

**Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland
(formerly Brightons Parish Church of Scotland)**

**CONGREGATIONAL ACCOUNTS and
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

Congregation No: 171170

Scottish Charity No: SC 001385

Upper Braes Parish Church Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2024

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The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for Upper Braes Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland

Charity Registration Number: SC001385

Congregation Reference No: 171170

Contact Address: Main Street
Brightons
FALKIRK
FK2 0JT

Website: www.upperbraes.org.uk

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the period of the accounts

Kirk Session

Rev S Burton

Mr I Baillie

Mrs J Callahan - (reserve from Nov 2024)

Mr R Callahan - (reserve from Nov 2024)

Mr J Clarke – R May 2024

Mr J Dick - (reserve from Nov 2024)

Mr J Falconer

Mr A Gillespie

Mr J Glass

Mr G Mann

Mr A McDonald – R Oct 2024

Mrs H McManus

Dr C McEwan - (reserve from Nov 2024)

Mrs L McGarry - A Nov 2024

Mrs J Meek

Mrs C Moore – A Nov 2024

Mr T Nimmo – R Oct 2024

Mrs J Norton

Mrs P Paterson

Mr W Rankine

Mr G Scott – R May 2024

Mrs M Scott

Mr W Tomlinson

Mrs J Wallace

Dr K Wansbrough - (reserve from Nov 2024)

Deacons' Court

Mr G Bell – R Oct 2024

Miss M Dick - R Oct 2024

Mrs K Fulton - R Oct 2024

Mr M Lewis - R Oct 2024

Miss H O'Neill - R Oct 2024

Mrs M Stirling - R Oct 2024

Mr R Wilson - R Oct 2024

R - Date of Resignation

A - Date of Appointment

Reserve – Date moved to 'Reserve Elder' List

**Upper Braes Parish Church
Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 December 2024**

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Reference and Administrative Information (Cont.)

Principal Office-bearers

Minister:	Rev Scott Burton
Session Clerk:	Judith Norton
Clerk to Deacons' Court:	Malcolm Lewis (until 31 st October 2024)
Church Treasurer:	Sharon Glass

Independent Examiner

Grant Thomson CA
Abercorn School
Newton
Broxburn
EH52 6PZ

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
High Street
Falkirk
FK1 1NR

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution. The Deed of Constitution changed on 01 November 2024 from the Model Deed to Unitary Form, as laid out in the Basis of Union, when the congregation of Brightons Parish Church of Scotland (SC001385) united with the congregations of Blackbraes & Shieldhill Parish Church of Scotland (SC002512), Muiravonside Parish Church of Scotland (SC007571) and Slamannan Parish Church of Scotland (SC013602).

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session (and Deacons' Court within the Model Deed of Constitution prior to Union) are the Charity Trustees. The Kirk Session is chaired by the Minister and its members are the Elders of the church, who are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. The Deacons' Court was appointed from within the congregation. Congregational members were invited to nominate individuals, who were believed to have the skills and commitment to contribute to the management affairs of the Church, to become members of the Deacons' Court. Deacons' Court Members were then appointed at the Stated Annual Meeting and served for a period of three years after which they must have sought re-election at the next Stated Annual Meeting.

Organisational Structure

The Church operated under the Model Deed of Constitution until 31 October 2024. From 1 November 2024 the Church now operates under the Unitary Constitution.

The Deacons' Court, chaired by the Minister, met four times in 2024. The Kirk Session meets nine to ten times a year and is responsible for spiritual affairs within the Church. Certain responsibilities are delegated to the Finance Committee and the Property Committee as appropriate.

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

Activities for the congregation as a whole

Over the course of 2024 a key focus was progressing and implementing the Presbytery Mission Plan for the Upper Braes parish as we formally worked through each of the aspects of the Basis of Union. The implementation of this brought together the congregation of Brightons with Blackbraes & Shieldhill, Muiravonside and Slamannan Parish Churches into the new united Upper Braes Parish Church with effect from 01 November 2024.

Prior to the Union, Church Life within Brightons Parish Church continued to be full and varied, with many activities and programmes being offered.

Attendance in person at Sunday morning worship was relatively stable with a number of new families attending regularly, and sadly a number of members passing on or becoming housebound. Morning services continued to be 'live-streamed' from the Sanctuary, with a significant number of views both at the time of morning worship, and over the following week. All-age communion continued as a regular feature with two of our quarterly communion services being all-age.

