

Free Church of Scotland
Congregation of Shawbost
Scottish Charity No.SC038184

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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Church Information

Trustees

A list of active Trustees during 2024 is provided in the Trustees' Report on Page 2.

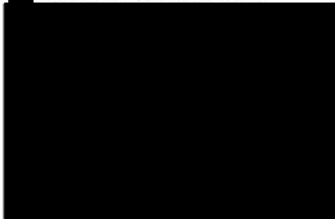
Address



Bankers

Bank of Scotland PLC
47 Cromwell Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2DE

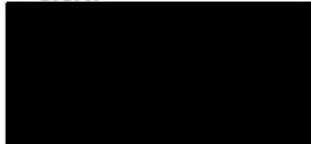
Interim Moderator



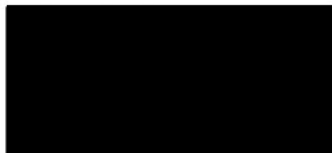
Independent Examiners

CIB Services
63 Kenneth Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2DS

Clerk



Treasurer



Report of the Trustees

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

Shawbost is a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland established by Constitution. It is a registered Scottish Charity (No. SC038184).

Aims and Affiliation

The Free Church of Scotland currently has around 100 congregations in Scotland, as well as one in London and three 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 Seminary 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.

Shawbost is a congregation of the national Free Church of Scotland working towards the common aims set out above. The congregation is within the Western Isles 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 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 is 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 during the year were as follows:-

Deacons' Court

Minister

Vacant

Interim Moderator

Elders

Deacons

*Report of the Trustees***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.

Remittances to Central Funds

The Congregation contributes to the central funds of the Free Church of Scotland on the basis of the remittances scheme approved by the General Assembly. A new Remittances Scheme was introduced in January 2010. The main elements of the system are as follows:

Each congregation will pay a levy to cover the costs of local ministry. The **Ministry Levy** will include the Minister's stipend and employer's National Insurance, etc. Each congregation will also pay a percentage of the central administration costs of the Church, along with a contribution towards the cost of the Free Church pension scheme and that of training. This **Administration and Training Levy** will be based on the budgeted administration costs for the year and will be calculated on the basis of the level of congregational income in the previous year.

After paying the Ministry Levy and the Administration and Training Levy, congregations will be given a **Fixed Allowance** of up to £23,000 for local expenses and projects. All remaining ordinary income will be subject to a **Missions Levy** which helps to meet the costs of the Church's central activities including Edinburgh Theological Seminary and the Mission Board. This Levy is calculated at 50% for 2024.

Activities and Achievements

During the year, the congregation met regularly for public worship and carried out various activities in pursuit of the above stated aims. The congregation continued its commitment to support the National Free Church of Scotland both spiritually and financially.

The principle **congregational activities** are the conducting of Public Worship on the Lord's Day, weekly Prayer Meetings and Bible Study at Shawbost and Bragar, Crèche, Sabbath School, Congregational Fellowship, Local Evangelism, Live Stream and Sermon Audio.

In relation to **congregational funding** there was a small decrease in donations from church members via weekly offerings and Gift Aid donations.

Reserves**Results for the year**

As a result of a surplus for the year on unrestricted funds of £796 (2023 - £12,741 deficit) the Congregation held unrestricted funds amounting to £1,662 (2023 - £866) at the year end. This consisted of a General Fund amounting to £1,083 and Designated Funds of £579. The Congregation also held restricted funds amounting to £75,014 (2023 - £57,627) at the year end.

The Trustees are satisfied with the level of reserves retained by the charity.

