

Church of Scotland in Stockethill

Congregational Accounts – Receipts and Payments

For the Year 2025

Congregation 311883

(Scottish Charity No. SC030587)

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name: Stockethill Church of Scotland

Congregational Reference Number: 311883

Charity Registration Number: SC030587

Contact address: c/o Derek Duthie
19 Blairythan Place, Foveran
Ellon, Aberdeenshire
AB41 6HA

Trustees for the entire year 2025:

Trustee	Address	E-mail address	Telephone Number	Date of Birth	Date of Appointment
Ian Aitken	52 Ashgrove Road West, Aberdeen, AB16 5EE	iaitken@churchofscotland.org.uk	01224 686929	02/08/69	14/07/13
Sarah Aitken	52 Ashgrove Road West, Aberdeen, AB16 5EE	Sarahaitken21@gmail.com	01224 686929	10/10/73	14/07/13
Matthew Edwards	15 Beechwood Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5BL	matthew.c.edwards@gmail.com	01224 694667	03/09/76	14/07/13
Morag Ledgerwood	2 Durward Gardens, Kincardine O Neil, AB34 5BZ	ledgie03021@googlemail.com	07846620764	18/10/58	14/07/13
Fiona Douglas	7 Berrywell Gardens, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 7BR	grandfi@icloud.com	07896 264681	14/01/52	14/07/13
Mary Currie	6c West Cairncry Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5RE	marycurrie7348@gmail.com	01224 682723	23/05/48	12/05/24

Trustees appointed during 2025:

Sharron Forsyth	37 Cornhill Square, Aberdeen	Sharronforsyth6@gmail.com	01224 482465	16/11/69	27/04/25
Judith Allan	Wayside Cottages, 2 Anderson Avenue, Aberdeen, AB24 4LS	heyjud.allan@googlemail.com	07772 819333	07/06/62	27/04/25

Parish Minister: Rev Ian M. Aitken
52 Ashgrove Road West
Aberdeen
AB16 5EE

Session Clerk: Fiona C. Douglas
7 Berrywell Gardens
Dyce
AB21 7BR

Church Treasurer: Derek Duthie
19 Blairythan Place, Foveran
Ellon, Aberdeenshire
AB41 6HA

Independent Examiner:

Sian Edwards
15 Beechwood Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5BL

Bankers:

Bank of Scotland
Edinburgh
BX2 1LB

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document

The church is governed in accordance with the unitary constitution of the Church of Scotland.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

Stockethill Church, as a church in full status, has, as its Trustees, a Kirk Session, comprising seven elders and the parish minister. These elders were chosen on the basis of having the appropriate gifts and skills for the role and having undertaken appropriate training.

Organisational Structure

The control of the affairs of the Congregation, both spiritual and temporal, are vested in the Kirk Session of the Congregation (which comprises the Minister and those ordained elders who are members of the congregation and appointed to the Session). Its functions include those set out in the Consolidating Act anent Church Courts (Act III, 2000) and all those devolving in terms of General Assembly legislation on the Session and on the Financial Board of a Congregation. In order to fulfil its duties, the Kirk Session will, from time to time, delegate responsibility to ad-hoc groups made up of church members.

Objectives and Activities

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 the distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish in Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

In accordance with these aims, the Kirk Session of Stockethill Church, through worship, community building, teaching and service, seeks to enable its members, individually and corporately, to love their neighbours and reveal the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Achievements and Performance

Through five worshipping congregations and two small Community Groups, over 120 people (members, adherents and enquirers) meet regularly for worship, teaching and prayer, as well as to minister to each other and help each other minister to others. Courses, social events and individual discipleship relationships add to these opportunities. Others in the local community, the city and beyond, are primarily helped and served through individual acts of kindness, love and prayer from congregation members, but opportunities also exist to provide services to the community in general through, for example, schools work, bereavement care, marriage preparation, family support and the general support of community-based programs.

In 2025, the congregation ran a weekly children's club (Sams Club) for thirty children, a Scripture Union group specifically for primary 7 children with 24 children attending, and regular Lunch Clubs for families in the school holidays with up to 80 participants. All of these also involved volunteer helpers from the church.

