

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

ACCRUED (2015 SORP COMPLIANT) ACCOUNTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

Congregation No: 331983

Scottish Charity No: SC 015960

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the General Assembly Regulations for Congregational Finance, 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 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) published on 16 July 2014 (effective 1st. January 2015).

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.

2023 has seen the Church Hall continue to be a popular venue for many local groups, including yoga and toddlers. The upper room is also seeing an increase in use with new groups such as the Guides Ranger Unit and Breastfeed Scotland making use of the facility.

The Guild, whilst thriving and well attended, no longer meets in the Church Hall, and now meets at a venue in the centre of the village.

We continue to have a regular weekly Sunday church service at Oldmeldrum, with the last Sunday of the month entitled 'A Different Kind of Worship' and held in the Church Hall. This alternative service is proving popular with many of our regular worshippers and is also attracting new families who are not regular worshippers in Church. Many of these families also attend the "Story and Play" and Messy Church sessions.

We also continue to hold our regular afternoon Community Worship once a month at Wyverie Court and, in addition, have also restarted the monthly service at Westbank Care Home on the first Wednesday of each month. Our choir members support these services.

A 'Stillness and Peace' service was held in November, offering a place of quiet reflection and prayer for those in the community who have suffered bereavement or just needed a space to come to terms with the vagaries of life.

Other forms of family worship include a weekly "Story and Play" on a Friday afternoon and themed "Messy Church" services, such as the 'Wee Christmas Service', "Wee Easter Service" and a Halloween/Bonfire themed service.

In 2022, we commenced holding a "Men's Breakfast" with a full Scottish breakfast, a guest speaker and a place for men to meet together for prayer and praise. We continued this in 2023 and the November meeting was a joint venture with "Men of all Ages" when more than 70 men attended.

Our Pastoral Care team and Flower committee continued to be active throughout the year keeping in touch with people in the parish, whether or not they are members of the congregation, delivering flowers to the sick, housebound or bereaved and offering support to many who are either incapacitated or just lonely. The team are keen to let people know that this service is available to all in our community.

The Minister continues to build strong relationships with the wider community and especially with the schools including setting up a special event at the primary school during their Wellness week which received positive feedback from all involved. Led by our minister, the Youth Club which started in February 2023 runs on a monthly basis and regularly attracts upwards of 30 children.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance Cont'd

Fundraising and Community Outreach events in 2023 included the following:-

Easter: Display boards were set up around the village forming a walk with each board depicting part of the Easter Story. At Easter weekend, Church members distributed Hot Cross buns, Easter Cards, daffodils and Easter eggs around the village, which were all well received.

Open Door and BBQ Fun Day: A day of fun when we invited the community to come along to the church. A range of activities for the children was provided, including a bouncy castle and other stalls were available.

Picnic to Go Scheme: This scheme ran for 6 weeks during the summer, manned by volunteers, providing a free packed lunch to help families during the summer holidays.

Meldrum Sports Day: The Church had a tent at the sports ground, offering refreshments and children's activities.

Connect Café: Now in its second year is held on the second Saturday of each month offering, free of charge, a school uniform swap shop. The café is a mix of community outreach and fundraiser. We also allow other groups to run the café to help with their fundraising efforts.

Christmas Tree Festival: Entries are invited from various groups, organisations and businesses to make a tree and display these during an open day during Advent. This is followed by a Christmas concert.

Meldrum Connect Magazine: This started in 2023 and replaced the old Kirk News. It is more community focused and is distributed to every household in the village. Charitable societies/organisations can advertise free of charge but a small charge is levied for business advertising.

Inverurie Foodbank: We continue to support the foodbank financially.

Fundraiser events included a Quiz Night, Charity Shop and Autumn Fayre all held in the Church Hall and we continue to have a floral display and concert in support of Christian Aid.

In accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan, Bourtie Church sadly closed to regular Sunday morning worship from 31st December 2023 and will be put up for sale. The last regular service was held on 3rd December 2023.

