

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
PENICUIK: NORTH PARISH CHURCH



CONGREGATION No: 030230
SCOTTISH CHARITY No: SC010902
www.penicuiknorthkirk.org
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Penicuik North Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Charity registration Number: SC010902

Congregation reference Number: 030230

Contact Address: Penicuik North Kirk, c/o Mrs A Pearson, 45 Crockett Gardens, Penicuik. EH26 9BB

LIST OF TRUSTEES

Mrs L Alexander	Mrs J Atack	Mrs A Bagan (until September 2025)
Mrs C Black	Mrs A Brown	Mrs I Burnett
Mrs F Charleson	Miss L Conlan	Mr M Conlan (until December 2025)
Mr J Cowper	Mrs J Lord	Mrs M Lothian
Mr D McDonald	Mrs L McDonald	Mrs S McIntosh
Dr A Naylor	Mrs J Naylor	Mr W Palmer
Mrs A Pearson	Mrs C Ramsay	Mrs E Sommerville
Mr R Sommerville	Mrs A Symington	Mr D Symington
Mr A Vyse	Mrs I Young	

Principal Office Bearers

Minister:	Rev Graham D Astles
Session Clerk:	Mrs I Burnett
Church Treasurer:	Mrs A Pearson
Assistant Session Clerk:	Vacant
Clerk of Ministries Committee:	Mrs F Charleson
Chair of Outreach Committee:	Mrs A Symington
Clerk of Outreach Committee:	Mrs C Black
Chair of Resources Committee:	Rev J Black
Clerk of Resources Committee:	Mrs I Burnett
Associate member of Session	Rev J Black
Independent Examiner:	Ian J Brown & Company, Chartered Accountants Dalkeith Office: 4 Lothian Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DS
Bankers:	Bank of Scotland, John Street, Penicuik. Barclays Bank UK plc Edinburgh Branch

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT; YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Church of Scotland government is organised on the basis of courts, mainly along lines set between 1560 and 1690. Each of these courts has committees, which may include other members of the Church and employ full-time staff. At local level, the parish, the court is a Kirk Session. Kirk Sessions oversee the local congregation and its parish, and consist of elders presided over by a minister. At district level, the court is a Presbytery. Presbyteries consist of all the ministers in an area/ region and an equal number of elders, along with members of the diaconate (a form of ordained ministry, usually working in a complementary role in a ministry team in both parish and industry sector contexts). There are several presbyteries across Scotland, one in England, and one covering International congregations. Penicuik North is part

of Lothian and Borders Presbytery. At national level, the highest court of the Kirk is the General Assembly. The General Assembly consists of an equal number of ministers and elders, and members of the diaconate, all representing the presbyteries.

Governing Documents

Penicuik North is a local parish church and operates under the Church of Scotland Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form). The functions assigned to the Minister and to Kirk Sessions respectively are governed by the common law of the Church of Scotland and by Acts of the General Assembly applicable thereto.

It is in the power of the General Assembly or any body to which they may delegate powers at any time, or from time to time, to alter, revoke, amend or modify the Deed of Constitution, in whole or in part, or to substitute a new Deed of Constitution for this Deed of Constitution, subject always to such conditions and provisions relative thereto as the General Assembly or its delegated body shall determine.

A sample copy of the Church of Scotland Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) can be found at: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/2816/Unitary_Constitution-Sample.pdf

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The minister and 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. The minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is elected and called by the congregation, and appointed and inducted by Presbytery.

Objectives

The vision of The Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

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 share the Christian faith with 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. As a local parish church Penicuik North serves the people of the Penicuik North parish (see http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/stats_for_mission). Key activities of the church in bringing the ordinances of religion include public services which offer a ministry of Word and Sacrament (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion), marriages, funerals, and other public acts of worship.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session normally operates with four committees. These are the Business Committee, the Ministries Committee, the Outreach Committee and the Resources Committee.

The Business Committee is the agenda setting group for meetings of the Kirk Session. It has delegated authority to take certain decisions which cannot wait until there is a full meeting of Session, to promulgate initiatives and decisions from the superior courts - Presbytery and the General Assembly - and to be a support to the other committees. The remit of each of the other committees, Ministries, Outreach and Resources, is to coordinate the work of the teams and groups which report to them. They have delegated authority to take certain decisions which

cannot wait until there is a full meeting of Session. Reports from the individual teams and groups can be found in the Appendix.