In 2025, the congregation employed a part-time Community Worker to serve the local community and work in partnership with other agencies. A grant was received from The Trades Widows to help cover the cost of this post. The Kirk Session sought some professional support to help raise these funds and is pleased with the results to date from this arrangement.

In accordance with Article 1 of the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland in Matters Spiritual there is a commitment to work "for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the world". Therefore, the mission and outreach of the congregation includes supporting work done by other Church of Scotland bodies and Christian-based work done by other charities. As there are not sufficient resources to undertake the full extent of missions of this type at a local level that we would wish, it is more cost-effective and more appropriate, because of economies of scale, to support work being undertaken on a wider basis. This is done through retiring offerings at our main services and through social events. Groups so supported are chosen by the Congregation which commits to support them through prayer, correspondence, awareness-raising and in any other appropriate way. In 2025, Sisterland and Street Pastors were supported in this way.

Financial Review

The principal source of income is through regular giving of the church members. Membership has remained more or less constant, but giving increased by 17%. Gift aid giving increased by 28% over the year, and cash offerings reduced by 3%. Tax recovered on gift aid donations reduced by 23% due to repayment of a previous overclaim. Regular giving by standing order increased. The church may also apply to Trust Funds, grant awarders, local businesses etc. to seek funding for specific projects but does not engage in fund raising from individuals to whom it is called to minister, beyond its own members.

Donations given by non-church members are used in the discretionary fund. Small donations are sometimes made by those who have used the services of the minister at funerals and weddings.

Reserves Policy

The Kirk Session's policy is to hold some reserves to provide some financial resilience, fund new initiatives and the next stage of the development of the church, and to provide enough funds for the ongoing maintenance of the manse. The Kirk Session seeks to hold enough reserves to cover a year's worth of expenditure plus funds reserved to cover IT and other equipment and basic repairs to the manse. If the reserves were to fall below that level, the Kirk Session would review their spending and bring the need for increased giving to the attention of the congregation.

Heritable Property

There are no heritable properties. The manse is vested in the General Trustees.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session must receive and approve financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the church during the financial year. The church treasurer and members of the Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which on request, must reflect the financial position of the church at any time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Account (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.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,


.....
Session Clerk

Date: 9 April 2026

New Stockethill Church of Scotland

Charity No. SC030587


.....
Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner

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 Charity's 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 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.



Independent Examiner

Sian Edwards

15 Beechwood Road

Aberdeen

AB16 5BL

9 April 2026

Stockethill Church of Scotland
Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended December 2025

Receipts	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund 2025 (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund 2025 (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds 2025 (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
Donations						
Offerings	33,752.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,752.04	28796.58
Other giving	522.70	1,290.00	0.00	0.00	1,812.70	2010.00
Grants & Legacies	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	13621.78
Refunds of tax on gift-aided giving	5,254.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,254.60	6890.13
Bank & deposit interest	4,022.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,022.19	4107.17
Total Receipts	43,551.53	1,290.00	5,000.00	0.00	49,841.53	55425.66
Payments						
Costs of generating funds	0.00	0.00	1,087.50	0.00	1,087.50	0.00
Charitable activities	36,031.53	1,152.40	20,673.61	0.00	57,857.54	46341.39
Governance costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments	36,031.53	1,152.40	21,761.11	0.00	58,945.04	46341.39
Excess of Receipts over Payments before transfers	7,520.00	137.60	-16,761.11	0.00	-9,103.51	9084.27
Transfers between funds	-2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments for 2025	4,920.00	137.60	-14,161.11	0.00	-9,103.51	9084.27

Stockethill Church of Scotland
Statement of Balances
Year Ended December 2025

	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund 2025 (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund 2025 (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds 2025 (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
<u>Bank & Cash Balances</u>						
Balances brought forward	76,816.40	1,760.81	29,433.40	0.00	108,010.61	98,926.34
<u>Movement in year</u>						
	4,920.00	137.60	-14,161.11	0.00	-9,103.51	9,084.27
Third party collection held at prior year and paid over in current year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Third party collection held at year end.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank balances at 31 December 2025	81,736.40	1,898.41	15,272.29	0.00	98,907.10	108,010.61

Investments (Note 6)

