

The Walker Trust

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2025

LEGAL and ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees at the date of this report

The Right Rev Dr Dagmar Winter
The Very Rev Frances Burberry
Prof Wilson Poon
William Ruthven Gemmell, W.S.
David Brian Melville Cavaye, CA

Bishop of Edinburgh
Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh
Secretary of the Diocese of Edinburgh

The Rt. Rev. Dr John Armes served as a trustee during the year until he retired as Bishop of Edinburgh on 31 August 2025. The Rt. Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter became a trustee ex-officio upon her installation as Bishop of Edinburgh on 30 May 2026.

Charity No SC002877

Principal address 21A Grosvenor Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 5EL

Independent Examiner Ian Bilsland FCCA
Drummond Laurie
Unit 5, Gateway Business Park
Beancross Road
Grangemouth
FK3 8WX

Investment managers Rathbones Investment Management
10 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PF

THE WALKER TRUST

Trustees' Report

Year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements and independent examiner's report for the year to 31 December 2025

Structure, governance and management

The Walker Trust is constituted by a Declaration of Trust dated 13 September 2019 which replaced the original Act of Parliament of 1877 under which the Trust formerly functioned. The Trust Deed specifies that three representatives of the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Edinburgh shall be trustees - the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Dean of the Diocese and the Diocesan Secretary - and that there shall be at least two other Trustees.

The Rt. Rev. Dr John Armes retired as Bishop of Edinburgh on 31 August 2025 and accordingly ceased to be a trustee on that date. His successor, The Rt. Rev. Dagmar Winter, was installed as Bishop of Edinburgh on 30 May 2026, on which date she became a trustee ex officio of The Walker Trust.

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the Trust. They have delegated day-to-day administration to the treasurer and staff of the Diocese of Edinburgh. Investment management is provided by Rathbones Investment Management.

The Trustees hold an annual meeting each year to consider the preceding year's accounts and the management of the Trust. Any newly appointed trustees are given the background to the Trust on their assumption and copies of relevant documents, including, where appropriate, charities legislation and regulations.

Objectives and activities

The Trust Deed requires the Trustees to hold the Trust Fund and their income thereof in trust for:

- 1 The settlement of administration costs
- 2 The advancement of the Scottish Episcopal Church, with the Diocese of Edinburgh being considered as having a prior claim;
- 3 The further advancement of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh; and
- 4 Any other charitable purpose directed to the improvement, efficiency or benefit of the Trust.

The Trust also holds the Office of Usher of the White Rod established as a hereditary dignitary in the 14th century, who attended the Parliament of Scotland before its abolition in 1707. The Bishop of Edinburgh as ex-officio Chair of the Walker Trustees is the present Usher of the White Rod, but the role carries no duties. The Trust's original founder, Mary Walker, dictated that the Office should be held perpetually by the Trustees with power to appoint a deputy to officiate. Certain regalia associated with the Office is held by the Trust and is currently on loan to the National Museum of Scotland.

Achievements, performance and financial review

During 2025, the Trustees utilised its net income to make grants of £15,000 to St Mary's Cathedral (2024: £14,500) and £6,000 to the Diocese of Edinburgh (2024: £5,500).

The Trust's listed investments generated income of £21,453.97, representing a yield of 3.5% (2024: 3.5%) based on the average value over the year. This was a 0.3% increase on the previous year's income. Investment management fees for 2025, adjusted for opening and closing creditors, amounted to 0.7% of the average asset value and represented 20.0% of total income.

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2025

Achievements, performance and financial review (continued)

In addition to management fees withdrawn from the portfolio, a capital withdrawal of £26,000 was made in April 2025. Despite these withdrawals, the portfolio (including uninvested cash) still recorded growth of some £13,000 over the year, delivering a total return of 11.1% net of Rathbones' fees. This compares with a 15.4% total return from the benchmark, Benchmark 4 (Ex IW&I Medium Balanced GBP (50:50)).

For reference, the ARC Charity Steady Growth GBP Index returned 8.6% over the same period. The ARC indices are calculated peer-group averages, shown net of fees, and are designed to provide a clear comparison against the performance achieved by other charity portfolios taking a similar level of investment risk.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to manage the reserves in the best interests of the Trust's beneficiaries. The Trust Deed gives the Trustees wide discretion in determining distributions to be made from income and capital. Accordingly they have decided to widen the previously stated reserves policy so as to permit capital reserves to be used for the payment of expenses and distributions.

Investment policy

The Trustees have instructed the Investment Managers to seek a balanced return between capital growth and income on the basis of a medium level of risk. The Investment Managers take Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance factors into account in their investment processes.

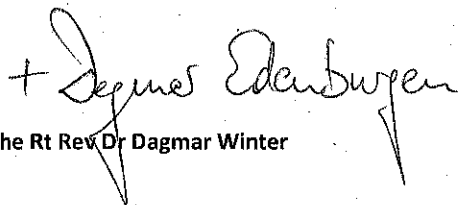
Risk

The Trustees periodically review the risks to which the Trust may be exposed and take appropriate steps to mitigate them. The major risk - loss of investment value and income - is mitigated by the appointment of professional investment managers. The Trustees also ensure that the heritage assets are appropriately insured by the museums to which they are loaned.

Future plans

The Trustees will continue to review the organisation, management and administration of the Trust in order to maximise the funds available for grant-making while at the same time maintaining its position on risk management.

Approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by



The Rt Rev Dr Dagmar Winter

THE WALKER TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Walker Trust

I report on the financial statements for the year 31st December 2025 set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investments (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 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

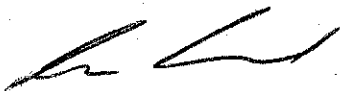
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
- (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

have not been met or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Ian Bilsland FCCA

Drummond Laurie
Unit 5, Gateway Business Park,
Beancross Road
Grangemouth
FK3 8WX

Dated:

THE WALKER TRUST

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Receipts from operations			
Investment income	3	22,108	20,821
Proceeds of sales of investments	9	96,867	110,517
Total Receipts		<u>118,975</u>	<u>131,338</u>
Payments on operations			
<i>Fundraising</i>			
Investment management costs	9	3,578	4,359
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Grant making	4	21,000	20,000
Bank charges		7	-
Costs associated with White Rod	5	0	1,552
		21,007	21,552
<i>Governance costs</i>	6	468	893
Total payments on operations		<u>25,053</u>	<u>26,804</u>
Purchases of investments		70,308	104,598
Total payments		<u>95,361</u>	<u>131,402</u>
Net receipts/(payments) in year		23,614	- 64
Bank balances and deposits at 1 January		<u>24,863</u>	<u>24,927</u>
Bank balances and deposits at 31 December	7	<u>48,478</u>	<u>24,863</u>

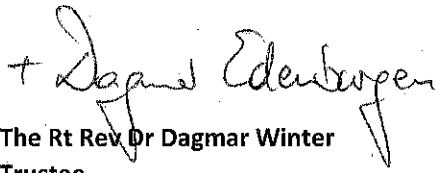
THE WALKER TRUST

Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Heritage asset	8	176,000	176,000
Investments	9	614,407	597,717
		<u>790,407</u>	<u>773,717</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	7	27,478	24,863
Fixed term deposits held by the Diocese for the Trust	7	21,000	-
	7	48,478	24,863
Accrued interest		-	675
		<u>48,478</u>	<u>25,538</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: due within one year	10	(4,100)	(860)
Net current assets		<u>44,378</u>	<u>24,678</u>
Total net assets		<u>834,784</u>	<u>798,395</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2026 and signed on their behalf


The Rt Rev Dr Dagmar Winter
Trustee

THE WALKER TRUST

Notes to the Accounts: year ended 31 December 2025

1 Basis of accounts

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Funds

The Trust Deed permits all funds to be used at the discretion of the Trustees without distinction between revenue and capital. Accordingly all the Trust's funds are unrestricted.

3 Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from listed investments	21,624	21,127
Interest received	734	262
	<u>22,358</u>	<u>21,389</u>
Accumulation dividend included above	250	568
Cash receipts from listed investments	<u>22,108</u>	<u>20,821</u>

4 Grants paid

	2025	2024
	£	£
Diocese of Edinburgh	6,000	5,500
St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral	15,000	14,500
	<u>21,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

5 Costs associated with White Rod

The payment in 2024 was in respect of a fee from the Trust's lawyers for correspondence and research relating to the right of the Usher of the White Rod to attend the Coronation of King Charles III. See note 10.

6 Governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Legal fees	-	443
Independent Examiner's fee (prior year accounts)	468	450
	<u>468</u>	<u>893</u>

7 Bank balances and fixed term deposits

	2025	2024
	£	£
Main bank account held by Administrators	22,220	14,756
Fixed term deposits held by Administrators (see over)	21,000	-
Cash element of investment portfolio	4,756	7,773
Investment Managers' revenue account	502	2,334
	<u>48,478</u>	<u>24,863</u>

THE WALKER TRUST

Notes to the Accounts: year ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

7 Bank balances and fixed term deposits (continued)

In March 2025, the Trustees decided to take an amount equal to the 2025 distribution off market risk. A sum of £21,000 was withdrawn from the portfolio and placed on fixed term deposits by the Diocese on the Trust's behalf, utilising a 'CAF Charity Deposit Platform' that the Diocese had recently opened with Charities Aid Foundation.

8 Heritage Assets

Heritage assets comprise the regalia and artifacts associated with the Office of the Usher of White Rod and have been on loan to the National Museum of Scotland since August 2009. They were valued at that time by Lyon & Turnbull at £176,000. No subsequent valuation has been carried out. The Trustees do not intend to dispose of these assets which have been held by the Trust since its establishment in 1877.

9 Listed Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	597,717	597,161
Proceeds of disposals	(96,867)	(110,517)
Additions at cost	70,308	104,598
Gain/(loss) on revaluation	43,249	6,475
Market value at 31 December	<u>614,407</u>	<u>597,717</u>

10 Creditors

Creditors include a fee of £1,500 (2024: £nil) payable to the Diocese of Edinburgh for administration services in 2025, including preparation of the 2024 annual accounts. A further £1,500 has been provided for the cost of preparing and independent examination of the 2025 accounts (2024: £500 for examination). Rathbone's fee for the final quarter of 2025 was £1,100 paid in January 2026 (2024: estimated fee of £350 for final month of 2024)

11 Related party transactions

The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, The Very Rev Frances Burberry and Professor Wilson Poon were trustees during the year and also members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Edinburgh, which constitutes, for Charity Law purposes, the Trustees of the Diocese. St Mary's Cathedral is a separate legal entity, but also a member congregation of the Diocese of Edinburgh. Grants made to the Diocese of Edinburgh and St Mary's Cathedral are disclosed in note 4.

Mr W R Gemmell was a Divisional Director of Investec Wealth and Investments UK ("IWI") up to 31 July 2024. The Trust paid IWI £2,164 in the six months to 30 June 2024.

Mr Gemmell was also a partner in Murray Beith Murray ("MBM") until 31 January 2024 and a Consultant with MBM until 31 January 2025. In January 2024, MBM was paid a fee of £1,995 for correspondence and arrangements in connection with the Trust's claim to attend the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023 (£1,552) and for more general legal work (£443).

Trustee remuneration

No Trustee received remuneration directly from the Trust, or was paid expenses.