Schedule of Meetings

Normally, meetings of the Kirk Session and its Committees are held on a Tuesday. The Kirk Session and the Business Committee normally meet 6 times a year and the Ministries, Outreach and Resources Committees meet periodically, as required. The Stated Annual Meeting was held after worship on Sunday 6th April 2025.

Activities and Achievements

Services of Worship.

Worship is rooted in the traditions of the Church of Scotland and is relevant for the 21st century. Worship on a Sunday morning starts at 11am and lasts for around an hour. Holy Communion is celebrated at 11am on the 2nd Sunday of March, June, September and December and on Easter Sunday.

From all-age worship to quiet, informal communion, there are times of lively praise and opportunities to find rest and be still. We have a flexible layout in our sanctuary. We have an organist and a praise band, who help lead worship, and sing hymns from the latest Church of Scotland hymnbook (CH4) and from a variety of sources.

Prayer Meetings

These are informal times of gathering when prayers are offered for the ongoing work of Penicuik North and its members, as well as for concerns affecting Penicuik and the wider world.

Young Kirk

Young Kirk is the Penicuik North Sunday School and it provides an exciting programme of learning and worship activities for young people from 5 to 18 years of age. It meets during school terms, at the same time as Sunday morning worship. Young Kirk attends the first part of Sunday morning worship in the church at 11am, before moving through to the North Hall around 11.15am for Bible teaching, arts and crafts, music, games and lots of fun.

Quiet Room

Our Quiet Space is normally open alongside the Open Door Café and on Sundays. It provides space for quiet prayer and resources, such as bibles, books of prayers and reflective readings.

Children's and Youth Activities

We also have the Penicuik North Kirk Children's Music Group for pre-school children (Wednesday mornings) and the Boys' Brigade (Friday evenings).

Penicuik Churches Together (PCT)

PNK participates in joint activities with other churches in and around Penicuik; a note of these can be found at: <http://www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk> and, on Facebook, search Penicuik Churches Together. The participating churches are Penicuik Trinity Community Church, Penicuik North, St James the Less and The Sacred Heart. In 2025, the meetings were chaired by Dr Andrew Longmore of St James the Less, who retired as Chair in October. The new Chair is Rev Graham Astles, who along with Mrs Chris Black, Mrs Fiona Charleson (Admin for the Committee) and Mr Robin McLintock are the four PNK representatives on the PCT Committee.

Social events

The Open Door Café has been open Monday – Friday, 10 am – 12 noon. The Café offers real coffee, tea, home baking and friendship. Coffee Mornings and Social Events, organised by various church groups, have been well attended in 2025, as has Tea and Coffee after Sunday Worship.

Community Activities

Our premises continued to be used extensively throughout the year by church groups, community groups and commercial lets. Church groups include Fun with Flowers, Arts and Crafts, Boys Brigade, Kellock Club, Children's Music Group, Renew 26. Community Groups include Brownies, Rainbows, Penicuik Community Choir. Commercial Groups include Extend Exercise, Zumba, Barrefloor, Schools Out. Also, throughout the year, Dance Pointe used the premises to hold their dance exams and a Craft Fair, various concerts and a St Andrew's afternoon tea were well attended by the community.

Foodstore@PNK

The past year, 2025, saw a continuation of Penicuik North Kirk's effort to work with others to meet the challenges of families in need in our community.

Data Protection

The post of Data protection Officer is currently vacant, with the Minister covering this in the interim.

Safeguarding

The North Kirk family has a duty to protect the young and vulnerable people within our congregation and aims to have a safe and happy environment for all who use the facilities. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are in operation within PNK and if anyone has any issues regarding Safeguarding, or anyone's behaviour is causing concern, they are advised to contact one of our Safeguarding Coordinators who will monitor the situation along with the members of the Safeguarding Panel. If the problem cannot be rectified, they will contact the Safeguarding Office at 121 George Street for assistance, support and counselling, if required.

Website and Facebook

The website address is www.penicuiknorthkirk.org
On Facebook search 'Penicuik North Kirk'

Financial Review

The principal source of income to the church is Weekly/Monthly Offerings, Donations and Fundraising.

This amounted to £84,041.

Various other Income amounted to £63,281, making the total for the year of £147,322. This other Income includes a Grant of £17,500 from the Church of Scotland Trustees and Drawdown from money lodged with the Church of Scotland Trustees of £18,476 all to help cover the cost of the new Church Boiler.

