



# **Livingston South Community Church**

## **Report to Congregation**

**2024/2025**

**(1 May – 30 April)**

**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC044088**



## Introduction

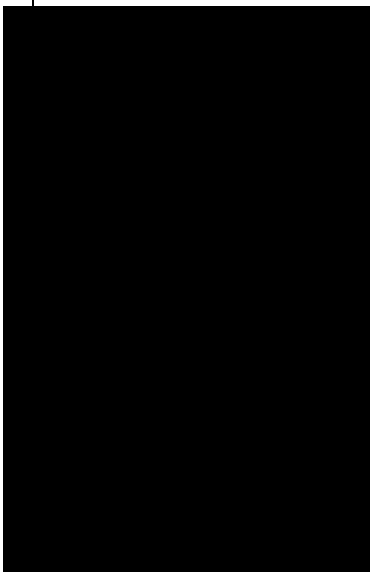
1. Livingston South Community Church was created in 2013 by members of Dedridge and Murieston Congregation of Livingston Ecumenical Parish. They wished to continue to worship in, witness to and serve the area of the ecumenical parish which it had served for many years. There was also a desire to continue the long relationship with St Philips RC Church who met in the Lanthorn, one of the buildings which the congregation used for worship. To achieve its aim, an independent church was created.
2. The Church is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the charity number SC044088. The Church Council are the trustees accountable for the charity's affairs.

## The report

3. The report covers the charity's statutory year – 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

## Governance

4. The Church Council, elected by the members are the charity trustees. The trustees for 2024/2025 were;

	Position	Due to demit office at AGM
	Convener	2025
	Vice-convener	2026
	Secretary	2025
	Treasurer	2027
	Council member	2027
	Council member	2025
	Council Member	2027
	Council member	2025
	Council member	2025
	Council Member	2027
	Council Member	Demitted office in year
	Council Member	Demitted office in year

5. We continue without formal committees. Some activities are carried out by individuals and for others a person leads a group. Feedback is provided to Church Council. Our size and the lack of bureaucracy have provided an efficient and effective organisation.

6. Those taking up responsibilities are:

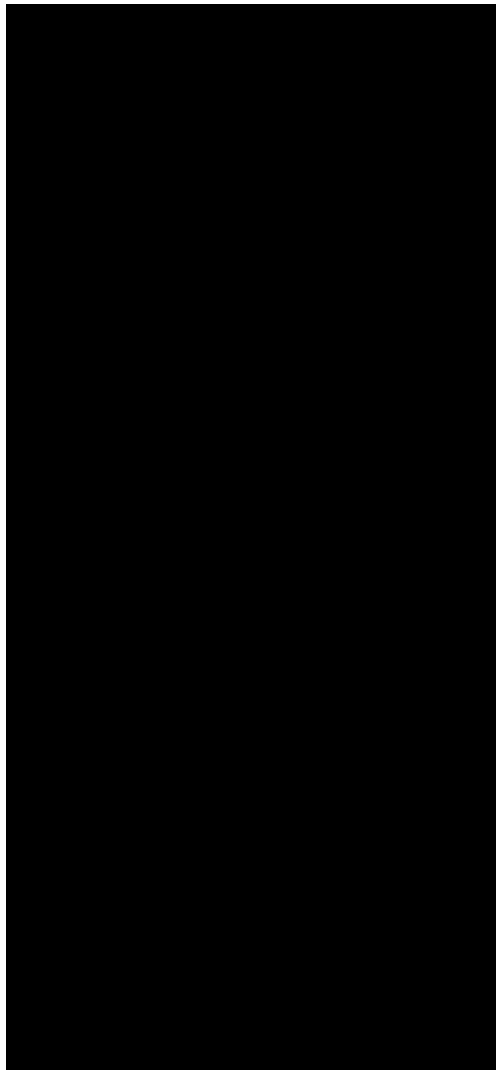
Preaching plan

Readers' and intercessors' rotas  
Stewards' rotas

Outreach group leader  
Social group leader  
Gift Aid  
Fairtrade  
Facebook  
E newsletter/noticeboards  
Orders of service  
Sunday Club

Lanthorn Management Committee  
Murieston Village Hall Management  
Committee  
Safeguarding

Flower Group  
Life and Work  
Flower ministry  
World Day of Prayer  
Sunday Teas/coffees



**Worship**

7. Worship has been held every Sunday. Until the Lanthorn re-opened, we used Murieston Village Hall. Worship in the Lanthorn restarted on Sunday 2 February and the previous pattern of alternating between Murieston and the Lanthorn resumed. Due to the weather, the service was held on-line on 5 January. A service was held on line on Christmas Day. In addition, we held a Christmas Songs of Praise evening in December, a Christingle on Christmas Eve and a service on Good Friday morning.