On behalf of the Trustees

Trustee

Dated: 25th JUNE 2025

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Free Church Congregation of Shawbost for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 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 Examiners' 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
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



CIB Services
63 Kenneth Street
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2DS

Dated: 16.07.25

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds			Total 2024	Total 2023
		General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Envelopes	8	20,444	657	6,557	27,658	33,631
Standing Orders		28,019	1,276	6,439	35,734	30,945
Plate		1,314	-	-	1,314	1,794
Communions and Special Services		386	-	-	386	-
Tax refunds on Gift Aid		16,096	-	3,635	19,731	-
Bank Interest		-	-	-	-	-
		66,259	1,933	16,631	84,823	66,370
Communions Special Collections		-	-	680	680	982
Special Appeals		-	-	-	-	2,516
Other Income	2	4,195	-	3,925	8,120	1,312
Total receipts		70,454	1,933	21,236	93,623	71,180
Payments						
Payments for charitable activities						
Remittances to Central Funds	3	44,129	-	-	44,129	36,250
Pulpit Supply		4,527	-	-	4,527	3,247
Communion Expenses		-	-	551	551	791
Heat and Light-Church		2,808	-	-	2,808	1,663
Heat and Light-Manse		1,961	-	-	1,961	2,254
Church and Manse Insurance		2,431	-	-	2,431	1,928
Council Tax		1,887	-	-	1,887	2,299
Repairs and Renewals	4	2,754	-	2,563	5,317	11,028
Congregational Expenses	5	2,846	-	-	2,846	5,192
Telephone	2	568	-	275	843	772
Church Officer and Janitor		2,250	-	-	2,250	2,250
Records and Instructors etc		-	-	343	343	254
Magazines, Books and Printing	6	-	-	-	-	50
Sermon Audio		-	-	-	-	379
Minister's Expenses	10	-	-	-	-	457
Manse Hospitality		-	-	-	-	316
Minister's Retirement Expenses		-	-	-	-	318
Interim Moderator Expenses		1,200	-	-	1,200	400
Bragar Meeting House		-	1,933	-	1,933	2,154
Benevolent Fund		-	800	-	800	500
Sunday School		299	-	-	299	625
EDO	7	-	855	460	1,315	500
Governance costs						
Independent Examination		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		67,660	3,588	4,192	75,440	73,627
Surplus (Deficit) for Year		2,794	(1,655)	17,044	18,183	(2,447)
Transfers		(1,998)	1,655	343	-	-
Net movement in funds after transfers		796	-	17,387	18,183	(2,447)
Total funds brought forward		287	579	57,627	58,493	60,940
Total funds carried forward		1,083	579	75,014	76,676	58,493

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Statement of Balances

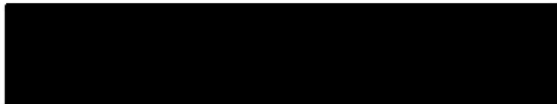
As at 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank and cash in hand		
Opening balances	58,493	60,940
Surplus for year	18,183	(2,447)
Closing balances	<u>76,676</u>	<u>58,493</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted General Fund	1,083	287
Designated Funds	579	579
Restricted funds	75,014	57,627
	<u>76,676</u>	<u>58,493</u>
Assets		
Manse	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Liabilities		
Loan	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The financial statements on pages 5 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 25th JUNE 2025 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:



Treasurer



Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**1. Accounting Policies*****Accounting Convention***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2006).

Basis of financial statements

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

Fixed Assets

The Congregation owns the Church and Manse buildings at Shawbost. The title deeds are held in terms of the model trust deed of the Free Church of Scotland. While they remain the Congregation's properties, the permission of the General Assembly is required before they can be disposed of.

The Manse was informally valued by Court Members at 31 December 1993, on the basis of sales of similar property, at £100,000 and is shown at this amount in the Balance Sheet. The Church has not been valued in view of the limited market available and is not included in the Balance Sheet.

