

The Church of Scotland

The Parish of Traprain

CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS

for year ended 31 December 2025

Congregation Number: 030257

Charity Number: SC012277

Charity Name: The Parish of Traprain
Charity Registration Number: SC012277
Congregation Reference Number: 030240
Contact Address: Craigroy, Stenton, East Lothian, EH42 1TE

Trustees as at 31 December 2025

Fiona Byrnes	Margaret Jeffrey
Pat Carmichael	Helen Napier
Chloe Clark	Angela Simpson
Elizabeth Cowan	Bill Stevenson
Catriona Dickson	Jill Wareham
Joe Harper	Gill Watson
Irene Heron	James Wyllie

Rev Douglas Hamilton

Principal Office-bearers:

Minister:	Rev Douglas Hamilton
Session Clerk:	Bill Stevenson
Treasurer:	Chris Clark

Independent Examiner:

Jeff Dockins, 69/6 High Street, Dunbar

Bankers:

The Royal Bank of Scotland,
Court Street
Haddington

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution approved by the Church of Scotland.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the ruling elders of the congregation and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills to lead the affairs of the congregation. The Rev Douglas Hamilton is Moderator of the Kirk Session. During the year Mrs Mary Miller resigned as a member of the Kirk Session and was warmly thanked for all her service.

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session, which usually meets five times a year, is responsible for the spiritual life of the church as well as other matters such as mission, property maintenance and community links. The parish is also well represented at meetings of the Lothian and Borders Presbytery.

Review of the Year

Throughout 2025, we have continued to see encouraging growth across many areas of congregational life. Under the leadership of the Rev Douglas Hamilton, new initiatives have been introduced, contributing to increased attendance at weekly worship and a broader programme of activities across the parish. We were also pleased to welcome nine new members into the congregation.

Our calendar of worship has remained central to parish life, with special services marking Holy Week and Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, St Andrew's Day, and Christmas. These included well-supported events such as the Easter sunrise service on Traprain Law and egg rolling in Athelstaneford, both followed by shared breakfasts. This year's Saltire Service on St Andrew's Day marked the 60th anniversary of the Saltire Memorial. Participants in the service included the Moderator of the General Assembly, the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Scotland. Midweek prayer gatherings at Whitekirk Church have continued alongside a few home-based prayer and fellowship groups. We experimented with Café Churches services, and these are now being run on a regular basis.

Our participation in the Presbytery Growing Young Project has now run its course. We were pleased with the results and continue to see participation from children, young people, and families. Messy Church continues to run regularly, and our summer Holiday Club with the theme of Restoration Station was fully subscribed. The Wednesday evening Youth Club for young people from S1 upwards is now firmly established and frequently reaches capacity at The Stables.

Alongside this, we remain committed to supporting older members of our community. A weekly friendship group continues in partnership with the Lynton Day Centre, while our community café brings together several local organisations, including the East Lothian Foodbank, Dunbar Debt Advice Service, and The Ridge. Colourful Connections, an art-based group aimed at supporting wellbeing, encouraging creativity, and building relationships within the community has also been a great success.

Other activities during the year have included Guild meetings, local pilgrimages, and support evenings for Ukrainian families and their hosts. Our minister continues to serve as chaplain to the three primary schools in the parish and has strengthened links with Dunbar Grammar School. A pastoral support group has also been established. We trialled a "Village Vestry" in The Mart at East Linton but there was insufficient interest to justify the costs for this.

We value our international partnerships, particularly with our twinned congregation in Naxalbari, northern India. Regular messages are exchanged and we hope to facilitate further visits to and from India. We have also tried to nurture our connection with First Presbyterian Church in Holt, Michigan, USA.

The Resources Committee continues to support the Kirk Session in overseeing financial and property matters. We finally completed the sales of both the Whittingehame and Whitekirk buildings during the year. The

proceeds from these sales were transferred to our Consolidated Fabric Fund. Unfortunately, Wendy Brock decided to stand down as Parish Administrator, but we were delighted to recruit Lesley Kelly to replace her. Lesley has already contributed much to help streamline and improve our governance processes.

Our second Elders' Assembly was held in August; this was another fruitful gathering where we drafted a Vivid Vision for the Parish. This helped identify three priorities to guide our work in the future. These are:

- Building faith and discipleship
- Developing a 'whole week' approach to church life
- Having open and inviting buildings that are used throughout the week

The assembly also reviewed plans for an exciting new Glebe Project at Prestonkirk, we hope this will allow us to connect with many more community groups as well as creating a special new space in the heart of the parish.

