

Registered Charity No: SCO10781

The Black Isle Charge

Accounts for year ended 30th September 2025

Administrative Information

Principal Address:	The Black Isle Charge Rectory 1 Deans Road Fortrose IV10 8TJ
Charity Trustees (Vestry Members)	Father Alex Lane CJN, Rector of Black Isle Charge Isla Cruden (Vestry Secretary) Sandie Evans Alison Garraway Lord Donald Graham Dr Heather Ireland Janet MacLennan Gillian Newman
Lay Reps	Joan Deakin Dr Jean Davis Dr Helen Robinson
Alt Lay Reps	Ann Danson Trish McKeggie Craig Simms
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Furniss ACMA CGMA
Bankers	Bank of Scotland 2 – 6 Eastgate Inverness IV2 3NA
Independent Examiner	Brian Spence BA CA 18 Academy Street Fortrose IV10 8TW

Annual Report of the Members of the Vestry

The members of the Vestry are pleased to present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2025.

Structure and Governance

In terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, the Vestry reports to the congregation as follows.

1. The Black Isle Charge is a registered Scottish Charity (SCO10781)
2. It is a member of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness of the Scottish Episcopal Church and is in full communion with the Anglican Church.
3. The superior authority is the Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness
4. All of its affairs are governed by the Vestry Members

Appointment of Vestry Members

Vestry members are elected or appointed by the Annual General Meeting established by constitution and under Canon Law of the Scottish Episcopal Church. There is no formal induction programme for Vestry Members but ongoing guidance is given, through the Vestry Secretary passing on information, to ensure that Vestry members are familiar with the Church's values, aims and responsibilities as the designated trustees of a charity. All members of the Vestry have signed a Declaration stating that they are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee in terms of Section 69 and 79 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The signed declarations are held by the Vestry Secretary.

Administrative Structure

It is the duty of the Vestry to manage and safeguard the assets of the church and assist the Rector in matters affecting the spiritual welfare of the congregation. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records and ensuring the accounts are prepared in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Vestry considers the risks faced by the Black Isle Charge and ensures that proper risk management procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

Charitable Objectives and Activities

The Church's principal activities include public worship in sacrament and prayer, Christian education, charitable work and fundraising for local, national and international needs and social meetings for all age groups within the church and the wider community.

Achievements and Performance

I am pleased to report that our newly appointed Rector joined us on 1st February 2025. Our previous Rector was in post for fourteen years and our new Rector, Fr Alex Lane, has built on the previously good work of his predecessor by introducing a number of changes which are already having a very positive impact both in respect of the format of services and number held each week, in particular at our Churches in Fortrose and Cromarty.

In 2024 the Vestry Committee had already arranged for a broadband connection to be made to St Andrews Church in Fortrose with the intention of providing a streaming service for the benefit of those who have difficulty in regularly attending services, and also to introduce a Sum Up payment facility so that visitors to the Church can easily make a donation using cards or mobile phones. Under Fr Alex's stewardship these have now been introduced in both St Andrew's Church in Fortrose and St Regulus Church in Cromarty.

Also, a newly installed more versatile printing machine enables order of service booklets to be provided which are much easier for congregation members to follow and are now in use at all three of our Churches.

Our regular fund-raising activities are spear headed by our Charity Shop based in Fortrose which is well supported by the local community and by many holidaymakers who visit the area during the summer. There are plans to install a Sum up facility in the Charity Shop although the nature of the building is making this difficult to achieve quickly. Our other fundraising activities include attendance at St Boniface Fair and The Black Isle show for the first time this year; both of which are held in August of each year. With the aid of member donations, the Charge has invested in two suitably inscribed gazeboes to identify and attract extra interest.

In respect of our work for the Community we have continued to hold a service in the Eilean Dubh care home in Fortrose. The service is augmented by our small choir from St Andrews Church. Additionally, the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Friendship Club continues to hold its fortnightly meetings throughout most of the year. Our team of volunteers from all three of our Churches continue to fund-raise throughout the year for the Blythewood Care Charity and this year they matched last year's performance of filling 550 boxes, the majority of which were shipped to Ukraine.

St Andrew's Church has an oil-fired central boiler which, although still very efficient, is not acceptable for Net Zero. Work has now commenced on finding a suitable alternative means of heating. This is not proving an easy task given the church is of a traditional style and is 200 years old in the coming year. It is very important that we keep our congregations warm in our cold winters but equally, we must not in any way detract from the existing features of this beautiful Church. This remains an important challenge for the Vestry Committee in the coming year.

The considerable achievements in the last year are the result of the untiring work of members of the Vestry Committee together with the support by so many members of our three congregations. Special thanks are given to Fr Alex together with our retired ministers Rev Christine Mylne and Fr Arthur Sinclair and to the lay members who act as servers at our services.

Financial Review

The summary of the receipts and payments, as stated on page 5 of the accounts, shows an overall deficit for the year of £26,426 compared to a surplus of £30,372 last year. It should be noted that the interregnum is entirely responsible for the unusual patterns of both income and expenditure that are now reported and are fully in line with expectations.

