German Speaking Congregation in Scotland
Registered Charity SC009066
1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 1TW

Trustees' Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2025

Aims and Objectives

We are a church congregation. Our objectives, as enshrined in our constitution of 1st May 1961(most recently amended in 2024), are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Word of God in the strength of the Holy Spirit and on the basis of the Old and New Testaments.

Specifically, in its proclamation of the Gospel, its pastoral care and social work, the Congregation recognises its responsibility towards all German-speaking persons residing permanently or temporarily in Scotland, holding regular services in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow.

Administration

The ultimate governing body of our charity is its membership, in the form of the Congregational Assembly, which makes decisions at its Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings. The day-to-day management of the charity's affairs is vested in a committee known as the Church Council. All members of this committee act as trustees and thus as formal owners of the congregation's assets on its behalf.

Committee members are elected by and from among the membership to four-year terms of office. These elections generally take place at every second AGM in such a way that at each election approximately half the committee is elected.

2025 saw us working towards the conclusion of the union with our sister congregation in Glasgow. The transfer of assets from Glasgow to the joint congregation was concluded in that year and all income and expenses of the two congregations were combined in the accounts of the 'German Speaking Congregation in Scotland'.

In 2025, members of the Church Council were:
Based in Edinburgh
Pastor Matthias Kaffka, ex officio
Susanne Bachmann
Juliane Hubert
Helga Janzen, chair (since April 2026 treasurer)
Jennifer Madine
Thomas Theil
Rainer Thonnes, treasurer (retired April 2026)
Based in Aberdeen
Patrick Shields
Based in Glasgow
Ursula Heidecker Allen
Rosie Lang (retired April 2026)
Christian Voigt

Our treasurer, Rainer Thonnes, had announced at his re-election in 2024 that he would retire at the AGM in 2026. In April 2025, our chair, Helga Janzen, was elected as his successor by the Church Council, and she gradually took over his work during 2025.

Membership of our congregation stood at 115 in 2025, with 16 in Glasgow, 92 in Edinburgh and 7 in Aberdeen.

Activities

Throughout the year, our congregation held many events across all three locations, such as our traditional Church Fête, our Children's Lantern Procession for St Martin (attended by around 200 members and non-members) and our Christmas Fair in Edinburgh, and our Christmas Lunch and Advent Afternoon Tea in Aberdeen and Glasgow respectively. In addition to in-person activities, the church offered online activities such as a monthly theological discussion group and a book group.

As in previous years, the congregation took part in joined services with other local churches, such as the good Friday Service with Blackford & Grange Parish Church and the Remembrance Service with the Edinburgh New Town Church.

In Edinburgh, 2025 also saw an increase of activities for families, with one-off events such as lantern-making for St. Martin for the children and regular activities such as our weekly Parent and Child Group. In addition, our Sunday School – which had not been running for a number of years due to a lack of volunteers – was re-started in January 2025.

Charitable Expenditure

The bulk of our charitable expenditure goes towards maintaining our property (we own the church building and attached manse at 1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh) and towards supporting the work of our pastors. Accordingly, we make a significant annual donation (£54,950 this year) to our parent charity, the Synod of German-Speaking Lutheran, Reformed, and United Congregations in Great Britain (registered in England No 266600), which acts as formal employer to our pastor. Our pastor's duties are divided between us and our sister congregation in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The renovation of the manse, which had started in autumn 2024, continued in 2025. However, the main part of the flat was finished in April 2025 and our pastor and his family were finally able to move into their permanent accommodation. The remaining part of the flat was finished in autumn 2025, apart from a balcony that could not be completed until summer 2026.

In keeping with tradition, 20% of the proceeds of our main fundraising event of the year, our annual Christmas Fair (a sum of £545), was donated to a local charity (this year the Scottish Refugee Council). Other charities that we supported by way of collections from services included the Salvation Army in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the Edinburgh and Glasgow City Missions. A total of £1661 were donated to all other charities in 2025.

Reserves

Our total reserves amount to approximately £1.6 Million. The committee regularly monitors the level of reserves.

Due to the ongoing renovation, the year 2025 saw a deficit of about £118,000.

