



Aberlour Parish Church
Church of Scotland

Trustees' Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31st December 2024

Congregation No: 352058

Charity No: SC001336



Reference and Administration details

Charity name	Aberlour Parish Church
Registered charity number	SC001336
Charity's principal address	Aberlour Parish Church of Scotland

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form).

The Kirk Session is chaired by the Minister or Interim Moderator. It meets normally six times a year. It has oversight of the whole life and service of the Church within its Parish with responsibility for the spiritual and temporal oversight of the Congregation's affairs.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills.

One Trustee retired during 2024.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Services of worship were conducted each Sunday at 9:45 in Craigellachie Church until the Church was formally closed for worship to meet the NENI Presbytery Plan. Services of worship are conducted each Sunday at 11:15 in Aberlour Church. A creche is available as required. Provision for the young also includes School Chaplaincy at the local primary and secondary schools.

Pastoral visiting is carried out by the minister and elders. Worship is also carried out at the local Care Home. A Mothers and Toddlers Group meets weekly at Aberlour Church with the assistance of a group of dedicated elders.

The quarterly parish magazine, 'The Kirk News' is posted online, and printed copies are distributed to each household in the Parish. The Guild, choir, Aberlour Glebe Garden and walking group provide additional social contact within the Parish.

Aberlour Parish Church is willing to engage with the needs of the world beyond the boundaries of the Parish by extending the outreach of the Church of Scotland both in UK and abroad. The Church contributes funds to Ministries and Mission and supports other local and national charities through dedicated offerings and collections. In 2024 we supported: Christian Aid, Starchild, Royal National Deep Sea Mission, Speyside High School Breakfast Club, Fairtrade, Blythwood Shoe Box and the Moray Food Bank.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

On 31st December 2024, the roll had 175 members plus 8 adherents. During 2024 there were 10 removals by death, 1 removal by resolution and 0 admissions. In 2024 there were 0 baptisms, 2 weddings and 17 funerals.

The life of Aberlour Parish Church is characterised by an energy and enthusiasm which enables a wide range of activities to take place, and ensures that our buildings and resources are well looked after. In addition to maintaining existing groups, we seek new opportunities to engage in the community.

In 2022, we established a Community Garden in the Aberlour Glebe to promote wellbeing in Aberlour. During 2024, with the support of approximately 70 volunteers including schools and local businesses, successes have included: the erection of a 8x4m Polycarbonate growing tunnel, a 4m x 3m shed a fence and gate to subdivide the Glebe field, the planting of a 300 tree hedge, the sale of produce from our growing beds and polycarbonate. In October, the Aberlour Glebe Garden was formally constituted as a community initiative of Aberlour Parish Church, with a balanced Steering Board representing organisations in the community and the Kirk Session. We continue to be successful in attracting funding.

In November, the church hosted the annual community-wide Remembrance Service, attended by the Lord Lieutenant.

During 2024, in addition to our well-establish coffee mornings, we hosted a range of concerts and events for the community: organ recital, brass bands, orchestral groups, singing groups and a Roger Jones concert.

Aberlour Church ensures that it is at the heart of the community. At Christmas time through hosting the Christmas Market, Carol Singing in Craigellachie, Carol Service with choir & brass band. In the summer by our regular involvement in the Aberlour Highland Games. Throughout the year through the Aberlour Glebe Garden and the relationships built by our minister with the local care home and schools.

Financial review

Summary of key financial items

Our Total income for the year amounted to £45,211, a decrease of £3,129 on 2023 (£48,340).

The principal source of income is from Weekly Offerings in the form of Open Plate, Free Will Offerings and Gift Aid with additional income from Gift Aid Tax Refunds, These have been broadly consistent from 2023 to 2024, with the exception of a significant one-off item in 2023.

Donations and Fundraising have also decreased significantly in 2024 from £10,118 to £4,660 – this is mostly due to a couple of one-off donations.

The total expenditure in 2024 (£49,715) is significantly higher than in 2023 (£41,022), primarily due to increasing Giving to Grow payments to the General Trustees, a modest increase in the Presbytery Dues paid to the NENI Presbytery, a significant increase in Energy costs (not usage), and increased maintenance costs (mainly due to a late payment for a prior year).

This resulted in a deficit in 2024 of £4,796 compared to a surplus in 2023

of £4,669.

We receive a consistent if conservative return on our investments which are managed by the Church of Scotland General Trustees.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately six months expenditure including designated funds. In 2024 our total expenditure was £50,007, of which £292 was for music (organ and piano) related items.

At 31st December 2024 the Church held unrestricted funds locally of £46,522, and £81,044 held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees, which can be accessed within a reasonably short period of time. The Helen Smith Fund (restricted fund for music) holds £2,652 locally and £25,533 held by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland in a growth fund.