Monthly Sunday evening services (with communion) and monthly half-hour Thursday services (with communion four times a year) were also held, meeting the needs of a number of our church family.

During the summer, we held one service at 10.30am, with a Kids Summer Club for primary school age and under running at the same time. This proved popular with our families and young people.

Within Brightons many life-giving activities were also offered through the week including Sunday School and Young People Groups, Pre-5s, Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Fellowship Groups, Book Groups, Alpha, Art Group. 'Friends of Jesus' Group for adults with learning difficulties, Thursday coffee morning, Guild, Belong and Friendship Plus. There were also activities running in the community such as Scripture Union groups and chaplaincy work at both Wallacestone Primary and Braes High School. Again, these were all run by volunteers from our church family and were used and valued by so many.

Prior to implementation of the Mission Plan a number of joint services and events were held in each of the legacy churches to enable new relationships to grow.

On Sunday 27th October a 'closing' service was held at Brightons Parish Church whereby we closed our doors on one chapter of our shared life as we prepared to move into Union as part of the Upper Braes Parish Church. Whilst the Brightons building is being retained, our members become part of a new congregation and so we symbolically demonstrated this through a Leave Taking ceremony.

Following the implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan, the Upper Braes Parish Church now operates from two Ministry Centres (Brightons and Slamannan) with regular Sunday worship continuing at both ministry centres. Brightons Ministry Centre is the main building for the church, with Slamannan Ministry Centre designated a 'local mission church', given its rural location and financial need.

Although a number of members from the legacy churches chose not to become members of the new united Upper Braes congregation, Sunday worship is well attended, with members and non-members from all four legacy congregations enjoying worshipping together at both ministry centres including the Guild, Seniors Lunch, Bible Fun Club and Martha's Pantry. A minibus, funded by the new Upper Braes Church, is run on a Sunday morning to bring members from Shieldhill to Brightons Ministry Centre.

With such a continuing busy church life it is important to note the effort, from the Minister and many volunteers within our church family, who are involved in our services, giving significant amounts of their time and gifts to ensure worship is meaningful and runs smoothly. The Worship Team involved in these services and events comprises over 70 members and non-members.

The majority of activities outside of regular worship in all four legacy congregations continue, mainly in the new Ministry Centres and we are encouraging joint participation across as many of these activities as possible. Some activities are also continuing in the Blackbraes & Shieldhill and Muiravonside buildings during the process of sale, such as the Guild, Rendezvous and a new monthly Wednesday prayer meeting.

Committees and boards of the church

Over the period until Union, the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court discussed and progressed a number of significant issues in the physical and spiritual life of Brightons Parish Church.

Kirk Session was consulted on various discussion questions proposed from each of the Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Outreach and Up and Coming Teams set up within the Kirk Session structure and discussed future teaching topics, particularly exploring and approving a teaching series on the Holy Spirit. The Kirk Session also had an away day allowing them precious time to build relationships, pray together and to reflect and focus on our priorities and preparation required as we go into Union and beyond.

A key focus for all was progressing and implementing the Presbytery Mission Plan for the Upper Braes area as we formally worked through each of the aspects of the Basis of Union. There was a huge amount of work involved, so grateful thanks are due to the Minister and the many volunteers who carried out the preparatory

work, particularly the Communications Team, to enable a successful transition and implementation of the plan.

As the church moved to the Unitary Form constitution, the requirement for a Deacons' Court ceased. Deacons were therefore presented with a thank you gift to mark the end of their service. Elders retiring at or before the Union were also thanked for their service and presented with a gift.

Following implementation of the Mission Plan, Kirk Session met to elect the new Kirk Session (reduced to 15 active Elders, proportionate to the united Congregational Roll) and Office Bearers; agree and adopt the Team Structure and appoint Convenors; approve Local Worship Leaders and agree our Pastoral Care approach, given the wider congregation we need to serve.

Property

During 2024 all planned maintenance projects for Brightons Parish Church continued to be on a 'wind and watertight' basis until the Presbytery Mission Plan was implemented. Recognition of this has been made in the accounts with acknowledgement that certain deferred property work remains on the horizon. Following implementation, the Property Team assumed responsibility for the two Ministry Centres, the Manse and the legacy Shieldhill and Muiravonside buildings until sale, so it is again important to note the effort involved from these volunteers. A number of activities have commenced, including updated signage at all buildings, investigation of options to repair or replace the organ, and initiation of the sales of the Shieldhill and Muiravonside buildings.