For the Trustees

H. E. Janzen

Helga Janzen
(Hon. Treasurer)
26th September 2026

German Speaking Congregation in Scotland
Registered Charity SC009066
Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31/12/2025

	Receipts	**2025**	**2024**
1a	Membership subscriptions	10506.00	9402.00
1b	Collections (own purposes)	1928.96	2148.50
1c	Collections (external purposes)	1661.75	1745.91
1d1	Donations (use of hall)	4865.00	5211.00
1d2	Donations (guest room)	527.17	570.00
1d3	Donations (other)	1262.33	1163.42
1e	Fundraising sales	3147.69	2564.07
1g	Gift Aid	517.27	0.00
2a	Rent	1582.50	3432.50
2b	Bank Interest	17174.04	25949.79
3	Grants	27152.00	2192.53
4e	Reimbursements (heating etc.)	0.00	1050.00
		70324.71	**55429.72**
	Payments		
2	Staff (cleaner, organist)	2580.00	3260.00
3b	Council tax	3380.95	2188.48
3c	Insurance (excl. car)	1445.40	1332.74
3e	Repairs and maintenance	6166.91	2730.91
3f	Electricity, gas , water	6204.02	4288.06
3g	Inventory purchases	0.00	1549.78
3i	Bank and credit card charges	145.71	0.00
3p	Temporary manse	7013.20	7255.28
3s	Manse renovation	94311.90	138048.60
4a	Motor expenses (incl. insurance)	941.00	1649.53
4b	Other travel	1198.85	730.73
4c	Postage, office	191.72	192.38
4d	Telephone, internet	3840.48	3417.79
4e	General parish work	3246.68	3657.16
5b	Synod contribution	54950.00	43800.00
5c	External collections, donations	2775.73	1067.08
	Payments	**188392.55**	**215168.52**
	Surplus (Defizit)	**(118067.84)**	**(159738.80)**

All funds are unrestricted

Statement of Balances as at 31/12/2025

Funds Reconciliation	2025	2024	
Cash at bank at start of year	461188.54	250927.34	
Surplus (Deficit) for year	(118067.84)	(159738.80)	
Transfer from reserves	631837.72	370000.00	Note 5
Transfer to reserves	(880000.00)	0.00	
Cash at bank at end of year	**94958.42**	**461188.54**	

Bank Balances

Bank of Scotland Current Account 1	94399.67	461188.54
Bank of Scotland Current Account 2	558.75	0.00
	94958.42	461188.54

German Speaking Congregation in Scotland

Investments			Notes
Aberdeen Standard Life Units	699245.87	591601.34	2
Bank of Scotland 32 day notice account	280968.77		3, 5
Bank of Scotland 95 day notice account	101052.55		3, 5
Hampshire Trust Bank 5 year fixed rate	250000.00		5
Hampshire Trust Bank 1 year fixed rate	250000.00		5
	1581267.19	591601.34	

Other Assets			
Church building	1169321	1137472	Note 4
General contents	62670	61743	Note 4
Manse	475672	462716	Note 4
Motor car	4343	7854	Note 6
Church organ	50000	50000	Note 7

Notes:

1. All funds are unrestricted
2. Shown at published unit values at year end. Original acquisition cost in 1996 was £100000.
3. 32 day notice includes £968.77 interest, 95 day includes £1052.55 interest
4. Buildings and contents shown at insurance value

5. In 2024, our sister charity in Glasgow owned fixed term bonds with the Skipton Building Society worth £631837.72 . These bonds matured in 2025. As the Glasgow charity, SC014274, had by this time merged with the Edinburgh/Aberdeen charity, SC009066 (now German Speaking Congregtion in Scotland), the money was transferred to the Edinburgh account and re-invested in the two HTB accounts and the 32 day notice and 95 day notice accounts. The interest received on maturity of the Skipton bonds is included in the 'German Speaking Congregation in Scotland receipts and payments account'.

6. The car was acquired in 2016 for £13195. We used a 2018 valuation up to 2024 and for 2025 used the current (2026) valuation.

7. The organ, at 2019 valuation, is on loan to St. Bride's Episcopal Church in Hyndland, Glasgow

For the Trustees

H. E. Janzen

Helga Janzen

(Hon. Treasurer)

26th September 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
German Speaking Congregation in Scotland
1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 1TW
Scottish Charity number SC009066

I report on the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on the attached pages.

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. 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.

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention 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 Regulations] have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: CRAIG HANDLEY

Address: 18 MOSSIDE TERRACE
BATHGATE
EH48 2UJ

Signature: C Handley

Date: 23/09/26