

Charity registration number: SC043105

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Page	
1 - 8	TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
9	STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
10	INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
11	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
12	BALANCE SHEET
13 – 18	NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Objectives and Activities

Scotland's Churches Trust's (SCT) aims are to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage represented in its churches and places of worship of all denominations. Its purposes are:

- to sustain and support Scotland's religious heritage by promoting the preservation and upkeep of sacred places, religious buildings, their furnishings and churchyards;
- to encourage the custodians of sacred places to regularly open them, to welcome their communities, visitors, tourists and pilgrims and ensure their sustainable use.
- to promote public understanding of and engagement with the history, art, music, architecture and traditions of churches and other sacred places and their position as a focal point in their communities; and
- to support individuals, bodies or organisations with aims or objects analogous to the above purposes (including financial support, when the Trust's funds permit).

Objectives, strategies and activities

SCT's principal activities are:

- Promoting heritage and tourism;
- Giving of grants.

Achievements and Performance

Our Trustees remain hugely appreciative of the continuing support of HRH The Princess Royal in her role as our Patron. Her enduring interest in Scotland's churches throughout her long involvement with our Trust has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to the Trustees, staff and volunteers of Scotland's Churches Trust.

The spring and summer of 2023 saw a continued return to life as we knew it in Edinburgh before the Pandemic. Tourists returned, en masse, to the city streets outside our office on the Mound and attendances at public gatherings and events began to grow once again. Unfortunately, this optimism felt in everyday life was not shared by the owners and many operators of Scotland's thousands of places of worship, who intensified the evaluation processes of their building portfolios.

Our office team (Director - Dr DJ Johnston-Smith and office administrator Mr Graeme Green) continued to operate the office at 15 North Bank Street in a hybrid manner, opening it every Monday and Wednesday, and on other days by appointment, and working from their homes the rest of the week. A considerable amount of their time was spent successfully concluding the pilot phase of the HES supported church recording project, and supporting the efforts of emerging small groups of volunteers nationwide.

Work also continued to develop our own detailed national places of worship database so that we can better understand the full scale of the country's holding of these unique and precious buildings. In February 2024, we published a map of the known statuses of churches owned by the Church of Scotland (<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/blog/scotlands-closing-churches/>). This attracted considerable attention as it was the first (and only attempt so far) to quantify and publicise the full extent of planned church closures by that denomination.

Achievements and Performance (continued)

As the closure crisis deepened, demands on the time of our small office team greatly intensified. Our Director continued to meet with numerous external stakeholders and heritage sector peers, raising our concerns about the scale and extent of likely closures and the process itself. As a consequence of these efforts, the ongoing crisis was covered extensively in print, television and social media throughout the year, with many articles highlighting the work of our Trust.

Among other public activities, we provided a very successful information stall at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a series of online and in-person training events for the rapid church recording project, and our Director, Chairperson and some of our volunteers provided several talks about our work and activities to local history societies, Historic Environment Scotland, local authority conservation officers and other groups.

In November 2023, at our AGM, our existing office-holders and sub-committee chairpersons were all re-elected and during the course of the year, we said hello to Dr Jeff Sanders, who joined our board of trustees in April 2023 and a fond farewell to Rev David Clark who resigned from the board in March 2024.

Fabric Repair Grants

Since the conclusion of our long-standing grant-funding collaboration with two external charities in 2019, an arrangement that had been in place for many decades, we have not yet secured any similar long-term collaborative partnerships to replace these grant funds.

Drawing on our own financial reserves, the generosity of private, individual benefactors and the support of certain smaller charities and foundations, such as the Broughton Charitable Trust, Cruden Foundation, ABC Campbell Charitable Trust and the Mazars Gamma Trust, we continued to offer small grants to churches until March of 2022, when we made the difficult decision to suspend this offer. In 2023-2024, we paid a total of £8,000 in grants to two churches (Dundonald Parish Church and Netherlee Stamperland Free Church) that had been allocated awards in previous financial years.