Achievements and Performance

Over 2024 the Brightons and subsequent Upper Braes congregations have continued to mature in faith and grow in discipleship and prayer. A number took up the invite to the 'Safar' discipleship program where discipleship materials are worked through in pairs, and feedback has been very positive.

Following a period of study leave the Minister embarked upon a 'Remissioning' course to help our congregation further develop our discipleship training, which in time will enable us to reach out better into our Community. The development of a 'Discipleship Pathway' will carry into 2025. In parallel 'Seeds of Growth' funding was approved and we have appointed the Cinnamon Network to train and work with us in 2025 to carry out a Community Audit to help us engage and better understand the needs of our community.

A key achievement in the life of the Upper Braes Church was the appointment of a new Youth Development Worker, who is due to commence work in January 2025. This has been made possible partly by the generous and prayerful financial support of the congregation, and partly through the additional allocation of 0.5FTE Ministry Development Staff (MDS) on implementation of the Presbytery Plan.

At the end of December our part-time Pastoral Assistant (funded by Upper Braes Church) retired after 10 years of faithful service. His retirement was marked by a thanksgiving tea, whereby many who so valued his pastoral care were able to show their appreciation.

We successfully appointed a replacement Pastoral Assistant, who is currently covering the original part-time hours plus a further 0.5FTE allocation of an MDS, following implementation of the Presbytery Plan. It is expected that this work will be shared with another Pastoral Assistant in 2025.

All of these appointments bring exciting opportunities for the Upper Braes Church to engage with as we move into 2025.

As the Upper Braes Church depends heavily on volunteers from within the congregation there continues to be the very real risk that some will feel unable to continue. The encouragement to new and long-term members to be an active part of the family of God at Upper Braes is woven into the life and preaching and during 2024 we continued to see a number of new volunteers coming forward into leadership and support roles, for which we thank God.

With an ageing church family there is an increasing need to provide more pastoral support, beyond that which can realistically be provided by the Pastoral Assistant and Minister. There is a risk we don't have sufficient volunteers to continue to meet this increased support.

With all this in mind, we continue to give thanks to God for the life of Upper Braes Parish Church family as we prayerfully look forward to 2025.

Financial Review

Upper Braes receives the majority of income from congregational donations and is unlike many other churches who are dependent on income from external lets. Offerings in the 12 months to December 2024 increased from £129,201 to £135,419. To date there has not been a material increase in givings as a result of the Union.

During the year, as a result of the union, £222,208 of Other income was recognized being the assets of the legacy congregations now consolidated into Upper Braes Parish Church. The transaction was accounted for under Acquisition accounting, and in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS102, the net assets taken over are in substance a gift and were credited to Other Income in the SOFA. The fair value of the net assets acquired can be split as follows: bank accounts £82,469, Investments £44,739 and land and Buildings £95,000

Total costs of charitable activities (excluding the Manse Purchase) of £186,606 were £20,199 greater than 2023, the largest variances being the cost of heat and light and repairs.

During 2022 a new Manse was purchased for the benefit of the Congregation by the Church of Scotland General Trustees and the total purchase cost of £350,000, together with ancillary costs of £10,857 were funded by the congregation. During 2023 costs of £8,947 were incurred relating to the manse move. The sale of the old manse was successfully concluded in February 2024. All accounting entries relating to this have been reflected in the 2024 accounts.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of at least six months' expenditure including designated funds.

At the year end, the Church held unrestricted funds of £448,709 of which £5,869 has been designated as a Fabric Fund, £7,546 for use by the various organisations and £20,000 for future projects on Youth Work and Church Masonry work. The remaining balance of £415,294 represents more than 12 months expenditure which the Trustees consider is a reasonable amount to ensure the ongoing work of the congregation.

The Church also held £81,262 of restricted funds, which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 15. Endowment Funds of £35,650 were held, of which £15,000 must be retained. The balance can be used as Trustees determine.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

J Norton

Session Clerk

Upper Braes Parish Church
SC 001385
Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 21.

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's 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 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 (as amended). 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 seeking 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 Accounts Regulations 2006 (as amended); and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the Accounts Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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.