Many of our community have very special and emotional ties to the Church at Bourtie and to mark the closing of this historic site of worship and to celebrate hundreds of years of Christian witness, we held a special commemorative service on 10th December with an open invitation to all. We also invited previous Ministers and office bearers and representatives from Presbytery to this commemoration which was followed by a meal at the Barn at Barra Castle.

During 2023, we instituted a method for distribution of some of our benevolent funds, called Community Connect Grant which is open to groups to apply for support. In 2023, we made grants totalling £3,145 from this scheme. Details of all benevolent donations can be found at Note 16 of this report.

As the Covid pandemic receded and restrictions lifted all our services in 2023 were 'in-person'. As attendance gradually increased over the year and online viewing decreased, we decided only to video special services such as Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving until such time we purchased proper equipment to provide a more professional and better quality online service.

Average Attendance per Service/Meeting	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>In person:</u>		
Weekly Worship - Churches	45	45
Sheltered Housing / Care Homes - Monthly	18	10
Bible Study Group – One Study for 8 weeks	10	8
Story and Play - weekly	20	14

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance Cont'd

12 Funerals were conducted during the year (2022 – 12) of which 6 were members (2022 -10). Over the year, 8 members of our congregation died 2 of whose funerals were conducted elsewhere.

No Baptisms were conducted during the year (2022- Nil).

No Wedding services took place during the year (2022- Nil).

Financial Review

The Covid 19 pandemic continues to have a considerable effect on the finances during the year covered by this report although this has been much reduced as things return to a new normality.

The offerings for the year ended 31st December 2023 (with comparable figures for 2022) are made up as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
WFO Scheme (Non-Gift Aided)	287	217
Gift Aid Offerings	38,127	33,599
Ordinary offerings via plate and 6-monthly envelopes	7,049	6,029
Donations	1,329	2,288
Legacies	-	5,000

Of the above donations, £1,179 was unrestricted (2022 - £1,988) and £150 was restricted (2022 - £300).

Tax recovered on Gift Aided contributions was £11,264 (2022 - £9,070)

The Community Café contribution during 2023 was £943 (2022 - £1,012) after expenses.

Other fundraising for the New Church Development Fund contributed £5,081 (2022- £2,847) after expenses.

Of a total membership of 306 (incl. 3 adherents), 154 members now gift aid their offerings. This represents 50.33% of the membership including adherents.

The number of members and adherents who give by standing order is now 153. 17 members give through weekly freewill offering envelopes and 21 by other identifiable methods. The balance give through the open plate, or do not give. A total of 191 members donated by identifiable methods during 2023. This represents 62.42% of the membership.

Overall, the annual incoming resources rose from £92,892 in 2022 to £110,423 in 2023 while expenditure fell from £101,248 in 2022 to £94,541 in 2023. Details of the differences can be found in Notes 1 - 6 of the financial accounts attached to this report.

We continued to benefit from the Energy Bill Support Scheme in respect of the old manse. This started in October 2022 and ended in March 2023.

The fixed price contract for electricity expired in September 2023 and a new 2 year deal was agreed with another supplier. This however resulted in a huge price increase to almost double what we were paying previously.

The finances of the church are still not sustainable in the longer term as we are using investment income and reserves to subsidise running costs although the deficit this year is less than last. In the general and fabric funds, which are the main operating funds of the church, the expenditure continues to greatly exceed the income. During the year a total of £6,000 (2022 – £23,000) had to be transferred to these funds from other funds to keep the church running.

A shortened stewardship campaign was conducted during the year. This resulted in a total of 17 standing orders being increased and one new standing order being received. A number of one-off contributions were also received.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Investment Policy and Performance

The trustee's policy for investments is that all investments should be held in one or more of the following:

The Church of Scotland Investors Trust
Government Stocks (Gilts), or
Bank Fixed Term Deposits

The Church of Scotland Investors Trust has three funds for Growth, Income and Deposits.

The Growth Fund is very largely equity based and is intended for long-term investment. The fund is operated on a unitised basis and aims to provide capital growth. Units can be purchased or sold monthly. Income is distributed gross in May and November. The Growth Fund is professionally managed by Newton Investment Management Limited based in London.