We have continued to suspend any grant-allocation activities until such time as new, sustainable, collaborative, financial partnerships and opportunities are identified. That search continues and we hope to recommence making small grants in the future.

Organ-Playing and Recital Grants

Scotland's Churches Trust and its two parent charities have long taken a keen interest in ensuring that music continues to be heard in Scotland's churches. With the support of the Tunnock Foundation and the Goffin Trust our Trust maintains a small funding pot for applicants wishing to improve their organ-playing skills with tutelage from registered organ tutors and from churches requiring some support for public music performances.

New applications for this funding were also suspended in March 2022, while we take time to reform the committee that oversees this restricted funding and only historic awards have been paid out since. In 2023-24 we allocated £2,000 for an individual organ scholarship that was delayed due to COVID. The remaining funds have been ring-fenced for their original purpose and will be allocated once the new committee has formed and its new terms of reference established.

Church Recording Project

Our Historic Environment Scotland supported church recording pilot project was initially launched in early 2020 to develop a rapid recording methodology that could be used by volunteers to quickly record the moveable contents of their local church.

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Rather than concentrate upon the architectural features and built fabric of these buildings, which we must hope will survive their sale relatively intact, our project aimed to record the moveable contents of each church -- the hundreds of fragile artefacts gathered within each building by their local communities, often over many generations, which will inevitably be removed and scattered after the church is closed.

Despite the Herculean efforts of the lead volunteers to keep the project going through the vagaries of the Pandemic lockdowns, the retirement our Trust director and the recruitment of a new one meant that the initiative did not begin in earnest until the summer of 2022, leading to the successful conclusion of the pilot phase in the spring of 2023.

Aware that around 400 churches are predicted to close in the next few years and perhaps the same number again by 2030, our Trustees decided that it was vitally important for our Trust to continue to resource the recruitment and training of a nationwide body of volunteer church recorders to as they create records of as many of these closing buildings as possible.

Over 2023-24, our director and lead volunteer Lesley Cumming provided talks, in-person and online training, one-to-one and group support to small groups of volunteers that began to emerge across the country. Eventually, around 150 potential recorders signed up to get involved. Many recorded only their local churches. While in Inverclyde, Perthshire and Aberdeenshire small groups of volunteers have firmly established themselves and have now managed to record the contents of multiple churches in their areas. By the summer of 2024 around three dozen churches had been recorded.

Our Trustees offer their sincerest thanks to Historic Environment Scotland for the original funding towards the project and each and every one of the dedicated volunteers who have given freely of their time to document the precious cultural heritage contained in these closing churches, preserving a record of this unique inheritance for future generations.

Pilgrim Journeys

Our Trust has long been a pioneer in the field of religious tourism in Scotland, raising awareness of sacred sites across the country and introducing to them visitors from far and near. Our fourteen Pilgrim Journeys, encouraging travellers to stop at hundreds of religious sites the length and breadth of Scotland, were particularly useful in this regard and remain free for travellers to download from our website.

Religious tourism initiatives like this have a significant part to play in the long-term sustainability of Scotland's ecclesiastical built heritage. As part of our commitment to grow and improve the numbers of visitors to religious sites, we remain committed to playing an active role in the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF). Our Trust Chairperson is also a Trustee of the SPRF, which is a national network of organisations and individuals, supported by a central committee, that is committed to developing, growing and sustaining routes for off-road pilgrimage travel across the country.

Promotion of ecclesiastical heritage

SCT's principal daily activity remains assisting and advising Scotland's churches on the opening-up and promotion of their church buildings and publicising information that further public engagement with and understanding of Scotland's unique ecclesiastical heritage.

Providing useful guidance for churches is an essential part of making churches sustainable. SCT has historically offered a wide range of advice material, including a popular series of 'how to' booklets on different aspects of looking after the church fabric and welcoming visitors to the buildings.

