

**Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland, known as  
Hope Church Leith**

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**  
*For the Year Ended 31 December 2024*

# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

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# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

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## Church Information

### Trustees

A list of active Trustees during 2024 is provided in the Trustees' Report on Page 4.

### Address

8/9 Casselbank Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 5HA

### Website

<https://sites.google.com/hopechurchleith.org/hopechurchleith>

### Bankers

Bank of Scotland  
13 Newkirkgate  
Edinburgh  
EH6 1DE

### Solicitors

Blackadders LLP  
10 Euclid Crescent  
Dundee  
DD1 1AG

### Independent Examiner



# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Status of Charity and Governing Document

Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland (now known as Hope Church Leith) is established by Constitution. It is a registered Scottish Charity (No. SC029186).

### Aims and Affiliation

The Free Church of Scotland currently has around 100 congregations in Scotland, as well as one in London and five in North America, and sister Churches founded by mission work in India, Peru and South Africa. The Church also has a full time degree awarding college in the heart of Edinburgh for the training of Ministers and other Christian workers and sustains an extensive Missionary programme relative to the size of the church.

Dating from 1843 but with its roots in the Reformation, it owes its distinctive title to its historical struggle to remain 'free' from state interference in its internal affairs. It has close and active relations with many other Reformed churches of Jesus Christ throughout the world and stands firmly in the tradition which accepts the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God and, therefore, derives its forms of teaching, worship, ministry and government from it. The main emphasis of our worship is the preaching of the gospel - the good news of a free and sovereign salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

The Free Church of Scotland is a Presbyterian church adhering in its worship and doctrine to the position of the Church of Scotland at the Reformation. There is an explanatory document which explains the origins of the Church and which gives the historical background to the Church coming into being in 1843 and lists documents in which is embodied its constitution.

Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland (now known as Hope Church Leith) is a congregation of the national Free Church of Scotland working towards the common aims set out above. The congregation is within the Edinburgh & Perth Presbytery and is authorised by the Church to have a minister paid from the central funds of the Church.

The Church building and the Minister's manse are the property of the congregation and are held in trust by locally elected congregational trustees under the Church's Model Trust Deed.

### Trustees and Office Bearers

The congregation is governed and administered by elected office bearers (all volunteers) and its minister. The Kirk Session, being the minister and elected elders, has responsibility for spiritual oversight, while the Deacons' Court, composed of Kirk Session members plus elected deacons, oversees financial and property matters. Under Charity Law, the Deacons' Court are deemed to be the trustees of the congregation as those with responsibility for day to day management and control. This is distinct from the role of congregational trustees who are responsible only for holding property in trust.

The members of the Deacons' Court (the Trustees) who served throughout 2024 were as follows: -  
Elders: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] resigned as Trustees on 9 June 2025, and [REDACTED] was appointed as a Trustee.

### Congregational Trustees:

For holding Property: [REDACTED]

# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## *Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024*

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### **Appointment of Charity Trustees**

The Kirk Session exercises its discretion in determining the most appropriate method of electing new Trustees (Elders and Deacons). Any election process must involve the communicant membership of the congregation. There is no fixed term for Trusteeship. Prior to their appointment, new Trustees would have served the Church for some time in various roles and would be familiar with the Church's values, its aims and objectives as well as its day-to-day operations. As part of their induction programme, new Trustees are required to understand their statutory responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of their office within the congregation as elder or deacon.

### **Activities and Achievements.**

Elder Memorial Free Church (now known as Hope Church Leith) was formally designated as a church plant with the appointment of [REDACTED] as the minister and church planter on 28 January 2024, at an induction service held in St Columba's Free Church. The work comes under the oversight of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and informally supported by the Kirk Session and congregation of St Columba's Free Church.

The existing Manse (situated in Musselburgh) was sold in order to purchase a Manse more suitably located within Leith. The keys for the new property (58 Easter Hermitage, EH6 8DR) were handed over on 17 April.

Main building contractors (Smith and McMath) were appointed in January 2024 and after various consultations, architects drawings and an application for a building warrant, work commenced on 9 April, at a budgeted cost of £324,000.