In the 12 months to 30th September 2023, the Growth Fund performance was +7.2% against a benchmark of +8.9%

The Income Fund is intended for medium term investment and aims to provide immediate high income with funds invested predominately in fixed-interest securities and operated on a unitised basis.

As with the Growth Fund, units can be bought or sold monthly with income distributed gross in March and September. The Income Fund is professionally managed by Royal London Asset Management, based in London.

In the 12 months to 30th September 2023, the Income Fund performance was +7.85% against a benchmark of +6.96%.

The Deposit Fund is intended for short-term investment and aims to provide a high rate of interest. Deposits are repayable on demand, with interest calculated quarterly in arrears, paid gross in May and November. The fund is invested mainly in short-term loans to banks and building societies. The Deposit Fund is professionally managed by Thomas Miller Investment Limited, based in London and Edinburgh.

The Deposit Fund interest rates are set quarterly and are currently set at 4.8% The average rate during 2023 was 3.97% The average rate during 2022 was 1.16%.

Further details of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

No bank fixed term deposits are currently held. Due to the drop in bank interest rates, the amounts held in bank accounts has been reduced as much as practicable and the money placed with the Investors Trust Deposit Fund.

The markets have been impacted by the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine and remain volatile. This has affected the unit values of both the Income and Growth Funds.

At the end of 2023, the values of the units in the various funds were as follows:

	<u>31/12/2023</u>	<u>31/12/2022</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>	<u>Projected Return</u>
COSIT – Income fund	£ 10.96	£ 10.56	+3.79	50 ppu
COSIT - Growth Fund	£ 5.83	£ 5.40	+7.96	12 ppu
Deposit Fund Interest Rate	4.8%	2.60%	+84.61	

Details of the unrealised gains (losses) can be found in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet which form part of this report.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Risk Management

The principal risks facing the charity have been identified as follows:

The church membership has an ageing profile and there is a general decline in the numbers of younger people wishing to join the church. This is not unique to our organisation but is evident across the country. At a local level, this has a potential impact on the level of donations being received and the potential for the charity income to be adversely affected.

The trustees have adopted a policy for stewardship which runs on a 3-year rotation cycle based on time, talents and money to try and minimise the impact of the above. In addition, we are looking at new methods of attracting younger members to become involved with the church.

2023 has proved to be another challenging year financially with income slowly recovering from the Covid pandemic. Our income from the church hall use by groups has recovered and the income from the community café and other fundraising events has also increased substantially.

The recent high inflation and cost of living increases have put the church finances under strain and we are not currently financially sustainable.

Sustainability is the target and is essential if the church is to keep going. New strategies will be employed with a view to enabling us to move forward.

The sale of the Meldrum Glebe lands successfully completed during 2023 and the developer has commenced building. The funds realised have been sufficient to repay all existing loans from the General Trustees with a considerable surplus. The exact quantum of this surplus is, as yet, not completely identified and we await a response from the General Trustees treasurers department regarding this.

This does mean that there are no longer any contingent liabilities in relation to the loans which were taken out to cover the costs of the manse purchased in 2016, the purchase of the glebe access and the loans taken out for professional fees. Once the final figures are available, the New Church Development Loan fund will be closed and any remaining balance transferred to the New Church Development Fund

There are financial risks associated with the investments administered by the trustees. Values of investments are subject to market forces and the value may go up or down. The trustees consider that, by adopting the policies outlined in the Investment Policy and Performance section above and the regular performance monitoring of the funds in which the monies are invested by the trustees of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust, the risks are acceptable.

Reserves Policy

The charity trustees have considered the reserves required and have taken into account their current and future liabilities. It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately 12 months expenditure including designated funds. This policy was re-examined in November 2022 and affirmed at that time.

At the year end the Church held unrestricted funds of £172,947 of which £1,176 had been designated for fabric. The remaining balance of £174,123 represents about 27 months expenditure which, while higher than the policy, is primarily intended to be used as part of the funding for a refurbished church and a community building. See Note 15 for details of the unrestricted funds.