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Our website also continues to provide a vitally useful single digital directory for over a thousand Scottish places of worship, listing their opening and service times, contact details, brief histories and other information that connects members of the public to these local sites of special interest. This service proves to be vitally important for many churches that, even in 2024, still do not possess their own website presence.

We also provide on our website a series of regular blogs on topics relating to Scottish churches. In 2023-24 we began a regular series themed around "Love your Local Church" offering guest bloggers the opportunity to share what they love most about their local church building.

Our social media channels, on Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, YouTube and Bluesky continue to grow. These platforms provide another welcome outlet to celebrate Scotland's rich ecclesiastical built heritage and share both our own activities and stakeholder news and events that encourage the wider public to engage with and support these special sites across the country.

Our grateful thanks

The ongoing activities of the Trust require the constant and sustained effort of many individuals and supporting organisations – from our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal to our wider group of voluntary Trustees and office-holders: from our small office team to our various sub-committee members; from our individual "Friends" to our many member churches: from our occasional public event helpers to our incredible and steadily growing body of church-recording volunteers and local project leads, based all over the country. We thank each and every one of them for their ongoing support and continued assistance during these enormously challenging times for Scotland religious built heritage.

SCT receives no direct governmental financial support towards our core activities and remains dependent upon the donations, grants and legacies it receives from our members, charitable trusts, such as the Broughton Charitable Trust, the ABC Campbell Charitable Trust and the Mazars Gamma Trust, and several individual benefactors. Our Trustees offer their deep gratitude to all of those individuals and organisations who have so generously given us donations and grants during 2023-2024.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an operating deficit on unrestricted funds of £20,261 (2023: £29,118) and a deficit on restricted funds of £nil (2023: £500) giving a total operating deficit of £20,261 (2023: £29,618).

During the year investment gains were £21,689 (2023: loss of £33,438). The investment portfolio is of good quality and is held for the long term.

No transfer is required from unrestricted funds to restricted funds. The overall deficit for the year is £20,261 (2023: £29,618).

Principal funding sources

Major donations received are shown in the financial statements.

Grant Making Policy

SCT makes grants to churches from its general funds. The beneficiaries are involved in activities consistent with the objectives of the Trust.

Investment Policy & Performance

In accordance with the Constitution the Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks and shares, investments and property as they see fit, upon the advice of a reputable stockbroker. The policy is to ensure a balanced level of income and capital growth consistent with security of capital and accessibility of funds. Money which is surplus to immediate requirements is invested in bank deposits or the stock market as required. Ethical considerations are applied to the recommendations made by the stockbroker.

Ethical Investment Statement

The Trustees recognise that an appropriate balance has to be struck between the competing objectives of achieving an acceptable financial return, implementing sound ethical investment principles and the cost of applying an appropriate ethical investment policy.

Having considered these issues and bearing in mind the size of the Trust's investment portfolio, the Trustees believe that it is appropriate for the Trust to operate on the following basis:

- (1) No direct investment may be undertaken into companies whose primary activity (by which is meant over 25% of turnover) is gambling or includes the manufacture of arms, alcohol or tobacco.
- (2) The Trustees consider that it is not practical for them to avoid indirect investment within collective funds into these areas without compromising too far on both the costs of professional investment management and the requirement to achieve a satisfactory financial return.

Risk Management

The trustees assess the major risks to which SCT is exposed on an ongoing basis and have established procedures to mitigate those that are identified as a result of those reviews.

The trustees consider that the major risk which they face are uncertainty over funding and fluctuation in investment valuation. The potential impact of these risks is minimised by regular contact and discussion with major funders and by taking professional investment advice.

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk.

Cash flow risk

The trustees have retained sufficient cash resources to meet the requirements of the charity.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and investments. The credit risk on liquid funds is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity's investment portfolio is managed by Rathbones Investment Management.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity's liquid funds are kept in an interest bearing bank account to enable it to service its everyday financial needs.