Income showed an increase over last year partly from the sale of unit trust investments (£10,000) to meet the cost of quinquennial inspections at St Andrews and St Regulus Churches. In addition, donations, including gift aid, increased by about £12,000 to provide funding for the one-off streaming project at St Andrews Church and the purchase of two gazebos for use at fundraising events such as St Boniface Fair, and the Black Isle Show.

Compared to last year expenditure increased by £89,311. There was an increase of £29,645 in respect of stipend costs and expenses and a further £34,557 on Refurbishment of the Rectory and Removal Costs in respect of Fr Alec. Purchases of additional unit trust investment accounted for a further £10,000. Much of the increased cost were funded from cost savings in the previous year and is non-recurring.

As anticipated our net assets stated on page 6 reduced by £22,222 from £75,527 to £53,305. Most of this movement reflects the income and expenditure transactions during year. There were purchases and sale of our unit trust holdings. Each of these being £10,000, offset one another. However, it is pleasing to note that there was an increase in the market value of our holding of £4,194 during the year, helping to maintain our overall asset value above £50,000.

The arrival of our new Rector provides the opportunity to prepare budgets reflecting necessary changes for the successful continuation of the Charge. Our costs are unlikely to reduce with the demands of net zero and other essential maintenance improvements required because of the Quinquennial Reports. Our ever-present priority against the backdrop of static and aging congregation numbers, will be to seek more innovative mechanisms for raising income to meet the challenges looming ahead.

Reserves

The Vestry Committee has adopted a policy of trying to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves such that in the event of a significant drop in income, the church would be able to maintain its current level of activities for a reasonable period until replacement funding can be obtained.

Conclusion

The members of the Vestry would like to thank all those who contribute their time, energy and money so generously to ensure the continuation and development of the Black Isle Charge as a centre of worship and focus for the community.

On behalf of the Trustees



Isla Cruden - Vestry Secretary

9 June 2026

Independent Examiners Report to the Vestry members of the Black Isle Charge for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Vestry Members and examiner

The Church's Vestry members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and with the terms of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The Church's members of the vestry consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

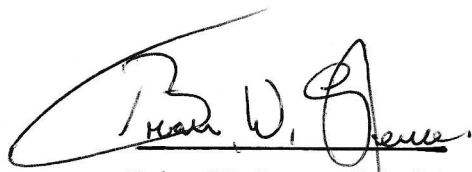
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 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 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 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.



Brian W. Spence BA CA
18 Academy Street
Fortrose
IV10 8TW

Date: 27th June, 2026.

The Black Isle Charge

Statements of Receipts and Payments for the Year ending 30 September 2025

		2025			2024
	Notes	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Receipts					
Donations	7	81,422	400	81,822	69,787
Receipts from Fundraising Activities	8	10,230	0	10,230	10,381
Receipts from Investments (including sales)	9	11,587	0	11,587	1,103
Other Income incl. Council tax refunds	10	6,954		6,954	4,034
		<u>110,193</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>110,593</u>	<u>85,305</u>
Payments					
Payments Relating to Charitable Activities	11	87,760	0	87,760	47,403
Costs relating to new Rector Appointment	11	34,547	0	34,547	3,061
Expenses for Fundraising Activities	11	3,332	0	3,332	2,789
Grants and Donations	12	1,370	0	1,370	1,680
Unit Trust Purchases	13	10,000	0	10,000	0
		<u>137,009</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>137,009</u>	<u>54,933</u>
Surplus/ - Deficit for Year		<u>-26,816</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>-26,416</u>	<u>30,372</u>

The notes on pages 7 & 8 form an integral part of these accounts and provide further analysis of the above totals

The Black Isle Charge

Statement of Balances as at 30. September 2025

		2025			2024
	Notes	Un-restricted	Restricted	Total	
		£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Cash at bank					
Balance at Beginning of Year		31,962	4,884	36,846	6,474
Surplus/ - Deficit for Year		-26,816	400	-26,416	30,372
Balance as at 30.09.2025		5,146	5,284	10,430	36,846
Investments (SEC Unit Trust Pool)					
Market value at Beginning of Year	4	38,681	0	38,681	33,567
Purchases during the year	13	10,000	0	10,000	0
Gross valuation after purchases		48,681	0	48,681	33,567
Disposals during the year	9	10,000	0	10,000	0
Net valuation after disposals		38,681	0	38,681	33,567
Increase in Market Value in year		4,194	0	4,194	5,114
Market Value at End of Year	4	42,875	0	42,875	38,681
Total Assets		48,021	5,284	53,305	75,527
Fund Balances					
At Beginning of Year		70,643	4,884	75,527	40,041
Total Surplus/ - Deficit for Year		-26,816	400	-26,416	30,372
Movement in Investments		4,194	0	4,194	5,114
Balance as at 30.09.2025		48,021	5,284	53,305	75,527
Restricted Funds					
Balance Brought Forward			4,884.00		4,484.00
Donations and Grants received in year			400.00		400.00
Costs in current year			0.00		0.00
Balance Carried Forward			5,284.00		4,884.00
Cash at Bank			5,284		4,884.00
Investments			0.00		0.00
			5,284.00		4,884.00

The notes on pages 7 & 8 form an integral part of these accounts.

