

WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (F) CHURCH

Hilton Community Centre, Hilton Road, Woodside, Aberdeen.

Scottish Charity Number SC0 027838

Originally opened 1818 - 1993

Re-Established August 1997

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Sunday 14th June 2026 at 11.30am at Hilton Community Centre
Hilton Road, Woodside, Aberdeen.

Our AGM is a legal requirement and as good an attendance as possible is required.

Constitution and Organisation

Woodside Congregational Church is a member Church of the Scottish Congregational Churches Fellowship. Congregationalism is a form of Church government where each Church is independent in the management of its own affairs.

AGENDA

Reports

Finances

Appointments

Children / Vulnerable Persons Policy

Prayer

Close meeting

SENIOR PASTOR / MINISTER- Rev Andy Cowie

MINISTER

Rev TAMUNOIPRINYE ALLISON GBORJOH (From 1st DEC 23)

APPOINTMENTS

CHURCH SECRETARY / TREASURER

CRAFT CLUB

BOYS' BRIGADE CAPTAIN

Ona Greig

Margaret Cowie

Rev Andy Cowie

WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (FEDERATION) CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2025

Coleen Murphy
Admin Services
175 Countesswells Road
Aberdeen
AB15 7RA

Registered Charity name Woodside Congregational (Federation) Church

Charity registration number SC 027838
The Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the year were as follows:

Reverend Andrew Cowie	Senior Pastor	(From August 1997)
Rev Tamunoiprinnye Allison Gborjoh (Tammy)	Minister	(From 1 st December 2023)
Ona L Greig	Treasurer / Secretary	(From 31 st March 2023)

Independent Examiner Coleen Murphy
Admin Services
175 Countesswells Road
Aberdeen
AB15 7RA

Bankers Bank of Scotland
Bridge of Don Branch
Ellon Road
ABERDEEN

CONSTITUTION AND ORGANISATION

Woodside Congregational Church was re-established in August 1997 and the Church is now only affiliated to the Scottish Congregational Churches Fellowship, (SCCF), a small Group, with 17 Churches, stretching from Balmedie in the North to the Scottish Borders. The Church is part of the Aberdeen Shared Team Ministry.

Congregationalism is a form of Church government where each Church is independent in the management of its own affairs. (The members make the decisions.)

MAIN CHARITABLE PURPOSE

The principle charitable purpose is the advancement of religion.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The first Church established in the Burgh of Woodside was a Congregational Church, on the 24th November 1818. That Church closed in 1993 and re-opened in Aug 1997. This report covers the 28th year of Woodside Congregational Church since it was re-established.

December 2023 we welcomed Tamunoiprinnye Allison Gborjoh B.Sc., M.Sc. (Tammy) as our Minister. She and her husband 'Femi' Gborjoh, are both from our sister Church at Cove. She held Office in her Nigerian Episcopalian Church's Woman's Organisation of 100 women and led Worship, Prayers, Pastoral Care / visitations and Counselling. On 23rd March 2024 the Church Ordained Tammy. The Church appreciated the support of all the Scottish Congregational Fellowship Churches. Their family Laura, Student of Law at Aberdeen University and David, Matthew and Simeon remain at Cove although they do 'visit' Woodside. Jim Smith has again 'retired' and the Church is very grateful for his ongoing Services.

Our Craft Club and Boys' Brigade still continue with Margaret and Andy Cowie as Staff. Numbers are small. They are supported by our new Minister Tammy Gborjoh.

The Church ran a successful Summer Club one afternoon per week during school summer holidays. The group joined with similar groups at Northfield and Kittybrewster Congregational Churches – a Day out to Alford Ski slope for tubing, followed by a meal - it was a great success.

Our Church and youth work continue to meet in Hilton Community Centre, Hilton Road, Aberdeen AB24 4HS. We are very grateful to the Management Committee, for making us very welcome. We now meet at 11am on Sundays, for Services.

Church membership at the end of the year stood at 8. During the year we held All Age Worship and were delighted when our Boys' Brigade joined for special services.

Our members are very committed and loyal. The Church continues to have a vision for Mission at home and overseas.

YOUTH

Our Church over the year had a footfall of over 50 children, in a Craft Club, and the Boys' Brigade Company, plus summer play-scheme and Church. During the year, the Church received financial help for children's / youth work from Aberdeen City Council and Trades Widow Fund, and a local Radio Station, North Sound / Cash for Kids. At Christmas time, Cash for Kids provided gifts to be handed out to needy children.