Reserves Policy & Going Concern

The charity's reserves largely represent funds inherited from predecessor organisations, and it is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to no less than one year's expenditure. It is considered prudent to keep this level in order to provide an acceptable level of investment income, to allow for possible difficulties with funding or to provide finance for special projects. SCT's unrestricted reserves amount to £515,160 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £535,421), which the Trustees regard as adequate. Restricted reserves amount to £35,001 (2023: £35,001).

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the charity's activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern.

Plans for the Future

In 2024-25, we will be looking again at our SCIO constitution, which has not been revised since 2012, to ensure that it meets the contemporary requirements of Scotland's churches and our Trust in the second quarter of the 21st century.

We will also formally relaunch our Trust's three sub-committees – Outreach & Events, Church Music and Church Maintenance – each with new terms of reference and renewed resolve to support and enhance the activities and objectives of our Trust, as outlined in the refreshed constitution.

We will continue with the planned overhaul of our website. It remains a vital digital signpost to around half of Scotland's places of worship and the main public face of our Trust, but we want to enhance its utility much further. We intend to reintroduce the considerable body of church maintenance resources that appeared on a previous iteration of the website, updated and relevant for the needs of church owners and operators today. We also intend to investigate increasing the number of listed places of worship and church buildings in community hands, including as many basic listings to each one as possible, with enhanced listing pages for our Trust members.

Our aspiration remains to grow our membership of churches and "Friends". Part of the appeal of membership comes from our vastly improved monthly digital newsletter that updates readers with the latest heritage news and developments relevant to Scottish churches. The bulletin keeps our existing members informed and engaged with our ongoing advocacy work and provides an insight into our continuing strenuous efforts to preserve and protect historic places of worship across Scotland. We also provide information about potential grants that could support church conservation and restoration projects, as well as a calendar of relevant upcoming events. This consistent communication strengthens member connections, enhances awareness of our work and significant issues relating to churches, while fostering a shared commitment to safeguarding Scotland's rich religious built heritage.

Our reformed Church Maintenance, Church Music and Outreach and Event Sub-committees will search for opportunities to forge new collaborative partnerships with other heritage sector peers, seeking funding to develop novel and innovative initiatives that support and enhance our Trust's fundamental objectives to protect, promote and preserve Scotland's churches. Several of our Trustees also hope to provide a number of lectures on Scottish church heritage as well as take a leading role in organising visits to sites of religious significance with uncertain futures.

With the rate of church closures likely to accelerate in the coming months, we will continue to empower, support and train church recording volunteers around the country. This is proving to be increasingly resource intensive, so further funding or voluntary resource will need to be identified to help with the processing of the masses of data that volunteers have carefully documented.

We will also continue to support those congregations and communities that are seeking to take their beloved churches into local ownership, providing advice and signposting them towards appropriate resources and sector peers who can assist them in their endeavours. We will support efforts to document and save as many closing churches as possible, while ensuring our continued support for those buildings that are doing everything they can to remain open as places of worship, sanctuary and community.

Structure, Governance & Management

Nature of governing document

SCT is a recognised Scottish charity (SC043105), and is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It was formed on 23 April 2012 as a merger between Scotland's Churches Scheme (SCS) (SC022868) and Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust (SCAHT) (SC000819). It is governed by its Constitution, which was revised and approved in 2024.

During the year we have benefitted from the skills and influence of our Vice Presidents, who are invited positions, and form part of the hierarchy of Patron, President, Vice Presidents and Trustees. The Trustees are the Executive Body, the others are honorary positions. The value of VPs, as well as Patron and President is to offer 'strength' to the Trust, the true value being in providing increased credibility, networking opportunities and awareness raising, all providing 'added value' to the Trust in the eyes of the public.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees may be elected at any Meeting. There is an initial term of four years which can be extended to eight years. Re-election is not permitted until after a fallow year. There is no formal induction programme but ongoing guidance is given to ensure that Trustees are familiar with the SCT's values, aims and objectives together with its day-to-day operations, in addition to clarifying their statutory responsibilities as Trustees of a charity.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for the overall administration of SCT. Day to day operation and administration is delegated to the director.