8. We were able to hold an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday in the Lanthorn

9. In the main the worship was conducted by preachers from the Church of Scotland (CoS). Sunday worship was led as follows:

Worship leaders	No of services
CoS ministers	33
CoS deacon	2
CoS reader	1
Methodist local preachers	4
Baptist lay preacher	2
Members of the congregation	10

10. A Church of Scotland minister conduct worship on Good Friday.
11. The worship led by CoS ministers included 5 communion services one of which was Easter Sunday.
12. The services prepared and conducted by church members (including the Sunday Club) were 10 Sunday morning services. At the service 12 January, speaker from Tearfund participated in the service. The other services were:
  - a. a Christmas songs of praise evening;
  - b. the Christingle on Christmas Eve.
13. We also had other services with particular emphases:
  - a. 10 November was Remembrance Sunday;
  - b. 1 December was the Toy Service.
14. LSCC played a significant part in the service on 23 March to celebrate the reopening of the Lanthorn.
15. At the Remembrance service, it has become our practice to have a member of the congregation performing the Act of Remembrance. We are pleased to have had representatives of the 5<sup>th</sup> Livingston Boys' Brigade and 1<sup>st</sup> Livingston Girls' Brigade at this service. Poppy wreaths were laid on behalf of the congregation, the BB and GB companies and West Lothian Council.
16. At services, we continue our practice of lay members reading scripture and offering the prayers of intercessions.
17. The number attending worship on a Sunday morning is 25-30.

████████████████████ pianist, provides the music for worship.
19. For part of the year, ██████████, a Boys' Brigade King's Badge candidate, has helped set up the worship space and operated the sound system on a Sunday morning. This is part of the service element of the badgework. We are grateful for his work.
20. LSCC has actively supported the service hosted by the Livingston churches for the World Day of Prayer.
21. When the Lanthorn reopened, some items had deteriorated after 5 years in storage. A new table top lectern and electric piano were purchased.

### **Christian Education**

22. The Sunday Club (for young people) generally meets once a month during the service with usually 3-4 attending.

23. During Lent LSCC held a study group on a Thursday morning. The group of 7 (including a member from St Philip's RC Church) discussed 'Pilgrimage – following in the footsteps of Jesus' - a Lent Bible study by [REDACTED]
24. A member of the congregation was invited to lead a 'faith journey' for King's men candidates in the 5<sup>th</sup> Livingston BB Company.

### **Pastoral**

25. Due to deaths and members moving away, our membership has now dropped to 48.
26. Our flower ministry continues. Recipients are not necessarily church members. Feedback records that flowers are gratefully received.

### **Outreach**

27. A 'coffee and chat' continues to meet in Murieston Village Hall on Wednesday mornings in school term time. There are about 12 regular members including a member of St Philip's RC Church.
28. The Murieston Parent and Toddlers Group which is part of the church meets on a Thursday morning during school term time. The parents organise most of the children's activities. Church members organise the snacks and supplement the activities with special events and story-telling.
29. A coffee morning was held on 28 September for Macmillan Cancer Research in Murieston Village Hall.
30. A free children's Christmas event was again held on 7 December in Murieston Village Hall. About 40 children took part accompanied by 80 adults. Craft activities, games and a visit to Santa were on offer. Families continue to be surprised that no charge is made given what was provided.
31. A Garden Fete was held in the grounds of Murieston Village Hall on Saturday 22 June 2024. LSCC funds the event. The income on the day to be given to the Murieston Village Hall when agreement is reached on the application of the money.
32. We are grateful for the help provided by the 5<sup>th</sup> Livingston Boys' Brigade and the 1<sup>st</sup> Livingston Girls' Brigade at our events.

### **Social**

33. The congregation continue to enjoy teas and coffee after the services. On 20 October, our Harvest Sunday, a lunch was held after the service.
34. A quiz night was held on 16 November to raise money for the Tear Fund, a Christian charity doing work in the third world. Over 40 church family and

friends enjoyed an evening where each person attending made a donation of £5 to the Tear Fund.

35. A 'Family Fortunes' night was held on 29 March with similar numbers enjoying the evening.

## **Finance**

36. Due to our low running costs, LSCC has now accumulated £94,204.31 down from £97,463.15. The accounts are complete and will go to an independent examiner. They will be presented when the examination is complete.

