

St John's Kirk – Walls Heritage

(also known as St John's Kirk SCIO)

Charity number: SC048646



Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2025

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Current Trustees

Christine Bolton (Chair), Stanley Thomson (Vice-Chair), Tracie Brennan (Treasurer), Jane Harris (Secretary), Arthur Budge, Ellen Pesci, Lesley Sole, Alice Thomson Hayes, Roz Ware, Carole Webster.

Susan Kettle and Pamela Johnston resigned during 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and was registered in its current legal forms on 22 August 2018. It has a single structure and as such the trustees are the members of the Charity. It is administered in accordance with the terms of its constitution.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting of the Charity, or may be appointed at a trustees' meeting. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of fifteen trustees. A person is eligible for appointment provided they are not an employee of the Charity and have not been disqualified from being a Charity trustee.

Our objectives as a charity:

1. To support the restoration and preservation of St John's Church, a place of historical, social, religious and architectural importance, for members of the local community in North Walls, Hoy, and also within the wider Orkney Community and visitors
2. To advance the education of the public in the history of the church, the geography, natural environment, culture and other features of life in the local area, by providing a heritage display within the Church and collating pictorial, oral and written records and artefacts.
3. To provide a space for community use and enjoyment such as concerts, talks, lectures, art, flower and craft displays and films and also for conducting funerals, marriages, christenings or other occasional church services.

2025 was an exciting year for us. A short-term grant funded collaboration with Orkney Museum allowed us to advance considerably the heritage development work undertaken in 2024. This joint work enabled us to mount our first professional exhibition using a designer to produce the exhibition display panels. Entitled 'Uncovering Crockness and Rinnigill', the exhibition includes a wealth of photographs, recollections and information about those areas. Community members added a good number of croft and place names to an Ordnance Survey map of the area; others took, donated or loaned us photographs.

The exhibition was launched at our Open Day at the end of July, which attracted a good number of people from across the community and beyond. A highlight for several was the kirkyard tour where there was a lot of sharing of memories, information and ideas to develop. In addition we invited local artists to exhibit their 2D works which created a lot of interest and some sales. It was a great community day with a real buzz.

Once again, the annual Carol Service in December was well attended and many contributed: planning the service, the Choir who led our singing so well, those who sourced wood and made frames to display the school stained glass window paintings and the island youth group who came along. For the first time, and thanks to a number of volunteers, a bus ran to bring people to this event. A real community effort.

We were awarded a grant from Carbon Neutral Islands for a feasibility study on solar power for the building. Electricity has the potential to make a difference to how we can maintain and use the building not least as the gas lights head to the end of their life. This will be a big project in terms of effort and finance. Lime-washing on the exterior of the building needs to be re-done and will be costly.

As with most charities, we have felt the effects of tighter household budgets. We were fortunate to receive a substantial donation from a former islander; online giving through GoFundMe, Facebook and PayPal has helped, too, and we are very grateful for all donations.

Donations of photographs, documents and family history notes are also much appreciated. Most items are stored at Orkney Archive and will eventually be in their catalogue as well as our own. An increasing number of copies are on display in St John's.

We have no paid staff. Our trustees and volunteers do so much: cleaning, providing flowers and keeping the building looking good; catering at events; painting, sorting doors, keeping accounts, doing risk assessments and grant applications, taking photos, writing materials, proofing and checking display material, answering questions, driving and accompanying people to events. It is all invaluable; we simply need more people hours. Particular thanks to the two trustees who resigned in the course of 2025 for personal reasons.

Financial review

The Charity's income derives from donations, grants, fundraising activities and very occasional funerals or other services held in the building. One grant was paid to us retrospectively in parts as we spent the money.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's policy on reserves is to keep £6000 of unrestricted funds protected in its account to cover at least one year's insurance, as there is no guarantee of continued grant assistance towards this, and contingencies such as emergency repairs.

Donated services and facilities

The Charity was given use of a local café free of charge for one trustees' meeting.

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Income 01/01 – 31/12/25

Donations	2535
Grants	1679
Fundraising	208
Funerals	300
Weddings	0
Other/Misc	270
Interest	0

Total Income **4992**

Expenditure

Insurance	1625
Equipment/Resources	637
Maintenance/Painting	250
Printing & Photos	289
Misc/Expenses	326
PayPal/Go Fund Me etc Fees	3

Total Expenditure **3130**

Balance 31/12/24 **8227**

Total Income 4992

Sub Total 13219

Total Expenditure 3130

Total Balance at 31/12/25 **10089**

Statement 31/12/25 10089

Cash in hand 31/12/25 0

Total Balance 31/12/25 **10089**

Income 01/01 – 31/12/24

Donations	832
Grants	2093
Fundraising	2201
Funerals	0
Weddings	0
Other/Misc	200
Interest	0

Total Income **5326**

Expenditure

Insurance	1779
Equipment/Resources	1795
Maintenance/Painting	0
Printing & Photos	833
Misc/Expenses	283
PayPal Fees	6

Total Expenditure **4696**

Balance 31/12/23 **7597**

Total Income 5326

Sub Total 12923

Total Expenditure 4696

Total Balance at 31/12/24 **8227**

Statement 31/12/24 8227

Cash in hand 31/12/24 0

Total Balance 31/12/24 **8227**

Treasurer: T Brennan

Reviewed: S Kestrel