The Manse and Church are insured for £1,626,330 on a reinstatement basis. The policies are index linked.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments account as shown on page 5, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise 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 grants and income which has been received for the objects of the church and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds			Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
2 Other Income					
Records & Instructors	-	-	-	-	-
Books & Magazines	-	-	-	-	21
Ministers Telephone Contribution	-	-	-	-	163
Refund of Mileage Expenses Paid	45	-	-	45	-
Free Church Telephone Contribution	-	-	275	275	238
Donations	4,150	-	3,650	7,800	890
	<u>4,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,925</u>	<u>8,120</u>	<u>1,312</u>
EDO					
Syria & Turkey Appeal	-	-	-	-	115
	-	-	-	-	691
	-	-	-	-	110
	-	-	-	-	1,600
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,516</u>

3 Contribution to Central Funds

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross Ordinary Income	70,410	50,393
Ministry Levy	33,240	31,450
Administration and Training Levy	7,608	4,800
Fixed Allowance	23,000	23,000
Net Ordinary Income	<u>6,562</u>	<u>(8,857)</u>
Sum Due to Central Funds		
Ministry Levy	33,240	31,450
Administration and Training Levy	7,608	4,800
Missions Levy 60% of Net Ordinary Income	3,281	-
	<u>44,129</u>	<u>36,250</u>
Direct remittances	-	-
Amount paid to Central Funds	<u>44,129</u>	<u>36,250</u>

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds			Total 2024	Total 2023
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
4 Repairs and Renewals					
Manse Repairs and Maintenance	2,376	-	1,988	4,364	1,749
Church - Repairs	378	-	575	953	9,279
	<u>2,754</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,563</u>	<u>5,317</u>	<u>11,028</u>
5 Congregational Expenses					
Presbytery Levy	603	-	-	603	1,251
Freewill Offering Envelopes	689	-	-	689	667
Hall Hire	-	-	-	-	123
Website Expenses	563	-	-	563	548
Postage, stationery & Advertising	28	-	-	28	68
Church Telephone	450	-	-	450	412
Gift Aid Administration	313	-	-	313	-
Residential Supply - Hire of Property	-	-	-	-	-
Zoom and Twilio Expenses	-	-	-	-	123
Donations:					
Presentation Vouchers	50	-	-	50	1,800
Free Church Youth Camps	150	-	-	150	200
Hope Free Church	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Institute	-	-	-	-	-
Bethesda	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Camp Leader	-	-	-	-	-
[REDACTED]	-	-	-	-	-
General Charges	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,846</u>	<u>5,192</u>
6 Magazines, Books and Printing					
Printing	-	-	-	-	50
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>
7 EDO					
RSHP Project Leader	-	-	-	-	500
[REDACTED] Support Group	-	-	350	350	-
South Harris Free Church	-	500	-	500	-
Cumbernauld Free Church	-	300	-	300	-
[REDACTED]	-	55	110	165	-
Ukraine Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>500</u>

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 01.01.24 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.24 £
Bragar Meeting House	-	1,933	1,933	-	-
Fabric Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Benevolent Fund	-	-	800	800	-
Missionary & Other Donations Fund	-	-	855	855	-
Mission Fund	579	-	-	-	579
Total designated funds	579	1,933	3,588	1,655	579

9 Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.24 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.24 £
Development fund	55,913	20,281	2,563	-	73,631
Magazines, Books & CD's Fund	-	-	343	343	-
Manse Telephone	-	275	275	-	-
Mission Support Fund	110	-	-	-	110
Communion Expenses	191	680	551	-	320
Slavic Gospel Association	22	-	-	-	22
RSHP Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-
	691	-	350	-	341
	110	-	110	-	-
Syria & Turkey Appeal	115	-	-	-	115
EDO - General	475	-	-	-	475
Total restricted funds	57,627	21,236	4,192	343	75,014

10 Minister's Expenses

Minister's Expenses include travel expenses and other tax deductible expenses such as study and pastoral costs and office expenses.

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General Fund £	Designated Funds £			
Monthly Miles	-	-	-	-	236
Other tax deductible expenses					
Resources for Bible Study	-	-	-	-	132
Office Supplies	-	-	-	-	89
Ministerial expenses	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	457

11 Collections for Third Parties

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Crossroads	-	360
	-	360