Grant Thomson CA
 Abercorn School
 Newton
 Broxburn
 EH52 6PZ

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Upper Braes Parish Church
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:									
Donations and Legacies	1	162,060	21,824	-	183,884	176,028	5,059	-	181,088
Charitable Activities	2	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,480	-	-	1,480
Other Trading Activities	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	4	3,620	-	-	3,620	1,574	-	-	1,574
Other	5	219,963	2,245	-	222,208	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		386,644	24,069	-	410,713	179,082	5,059	-	184,142
Expenditure on:									
Costs of Raising Funds	6	876	-	-	876	204	-	-	204
Charitable activities		186,606	-	-	186,606	166,407	-	-	166,407
Charitable activities- Manse sale		(89,093)			(89,093)	8,947			8,947
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		98,389	-	-	98,389	175,558	-	-	175,558
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Gains and Losses on Investments		288,255	24,069	-	312,324	3,524	5,059	-	8,583
Gains and (Losses) on Investments		504	-	2,562	3,066	1,527	-	859	2,386
		288,759	24,069	2,562	315,390	5,051	5,059	859	10,969
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		288,759	24,069	2,562	315,390	5,051	5,059	859	10,969
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT ON FUNDS		288,759	24,069	2,562	315,390	5,051	5,059	859	10,969
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS									
Total funds brought forward		159,950	57,193	33,088	250,231	154,899	52,134	32,229	239,262
Total funds carried forward		448,709	81,262	35,650	565,622	159,950	57,193	33,088	250,231

Upper Braes Parish Church
Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2024

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	<u>Note</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Fixed assets	9	189,677	-	-	189,677	327,776
Investments	10	55,732	78	29,724	85,534	37,729
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		<u>245,409</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>29,724</u>	<u>275,211</u>	<u>365,505</u>
Current Assets						
Debtors	11	27,925	-	-	27,925	55,981
Bank and cash		179,616	81,184	5,926	266,727	136,658
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>207,541</u>	<u>81,184</u>	<u>5,926</u>	<u>294,652</u>	<u>192,639</u>
Creditors						
Falling due within one year	12	(4,241)	-	-	(4,241)	(307,913)
Net Current Assets		203,300	81,184	5,926	290,411	(115,274)
Net Assets		<u>448,709</u>	<u>81,262</u>	<u>35,650</u>	<u>565,622</u>	<u>250,231</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY						
Unrestricted Funds	13					
General funds		415,288				
Designated funds		33,421				
		<u>448,709</u>			448,709	159,950
Restricted Funds	13		81,262		81,262	57,193
Endowment Funds	15			35,650	35,650	33,088
Total Charity Funds	15	<u>448,709</u>	<u>81,262</u>	<u>35,650</u>	<u>565,622</u>	<u>250,231</u>

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on _____ and signed on their behalf by

J Norton - Session Clerk

J Meek - Deputy Session Clerk

Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the current and preceding year in dealing with items which are considered material to the accounts, are set out below.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (effective 1st January 2019), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments at fair value.

Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds, endowment funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the charity.

Endowment funds are funds which have been given on the condition that the original capital sum is not reduced, but the income therefrom is used for the purpose defined in accordance with the objects of the charity.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

Incoming resources

All donations, gifts and legacies are recognised within Incoming Resources under either unrestricted or restricted funds according to the terms under which the income is received. The income is only recognised when the charity is entitled to control the economic benefits expected to flow from the income, it is probable that such benefits will be received and the income can be measured reliably along with any costs to complete the transaction. Donated goods, facilities and services are recognised when the charity is entitled to control the economic benefits expected to flow from the item, it is probable such benefits will be received and the fair value of the donated item can be measured reliably.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred.

Accounting Policies**Tangible fixed assets**

The charity has the right to occupy and use for its charitable objects certain tangible fixed assets, including the churches, halls and Manse, vested in the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. No consideration is payable for the use of these assets. Expenditure incurred on the upgrade, repair and maintenance of these assets is charged as expenditure in the statement of financial activities in the period in which the liability arises.

During 2023, a new Manse was purchased and is vested in the Church of Scotland General Trustees. In line with the policy above, this Manse has not been recognised as an asset within Upper Braes Parish Church accounts. The previous Manse, which was vested with the Kirk Session of Upper Braes Parish Church, was sold during 2024.

The Church and Halls of the former Brightons Parish Church, vested in the Kirk Session, are included at £nil since, given the nature and use of the Church and Halls, no appropriate valuation is available however, the Church and Halls at the previous Shieldhill and Blackbraes, sold in Spring of 2025, have been included at £95,000 being the sales proceeds achieved.