Statement of the Trustees

The accounts as laid out on pages 5 to 8 of these Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 9 June 2026

Isla Anden

Alison M. Galloway

Signed On Behalf of the Board

The Black Isle Charge

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & 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 are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a specific purpose.

During the year a Stewardship Grant of £400 was received and added to the Non Specific General Reserve. The latter is being maintained to cover any unexpected repair expenditure or for future net zero projects.

The restricted fund at the 30 September 2025 now stands at £5,284 made up as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Non Specific General Reserve	4,036	3,636
Welfare Fund	1,248	1,248
	<u>5,284</u>	<u>4,884</u>

3 Related Party Transactions

Following the retirement of the Rector of the Black Isle Charge on 30 September 2023, there were no salary, pension or expenses to report for 2023-24. Fr Alex Lane joined us on 1st February 2025 so the Rectors salary and pension and expenses reported for 2025 are for the eight months to 30 September 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rectors Salary and Pension	27,904	0
Rectors Expenses	1,741	0
	<u>29,645</u>	<u>0</u>

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any other trustees, or to any connected persons during the year (2024 : Nil).

4 Investments (SEC Unit Trust Pool)

The market value of investments at 30th September 2025 has been calculated using the unit price as advised by the Scottish Episcopal Church Unit Trust Pool.

Additional purchases totalling £10,000 were made on 1 October 2024 . Following Quinquennial inspections at St Andrews and St Regulus Churches in July 2025 it was necessary to dispose of £10,000 investments to fund their cost plus remedial work.

The Market Value of our Investments at 30 September 2025 was £42,875 (2024, £38,861).

5 Gift Aid Receipts

During the year claims for gift aid were made on a quarterly basis. This process ensures that a full year of gift aid income appears in any one year. The annual figures also include gift aid on cash payment items below £20 claimed on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year.

6 Bank Account

The Charge's bank account is held with Bank of Scotland, City Branch, Inverness.

The Black Isle Charge

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

	2025			2024
	Un-restricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
7 Donations				
Congregational Giving	64,542	0	64,542	53,423
Gift Aid	16,740	0	16,740	15,964
Wedding/Funeral/Christening Donations	140	0	140	400
	<u>81,422</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>81,422</u>	<u>69,787</u>
8 Receipt from fund raising activities				
Charity Shop	8,414	0	8,414	8,915
St Boniface Fair	706	0	706	750
Other Fund Raising	1,110	0	1,110	716
	<u>10,230</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,230</u>	<u>10,381</u>
9 Investment income				
Unit Trust Investment Sales	10,000	0	10,000	0
Unit Trust Dividends	1,587	0	1,587	1,103
	<u>11,587</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,587</u>	<u>1,103</u>
10 Other Income				
Stewardship Grant	0	400	400	400
Refund re Overpaid Council Tax	4,631	0	4,631	0
Bishop's Lenten Appeal Proceeds Collected	610	0	610	295
St Regulus Carol Service Donation	0	0	0	825
Sale of Pews re St Andrews & St Regulus	495	0	495	0
Southern Sudan Appeal Income Collected	200	0	200	0
Interregnum Thank you Gifts to Volunteers Collected	670	0	670	0
Other Receipts	348	0	348	2,514
	<u>6,954</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>7,354</u>	<u>4,034</u>
11 Payments relating to Charitable Activities				
Rector's Emoluments	27,904	0	27,904	0
Rector's Expenses	1,741	0	1,741	0
Clergy Deputising Costs	4,821	0	4,821	7,784
Rectory Costs	6,469	0	6,469	9,038
Church Operating Costs	29,507	0	29,507	20,370
Quota - Diocese of Moray	9,264	0	9,264	8,053
Charity Shop - operating costs	3,332	0	3,332	2,789
Rector Recruitment and Appointment Costs	0	0	0	1,061
Rectory Refurbishment Costs	19,679	0	19,679	0
New Rector Removal Costs	12,590	0	12,590	2,000
New Rector Institution Costs 1 Feb 2025	2,288	0	2,288	0
Streaming Equip. St Andrews(Funded by Donations)	3,048	0	3,048	0
Black Isle Show (Largely Funded by Donations)	3,740	0	3,740	0
Interregnum Gifts to Volunteers (See Income)	670	0	670	0
Other Sundry Items	586	0	586	2,158
	<u>125,639</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>125,639</u>	<u>53,253</u>
12 Grants and Donations Made				
SOMA	200	0	200	200
Adopt a Child	360	0	360	360
Bishop's Lenten Appeal Payment	610	0	610	295
St Regulus Carol Service Donation	0	0	0	825
South Sudan Appeal	200	0	200	0
	<u>1,370</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,370</u>	<u>1,680</u>
13 Unit Trust Purchases 1 October 2024	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>