Related Parties

Any related party transactions are detailed under note 5 of the financial statements.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Director and in accordance with the Trust's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

The pay of the charity's Director is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, its economy of operations, and the extensive use of professional advisers to the trust board, the trustees consider that this is appropriate for this role. The remuneration is also bench-marked with grant-making charities of a similar size and activity to ensure that the remuneration set is fair and not out of line with that generally paid for similar roles.

Reference and Administrative Information

Patron	HRH The Princess Royal
President	Mr Robin Blair CVO
Vice Presidents	The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh Prof Andrew Calder MBE Prof John Hume OBE
Chairperson	Prof Adam Stewart Cumming
Trustees	Mrs Annette Brydone Rev David Clark (resigned Mar 2024) Prof Adam Stewart Cumming (Chairperson) Maj Jamie MK Erskine MBE (Chair of finance committee) Mr Andrew Forbes Mrs Carol MacBride Dr Jeff Sanders (appointed Apr 2023) Ms Caroline Sibbald Dr Lizzie J. Swarbrick Ms Ros Taylor
Senior Management Team	Dr DJ Johnston-Smith, Director Mr Graeme Green, Admin Assistant
Charity Number:	SC043105
Principal Office:	15 North Bank Street Edinburgh, EH1 2LP
Independent examiner:	Suzanne Graham, FCCA Hollis Accounting Limited 3 Melville Crescent Edinburgh, EH3 7HW
Investment Managers:	Rathbones Investment Management George House 50 George Square Glasgow, G2 1EH
Bookkeeper:	J Mackay Accountants Ltd 39 Old Dalkeith Road Edinburgh, EH16 4TE

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

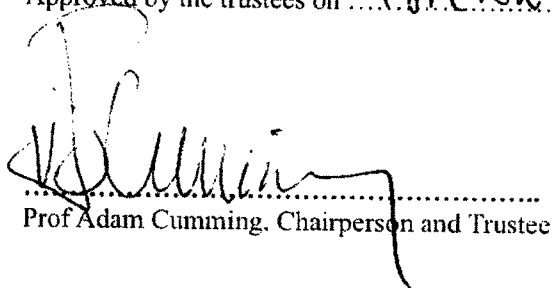
The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees on 18th Nov 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Prof Adam Cumming, Chairperson and Trustee

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 18.

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) (a) to (c) 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 8 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.



Suzanne Graham FCCA
Hollis Accounting Limited
3 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

Date

20/11/2024

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Page 11

		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<u>Income and Endowments</u>							
Donations, grants & legacies	2	19,647	-	19,647	27,934	-	27,934
Investment income	3	15,233	-	15,233	16,994	-	16,994
Total income		34,880	-	34,880	44,928	-	44,928
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Raising funds	4	4,514	-	4,514	15,742	-	15,742
Charitable activities	5	72,316	-	72,316	24,866	500	25,366
Total expenditure		76,830	-	76,830	40,608	500	41,108
Net income/(expenditure)		(41,950)	-	(41,950)	4,320	(500)	3,820
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	9	21,689	-	21,689	(33,438)	-	(33,438)
Net movement in funds		(20,261)	-	(20,261)	(29,118)	(500)	(29,618)
Fund reconciliation							
Fund balances brought forward	14	535,421	35,001	570,422	564,539	35,501	600,040
Fund balance carried forward	14	515,160	35,001	550,161	535,421	35,001	570,422