All tangible fixed assets costing in excess of £3,000 having a value to the charity greater than one year, other than those acquired for specific purposes, are capitalised. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis to write off the cost or initial value, less residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives:

Non-residential Property	25 years
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	3 years

During 2023, the Trustees have not provided for depreciation on the residential property, known as the Old Manse, as they do not consider it appropriate to do so. Given that the residual value exceeded the book cost, any depreciation would be immaterial. This is necessary to show a true and fair view.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the market value at the beginning and end of the financial year or, if purchased in the year, the difference between cost and market value at the end of the year. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the market value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year.

Taxation

Upper Braes Parish Church is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is therefore not subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

Upper Braes Parish Church
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Donations and Legacies								
Offerings	135,419	-	-	135,419	129,201	-	-	129,201
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	14,650	-	-	14,650	28,342	-	-	28,342
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value of Donated Goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	11,992	21,824	-	33,816	18,486	5,059	-	23,545
	<u>162,060</u>	<u>21,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,884</u>	<u>176,028</u>	<u>5,059</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,088</u>
2 Income from Charitable								
Weddings and Funerals	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,480	-	-	1,480
Coffee mornings etc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,480</u>
3 Other Trading Activities								
Use of Premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4 Investment income								
Deposit interest	3,620	-	-	3,620	1,574	-	-	1,574
Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>3,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,620</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,574</u>
5 Other Income								
Muiravonside Parish Church	57,391	-	-	57,391	-	-	-	-
BlackBraes and Shieldhill	153,763	1,650	-	155,413	-	-	-	-
Slammanan Parish Church	8,809	595	-	9,404	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>219,963</u>	<u>2,245</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,208</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Upper Braes Parish Church
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
6 Analysis of Resources Expended								
Raising Funds								
Offering Envelopes	876	-	-	876	204	-	-	204
	<u>876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204</u>
Charitable Activities								
Ministries and Mission Allocation	88,897	-	-	88,897	86,400	-	-	86,400
Presbytery Dues	2,866	-	-	2,866	2,866	-	-	2,866
Minister's Expenses	455	-	-	455	796	-	-	796
Pastoral Assistant Costs	9,426	-	-	9,426	8,570	-	-	8,570
Pulpit Supply	222	-	-	222	120	-	-	120
Locum Costs	2,664	-	-	2,664	100	-	-	100
Organist's salary and supply	859	-	-	859	585	-	-	585
Cleaner's salary	6,949	-	-	6,949	6,429	-	-	6,429
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	8,692	-	-	8,692	6,114	-	-	6,114
Heat and light	29,677	-	-	29,677	17,694	-	-	17,694
Council Tax, Insurance & Telephone Costs	7,978	-	-	7,978	7,237	-	-	7,237
Printing and stationery	3,838	-	-	3,838	4,289	-	-	4,289
Donations to charitable organisations	5,389	-	-	5,389	2,353	-	-	2,353
Life and work	336	-	-	336	(45)	-	-	(45)
Music expenses and Streaming Costs	2,163	-	-	2,163	2,406	-	-	2,406
Sunday school and organisations	6,907	-	-	6,907	9,910	-	-	9,910
Governance Costs	300	-	-	300	300	-	-	300
Other expenses	889	-	-	889	2,191	-	-	2,191
Realised Gain on disposal of Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	8,099	-	-	8,099	8,091	-	-	8,091
	<u>186,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>186,606</u>	<u>166,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,407</u>
Net gain on sale of Manse	(89,093)	-	-	(89,093)	8,947	-	-	8,947
Total	<u>97,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,513</u>	<u>175,354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175,354</u>

Support costs have not been separately identified as the trustees consider there is only one charitable activity. Therefore support costs relate wholly to that activity and have not been separately identified.

Expenditure on charitable activities net of the gain made on the sale of the previous Manse was £ 97,513 (2023 £175,354); all was unrestricted. During 2022, a new Manse was purchased. In line with other properties occupied by most Church of Scotland congregations, the new Manse is vested in the Church of Scotland General Trustees. As such, the new Manse has not been recognised as a fixed asset within Upper Braes Parish Church accounts but rather the purchase proceeds, including ancillary costs, have been treated as an exceptional expense within the Statement of Financial Activities. The purchase of the new Manse was partially funded by a bridging loan from the Church of Scotland which was repaid when the previous Manse was sold during 2024. The excess over the carrying value of £225k has been recognised as a gain on sale within the Statement of Financial Activities.