72,246.77

Assets

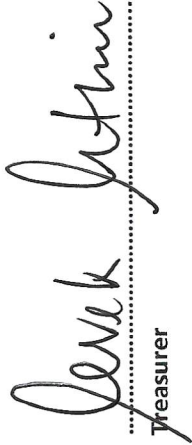
None

Liabilities

None

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9 April 2026
For and on behalf of the Trustees


Fiona C. Douglas
Session Clerk


Derek John
Treasurer

Stockethill Church of Scotland
Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

Three trustees received reimbursement of expenses during the year. The total reimbursement of expenses was £5,002.69. One trustee received salary and pension contributions totalling £13,236.99.

No trustee or a person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

No payment was made to the minister regarding heat & light costs for the manse during the year.

2. Purposes of the Unrestricted, Designated Fund

Alms fund: This is a fund set aside to provide financial assistance to people in the parish. It is used at the discretion of the Minister.

3. Purposes of the Restricted, Designated Funds

These are capital reserve funds for future spending in IT equipment, equipment for worship, manse repairs, training, special projects and community support projects.

Income was from one source of Grant/Legacy and transfers from the General Fund.

4. Purpose of the Unrestricted, Non-designated Fund

This fund is used on a regular basis in order to achieve the objectives outlined in the Trustees' Annual Report.

5. Ministers' Stipends

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 was £32,433 and the maximum stipend in the fifth and subsequent years of service was £39,856. 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 the Housing and Loan Fund.

6. Church of Scotland Investors Trust

The market value of an investment in the Income Fund is £72,246.77; cost is £75,636.93.

7. Third party collection held at year end

No money was collected for third parties and not disbursed.

8. Analysis of donations					
	Unrestricted Non-designated Fund (Note 4)	Unrestricted Designated Fund (Note 2)	Restricted, Designated Funds (Note 3)	Endowment Funds 0.00	Total 2025
Gift aid donations	23,856.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,856.00
Ordinary offerings	9,896.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,896.04
Tax recovered on gift aid donations	5,254.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,254.60
Grants, legacies, donations.	522.70	1,290.00	5,000.00	0.00	6,812.70
	39,529.34	1,290.00	5,000.00	0.00	45,819.34
					51,318.49

9. Analysis of payments					
Costs of generating funds					
	0.00	0.00	1,087.50	0.00	1,087.50
					0.00
Charitable activities					
Ministries & Mission allocation	17,374.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,374.00
Other staffing costs	0.00	0.00	13,196.66	0.00	13,196.66
Training & teaching	399.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	399.82
Manse costs	8,377.87	0.00	5,890.55	0.00	14,268.42
Administration	2,527.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,527.61
Hospitality	1,941.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,941.04
Services & Events	6,653.96	0.00	1,095.58	0.00	7,749.54
Community Involvement	1,357.23	1,152.40	490.82	0.00	3,000.45
	38,631.53	1,152.40	21,761.11	0.00	61,545.04
					53,691.39

Governance costs None

Other payments None

10. Collections for Third Parties		
	2025	2024
Sisterland	230.00	91.00
Street Pastors	235.00	0.00
	465.00	91.00

11. Movements in Funds

Restricted, Designated Funds	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfer from General Fund	Closing Balance
Manse	4,712.28	0.00	-5,890.55	2,000.00	821.73
IT	537.52	0.00	-1,095.58	600.00	41.94
Worship Equipment	1,257.45	0.00	-35.99	0.00	1,221.46
Mission	555.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	555.00
Community Worker Support	16,642.77	5,000.00	-14,284.16	0.00	7,358.61
Lunch Club - Holidays	454.83	0.00	-454.83	0.00	0.00
Story Project	1,892.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,892.00
NYNO Project	329.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.12
Church Development	191.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.05
Prayers For Healing	828.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	828.33
Memorial	2,033.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,033.05
	29,433.40	5,000.00	-21,761.11	2,600.00	15,272.29
Unrestricted, Designated Fund	1760.81	1290.00	-1152.40	0.00	1898.41
Unrestricted, Non-Designated Fund	76816.40	43551.53	-36031.53	-2600.00	81736.40
Total Funds	108,010.61	49,841.53	-58,945.04	0.00	98,907.10