## **Christian Liberality**

37. During the year we have provided funding to the following:

- a. Murieston Initiative (ie the Village Hall) – £950 from the garden fete pending agreement on use of money;
- b. West Lothian Food Bank –£500 from Harvest service;
- c. Christian Aid Week - £566
- d. Tear Fund - £350 from the Tear Fund Quiz night held in November plus £500 when a representative joined us for worship;
- e. Macmillan - £1000 from the coffee morning.
- f. Christian Aid - £1000 for the Myanmar appeal;
- g. Victims of a house fire - £500;
- h. Poppy Scotland - £250;
- i. West Lothian School Bank winter jacket appeal -£1000;
- j. Dedridge Good Neighbour Network -£680 to help run a closing event;
- k. Lanthorn – made a commitment to provide £500 to help install a defibrillator;
- l. Salvation Army – £200 from Christmas services.

38. In addition to financial support, River Kids received all the toys brought to the Toy Service for distribution to needy families in the area.

39. In October a party from 5<sup>th</sup> Livingston BB Company was visiting Project Stedfast in Kenya. LSCC members sponsored 60 bibles to be taken out. In addition, members provided 149 pairs of underpants, 76 pairs of socks and a quantity of t-shirts for 'street boys' who were supported during the visit.

## **Safeguarding**

40. We continue to provide a safe environment for both our young people and vulnerable adults. Those doing work with those groups are registered in the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme. There were no disclosures in the year of the report. [REDACTED] now takes the lead in safeguarding.

## **Promotion and communications**

41. We continue to have a presence on the social media website, Facebook. In addition, we have the noticeboards in the Glasgow Room and foyer at Murieston Village Hall and the main lounge in the Lanthorn. The Murieston Community Garden also posts our notices on the garden noticeboard.

42. An electronic newsletter is distributed on a Thursday.

## **Accommodation**

43. As stated earlier, the Lanthorn has re-opened. Our activities are spread across it and Murieston Village Hall.

## **Relationship with St Philip's RC Parish**

44. It has been difficult to maintain links with St Philip's due to the closure of the Lanthorn. However, one member of St Philip's come to 'coffee and chat'. Due to long-standing friendships, there are still many individual connections and through these, members of St Philip's support our events.

## **Looking to the future**

45. Church Council continues to acknowledge that we would be stronger if we were part of a larger organisation. If change comes, we must be clear about what is not negotiable before we enter into discussions. In the meantime, we will continue to develop our independent existence.

[REDACTED]  
**Secretary**

		Livingston South Community Church		SCO	44088
Previous Period	RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		FOR THE PERIOD FROM	1-May-24	TO 30-Apr-25
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
	Open Plate				3,163.50
	FWO				11,920.00
	Charitable Activities				3,028.21
	Charitable Income				
	P&T	50.00			
	Flowers	174.21			
	Teas	800.45			
					1,024.66
	Admin				0.00
	Bank Interest				987.65
	Other Income				328.20
	<b>Total Receipts</b>				<b>20,452.22</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
	Maintaining Public Worship				9,388.09
	Fund Raising Expenses				0.00
	Flower Fund Sunday Club Parent & Toddlers				547.14
	Events				1,737.32
	Rent and Assoc Costs				3,513.69
	Donations Made				6,913.40
	General Admin Costs				883.60
	Other General Costs				727.82
	<b>Total Payments</b>				<b>23,711.06</b>
	<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the Period</b>				<b>-3,258.84</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF BALANCES</b>					
	Opening Balances				
	Bank		97,463.15		
	Cash		0.00		
30,651.00			<b>97,463.15</b>		
	Closing Balances				
	Bank		94,204.31		
	Cash		0.00		
36,155.00			<b>94,204.31</b>		
					<b>-3,258.84</b>
	(the movement in balances equates to the surplus/deficit for the period shown above)				
	In addition to the above balances the church has other assets at a valuation of				0
	Being	0			
		0			
	Liabilities at the year end (if appropriate) comprised the following				0
		0			
		0			
	All funds held by the charity are unrestricted in nature				
Prepared Date	[REDACTED]				

**APPENDIX 3**



**Report to the trustees/members of**  
**Registered charity number**  
**On the accounts of the charity for the period**  
**Set out on pages**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts <span style="float: right;">v2</span>							
Charity name Livingston South Community Church							
Registered charity number SC046189							
Period start date				Period end date			
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
01	May	2024	to	30	April	2025	
Set out on pages 1-6						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	

**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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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:** [Redacted]  
**Name:** [Redacted]

**Date:** 20.01.2026

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

MICB P.M Dip – Institute of Certified Bookkeepers  
Practice Licence: 22780

**Address:**

[Redacted Address]

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

## APPENDIX 3

### Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of  
any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose**

Nothing to report.