	2024 £	2023 £
7 Staff costs and numbers		
Salaries and wages	17,233	15,584
Social security costs	-	-
Total	<u>17,233</u>	<u>15,584</u>

No employee had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023 - nil)

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on full time equivalent number, was as follows:

	2024	2023
Ministerial support	1	1
Music staff	0	0
Premises maintenance	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

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 housing and loan fund. 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 £31,462 (2023 £30,135) and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years) £38,884 (2023 £37,032).

8 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year 5 trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred in respect of repairs and maintenance, stationery, travel and other sundry items totalling £8661. In addition the following trustees received remuneration for services provided during the year:

Ian Baillie (Pastoral Assistant)	£9,425 (2023- £8,570)
Scott Burton (Minister)	£5,041(2023- £5,161)

During the year a total of £43,554 (2023: £46,905) was donated to the congregation by trustees.

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church and Halls	Manse	Office Equipment	Total
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024	202,369	225,000	15,994	443,363
Additions	95,000	-	-	95,000
Disposals	-	(225,000)	-	(225,000)
At 31 December 2024	<u>297,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,994</u>	<u>538,363</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	99,593	-	15,994	115,587
Charge for year	8,099	-	-	8,099
Eliminated on Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>107,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,994</u>	<u>123,686</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>189,677</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,677</u>

	Church and Halls	Manse	Office Equipment	Total
Cost or Valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	202,369	225,000	15,994	443,363
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>202,369</u>	<u>225,000</u>	<u>15,994</u>	<u>443,363</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	91,502	-	15,994	107,496
Charge for year	8,091	-	-	8,091
Eliminated on Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>99,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,994</u>	<u>115,587</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>102,776</u>	<u>225,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>327,776</u>

In order to comply with current accounting regulations, the Trustees have included the Church, Halls and Manse. Due to their nature and current use, an appropriate valuation of the Church and Halls is not available, and therefore no value has been included, except for refurbishment costs incurred in previous years. During 2024 the Manse was sold and the excess of sales proceeds over carrying value has been recorded as a gain on sale.

10 Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	37,729	35,343
Additions	44,739	-
Realised gain / (loss) on investments	-	-
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	3,066	2,386
Market value at 31 December	85,535	37,729
Investments at cost	65,007	25,003
The following investments are held:		
4659 Growth Fund Units Church of Scotland Investors Trust	29,724	27,162
5039 Income Fund Units Church of Scotland Investors Trust	55,732	10,489
£200 3.5% War Stock	78	78

Investments are held primarily for investment returns.

11 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid Tax Refund Due	22,925	55,981
Other Debtors and Prepayments	5,000	-
	27,925	55,981

12 Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	4,241	7,913
Other	-	300,000
	4,241	307,913

During 2022, the Church of Scotland provided a bridging loan of £300,000 to finance the purchase of a new manse which is vested with the Church of Scotland General Trustees. The bridging loan was repaid from the sale proceeds of the old manse which was sold during the year.

13 Analysis of Net Assets Among Funds

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	189,677	-	-	-	189,677
Investments	55,732	-	78	29,724	85,534
Current Assets	174,121	33,421	81,184	5,926	294,652
Current Liabilities	(4,241)	-	-	-	(4,241)
Net assets at 31 Dec 2024	415,288	33,421	81,262	35,650	565,622
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	327,776	-	-	-	327,776
Investments	10,489	-	78	27,162	37,729
Current Assets	98,291	31,307	57,115	5,926	192,639
Current Liabilities	(307,913)	-	-	-	(307,913)
Net assets at 31 Dec 2023	128,643	31,307	57,193	33,088	250,231

14 Volunteers

In common with all congregations of the Church of Scotland the congregation benefits from the contribution made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of the Church. The areas of Congregational life which rely on the contribution of volunteers are many and varied and much of the activity would be unable to continue were it not for the commitment shown.