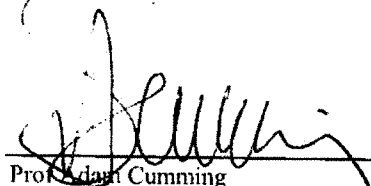
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets							
Investments	9	504,219	-	504,219	555,523	-	555,523
Total Fixed Assets		<u>504,219</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>504,219</u>	<u>555,523</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>555,523</u>
Current assets							
Debtors	10	6,991	-	6,991	3,693	-	3,693
Cash at bank and in hand	11	12,063	35,001	47,064	(10,893)	35,001	24,108
Total Current Assets		<u>19,054</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>54,055</u>	<u>(7,200)</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>27,801</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(8,113)	-	(8,113)	(12,902)	-	(12,902)
Net current assets		<u>10,941</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>45,942</u>	<u>(20,102)</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>14,899</u>
Net assets		<u>515,160</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>550,161</u>	<u>535,421</u>	<u>35,001</u>	<u>570,422</u>
Unrestricted Funds							
General Funds	14			515,160			535,421
Restricted Funds	14			35,001			35,001
Total Funds				<u>550,161</u>			<u>570,422</u>

The notes at pages 13 to 18 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 14th Nov 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Prof Adam Cumming
Chairperson and Trustee

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling (£) and are rounded to the nearest £1.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

1.2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties and thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements. However, they are keeping this under review. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these accounts.

1.3 Income

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods, or when the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable. Tax recovered on Gift Aid, fees, rental and other income are accounted for on the accruals basis.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grants to churches are accounted for when authorised by the Grants Committee. Grants may lapse if work is not commenced within two years of notification. The average delay between authorisation and payment of grants is around one year. Grants are repayable if a church ceases to be a place of worship within 10 years.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £5,000 are not capitalised. Computer equipment is expensed in the year of purchase.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment 20% straight line

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities and allocated between restricted and unrestricted funds in proportion to the capital held.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.8 Funds

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Designated funds have been set aside to be used for specific purposes as identified by the Trustees.

1.9 Taxation

The Charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes irrecoverable input VAT where appropriate. The organisation is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs. Accordingly, no provision is made for taxation liabilities.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Page 15

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
2 Donations, grants and legacies						
Donations and legacies:						
Mrs ABC Campbell's Charitable Trust	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Other Trusts	3,000	-	3,000	3,555	-	3,555
Legacies	500	-	500	-	-	-
Donations from organisations	458	-	458	269	-	269
Donations from individuals	935	-	935	2,780	-	2,780
Friends of SCT	985	-	985	580	-	580
Gift aid on donations	769	-	769	-	-	-
	<u>10,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,647</u>	<u>11,184</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,184</u>
Grants, including capital grants:						
HES - Church recording	-	-	-	5,318	-	5,318
HES - Other	-	-	-	2,052	-	2,052
Memberships	<u>9,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,380</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,380</u>
	<u>9,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>16,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,750</u>
	<u>19,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,647</u>	<u>27,934</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,934</u>
3 Investment Income						
Interest received	193	-	193	106	-	106
Investment income	13,312	-	13,312	15,160	-	15,160
Income from rents	1,728	-	1,728	1,728	-	1,728
	<u>15,233</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,233</u>	<u>16,994</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,994</u>
Total income	<u>34,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,880</u>	<u>44,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,928</u>

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Page 16

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
4 Expenditure on raising funds						
Investment manager charges	4,514	-	4,514	4,857	-	4,857
	<u>4,514</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,514</u>	<u>4,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,857</u>
5 Charitable activities						
Grants payable	(4,500)	-	(4,500)	(20,250)	500	(19,750)
Staff costs	64,560	-	64,560	45,164	-	45,164
Finance	-	-	-	224	-	224
IT	917	-	917	1,032	-	1,032
Administration	291	-	291	873	-	873
Premises	7,042	-	7,042	3,489	-	3,489
Bookkeeping	2,640	-	2,640	1,420	-	1,420
Independent Examination	729	-	729	780	-	780
Other fees paid to Examiners	-	-	-	180	-	180
Trustees' expenses	18	-	18	26	-	26
Travel	81	-	81	-	-	-
Subscriptions	256	-	256	-	-	-
Other expenses	282	-	282	2,813	-	2,813
	<u>72,316</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,316</u>	<u>35,751</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>36,251</u>
Total expenditure	<u>76,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,830</u>	<u>40,608</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>41,108</u>

6 Staff costs and numbers	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & salaries	62,145	44,198
Social security	1,066	-
Pension costs	1,349	966
	<u>64,560</u>	<u>45,164</u>

Number of employees	2024	2023
The average monthly number of employees, calculated on a head count basis, during the year	2	2

No employees received in excess of £60,000 per year (2023: none).

