

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation SCIO

Scottish Charity No. SC051554

Annual Report and Accounts

For The Year Ended

30th November 2025

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation

**Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 30th November 2025**

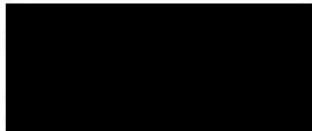
<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Administrative Details	2
Trustees Report	3
Receipts and Payments Account	6
Statement of Balances	7
Notes to the Accounts	8
Independent Examiner's Report	9

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation
Trustees Report for the year ended 30th November 2025

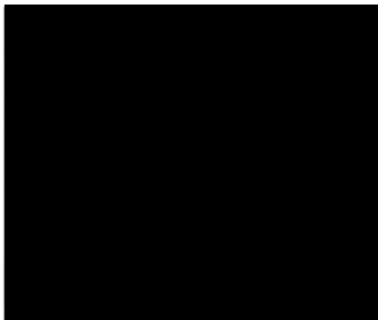
Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

Charity No:- SC051554

Principal Office:-



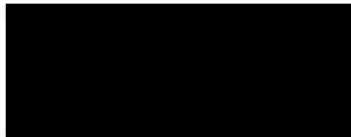
Trustees:-



Bankers: -

The Royal Bank of Scotland
142/144 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4WQ

Independent Examiner: -



Solicitors: -

Balfour + Manson LLP
56 – 66 Frederick Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1LS

**The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation
Trustees Report for the year ended 30th November 2024 (continued)**

Structure & Governance

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation is a Scottish Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 31st January 2022. The charity was previously an unincorporated association but changed its legal form to a SCIO. The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO on 1st February 2022. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are members of the charity.

Objectives & Activities

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- (a) To organise, coordinate and promote artistic events in the annual 'Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts in the Fringe'.
- (b) To undertake such other activities within the City of Edinburgh as may promote interest in the sacred arts.

Achievements & Performance

Festival 2025 was undoubtedly our most successful and vibrant year yet. The week-long programme comprised seventeen events and two exhibitions, spread over eight venues.

EVENTS

Music

War, Peace and Reconciliation	St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge	Sunday
Contemporary Sacred Song	St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge	Monday
Composing Sacred Music	Canongate Kirk	Monday
Art Lieder on Sacred Themes	Old Saint Paul's, Jeffrey St	Tuesday
Faith in the Footlights	Catholic Cathedral, York Place	Tuesday
Scottish Metrical Psalter	Sacred Heart, Lauriston St.	Wednesday
Vivaldi in Venice	Canongate Kirk	Thursday
Cloud of Witnesses, with poetry	Old Saint Paul's, Jeffrey St	Friday

Poetry

Welsh Religious Poetry	St John's, Princes St	Sunday
Young Religious Poets Final	Canongate Kirk	Wednesday

Film

Charlie Chaplin's <i>The Pilgrim</i>	St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge	Saturday
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Architecture

Exploring Sacred Space	Magdalen Chapel, Cowgate	Tues & Thurs
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Multi-media

The Split-Leaf Psalter	St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge	Friday
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Exhibitions

Vestment Exhibition	Old Saint Paul's, Jeffrey St	Tues & Wed
Seeds of Hope, with workshops	St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge	Mon-Friday

**The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation
Trustees Report for the report ended 30th November 2025**

Achievements & Performance continued

Church Services

Sung Eucharist	St John's, Princes Street	Sunday
Choral Evensong	St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross.	Saturday

PARTICIPANTS and AUDIENCE

The opening service with Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) drew a congregation in excess of 300, and the closing service with Archbishop Leo Cushley was attended by 200. Approximately 160 professional, semi-professional and amateur artists and performers took part in the week's events. Audiences and visitors to the exhibitions were greatly increased on previous years, totaling approximately 2000. Ticket income increased by over 25%. Especially notable features in 2025 included a huge audience for 'Faith in the Footlights' at the Catholic Cathedral, 4 new musical commissions to celebrate 375 years of the Scottish Metrical Psalter, and the introduction of a Young Religious Poets competition, believed to be unique in the world.

PUBLICITY

For the first time a professional designer – Anna Parker of Fogbank Projects – was employed to create a new logo for the festival and to produce the widely distributed printed programme. This considerably increased the cost but was universally agreed to have made a major contribution to raising the Festival's profile within the Fringe.

