

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

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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Church Information

Trustees

A list of active Trustees during 2025 is provided in the Trustees' Report on Page 2.

Address

North Shawbost
Isle of Lewis
HS2 9BQ

Bankers

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

Interim Moderator

Rev D M Macleod
Free Church Manse
North Tolsta
Isle of Lewis
HS2 0NH

Independent Examiner

John E Moffat BA FCA
CIB Services
63 Kenneth Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2DS

Clerk

Mr D Macphail
41 South Bragar
Isle of Lewis
HS2 9DD

Treasurer

Mr N Macleod
3 New Shawbost
Isle of Lewis
HS2 9BG

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 2025.

Status of Charity and Governing Document

Shawbost is a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland is 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

<i>Minister</i>	Vacant
<i>Interim Moderator</i>	Rev Murdo Campbell (Resigned 21/02/25) Rev Calum M Smith (Appointed 21/02/25, Resigned 31/03/26) Rev Donald M Macleod (Appointed 31/03/26)
<i>Elders</i>	Murdo Macdonald, Iain Macdonald, Kenneth Smith, Donald Morrison, Murdo M Macleod, and Iain H Mackay
<i>Deacons</i>	Norman Macphail, Gordon Williamson, Neil Macleod, Donald Macphail, Alex Morrison, and Matthew Hebditch.

*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 2025.

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.

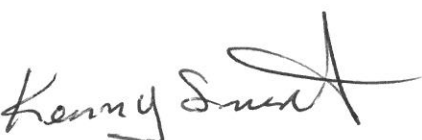
In relation to **congregational funding** there was a significant increase of 24% in donations from church members via weekly offerings and Gift Aid donations across the various funds. In addition, Grant funding totalling £69,380 was received during the year in relation to the external and internal improvements project.

Reserves**Results for the year**

As a result of a surplus for the year on unrestricted funds of £6,974 (2024 - £796 surplus) the Congregation held unrestricted funds amounting to £8,636 (2024 - £1,662) at the year end. This consisted of a General Fund amounting to £4,601 and Designated Funds of £4,035. The Congregation also held restricted funds amounting to £146,967 (2024 - £75,014) at the year end.

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

On behalf of the Trustees

Trustee 

Dated: 01/01/2026

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 2025 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.



Name: John E Moffat BA FCA

Professional Body: Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

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

Dated: 03/07/26

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		General Fund	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Envelopes	8	28,605	1,102	11,025	40,732	27,658
Standing Orders		28,920	1,562	10,228	40,710	35,734
Plate		1,804	1,592	-	3,396	1,314
Communions and Special Services		-	-	-	-	386
Grant - Horshader Community Development		-	-	40,000	40,000	-
Grant - CNES Coastal Communities Funding		-	-	9,380	9,380	-
Grant - Scottish Landfill Community Fund		-	-	20,000	20,000	-
Tax refunds on Gift Aid		11,091	-	4,058	15,149	19,731
Bank Interest		-	-	-	-	-
		70,420	4,256	94,691	169,367	84,823
Communions Special Collections		-	-	222	222	680
Special Appeals	2	-	-	1,492	1,492	-
Other Income	2	6,812	-	2,563	9,375	8,120
Total receipts		77,232	4,256	98,968	180,456	93,623
Payments						
Payments for charitable activities						
Remittances to Central Funds	3	46,950	-	-	46,950	44,129
Pulpit Supply		5,366	-	-	5,366	4,527
Communion Expenses		-	-	1,018	1,018	551
Heat and Light-Church		4,203	-	-	4,203	2,808
Heat and Light-Manse		2,250	-	-	2,250	1,961
Church and Manse Insurance		2,590	-	-	2,590	2,431
Council Tax		1,729	-	-	1,729	1,887
Equipment		432	-	-	432	-
Repairs and Renewals	4	2,076	-	22,697	24,773	5,317
Professional Fees		96	-	2,121	2,217	-
Congregational Expenses	5	2,525	800	-	3,325	2,846
Telephone	2	900	-	-	900	843
Church Officer and Janitor		2,250	-	-	2,250	2,250
Records and Instructors etc		-	-	163	163	343
Magazines, Books and Printing	6	-	-	-	-	-
Minister's Expenses	10	-	-	-	-	-
Manse Hospitality		-	-	-	-	-
Interim Moderator Expenses		465	-	-	465	1,200
Bragar Meeting House		-	-	-	-	1,933
Benevolent Fund		-	500	-	500	800
Sunday School		462	-	-	462	299
EDO	7	-	-	1,492	1,492	1,315
Governance costs						
Independent Examination		444	-	-	444	-
Total payments		72,738	1,300	27,491	101,529	75,440
Surplus (Deficit) for Year		4,494	2,956	71,477	78,927	18,183
Transfers		(976)	500	476	-	-
Net movement in funds after transfers		3,518	3,456	71,953	78,927	18,183
Total funds brought forward		1,083	579	75,014	76,676	58,493
Total funds carried forward		4,601	4,035	146,967	155,603	76,676