It is a major internal refurbishment of the Church premises at Casselbank Street to upgrade the facilities and create a more useful and flexible space for worship and community engagement.

The activities of the year have focused on two areas: project managing the refurbishment project and meeting with a small core team who are preparing to launch the formal work of the church in 2025.

The building project has involved the minister liaising with the contractors regularly, as well as spending time fundraising for the project. The focus has been appealing to friends and family, individual churches in Scotland and the US, and appropriate trust funds.

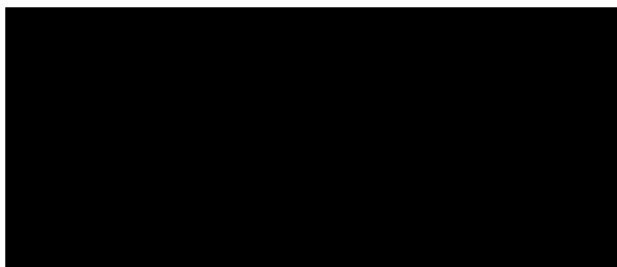
The rest of the year has been spent training and teaching with the Core Team on a Tuesday evening in the Manse, sharing life and faith, and getting to know the community in Leith – all important foundation stones before a formal church launch. As the building work is still in progress, no Sunday services were held, and the Core Team members continued to worship in their home churches.

### **Reserves**

#### ***Results for the year***

The surplus for the year amounted to £29,034. The church held unrestricted funds of £61,931. At the year end. A further £23,736 was held within restricted funds.

The trustees are satisfied with the level of reserves, which remain significantly in excess of the reserves policy that a minimum of £10,000 should be retained.



# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

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I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 - 10.

### 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) 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.

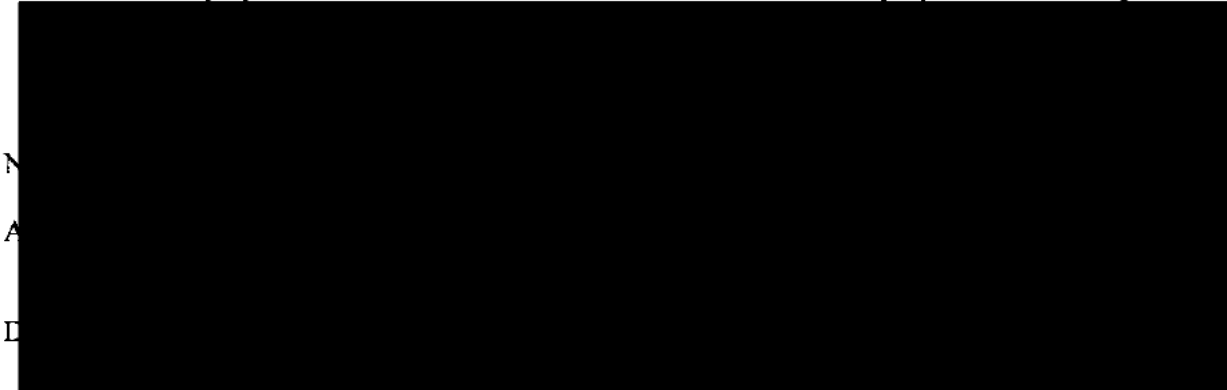
### Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

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.