Communication remains an important part of our outreach. Our parish magazine *Contact* continues to be delivered across the parish, while our website and Facebook pages provide regular updates and access to sermons and other resources.

Future Plans

We remain committed to strengthening our mission within the parish and exploring new ways to connect with those not currently involved in church life. Deepening the prayer life of the congregation is a key priority, alongside creating more opportunities for people to engage meaningfully with faith and community.

Plans are in hand to continue to review and enhance our buildings to offer more effective worship spaces. Our pattern of worship continues to evolve, with a desire to offer services that are both accessible and relevant to a wider range of people.

We now aim to put our Vivid Vision plan into action and be a church without walls – alive in worship, rooted in Jesus, and welcoming to all. A church where every generation finds faith, friendship, and purpose; where love is lived out daily; and where Christ's hope shines at the heart of our communities.

Financial Review

Total Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2025 decreased 4% to £130,501 (2024: £135,895), with overall donations remaining relatively stable year on year. During the year, the Parish was able to recover a total of £40,000 from the General Trustees, as compared to £49,509 in 2024.

Total Payments for the year ended 31 December 2025 increased by 10% to £142,940 (2024: £129,773) largely due to a 50% increase in the Giving to Grow balance, in addition to a full year's cost of the Parish Administrator.

As a result of these movements, Excess of Payments over Receipts for the year totalled (£12,438) versus a surplus of £6,126 in 2024, with the overall Statement of Balances decreasing by 0.5% to £297,356 (2024: £298,771).

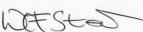
Thanks

We are most grateful to all our members who have supported the work of the church over the past year and for their generous offerings which sustain the work of the church.

We are thankful for all the time and energy that the Rev Douglas Hamilton has devoted to the parish during 2025. Thanks, also go to the other office-bearers, elders and the many other volunteers who do so much to help maintain and develop the life of the congregation.

By order of the Kirk Session

Signed by:



A695335ADEC749D...

Bill Stevenson - Session Clerk

26 June 2026

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Endowment 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts	3					
Donations		69,729	0	0	69,729	70,523
Legacies		0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal donations		69,729	0	0	69,729	70,523
Activities for Generating Funds		4,601	0	0	4,601	3,755
Bank & Deposit interest		669	0	79	748	970
Investment income		6,221	0	1,045	7,266	9,009
Total		81,220	0	1,125	82,345	84,256
Rental of premises		1,765	0	0	1,765	798
Sale of assets		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of investments		0	0	0	0	0
Grants		0	0	0	0	0
Receipts from General Trustees		40,000	0	0	40,000	49,509
Other Receipts		2,486	0	0	2,486	1,084
Charity collections		3,905	0	0	3,905	248
Total receipts		129,376	0	1,125	130,501	135,895
Payments	4					
Charitable activities		141,132	1,158	300	142,590	129,773
Governance costs		350	0	0	350	0
Total Payments		141,482	1,158	300	142,940	129,773
Excess of Receipts over Payments before transfers		(12,105)	(1,158)	825	(12,438)	6,123
Transfers		89	(89)	0	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(12,016)	(1,247)	825	(12,438)	6,123

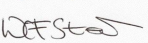
Statement of Balances

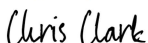
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Note					
Bank & Deposit Balances						
*Bank & deposit balances brought forward		158,538	5,371	13,609	177,518	171,396
Movement in year						
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(12,016)	(1,247)	825	(12,438)	6,123
*Bank & deposit balances carried forward	2	146,522	4,124	14,434	165,080	177,519
Investments at Market Value		45,768	44,376	42,131	132,275	121,252
<u>Total Bank, Deposits & Investments</u>		192,290	48,500	56,565	297,355	298,771
<u>Assets</u>						
Gift Aid Receivable		0	0	0	3,203	3,066
<u>Liabilities</u>		0	0	0	0	0

* Bank & deposit balances held by General trustees on behalf of the Parish

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 21 April 2026.

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session,

Signed by:

A695335ADEC749D...
Session Clerk

Signed by:

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Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year six trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred totalling £1,615

2 Movements in Funds

	At 1 January 2025 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	155,597	129,373	(138,537)	89	146,522
Designated Fabric Fund	2,942	3	(2,945)	0	0
	158,539	129,376	(141,482)	89	146,522
Restricted funds					
C A M Stewart Legacy	0	0	0	0	0
Minister directed funds	89	0	0	(89)	0
Naxalbari	4,435	0	(310)	0	4,125
Lady Grisell A Baillie Hamilton	848	0	(848)	0	0
	5,371	0	(1,158)	(89)	4,125
Endowment funds					
Benevolent Fund	9,326	30	(300)	0	9,056
Bonar Bequest	299	3	0	0	302
Mary Cockburn Henderson	1,838	246	0	0	2,084
J & G Williamson	2,146	846	0	0	2,992
	13,609	1,125	(300)	0	14,434
Total funds	177,519	130,501	(142,940)	0	165,081

Purposes of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of the Church property

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Miss C A M Stewart Legacy Fund: This is a fund for the maintenance of Whittingehame Church.