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Statement of Balances

As at 31 December 2025

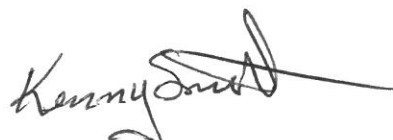
	2025 £	2024 £
Bank and cash in hand		
Opening balances	76,676	58,493
Surplus for year	78,927	18,183
Closing balances	<u>155,603</u>	<u>76,676</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted General Fund	4,601	1,083
Designated Funds	4,035	579
Restricted funds	146,967	75,014
	<u>155,603</u>	<u>76,676</u>
Assets		
Manse	<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 1/7/26 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:

Treasurer



Trustee



Notes to the Financial Statements *for the year ended 31 December 2025***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 2025

	Unrestricted Funds			Total	Total
	General	Designated	Restricted	2025	2024
	Fund	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£	£		
2 Other Income					
Records & Instructors	-	-	163	163	-
Books & Magazines	-	-	-	-	-
Pulpit Supply Refunded	3,207	-	-	3,207	-
Council Tax Refund	2,005	-	-	2,005	45
Free Church Telephone Contribution	-	-	-	-	275
Donations	1,600	-	2,400	4,000	7,800
	<u>6,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,563</u>	<u>9,375</u>	<u>8,120</u>
EDO					
Fundraising	-	-	1,492	1,492	-
Dr Adam	-	-	-	-	-
Patrick Jok	-	-	-	-	-
Rev Macleod Retiral	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>-</u>
3 Contribution to Central Funds				2025	2024
				£	£
Gross Ordinary Income				73,184	70,410
Ministry Levy				35,880	33,240
Administration and Training Levy				7,836	7,608
Fixed Allowance				23,000	23,000
Net Ordinary Income				<u>6,468</u>	<u>6,562</u>
Sum Due to Central Funds					
Ministry Levy				35,880	33,240
Administration and Training Levy				7,836	7,608
Missions Levy 50% of Net Ordinary Income				3,234	3,281
				<u>46,950</u>	<u>44,129</u>
Direct remittances				-	-
Amount paid to Central Funds				<u>46,950</u>	<u>44,129</u>

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds			
	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	2025
				£
4 Repairs and Renewals				
Manse Repairs and Maintenance	938	-	-	938
Church - Repairs	1,138	-	22,697	23,835
	<u>2,076</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,697</u>	<u>24,773</u>
				<u>5,317</u>
5 Congregational Expenses				
Presbytery Levy	616	-	-	616
Freewill Offering Envelopes	646	-	-	646
Hall Hire	-	-	-	-
Website Expenses	-	-	-	-
Postage, stationery & Advertising	474	-	-	474
Church Telephone	480	-	-	480
Gift Aid Administration	148	-	-	148
Zoom and Twilio Expenses	-	-	-	-
Donations:				
Presentation Vouchers	92	-	-	92
Free Church Youth Camps	-	400	-	400
God is Good Africa	-	400	-	400
Bank Charges	69	-	-	69
General Charges	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,525</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,325</u>
				<u>2,846</u>
6 Magazines, Books and Printing				
Printing	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
7 EDO				
Adam Support Group	-	-	-	-
South Harris Free Church	-	-	-	-
Cumbernauld Free Church	-	-	-	-
Patrick Jok	-	-	-	-
Other Donations	-	-	1,492	1,492
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>1,492</u>
				<u>1,315</u>

Shawbost Free Church of Scotland

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 01.01.25 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.25 £
Bragar Meeting House	-	2,664	-	-	2,664
Fabric Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Benevolent Fund	-	-	500	500	-
Missionary & Other Donations Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Fund	579	1,592	800	-	1,371
Total designated funds	579	4,256	1,300	500	4,035

9 Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.25 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.25 £
Development fund	73,631	97,091	24,818	-	145,904
Magazines, Books & CD's Fund	-	163	163	-	-
Manse Telephone	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Support Fund	110	-	-	-	110
Communion Expenses	320	222	1,018	476	-
Slavic Gospel Association	22	-	-	-	22
RSHP Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-
Dr Adam	341	-	-	-	341
Syria & Turkey Appeal	115	-	-	-	115
EDO - General	475	1,492	1,492	-	475
Total restricted funds	75,014	98,968	27,491	476	146,967

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 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	General Fund £	Designated Funds £			
Monthly Miles	-	-	-	-	-
Other tax deductible expenses					
Resources for Bible Study	-	-	-	-	-
Office Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Ministerial expenses	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

11 Collections for Third Parties

Total 2025	Total 2024
-	-
-	-