Expenses for the year totalled £169,949, therefore at the end of December there was a Deficit of £22,627. Made up as follows:-

General Fund - Deficit £14,696

Fabric Fund - Deficit £ 2,726

Open Door Project Fund - Deficit £ 5,205

The Bank and Deposit Balances at the end of the year totalled £70,613. Made up as follows:-
General Fund (Unrestricted Fund) £57,750
Fabric Fund (Unrestricted but Designated Fund) £ 3,713
Open Door Project Fund (Unrestricted Fund) £ 9,150
Church of Scotland Investors Trust – Deposit Fund £ 0

General and Fabric Funds (Unrestricted Funds) comparisons with 2024

Total Income to these Funds amounted £116,146, an increase of £34,116.

Namely:

Offerings and Donations decreased by £4,732 to £64,811.

Fundraising decreased by £112 to £2,124.

Bank Interest and Investment Income increased by £1,627 to £1,905.

Rental of Premises increased by £976 to £10,073.

Grant received for the Church Boiler £17,500. No Grants in 2024.

Weddings and Funeral donations increased by £381 to £1,257.

Drawdown of the Revenue Fund from Consolidated Fabric Fund £11,866. None in 2024.

Drawdown of Investment in Capital Fund from Consolidated Fabric Fund of £6,610. None in 2024.

Total Expenses to these funds amounted to £133,568, a increase of £59,874.

The main changes were –

Giving to Grow Allocation increased by £3,268 to £39,840

Presbytery Dues decreased by £289 to £831

Organist Fees increased by £490 to £4,170

Fabric Repairs and Maintenance increased by £38,656 to £46,157

Heat and Light net costs increased by £2,330 to £11,930. Donations towards Heat and Light amounted to £2,690.

Withdrawal of deposit in the Consolidated Fabric Fund Revenue Account was £11,866.

Purchase of Equipment etc amounted to £3,149 and increase of £1,938

This year allowance to Rev G Astles for his Doctorate amounted to £1,000.

Open Door Project Fund (Restricted Fund) comparisons with 2024

Total Income to these Funds amounted to £31,176, an increase of £715.

Namely:

Offerings and Donations increased by £2,402 to £17,106.

Fundraising decreased by £491. No Fundraising in 2025.

Rental of Premises increased by £500 to £5,000

Grants decreased by £3,000 to £1,000

Open Door Café Income increased by £1,319 to £8,017.

Total Expenses to these Funds amounted to £36,381 a increase of £6,306

The main changes were

Worship and Outreach increased by £5,729 to £18,076.

Staffing Costs increased by £1,199 to £16,846

Café Expenses increased by £216 to £1,275.

No Internship Costs in 2025. 2024 cost was £1,000.

Investments

At the year end, the value of Investments with the Church of Scotland Investors Trust amounted to £27,921 a decrease of £16,625 from the value on 31 December 2024. This is invested as follows:-

Deposit Fund £0, Growth and Income Funds £27,921. The cost of these Investments was £24,021.

Assets and Liabilities:

Gift Aid Receivable due for 2025 amounts to £10,974 a decrease of £224.

Investment Income due for 2025 amounts to £1,294, a decrease of £352

No Liabilities for 2025. The amount of £159 shown for 2024 was due for Fabric Maintenance, completed in 2024, but not paid until 2025.

All commitments were met. Income from all sources and a sufficient Bank Balance ensured this was the case.

Reserves Policy

The Charity Trustees have considered the reserves required and have considered current and future

liabilities. It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approx. 6 months expenditure including designated funds. At the year end the Church held Unrestricted Funds of £61,463. This represents

slightly more than 6 months normal Unrestricted Funds expenditure. The Designated Fund amounting to £3,713 is included in the Unrestricted Funds and is held for general maintenance of

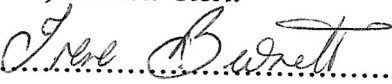
Church Properties. The church also held £9,150 of Restricted Funds at the year end, which have

been provided for the purposes specified in Note 2 of the Financial Accounts.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the Kirk Session must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to ensure an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities. They also have responsibility for providing a safe environment for all and for ensuring that legislation regarding Protection of Vulnerable Groups is complied with. A report on the work of the Safeguarding Team can be found in the Appendix to this report.

Irene Burnett, Session Clerk

Signed:  Date: 17 March 2026