The church also held £288,220 of restricted funds which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 15.

The Barbara Thomson and Sylvester Thomson Legacies held under Endowment Funds may be utilised to assist financing a high-cost capital project in the foreseeable future – See Note 15.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are the elders of the church and are chosen from those members of the church who are considered to have the appropriate gifts and skills. The minister, who is a member of the Kirk Session, is elected by the congregation and inducted by Presbytery.

The Kirk Session meets approximately six times in the year and by e-mail outwith these meetings, and in addition to its responsibility for spiritual affairs within the church, is responsible for secular matters such as approval of proposals put forward by the various "Task Force" groups which are formed and disbanded as required. These "Task Forces" can include non-trustee members and report back to Session. This has been found to be a practical method of overcoming a reduced eldership.

The congregation is a registered charity, number SC015960 and is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) and is subject to the Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland
Charity Registration Number	SC 015960
Congregational Reference Number	331983
Contact Address	William Paterson Ceardach, Whiteford Road, Pitcaple, Inverurie, AB51 5EB

Trustees

The following persons acted as trustees who served during the year and up to the date of the signing of the accounts.

Kirk Session (alphabetical by surname)

Sheila Bousefield (extended leave of absence)	Fiona Morris (Appointed 22/05/2022)
Elizabeth Buchan	William Paterson
Elaine Buck	Patricia Patrone
William Dalzell	Brian Reid
Elaine Falconer	Isobel Reid
Margaret Green	Sheila Simpson
Keith Ingram (Restored 22/5/2022)	Graham Smith
Andrew McCartney	Mary Watt (Appointed 17/01/2022)
Rev. Alisa McDonald	Mhairi Watt
Anne McLean	Phillip Watt (Appointed 17/04/2022)
Jean Mitchell	

Principal Office-bearers

Minister:	Rev. Alisa McDonald
Session Clerk:	William Dalzell
Church Treasurer:	William Paterson

Independent Examiner

Richard Christie C.A.
Partner
James Milne
Chartered Accountants
5 Bon Accord Square
ABERDEEN AB11 6XZ

Bankers

Clydesdale Bank plc (Trading as Virgin Money)
Oldmeldrum Branch
26 West High Street
INVERURIE AB51 3SL

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management Cont'd.

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 show 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.

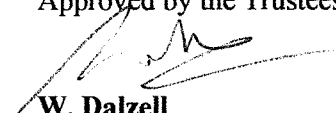
In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the method and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any 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 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the congregation'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 and signed on their behalf,



W. Dalzell
Session Clerk

Date 31/1/24

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

**Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)
Year ended 31 December 2023**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church
Year ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 25

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.

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.

Signed



Date:

26/3/24

Richard Christie CA
Partner
James Milne
Chartered Accountants
5 Bon Accord Square
ABERDEEN
AB11 6XZ

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 December 2023

Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Endowment Funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:								
1	57,990	150	-	58,140	55,975	300	-	56,275
2	13,852	2,556	-	16,408	8,423	729	-	9,152
3	79	-	-	79	70	-	-	70
4	12,263	19,797	1,674	33,734	8,846	15,387	1,192	25,425
5	2,062	-	-	2,062	2,060	-	-	2,060
	86,246	22,503	1,674	110,423	75,374	16,416	1,192	92,982
Expenditure on:								
6								
Raising funds	267	-	-	267	48	-	-	48
Charitable activities	76,867	17,220	187	94,274	85,194	15,835	171	101,200
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	77,134	17,220	187	94,541	85,242	15,835	171	101,248
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments	9,112	5,283	1,487	15,882	(9,868)	581	1,021	(8,266)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4,553	10,630	15,701	30,884	(19,921)	(32,361)	(61,150)	(113,432)
Net income/(expenditure)	13,665	15,913	17,188	46,766	(29,789)	(31,780)	(60,129)	(121,698)
Transfers between Funds	1,014	90	(1,104)	-	750	79	(829)	-
Net movement in funds	14,679	16,003	16,084	46,766	(29,039)	(31,701)	(60,958)	(121,698)
Reconciliation of funds:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total funds brought forward	318,268	272,217	365,368	955,853	347,307	303,918	426,326	1,077,551
Total Funds Carried Forward	332,947	288,220	381,452	1,002,619	318,268	272,217	365,368	955,853