Other information

Independent Examiner



Bankers

Virgin Money, 161 Mid Street, Keith AB55 5BL



Aberlour Parish Church

Approval of Trustees' Report Year ended 31st December 2024



The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the congregation's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The accounts have been approved by the Trustees at a meeting of the Kirk Session on 10th February 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	
Position (e.g. Chair)	Session Clerk
Date	14 th April 2025

* Original version signed physically, digital signature used for submission



Aberlour Parish Church

Independent Examiner's Report on Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2024



**Report to the
trustees/members of
Registered charity
number
On the accounts of the
charity for the period**

Set out on pages

Aberlour Parish Church						
SC001336						
Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
1 st	January	2024	to	31 st	December	2024
8 to 13						

**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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 Regulationshave 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.

Signed:

Date:

15th April 2025

Name:

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:



Aberlour Parish Church of Scotland

SC001336

Statement of Balances

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024



Section B - Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	51,448	2,522			53,970	84,301
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(4,925)	130			(4,796)	(30,331)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	46,522	2,652	-	-	49,174	53,970

Details	Purpose	At 1 Jan 2024	Receipts	Payments / Transfers	Market Value changes	At 31 Dec 2024
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Investments -	Consolidated Fabric Fund (CofS Gen Trus)	Fabric	16	1		17
	Temporary Fund (CofS Gen Trustees)	Fabric	0			0
	Fabric Fund (CofS Deposit Fund)	Fabric	50,036	118	-	50,155
	General Fund (CofS Deposit Fund)	General Account	30,000	832		30,832
			80,052	952	-	81,004
B3 Investments - restricted	Helen Smith no 1 (CofS Growth Fund)	organ & piano	18,219		1,719	19,938
	Helen Smith no 2 (CofS Growth Fund)	organ & piano	5,113		482	5,595
			23,332	-	2,201	25,533

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B4 Other assets	No submission			
	Total	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
		to nearest £	to nearest £
B5 Liabilities	Donation to Glebe still to be transfered	119	
	General Account		
	Total	119	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate)	Last year
		to nearest £	to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities	No Contingent Liabilities exist		
	Total	-	-

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

			14/04/2025
			14/04/2025

* original version signed physically, digital signature used for submission



Aberlour Parish Church of Scotland
SC001336
Receipts and payments accounts
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024



Section A - Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	35,149				35,149	36,325
Legacies					-	500
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	2,310				2,310	6,675
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings	3,324	422			3,746	2,401
Rents from land & buildings	1,464				1,464	650
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	2,542				2,542	1,789
					-	
A1 Sub total	44,789	422	-	-	45,211	48,340
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	0
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	2,433
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	2,433
Total receipts	44,789	422	-	-	45,211	50,773
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	392	-			392	801
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	49,323	292			49,615	42,870
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	49,715	292	-	-	50,007	43,671
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments						35,000
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	35,000
Total payments	49,715	292	-	-	50,007	78,671
Net receipts / (payments)	(4,925)	130	-	-	(4,796)	(27,898)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	32,567
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(4,925)	130	-	-	(4,796)	4,669

Additional analysis of Unrestricted accounts

C1 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Church Accounts	Guild Accounts	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts				
Donations - Gift Aid offerings	16,555		16,555	22,850
Donations - Tax recovered from HMRC	8,109		8,109	2,035
Donations - Open Plate	6,915	300	7,215	6,897
Donations - Other	3,050	220	3,270	4,543
Legacies	-		-	500
Pulpit Suply	722		722	164
Fundraising	302	1,088	1,390	5,575
Kirk News Adverts	920		920	1,100
Weddings	260		260	-
Funerals	1,560		1,560	1,625
Interest	3,324		3,324	2,026
Glebe Income	200		200	200
Hall rental Charge	1,264		1,264	450
Total receipts	43,182	1,608	44,789	47,965
Payments				
Giving to Grow	21,715		21,715	19,497
Prebytery Dues	1,195		1,195	632
Ministers Travel Exp	1,809		1,809	1,564
Minister's Expenses	381		381	671
Worship Resources	629		629	668
Pulpit Supply	1,356		1,356	736
Church Repairs & Maint	5,952		5,952	2,456
Manse Refurbishment	2,720		2,720	1,182
Heat & Light	4,481		4,481	3,597
Council Tax & Insurance	6,326		6,326	6,103
Cleaning	1,180		1,180	1,484
Upkeep Grounds	0		-	142
Office Expenses	304	20	324	219
Kirk News	904		904	883
Organ & Plano	0		-	65
Catering	238	115	353	322
Fundraising Costs	190	202	392	801
Bank Charges	0		-	-
Total payments	49,378	337	49,715	41,022
Net receipts / (payments)	(6,197)	1,271	(4,925)	6,943
Transfers to / (from) funds			-	(30,000)
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(6,197)	1,271	(4,925)	(23,057)

Nature and purpose of funds

1. Church Accounts includes all general income and expenditure on Church affairs
2. Guild Accounts - includes all transactions managed by Aberlour Guild

