: two).

Rev. Holly Smith received reimbursement of £960 (2023: £1,044) for travel expenses (and reimbursement of £442 (2023: £467) for the rental and running costs of the manse telephone. Rev. Smith was also reimbursed a total of £1,475 (2023: £949) for the cost of other ministry and manse expenses.

2. Movements in funds

Comprising bank and deposit account balances only (i.e. investment balances are not included in this movements table).

	At 1st January 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31st December 2024 £
<u>Unrestricted funds:</u>					
General Fund	50,434	85,711	(80,914)	(1,800)	51,000
- To good causes [9]			(2,431)		
Fabric Fund	59,012	5,795	(5,519)	-	59,288
The Guild	359	1,415	(323)	(200)	461
- To good causes [9]			(790)		
	<u>109,805</u>	<u>92,921</u>	<u>(89,977)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>110,749</u>
<u>Restricted funds:</u>					
World Church Fund	1,201	488	-	-	1,330
- To good causes [9]			(359)		
Charity Shop	12,134	31,459	(10,618)	(2,888)	16,325
- To good causes [9]			(13,762)		
Development Fund	1,352	6,171	(8,067)	2,000	1,456
- To good causes [9]			-		
Organ Restoration Fund	1,120	757	-	-	1,877
Children's Christian Education Fund	2,365	977	(1,031)	388	2,699
Spark Clock Fund	1,226	64	-	-	1,290
Benevolent Fund	1,937	-	(1,972)	2,500	2,465
	<u>21,335</u>	<u>39,916</u>	<u>(35,809)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>27,442</u>
Total funds	<u>131,140</u>	<u>132,837</u>	<u>(125,786)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>138,191</u>

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2024

2. Movement in funds (continued)

Purposes of Designated or Restricted funds

(a) Funds held locally:

General Fund: for the day-to-day income and expenses of church life.

Fabric Fund: for the upkeep, maintenance and replacement of fabric and equipment of church properties.

Development Fund: for initiatives which support youth, families and the elderly.

The Guild: The aim of the Guild is to invite and encourage men and women to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to enable them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

World Church Fund: for initiatives which support mothers with young children, farmers and producers in less developed countries and assisting those affected by natural disasters and war.

Charity Shop: for shop transactions and for dispensing grants for church projects, community groups and good causes within the Parish.

Organ Restoration Fund: for the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the pipe organ.

Children's Christian Education Fund: for supporting the work of young people's groups.

Spark Clock Fund: for the maintenance of the clock in the tower of the former Lumphanan sanctuary of Mid Deeside Church.

Benevolent Fund: for the Minister to make discretionary and confidential grants to those in real need within the Parish.

(b) Funds held by the General Trustees in Edinburgh:

Miss J Spark Fund: This fund is to be used for the upkeep, maintenance and replacement of fabric and equipment of church properties.

G Spark Fund: This fund is to be used for the upkeep, maintenance and replacement of fabric and equipment of church properties.

3. Accounting policies

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis. This means that only income received and expenditure incurred in the financial year is included in these accounts.

Normal repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the buildings are charged against the General Fund or, on occasion, the Fabric Fund. Exceptional and significant repairs and/or improvements are met from the Fabric Fund, funds held by the General Trustees or by special fundraising efforts. The Charity Shop activities generate funding for fabric repairs, maintenance and improvements relating to the Charity Shop. Similarly, the Organ Restoration Fund generates funding for repairs and maintenance relating to the pipe organ.