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)

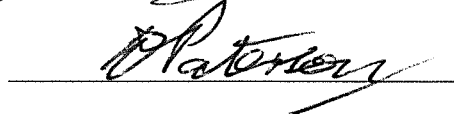
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	9	160,000		160,000	
Investments	10	710,132		668,753	
Total Fixed Assets			870,132		828,753
Current Assets					
Debtors	11	3,802		3,857	
Bank and Cash		<u>133,341</u>		<u>126,373</u>	
Total Current Assets		137,143		130,230	
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within one year	12	(4,656)		(3,130)	
Net Current Assets			132,487		127,100
Creditors falling due after one year			-		-
Net Assets			1,002,619		955,853
 The Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds	15				
General Funds		3,825		3,976	
Designated Funds		169,122		154,292	
Building Funds		<u>160,000</u>		<u>160,000</u>	
			332,947		318,268
Restricted Funds			288,220		272,217
Endowment Funds			381,452		365,368
 Total Funds			1,002,619		955,853

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 31/1/24

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session

 Session Clerk

 Treasurer

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Year ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies, which are considered material to the accounts, are set out below.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), 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 FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102, a restatement of comparative items was needed.

As the 2022 accounts were prepared using the policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 then the trustees consider that no further restatement is required for 2023.

Fund accounting

Funds are classified as either restricted 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

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the general volunteer time of congregation members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised as expenditure in the period of receipt.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) **Year ended 31 December 2023**

Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Fixed Assets

The charity has the right to occupy and use for its charitable objects certain tangible fixed assets, including the Churches, and manses, vested in the Church of Scotland General Trustees. No consideration is payable for the use of these assets. Expenditure incurred on the repair and maintenance of these assets is charged as resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which the liability arises.

The buildings included in the balance sheet consist solely of the Church Hall in Albert Road, Oldmeldrum.

All tangible fixed assets costing in excess of £5,000 having a value to the charity greater than one year, other than those acquired for specific purposes, are capitalised at cost. Buildings have not been depreciated as the trustees are of the opinion that any depreciation would be immaterial. This judgement is based on the opinion that the value of the church hall is mainly in the value of the site rather than the building itself and hence any depreciation would be minimal.

Investments

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

Realised gains and losses represent the difference between the proceeds on disposal and the fair value at the start of the year or cost if purchased in the year.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), all investment gains and losses are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as part of the net income/expenditure for the year.

Resources Expended

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

Taxation

Meldrum and Bourtie 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.

Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Notes forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023		Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Endowment Funds 2022	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Donations and Legacies									
Offerings	45,463	-	-	-	45,463	39,845	-	-	39,845
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	11,264	-	-	-	11,264	9,070	-	-	9,070
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Value of donated goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	1,179	150	-	-	1,329	1,988	300	-	2,288
Other	84	-	-	-	84	72	-	-	72
	57,990	150	-	-	58,140	55,975	300	-	56,275
2. Income from charitable activities									
Weddings and Funerals	360	-	-	-	360	300	-	-	300
Use of Premises	5,968	-	-	-	5,968	3,339	-	-	3,339
Fund Raising Activities	7,524	-	-	-	7,524	4,784	-	-	4,784
Other Miscellaneous Income	-	1,548	-	-	1,548	-	-	-	-
Guild Income	-	1,008	-	-	1,008	-	729	-	729
Traideraft	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young Peoples' Ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13,852	2,556	-	-	16,408	8,423	729	-	9,152
3. Income from other trading activities									
Wayleave	79	-	-	-	79	70	-	-	70
	79	-	-	-	79	70	-	-	70
4. Investment Income									
Deposit interest	1,126	910	290	290	2,326	235	141	44	420
Dividends received	10,058	17,320	1,198	1,198	28,576	8,491	14,857	1,098	24,446
Bank Interest	1,079	1,567	186	186	2,832	120	389	50	559
	12,263	19,797	1,674	1,674	33,734	8,846	15,387	1,192	25,425
5. Other Income									
Endowment	1,861	-	-	-	1,861	1,861	-	-	1,861
Government Grants (CVJRS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy Bill Support Scheme	201	-	-	-	201	199	-	-	199
	2,062	-	-	-	2,062	2,060	-	-	2,060
	86,246	22,503	1,674	1,674	110,423	75,374	16,416	1,192	92,982