Additional analysis of restricted accounts

D1 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted (Helen Smith Account)		Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts				
Donations - Gift Aid offerings				
Donations - Tax recovered from HMRC				
Donations - Open Plate				
Donations - Other				
Legacies				
Pulpit Suply				
Fundraising				
Kirk News Adverts				
Weddings				
Funerals				
Interest	422		422	375
Glebe Income				
Hall rental Charge				
Total receipts	422	-	422	375
Payments				
Giving to Grow				
Prebytery Dues				
Ministers Travel Exp				
Minister's Expenses				
Worship Resources				
Pulpit Supply				
Church Repairs & Maint				2,433
Manse Refurbishment				
Heat & Light				
Council Tax & Insurance				
Cleaning				
Upkeep Grounds				
Office Expenses				
Kirk News				
Organ & Plano	292		292	216
Catering				
Fundraising Costs				
Bank Charges				
Total payments	292		292	2,649
Net receipts / (payments)	130		130	(2,274)
Transfers to / (from) funds	0		0	(2,567)
Surplus / (deficit) for year	130		130	(4,841)

Nature and purpose of funds

1. Helen Smith music fund supports any expenditure on the organs and piano

Notes to the Accounts

Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year, the following Trustees were reimbursed or paid:

	£1,809 (for minister travel expenses)
	£381 (for phone and other expenses)
	£1,134 (remuneration for church cleaning)
	£24 (hardware expenses paid to family business –

No other Trustee or person related to a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.

Minister's Stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all Ministers' Stipends and Employer's contributions for National Insurance, pension, and the housing and loan fund. Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the National Stipend Scale, which is a five-point scale related to years of services. For the year under review the Minimum Stipend was £31,642 and the Maximum Stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years of service) was £38,884

Movement in Funds and Designation

The movements of funds are detailed in B2 – Investments unrestricted and restricted.

Consolidated Fabric Funds are maintained by the CofS General Trustees and can only be used for Fabric items. The fund was originally established from the net proceeds from the sale of the Parish Hall many years ago. This contains small interest credits.

Temporary Funds are maintained by the CofS General Trustees, and relate to legal fees relating to the potential sale of building plot at the Manse which never happened. In 2023 this was finally cleared.

Fabric Fund is a Deposit Fund held by the CofS General Trustees for the purpose of maintaining the Aberlour Parish Church infrastructure. Interest is paid into the Bank Accounts

General Fund is a Deposit Fund held by the CofS General Trustees for general expenditure and is set aside as a six month emergency reserve. Interest is retained in the Fund.

Helen Smith no 1 & no 2 Funds are restricted funds held in reserve for maintenance of the organ and piano. The interest on the no 1 account is paid into the Bank Accounts and used for annual maintenance purposes. The Interest on the no 2 account is retained in the fund, with the intention of using the fund for capital expenditure items.

Collections for Third Parties

The Church supports local and national charities through dedicated offerings and collections. In 2024 we supported: Christian Aid (£2,167), Fisherman's Mission (£82), Starchild (£133), DEC (£134), Speyside High School Breakfast Club (£85), Fairtrade (trade support), Blythswood Shoe Box (gifts) and the Moray Food Bank (gifts).

Inclusion of Aberlour Guild Accounts

The Aberlour Guild accounts have been included in this report, as they are an organisation within Aberlour Parish Church.

Funds Held by the Congregation on behalf of Aberlour Community

During 2022, an Agency Fund was established to hold funds which exist for the benefit of the Aberlour Community but are managed by the Trustees of Aberlour Parish Church. They do not represent any benefit to Aberlour Parish Church, and are not included within the Aberlour Parish Church Accounts. The funds totalled

Aberlour Benevolence Fund	2,560	2,560
Retiring Collections (for charities)	0	134
Aberlour Glebe Garden	2,968	4,508
TOTAL	5,528	7,202

Aberlour Benevolence Fund

This restricted fund has been in existence since the 1990s, and was established for the benefit of our Parishioners. At end 2024, it was unchanged at £2,600.

Communion Retiring Collections

The Kirk Session approved retaining occasional retiring offering funds from communions, so that we would be able to respond quickly during a suitable emergency. The Agency account provides a temporary location for this fund. At end 2024, this included £134

Aberlour Glebe Garden

Since 2022, Aberlour Parish Church has managed a community initiative which was formally constituted as an organisation reporting into the Trustees with its own Steering Board. The vision is to do so in a way that enables the wellbeing of individuals and promotes strong and supportive relationships within our community.

During 2024 we have received funding from Paul’s Hill Windfarm (£7,726); Scottish Accordion Music Group (£315); Action Earth Fund (£250); Moray-CAN (£2,000); Co-op (£150) and through small donations (£720).

Major expenditure in that period has been: providing a water supply within the garden (£3,093); erection of Polycarbonate (£1,837); installation of shed (£2,270); Tools and equipment (£1,200).