### 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 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



# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds			Total	Total
	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2,023
	Fund	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations	59,035	-	95,730	154,765	20,131
Income tax recovered	2,673	-	4,250	6,923	3,325
Interest received	4,172	-	-	4,172	406
Other income	-	-	1,678	1,678	5,271
Grants Received	-	-	20,000	20,000	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>65,881</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121,658</b>	<b>187,539</b>	<b>29,133</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Payments for Charitable activities</i>					
Head Office Remittances	35,232	-	-	35,232	5,050
Other Head Office payments	-	-	-	-	244
Minister's Expenses	1,887	-	-	1,887	-
Heat & Light	1,623	-	-	1,623	6,347
Rates	2,624	-	-	2,624	-
Insurance	1,632	-	-	1,632	1,633
Repairs - Manse	1,863	-	-	1,863	3,125
Renovations - Church	-	-	71,387	71,387	100
Telephone	146	-	-	146	532
Professional fees	-	-	10,264	10,264	6,471
Rent	2,481	-	-	2,481	-
Mortgage	7,063	-	-	7,063	-
Other charities	-	-	-	-	610
Supply expenses	-	-	-	-	345
Presentations	-	-	-	-	350
Other expenses	11	-	-	11	386
Equipment	-	-	22,292	22,292	505
Training	-	-	-	-	1,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>54,562</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,943</b>	<b>158,505</b>	<b>26,698</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>11,319</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,715</b>	<b>29,034</b>	<b>2,435</b>
Total funds brought forward	50,612	-	6,021	56,633	54,198
					0
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>61,931</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,736</b>	<b>85,667</b>	<b>56,633</b>

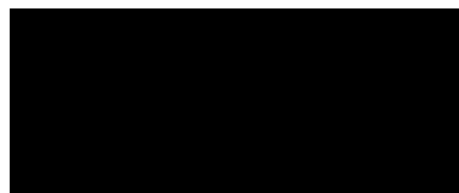
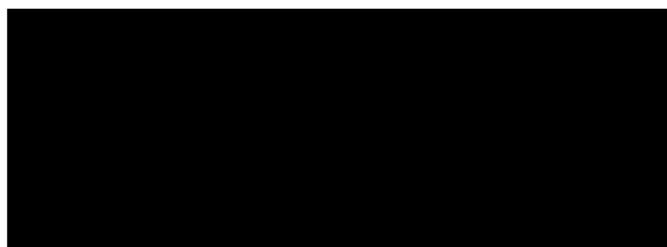
# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Bank &amp; Cash in hand</b>			
Opening balance		56,633	54,198
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>29,034</u>	<u>2,435</u>
Closing balances		<u>85,667</u>	<u>56,633</u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
General funds	5	61,931	50,612
Restricted funds	5	23,736	6,021
		<u>85,667</u>	<u>56,633</u>
<b>Other assets:</b>			
<b>Manse</b>			
	6	<u>350,000</u>	<u>337,500</u>
<b>Shares held at market value</b>			
Royal Bank of Scotland		<u>1,942</u>	<u>1,056</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Mortgage with Kingdom Bank	6	<u>138,872</u>	<u>-</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 11 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:





# Elder Memorial Free Church of Scotland

## Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2024

### Accounting Policies

#### 1. Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### 2. Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

#### 3. Receipts and Payments Account

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments Account as shown on page 6, funds are defined as follows:

- **Unrestricted funds:** comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the church without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- **Designated funds:** represent unrestricted funds which have been earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- **Restricted funds:** comprise income which has been received for the objects of the church and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

#### 4. Transactions with Trustees

There were no transactions with trustees during the year.

5. Reserves	Balance at 1.1.23 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31.12.24 £
General Fund: Total unrestricted funds	50,612	65,881	(54,562)	61,931

Restricted funds comprise income and expenditure for the upgrade and renovation of the Church premises at Casselbank Street, Edinburgh.

#### 6. Manse

On 17 April 2024, Elder Memorial Free Church sold its manse at 13 Denholm Road Musselburgh for £337,500, and purchased a new manse at 58 Easter Hermitage, Edinburgh, for £350,000.

The purchase of the new manse was funded in part by a mortgage of £140,000 from Kingdom Bank, with the proceeds from the sale transaction (net of professional fees of £5,305) of £122,195 immediately reinvested in the Church building at Casselbank Street. In line with paragraph 2.3.5 of OSCR's Receipts and Payments Accounts Guidance, the net proceeds and reinvestment are not shown as a receipt and subsequent payment.

The mortgage from Kingdom Bank is for 30 years, with an initial variable rate of 6.15%.

#### 7. Rounding

There are minor discrepancies in some of the figures shown due to 'rounding' (i.e. omitting pence).