JOINT YOUTH CAMP – This year, our sister Churches did not run a Camp. But the older youth participated in a week of events for them.

AFFILIATION

During the year our sister Churches and Woodside individually agreed unanimously to change the name of the Scottish Congregational Fellowship to the Scottish Congregational Churches Fellowship (SCCF), to which we are affiliated. It is a small Group, with 17 Churches, stretching from Balmedie in the North to the Scottish Borders.

CURRENT MINISTRY

We are extremely blessed to have Tammy as our Minister, (supported by her family), she is paid more as a sessional worker, than a stipend. We work at how we can pay more.

FUTURE MINISTRY (SCCF) Apprenticeship

Six years ago we reported an issue that our Scottish Congregational (Church) Fellowship is aware of, the lack of future Ministry, and the possibility of a Non-Stipendiary Apprenticeship for Practical Ministry - style scheme. It was established and as a result we now have Ministers at Law Congregational Church in Dundee, and Northfield and Kittybrewster, and our own Woodside Church (and during 2025 a couple were called to become Ministers at Balmedie. We still have an apprentice on the scheme.)

HELP AND PRAYER

Our Prayers for Peace for Ukraine, gatherings by telephone, still happen fortnightly.

Many of our plans were put on hold, when our Minister's youngest child, Simeon was diagnosed as having a growth on a kidney. Much prayer was said around our sister Churches. He underwent surgery, had a kidney removed. From September 2024 till December 2024, our Minister Tammy was given paid compassionate leave of absence. Simeon has made a remarkable recovery. We give thanks to God.

Two years our Senior Pastor, Andy Cowie, was diagnosed with 'A symptomatic' Myeloma – a bone marrow cancer – thankfully this year it is still inactive. We give thanks to God.

It was good to again hold, in January, our Joint 'Mid Winter Meal' at Buckie Farm Restaurant and to meet our friends from Danestone, Balmedie, Potterton, Northfield, Kittybrewster and Cove. Great fellowship.

MISSION Despite our size we continue to support:

Tear Fund – is used as our Mission 'partner'

LOCALLY help is given to people in need and local Charities.

Water Aid monthly

Lady Haig Poppy Appeal

Mission is jointly financed mainly through the Danestone Mission Fund, financed primarily by donations from Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals donations donated from our unpaid Ministers. With the general decline in Church attendance, we are asked to conduct fewer and fewer Baptism, Weddings and Funerals – which has had an effect on the DCC Mission - Help Fund.)

SPECIAL SERVICES

Our Church, through the Senior Pastor, continues to be involved with Baptisms – 0, Weddings - 0 and Funerals – 1.

The Church is governed by regular meetings. Financially the Church did well for its size as raising funds in the area is difficult, but dedicated giving by members is commendable

FINANCES

Over the years, as part of the outreach of the Church, the congregation agreed to 'pay' all of the expenses of the Senior Pastor Minister, who is also the Senior Pastor at 6 sister Churches. The Church agreed he could claim every expense. The Minister, Rev Andy Cowie, previously agreed and continues to, repay most of the expenses back to the Church, and to allow the church to claim gift aid on that donation.

In effect the payment of expenses ultimately costs the church zero, while the Senior Pastor actually repays 75% of his expenses back to the church (which in effect means he is paid 25% of his expenses without costing the Church anything.) As Ministry is expanded, this arrangement may have to transfer to another Church.

We are very grateful to God that despite various difficulties our Church is looking forward to advancing Christ's Kingdom. Our Church continues to serve Christ and as we move forward in His Name, we must keep Faith in Him – it is central to all we do. We give thanks to God for that which He has given and in Faith we continue with our 207th year (29th year, since we restarted).

FINANCIAL 'POLICY'

The Church holds £25,000 for a future building / future project. The aim is to add at least 5% annually to that total.

During the period the charity made a deficit of £10,397.18 which has reduced reserves resulting in total reserves at 31 March 2025 of £ 31,567.29. These reserves are being carried forward to support the future work of the Church. This figure also includes the previously mentioned grant money to complete funded projects and the building / project / ministry funds £25,000. The Reserve Policy Aim is to also hold 1 year's expenditure in reserve, in addition to Projects fund above (now £25,000). We have a long way to go.

We give thanks to God for what He has done in Woodside and look forward to the challenge of the next year. Our Church continues to serve Christ and as we move forward in His Name, we must keep Faith in Him – it is central to all we do. We give thanks to God for that which He has given and in Faith we continue with our 29th year.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

Andrew Cowie
Trustee

Tamunoipirinye Allison Gborjoh B.Sc., M.Sc.
Minister / Trustee

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.....