Lady Grisell A Baillie Hamilton Fund. This fund was initially created to support the Sunday School at Whitekirk Church

Purposes of Endowment Funds

Income from the Benevolent Fund is to be used to provide grants for the needy of the parish.

Income from the Bonar Bequest is to be used to maintain two burial plots.

Income from the Mary Cockburn Henderson Fund is to be used for the benefit of the community of Stenton.

Income from the John & Georgina Williamson Fund is to be used for the general funds of the Parish.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Analysis of Donations					
FWO Scheme	4,379	0	0	4,379	5,963
Gift Aid Donations	31,780	0	0	31,780	29,952
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	11,188	0	0	11,188	11,102
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	10,573	0	0	10,573	12,068
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0
Other Offerings, Donations etc	11,810	0	0	11,810	11,439
	69,729	0	0	69,729	70,523
4 Analysis of Payments					
Charitable activities					
Giving to Grow	54,832	0	0	54,832	36,645
Presbytery dues	1,537	0	0	1,537	1,809
Voluntary Additional Stipend	0	0	0	0	0
Minister's expenses	644	0	0	644	3,753
Pulpit supply	150	0	0	150	450
Staffing costs	12,687	0	0	12,687	7,281
Fabric repairs & maintenance	10,250	0	0	10,250	14,363
Council Tax	4,000	0	0	4,000	8,430
Heat and light	10,083	0	0	10,083	12,480
Insurance	12,067	0	0	12,067	17,784
Manse Expenses	1,683	0	0	1,683	1,562
Messy Church, Youth & Holiday Club	5,651	848	0	6,499	2,943
Organ & Music	7,065	0	0	7,065	7,467
Cleaning	3,848	0	0	3,848	2,234
Charity Donations	7,905	0	0	7,905	897
Benevolent Grants	0	0	300	300	2,080
Professional Fees	586	0	0	586	571
Printing, Projection and Stationery	2,983	0	0	2,983	2,356
Glebe Project	2,067	0	0	2,067	0
Other Expenses	3,093	310	0	3,093	6,657
	141,132	1,158	300	142,590	129,773
Governance costs					
Independent examiner's fees	350	0	0	350	0
Other payments					
Transfer of assets	0	0	0	0	0
	141,482	1,158	300	142,940	129,773

5. Minister’s Stipend

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pension and housing and loan fund.

Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the national stipend scale, which is related to years of service.

For the year under review the Minimum Stipend is £32,433; and the Maximum Stipend in the fifth and subsequent years of service is £39,856.

6. Collections for Third Parties in 2025

Cross Reach	£1,861
Poppy Scotland	£144
East Lothian Foodbank	£394
Christian Aid	<u>£1,506</u>
	£3,905

The above amounts represent amounts collected for the above third parties that passed through the Church bank account and exclude cheques from parishioners that are made payable to the third parties and collections paid directly into a charity's bank account.

In addition to these charity payments, two additional donations totalling £4,000 were made to Presbytery in support of the Blindwells Project and in support of a neighbouring parish that required much needed support for a capital project. Total charitable payments for the year were £7,905.

Appendix 1 Consolidated Fabric Fund (CFF)

The market value of the Consolidated Fabric Fund Capital Account held on behalf of the Parish by the General Trustees at 31 December 2025 was £924,877.78 (2024: £782,251.91). The value of the CFF Revenue Account at 31 December 2025 was £13,183.08 (2024: £16,656.67).

During the year the Parish sold two church buildings, being the sale of Whitekirk Church and Whittinghame Church, with the net proceeds being added to the Consolidated Fabric Fund Capital Account.

During the year the Parish earned £36,846 of CFF Revenue and £40,000 was drawn down to support various expenditure items including Giving to Grow.

The CFF Capital Account can only be used for major capital repairs or refurbishment and require approval from both Presbytery and the General Trustees to draw down.

Independent Examiner's Report.

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

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 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 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed by:

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Jeff Dockins
69/6 High Street, Dunbar
26 June 2026