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. Receipts				
(a) Donations				
Free Will Offering envelopes	1,405	-	1,405	2,009
Tax recovered on Gift Aid donations	11,813	1,255	13,068	13,092
Open plate	3,151	-	3,151	2,782
Digital giving	668	17	685	401
Bank standing orders	41,062	4,920	45,982	42,005
Other offerings	2,500	859	3,359	6,103
	60,599	7,051	67,650	66,392
(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events/activities:				
- For third party charities, etc.	3,557	462	4,019	3,678
- For church projects	554	701	1,255	-
Charity Shop "Bread of Life" sales	-	31,180	31,180	28,783
Recharge of electricity costs	4,147	-	4,147	4,606
Other	5	-	5	284
	8,263	32,343	40,606	37,351
(c) Rental of premises				
Church, halls & meeting rooms:				
- Weddings & funerals	2,400	-	2,400	1,650
- Other	10,053	-	10,053	7,817
Ha'berry	3,845	-	3,845	3,143
MDC Hall, Lumphanan	544	-	544	365
	16,842	-	16,842	12,975
5. Payments				
(a) Costs of generating funds				
<u>Fair Trade stall:</u>				
Purchase of Fair Trade stock	-	-	-	91
<u>Charity Shop "Bread of Life":</u>				
Rental costs	-	6,200	6,200	4,800
Water charges	-	463	463	450
Council tax	-	621	621	543
Heat & light	-	1,998	1,998	1,218
Insurances	-	205	205	294
Stationery	-	123	123	119
Other expenses	-	775	775	591
	-	10,385	10,385	8,015
Total payments relating to the cost of generating funds	-	10,385	10,385	8,106

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
5. Payments (continued)				
<u>(b) Charitable activities:</u>				
Ministries & Mission gross allocation	44,500	-	44,500	48,469
Transitional funding (from Presbytery)	(2,759)	-	(2,759)	(5,424)
Endowment income & glebe rents	(10,053)	-	(10,053)	(11,703)
Net payment made to the Church of Scotland's Giving to Grow	31,688	-	31,688	31,342
Presbytery dues/capitation fees	2,167	-	2,167	929
Minister's expenses	1,402	-	1,402	1,511
Locum & pulpit supply costs	60	-	60	-
Youth & Family Worker's salary	-	7,674	7,674	7,085
Other staffing costs	6,312	-	6,312	6,278
Professional fees – payroll admin.	608	-	608	575
Community outreach initiatives	241	-	241	-
Fabric, equipment & repairs	5,095	233	5,328	45,937
Electronic equipment & software	6,334	-	6,334	611
Upkeep of grounds	5,363	-	5,363	699
Broadband, telecom & sundries	1,107	-	1,107	1,120
Council tax & water charges	3,632	-	3,632	3,551
Heat and light – church & L. Hall	9,123	-	9,123	6,661
Heat and light – Ha'berry	5,526	-	5,526	3,659
Insurances	4,754	-	4,754	4,596
Website & electronic communications	395	-	395	395
Digital giving running costs	180	-	180	187
Worship, music & teaching - adult	1,053	-	1,053	1,314
Worship, music & teaching – U18	512	1,424	1,936	3,483
Catering	188	-	188	429
Training, conferences/courses	350	-	350	625
Printing, stationery & postage	464	-	464	83
Newsletter production	-	-	-	181
Other expenses	202	-	202	289
Total payments relating to the charitable activities	86,756	9,331	96,087	121,540

6. Minister's stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employers' 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 £31,642 and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years of service) £38,884.

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
7. Investments at market value				
<i>Church of Scotland Investors Trust:</i>				
Income Fund	10,429	796	11,225	11,124
Growth Fund	-	-	-	-
	<u>10,429</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>11,225</u>	<u>11,124</u>

Overall, the market value of investments increased by £101 in 2024 (2023: decreased by £406). There were no disposals or acquisitions of investments during the year.

	2024 £	2023 £
8. Total value of funds held locally (including investments stated at their market value)		
Unrestricted funds		
General Fund	51,000	50,434
Fabric Fund	69,717	69,347
The Guild	461	359
	<u>121,178</u>	<u>120,140</u>
Restricted funds		
World Church Fund	1,330	1,201
Charity Shop	16,325	12,134
Organ Restoration Fund	1,877	1,120
Development Fund (for youth & the elderly)	1,456	1,352
Children's Christian Education Fund	3,495	3,154
Spark Clock Fund	1,290	1,226
Benevolent Fund	2,465	1,937
	<u>28,238</u>	<u>22,124</u>
Endowment funds	-	-
Total funds	<u>149,416</u>	<u>142,264</u>