.....2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (FEDERATION) CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 report

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:
- i. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - ii. 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.



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Coleen Murphy
Independent Examiner
Admin Services
175 Countesswells Road
Aberdeen
AB15 7RA

Date 20/05/2026

WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (FEDERATION) CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
	General Fund	
	2025	2024
Receipts	25,022.46	13,025.13
Payments	35,419.64	8,903.07
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>(10,397.18)</u>	<u>4,122.06</u>

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2025

Cash Funds	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
	General Fund	
	2025	2024
Opening cash at bank and in hand	41,964.47	37,842.41
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(10,397.18)	4,122.06
Closing cash at bank and in hand	31,567.29	41,964.47
Bank balance		
Treasurers Account	<u>31,567.29</u>	<u>41,964.47</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on
.....and are signed on behalf of the board by:

.....
Andrew Cowie
Trustee

WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (FEDERATION) CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Analysis of Receipts

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
	General Funds	
	2025	2024
Donations		
FWO	2,454.50	1,561.00
Open Plate	-	14.00
Gift Aid	-	1,207.50
Gift Aid Repayment Interest	-	17.67
Other Donations	11,865.12	-
Receipts from fundraising activities		
Charity Shop	912.49	1,283.76
Sponsored Walk	140.00	273.00
Grants		
Bauer Radio Cash for Kids	2,701.45	5,836.70
Aberdeen City Council Festive Fund	-	206.50
Aberdeen City Council Fairer Aberdeen Fund	695.00	625.00
Trades Widows' Fund Charity	6,253.90	2,000.00
Total Receipts	<u>25,022.46</u>	<u>13,025.13</u>

WOODSIDE CONGREGATIONAL (FEDERATION) CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Analysis of Payments

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	
	General Funds	
	2025	2024
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		
Boys' Brigade Expenses	419.75	441.45
Girls Brigade		-
Craft Club Expenses	446.16	460.69
Christmas Party	2,116.80	1,052.75
Summer Club	5,866.16	1,050.00
Salary	4,004.04	1,857.94
Salary for Outreach	453.60	-
Rent	520.00	530.00
Administration	1,192.68	1,195.13
SCF/CF - Affiliation fees	200.00	70.00
Insurance	243.67	243.67
Postage & Stationery	218.95	26.81
Miscellaneous Expenses	17,004.53	634.63
Grants and donations		
Donations:		
Water Aid	240.00	240.00
Tearfund	50.00	-
Poppy Scotland	-	50.00
Danestone Community Church	98.05	150.00
Danestone Community Church - Mission Account	-	150.00
Kittybrewster Community Church	98.05	150.00
Northfield Community Church	98.05	150.00
Cove Community Church	98.05	150.00
Balmedie Community Church	98.05	150.00
Potterton Community Church	98.05	150.00
Charitable Donations	1,560.00	-
Governance costs		
Accountancy Fees	295.00	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>35,419.64</u>	<u>8,903.07</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Bank opening balance		41,964.47
Add income		25,022.46
Less expenditure		35,419.64
total		<u>31,567.29</u>

Bank Statement as at 31 March 2025 35,597.16

less outstanding cheques	11219	60.00	
	11220	6.00	
	11221	50.00	
	11222	150.00	
	11223	<u>15,820.15</u>	

16,086.15

Add deposit not yet showing		105.50	
		85.66	
		<u>11,865.12</u>	<u>12,056.28</u>
			<u>31,567.29</u>

Trustee remuneration

Pastor Tammy Gborjoh	2025	2024
Gross Salary	<u>4,004.04</u>	<u>1,857.94</u>

Trustees expenses	Pastor Tammy		Rev Andrew
	Ona Greig	Gborjoh	Cowie
	2025	2025	2025
Travel/Mileage			15,820.15
Summer expenses			2,541.15
Craft Club expenses			71.16
Charitable gift expenses			30.00
Boys Brigade expenses			31.75
Admin expenses	19.20	890.00	398.53
	<u>19.20</u>	<u>890.00</u>	<u>18,892.74</u>

Transactions with Trustees and connected persons

There has been no reimbursement of expenses to persons connected to a trustee

Name	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	2025
			<u> </u>
			<u> </u>

There has been no payment to close family member during the year

Name	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	2025
			<u> </u>
			<u> </u>