MEDIA PRESENCE

In addition to its website, the Festival extended its presence still further on Facebook and Instagram, with the number of followers increasing significantly. In the month before the Festival began, there were 4600 unique visitors to the website, more than twice the number in 2024. The Director was interviewed about the Festival in a live programme on the UK station Premier Christian Radio. Nine events were reviewed in the *Edinburgh Guide*, with two of them receiving the top rating of 5/5, and none less than 3/5.

FINANCE

A surplus of £10,221 was reported for the year. Income increased from £21,504 to £44,027 to an increase in grants from £5,500 to £24,430 and an increase in ticket income of 42% to £16,097. We were fortunate to receive generous financial support from The Binks Trust and the H R Creswick Trust. Grants were received for the Young Composers Competition from the Edinburgh Society of Organists and The Royal College of Organists in addition to an individual donor funding the prizes. The Christian Arts Trust funded prizes for the Young Poets competition, the Church Hymnary Trust gave a grant towards the two Scottish Metrical Psalter events, and Canonmills Baptist Church donated the cost of a major music commission. All publications in print and online gratefully acknowledged this essential support

RESERVES

The reserves at the end of the financial year are £20,470 comprising bank balances and are considered more than sufficient to support the planning of the festival for 2026.

FUTURE PLANS

The EFSA achieved its highest visibility yet in 2025, and as its profile grows, more inquiries and proposals have been received, several being from organizations outwith Edinburgh. The dates for 2026 have been set as 16th-22nd August, and the Festival Committee will finalise next summer's programme by January 2026. A recent grant from the SCOPS TRUST has ensured that new works can be commissioned from the winners of the 2025 competition.

Statement of trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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 accounts comply with the Charities and Trustees Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Trustees

 - Trustee

xx December 2025

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation

Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ended 30th November 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
RECEIPTS					
Donations		1,000	1,500	2,500	3,894
Grants	3	18,230	6,200	24,430	5,500
Ticket Income		16,097	0	16,097	11,312
HMRC - Gift Aid		700	0	700	348
Interest		300	0	300	0
Total Receipts		<u>36,327</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>44,027</u>	<u>21,054</u>
PAYMENTS					
Artists fees & expenses		16,889	0	16,889	12,302
Grants - young composers		0	3,500	3,500	0
Poetry prizes		0	1,000	1,000	0
Box Office Fees		1,944	0	1,944	1,752
Hire of churches		150	0	150	992
Stewarding		1,209	0	1,209	1,434
Printing & design		2,766	0	2,766	741
Advertising		809	0	809	0
Communications officer		4,185	0	4,185	4,050
Recording young composers and poetry events		1,000	0	1,000	0
IT		0	0	0	283
Sundry		354	0	354	476
Total Payments		<u>29,306</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>33,806</u>	<u>22,030</u>
Excess of receipts over payments for the year		<u>7,021</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>10,221</u>	<u>-976</u>

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation

Statement of Balances
As at 30th November 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank balance				
Bank balance brought forward	10,249	0	10,249	11225
Movement in Period				
Excess of payments over receipts for the year	7,021	3,200	10,221	-976
Bank balance carried forward	<u>17,270</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>20,470</u>	<u>10,249</u>
Liabilities				
Festival 2026 commissions	<u>0</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>0</u>

Approved

 December 2025


Trustee

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 30th November 2025

1. Basis of Accounting

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

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds

General Fund - this is the fund which the day to day activities of the charities are recorded in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted

Composition & poetry - this fund represents grants and donations secured to award grants and prizes to successful participants.

3. Grants received

	£
Unrestricted	
Blinks Trust Grant	2,500
Creswick Trust	10,000
Church Hymnary Trust	2,730
Shaw Charitable	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>18,230</u>
Restricted	
Canonmills Church - Composer	2,000
Christian Arts Trust	1,000
Royal College of Organists	600
Edinburgh Society of Organists	800
Scops Art Trust	<u>1,800</u>
	<u>6,200</u>

4. Movement in Funds

	At 1 Dec 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	At 30 Nov 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	10,249	36,327	29,306	17,270
Total	<u>10,249</u>	<u>36,327</u>	<u>29,306</u>	<u>17,270</u>
Restricted Funds				
Composition & Poetry	0	7,700	4,500	3,200
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>3,200</u>
Total Funds	<u>10,249</u>	<u>44,027</u>	<u>33,806</u>	<u>20,470</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND FRIENDS OF THE EDINBURGH
SACRED ARTS FOUNDATION**

I report on the accounts of The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation for the year ended 30 November 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) 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 (as amended). 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 Act and Regulation 4 of the Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 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.



16th December 2025