



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	12	2024	To	30	11	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

Old St Peters Kirk Preservation Association
SC048879
73 Upper Burnside Drive
Thurso
Caithness
Postcode KW14 7XB

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Christina Ann Doake	Chair		
2	Alison Joan Smith	Vice-Chair		
3	Eric Roger Saxon	Treasurer		
4	Kelly Wood	Secretary		
5	Christine Jane Haddlesey			
6	Colin Davies			
7	Eleanor Hargrave			
8	Maureen Allan		31 st July 2025	
9	Kenneth McElroy		31 st July 2025	
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The former unincorporated association became a SCIO and registered charity on 29 November 2018.

The charity is governed by its Constitution as a two tier SCIO operating under OSCR guidance.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The trustees are elected by a member vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science including the preservation, including restorative works, of Old St Peter's Kirk, Thurso and its graveyard for current and future generations.

The advancement of citizenship or community development (including rural or urban regeneration and the promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, the voluntary sector or the effectiveness or efficiency of charities).

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Working with The Highland Council to progress a heads of agreement for the ongoing management of the Kirk.

Research the Kirk's history and interpret it for citizens and visitors.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Community involvement: the outer gate is open 24 hours a day for visitors to visit the graveyard and walk around the outside of the Kirk. Trustees and volunteers are present at the Kirk on most Sunday mornings and at other times in the week to help visitors interpret the site. The Charity fully participates in Highland Doors Open Days, offering tours and refreshments to visitors. In September 2025 the focus was on encouraging family participation. Fun and educational worksheets were prepared and printed for use.

Close partnerships have been formed with several local organisations and retail outlets. A local primary school used the Kirk as one of their main venues for their school trip, with their pupils enjoying an in-depth educational visit. Mutual support between Charity and the Thurso Boys Brigade continues, the Charity using the Brigade Hall for storage and meetings, and the BB's benefiting from the involvement of the Charity in some of their activities.

The North Coast Visitor Centre holds artefacts from the Kirk in their museum and will provide a sales outlet for books about the Kirk when the Centre re-opens in the Spring. During their enforced winter closure, the Charity was able to offer the staff a tour of the Kirk and a learning opportunity about the building and its history.

Education and Culture: In addition to school and youth involvement, talks have been given to adult groups such as local small businesses which provide tourist information, and to Thurso Rotary club. Leaflets about the history of the Kirk are provided in eight languages and distributed free of charge. A local author's Booklet about the Kirk and its involvement with Thurso has been reprinted this year and is available for sale, proceeds going to the Charity. Trustees took part in Highland Heritage Day and in addition to providing a tabletop presentation about the Kirk, they were able to benefit from taking part in workshops about funding opportunities and planning for succession of Trustees.

Preservation: Plans outlined last year about seeking Scheduled Monument Consent were moved forward following a joint visit in April 2025 from a Senior Official from Heritage Environment Scotland and a Senior Estates Co-ordinator from The Highland Council. Encouragement has been given to the Charity to move beyond the Preliminary Consent stages for two smaller projects and to continue to work on a more substantial project to repair a roof lintel which will still need to clear the preliminary stages. Routine inspections of the fabric continue to be undertaken by the Charity, and the outside of the Kirk kept weed free by volunteer members.

Support for the local economy: The Charity works closely with Scrabster Harbour Trust and Venture North (part of the local Chamber of Commerce) to provide a welcome to tourists who arrive by Cruise Ship, (nine visits in the last year) or by the NC 500 route. Tours are available, and recommendations given about other highlights to enjoy in the town. The number of visitors to the Kirk has tripled in recent years from around 700 to more than 2,200.

Communications: Website development stalled during the last year because of illness but is underway again following the appointment of a new developer. Good relationships have been maintained with the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund who have continued to be supportive during this period. Meantime newsletters to members have been sent and Facebook posting increased to keep the profile of the Charity to the fore.

Finance: The Charity continues to consolidate its revenue sources, membership subscriptions, Christmas Card sales and profits from selling educational booklets and mementos to visitors. Donation opportunities have been extended by offering the use of QR code link to the Charity's bank account, allowing those who prefer to donate differently from using cash to show their support.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

No set policy but we look to have sufficient on reserve to allow the charity to work towards achieving its objectives.

Details of any deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Christina Ann Doake	Eric Roger Saxon
Full name(s)	Christina Ann Doake	Eric Roger Saxon
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	27 th April 2026	27 th April 2026