The key management personnel are the Trustees (to whom no remuneration is paid) and the Director, who is remunerated in line with the norms for the sector.

7 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration.

The trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2023: £nil). Expenses paid for the trustees in the year totalled £18 (2023: £26). These expenses were reimbursed travel. A grant had been awarded in a previous financial year to one Trustee for an organ scholarship, prior to his appointment as a Trustee, but was paid out in the current financial year.

During the year a total of £nil (2023: £nil) was donated to the charity by trustees.

8 Independent Examiner's Fee

The independent examiner's remuneration constituted an Examination fee of £729 (2023: £780), and a fee of £nil (2023: £180) for other work.

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9	Fixed asset investments	2024	2023
		£	£
	Market value at 1 April brought forwards	555,523	605,722
	Additions	58,999	79,471
	Disposals	(131,992)	(96,232)
	Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	21,689	(33,438)
	Market value at 31 March carried forwards	<u>504,219</u>	<u>555,523</u>
	Cost	436,968	488,716
	Investments comprise listed investments managed by Rathbones Investment Management.		
10	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Prepayments	6,991	3,693
	Other debtors	-	-
		<u>6,991</u>	<u>3,693</u>
11	Cash and cash equivalents	2024	2023
		£	£
	Bank current account	30,495	15,730
	Other bank current account	20	-
	Stockbroker capital account	13,399	5,006
	Stockbroker income account	3,150	3,372
		<u>47,064</u>	<u>24,108</u>
12	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Grants due for payment	-	10,000
	Other creditors	5,808	-
	Accruals	2,305	2,902
		<u>8,113</u>	<u>12,902</u>
13	Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts		
	Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
		2024	2023
		£	£
	Land and buildings		
	Within one year	3,016	7,582

SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Page 18

14 Fund Movements

	1 April	Income	Expenditure	Other gains/(losses)	31 March
	£	£	£	£	£
2023/24					
Restricted funds					
Jones Fund	13,519	-	-	-	13,519
Goffin Fund	5,782	-	-	-	5,782
Tunnocks Fund	15,700	-	-	-	15,700
Total Restricted Funds	35,001	-	-	-	35,001
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	535,421	34,880	(76,830)	21,689	515,160
Total Unrestricted Funds	535,421	34,880	(76,830)	21,689	515,160
Total Funds 2023/24	570,422	34,880	(76,830)	21,689	550,161
2022/23 Comparative					
Restricted funds					
Jones Fund	13,519	-	-	-	13,519
Goffin Fund	6,282	-	(500)	-	5,782
Tunnocks Fund	15,700	-	-	-	15,700
Total Restricted Funds	35,501	-	(500)	-	35,001
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	564,539	44,928	(40,608)	(33,438)	535,421
Designated Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	564,539	44,928	(40,608)	(33,438)	535,421
Total Funds 2022/23	600,040	44,928	(41,108)	(33,438)	570,422

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Jones Fund: This is funding received to provide grants to Roman Catholic Churches

Goffin Fund: This is funding given to provide tuition lessons.

Tunnocks Fund: This is funding given for organ recitals.

There were no transfers in the year (2023: none).

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	504,219	-	504,219	555,523	-	555,523
Current assets	19,054	35,001	54,055	(7,200)	35,001	27,801
Current liabilities	(8,113)	-	(8,113)	(12,902)	-	(12,902)
Total net assets	515,160	35,001	550,161	535,421	35,001	570,422