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
9. Grants and donations to charities and other good causes		
<u>(a) International:</u>		
From the General Fund:		
Christian Aid	806	442
Various appeals for people of Ukraine	-	300
Disaster Emergencies Committee - Middle East Appeal	615	-
United Christian Broadcasters Ltd – “WORD for today”	20	15
From the Development Fund:		
World Wildlife Fund	-	50
From the World Church Fund:		
Joyful Motherhood project – Malawi (mainly postage of parcels)	359	418
From the Guild:		
Various appeals for people of Turkiye and Syria	-	328
Christian Aid	100	-
Guild project – Friends of Bolenga	-	105
Guild project – Blythswood Trust	-	75
Guild project – UNIDA Hear Our Voice	200	-
Guild project – World Horse Welfare	50	-
Guild project – Chocolate Heaven	245	-
Guild project – Leprosy Mission	195	130
	<u>2,590</u>	<u>1,863</u>
<u>(b) National & Regional:</u>		
From the General Fund:		
Poppyscotland	375	216
Forget Me Not	615	-
Crossreach	-	422
Drop in Club	-	143
From the Development Fund:		
David Shepherd Foundation	-	50
Children’s Society	-	20
From the Guild:		
BEAT Eating Disorders	-	500
	<u>990</u>	<u>1,351</u>

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
9. Grants and donations to charities and other good causes (continued)		
(c) Within the Parish:		
From the General fund:		
Parish Pantries – produce purchased	-	318
From the Charity Shop:		
Defibrillator – replacement pads & battery	72	-
Parish Pantries – replacement sheds & produce purchased	831	1,000
Holiday at Home (for the elderly) – summer outing to Brechin Castle GC.	530	(375)
Kincardine O’Neil Community Association – projector	400	-
Kincardine O’Neil Community Association - resilience	-	214
Kincardine O-Neil Twinning Association	350	-
Lumphanan School Parents Council	-	500
Lumphanan Hall – Music & Play	-	441
Lumphanan Pre-school Playgroup (HUT) - various	-	1,124
Lumphanan Paths Group – improvements for a gate & bench	-	100
Lumphanan Moving Pictures	480	-
Torphins Community Council	-	3,379
Torphins Paths Group	1,620	4,169
Torphins Surgery	-	1,700
Torphins Primary School - various	4,299	4,043
Torphins Primary School Nursery	794	394
Torphins Baby & Toddler Group	133	-
Torphins Playgroup – garden & fixtures improvements	682	850
Torphins Majong Group	212	-
Torphins Golf Club	600	-
Torphins Tennis Club	-	100
Torphins Junior Football Club – repairs to shed	500	-
Torphins Scouts Group	1,558	-
Torphins Youth Club	-	271
Contribution to video box AV system	1,557	-
Contribution to an overhead hoist for a disabled person (returned)	(856)	-
Grant for the Minister to alleviate a hardship situation (adjustment)	-	(74)
From the Benevolent Fund:		
Grants to alleviate hardship situations	1,972	3,978
	15,734	22,132
	19,314	25,346

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts (continued)
Year ended 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
9. Grants and donations to charities and other good causes		
(continued)		
 (d) <u>Summary</u>		
The grants and donations were made out of the following funds:		
General Fund	2,431	1,856
The Guild	790	1,138
Total from unrestricted funds	3,221	2,994
 World Church Fund	359	418
Development Fund (for youth & the elderly)	-	120
Charity Shop	13,762	17,836
Benevolent Fund	1,972	3,978
Total from restricted funds	16,093	22,352
	19,314	25,346

APPENDIX – 1 -

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT (Investments)</u>		
Market value of credit balances at 31 December	34,331	31,372
(With a cost of £8,594 at 31 st December 2024 and at 31 st December 2023)		
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT (Deposit & current accounts)</u>		
Credit balance at 31 December	8,350	7,241
Total value of funds	42,681	38,613

The balances on the individual funds held by the General Trustees are as follows:

	Miss J Spark Fund	G Spark Fund	Consolidated Fabric Fund - revenue	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit & current accounts	3,930	4,236	184	8,350	7,241
<u>Investments at market value:</u>					
Growth Fund	16,792	17,539	-	34,331	31,372
Total value of funds	20,722	21,775	184	42,681	38,613

The movement on the individual funds held by the General Trustees during the year was as follows:

	Miss J Spark Fund	G Spark Fund	Manse marketing & legal expenses	Total funds held by the General Trustees
	£	£	£	£
Value of funds - 1st January 2024	18,542	19,892	179	38,613
<u>Receipts:</u>				
Deposit account interest	378	-	9	387
Investment income	355	371	-	726
	733	371	9	1,113
<u>Payments:</u>				
Miscellaneous costs	-	-	(4)	(4)
	-	-	(4)	
Change in market value	1,447	1,512	-	2,959
Value of funds - 31st December 2024	20,722	21,775	184	42,681

APPENDIX – 2 –
GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

	Actual	Changes for 2025	Budget
	2024		2025
	£	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
<u>(a) Offerings & Gift Aid tax recovered</u>			
Open plate & FWO envelopes	4,556	(305)	4,251
Regular donations via bank standing orders	41,062	2,938	44,000
Donations - ad hoc/ non repeating	1,804	200	2,004
Digital giving	668	332	1,000
Tax recovered from Gift Aid donations	11,813	687	12,500
Donations for post Sunday service coffees & teas	406	1	407
	60,310	3,852	64,162
<u>(b) Use of premises by outside organisations</u>			
Rental income for use of church & extension	10,053	-	10,053
Rental income for use of Ha'berry	3,845	(0)	3,845
Electricity recharged for use of Ha'berry	4,147	308	4,455
Rental income for use of Lumphanan Hall	544	-	544
	18,589	307	18,896
<u>(c) Wedding & Funerals</u>			
Fees for use of church for weddings & funerals	2,400	-	2,400
	2,400	-	2,400
<u>(d) Other income</u>			
Bank interest & investment income	1,342	(158)	1,184
Insurance recovery	600	(600)	-
Other income	39	(39)	-
	1,981	(797)	1,184
TOTAL RECEIPTS	83,280	3,363	86,643
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
	£	£	£
<u>(a) Ministry, mission and wider work</u>			
Giving to Grow allocation	31,688	3,119	34,807
Presbytery dues	1,912	88	2,000
	33,600	3,207	36,807
<u>(b) Ministerial expenses</u>			
Pulpit supply	60	210	270
Minister's travel expenses	960	520	1,480
Minister's telephone expenses	442	18	460
	1,462	748	2,210
<u>(c) Property, grounds & equipment costs</u>			
Electricity	9,372	(611)	8,761
Heating oil	5,277	159	5,436
Insurances	4,754	190	4,944
Internet & telephone line	518	21	539
Toilet supplies/upkeep	589	24	613
Repairs & maintenance	11,273	(273)	11,000
Council tax and water rates - New Manse	3,632	145	3,778
Cleaning - wages	3,880	272	4,151
Cleaning - consumables	16	34	50
	39,312	(39)	39,273
<u>(d) Other running costs</u>			
Newsletter & publicity	-	200	200
Website maintenance	395	16	411
Stationery supplies & postage	463	(93)	371
Copyright/ public entertainment/ VHF radio licences	645	252	897
Professional fees - payroll	608	24	633
Card payments equipment software	180	-	180
Catering supplies	188	12	200
Concert sponsorship	241	(241)	-
Other	34	46	80
	2,755	216	2,971
<u>(e) Outreach, worship & teaching</u>			
Organist fees	2,432	90	2,522
Granite City Brass Band	200	-	200
Worship supplies & consumables	208	(8)	200
Training & conference fees	350	150	500
Teaching - adult study books & materials	-	50	50
Teaching - children's books & materials	511	289	800
Life & Work - net cost of magazines	84	(8)	76
Outreach, etc.- misc.	-	50	50
	3,785	613	4,398
TOTAL PAYMENTS	80,914	4,744	85,659
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2,366	(1,382)	984