15 Movements in Funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2024 £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
Endowment Funds						
Alexander Trust Fund	33,088	2,562	-	-	35,650	33,088
	<u>33,088</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,650</u>	<u>33,088</u>
Restricted funds						
Congregational Benevolent Fund	78	-	-	-	78	78
Halls and Youth Worker Fund	57,115	21,824	-	-	78,939	57,115
Slamannan Legacy Church		595			595	
Guild and Rendezvous		1,650			1,650	
	<u>57,193</u>	<u>24,069</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,262</u>	<u>57,193</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	103,982	376,796	(88,907)	-	391,870	103,982
Gift and Legacy Fund	22,874	544	-	-	23,418	22,874
Designated Funds						
Manse Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric Fund	3,869	2,000	-	-	5,869	3,869
Projects Fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Coffee Morning Fund	2,163	1,547	(1,770)	-	1,939	2,163
Choir Fund	231	217	(300)	-	149	231
Sunday School Fund	315	-	-	-	315	315
The Guild Fund	2,122	547	(1,313)	-	1,357	2,122
Under Fives Fund	607	-	-	-	607	607
Friends of Jesus Fund	1,006	170	(715)	-	461	1,006
Friendship Plus Fund	2,146	2,260	(2,316)	-	2,091	2,146
Community Outreach	635	-	-	-	635	635
	<u>159,950</u>	<u>384,081</u>	<u>(95,321)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>448,710</u>	<u>159,950</u>
Total funds	<u>250,231</u>	<u>410,713</u>	<u>(95,321)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>565,622</u>	<u>250,231</u>

Outgoing resources includes £nil in respect of restricted revaluation losses (2023 £nil). Outgoing resources include £8,091 in respect of depreciation of the Halls.

15 Movement in Funds (Con't)

Purposes of Unrestricted Funds

The General Fund income can be used for the general running of the Church as the Trustees deem appropriate.

The Gift & Legacy Fund can be used for the general running of the Church as the Trustees deem appropriate.

Purposes of Endowment Funds

Alexander Trust Fund income can be used for the general running of the Church. The capital of £15,000 is to be retained.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Congregational Benevolent Fund - This fund is administered by the minister for instances of benevolence

Hall Fund - The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance and renovation of the Church Halls.

Slammanan Legacy Church - for the support of local residents

Guild and Rendezvous- for the work of the Guild and support for local residents in Shieldhill accessing the Rendezvous Group

Purposes of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund - The Trustees have set aside funds to assist with the maintenance work of the Church.

Manse Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of accommodation for the Minister and his family.

Projects Fund: The Trustees have set aside these funds to initially support a 'Youth Worker Project' and repairs required to maintain the 'Church Walls masonry'.

Coffee Morning Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the provision of coffee mornings.

Choir Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Choir.

Sunday School Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Sunday School.

The Guild Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Guild.

Under Fives Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Pre-Five Group.

Friends of Jesus Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Friends of Jesus Group.

Friendship Plus Fund : The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Friendship Plus Group.

Community Outreach: The Trustees have set aside funds for the use of the Community Outreach

Team. This includes Belong an inter-generational group that commenced in 2019.

16 Collections for Third Parties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Missionary Partner	-	-
	-	-
The following sums have been distributed from the Mission Jar & Tea fund collector	£	£
Tear Fund	-	-
Friends of Jesus	336	336
	336	336
The following sums have been distributed from the Social event surpluses or General Funds	£	£
Missionary Partner	600	600
Guild Projects	1,280	1,208
CrossReach	-	1,000
Christians Against Poverty	1,000	-
Prospects across Scotland	125	-
	3,005	2,808

17 Charity Acquisitions

At 1 November 2024 and in accordance with the Union of Churches, the charity took over the affairs of 3 other charities: Muiravonside Parish Church of Scotland, Shieldhill and Blackbraes Parish Church of Scotland and Slammanan Parish Church of Scotland.

As a result the charity acquired the remaining net assets of the former charities which amounted to £126,380 excluding land and buildings.

No consideration was payable in exchange for the net assets taken over.

The transaction was accounted for under Acquisition Accounting, and in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS102, the net assets taken over are in substance a gift and were credited to Other Income in the SOFA.

The fair value of the net assets acquired can be split as follows: bank accounts £82,469, investments £44,739 and land & buildings £95,000.

APPENDIX

FUNDS HELD BY THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL TRUSTEES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONGREGATION

Consolidated Fabric Fund	2024
	£
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
Credit balances held at 31 December at cost	254,599
Market value of balances at 31 December	<u>258,672</u>
REVENUE ACCOUNT	
Credit balance at 31 December	<u>9,968</u>
TEMPORARY ACCOUNT	
Credit balance at 31 December	<u>0</u>
 Individual Fund	
Purpose:	
EXPENDABLE	
Credit balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>0</u>
Market value of balances at 31 December	<u>0</u>
PERMANENT ENDOWMENT	
Credit balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>0</u>
Market value of balances at 31 December	<u>0</u>