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Notes forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
6. Analysis of Expenditure									
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>									
Offering Envelopes	44	-	-	-	44	48	-	-	48
Stewardship Campaign Expenses	223	-	-	-	223	-	-	-	-
Total Cost of Generating Funds	267	-	-	-	267	48	-	-	48
<u>Charitable Activities</u>									
Ministries & Mission Allocation	36,499	-	-	-	36,499	47,154	-	-	47,154
Minister's Telephone	396	-	-	-	396	396	-	-	396
Minister's Expenses	960	-	-	-	960	960	-	-	960
Presbytery Dues	-	-	-	-	-	256	-	-	256
Pulpit Supply	287	-	-	-	287	309	-	-	309
Vacancy Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other salary costs	4,044	-	-	-	4,044	4,435	-	-	4,435
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	7,009	-	-	-	7,009	9,532	-	-	9,532
Council Tax	3,551	-	-	-	3,551	3,410	-	-	3,410
Insurance and Utilities	12,249	-	-	-	12,249	7,519	-	-	7,519
Examination of Accounts	816	-	-	-	816	792	-	-	792
Extraordinary Covid Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	9,557	80	-	-	9,637	6,094	-	-	6,094
Charitable Donations	-	12,720	187	-	12,907	-	11,400	171	11,571
Guild Expenses	-	4,420	-	-	4,420	-	4,435	-	4,435
Young People's Ministry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Expenses	1,499	-	-	-	1,499	943	-	-	943
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	-	874	-	-	874
Church Development Project fees	-	-	-	-	-	2,520	-	-	2,520
Total Charitable Activities	76,867	17,220	187	-	94,274	85,194	15,835	171	101,200
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	77,134	17,220	187	-	94,541	85,242	15,835	171	101,248

Support costs have not been separately identified as the Trustees consider there is only one charitable activity. Details of donations are provided at Note 16

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)

Notes forming part of the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
7. Staff costs and numbers		
Salaries and wages	4,044	4,435
Social security costs	-	-
 Total	4,044	4,435

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of a head count, was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Ministerial support	-	-
Music staff	-	1
Premises maintenance	1	1
	1	2

No employee had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022 - nil)

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 £28,700 and the maximum stipend (in the fifth and subsequent years) £35,269

8. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year one trustee received reimbursement of expenses incurred totalling £4,907 (2022 - £4,766) in respect of travel expenses, telephone and Council Tax.

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

During the year a total of £10,625 was donated to the charity by the trustees (2022- £7,382).

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Buildings	Office Equipment	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	160,000	-	160,000
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	160,000	-	160,000

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

There are no tangible fixed assets capitalized other than buildings.
Buildings are not depreciated as per the accounting policy.

Net Book Value	Buildings	Office Equipment	Total
At 31 st December 2022	160,000	-	160,000
At 31st December 2023	160,000	-	160,000

10. Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fair value at 31 December 2022	668,753	782,189
Investments added during 2023 at cost	10,495	4,998
Investments realized	-	(5,002)
Realized gain /(loss) on disposal of investments	-	(422)
Unrealized gain / (loss) on investments	30,884	(113,010)
Fair value at 31 December 2023	710,132	668,753
Investments at cost	703,251	692,756

The following investments are held:

Church of Scotland Investors Trust – Income Fund	51,407 Units
Church of Scotland Investors Trust – Growth Fund	25,165 Units

11. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid Tax Refund Due	3,332	2,758
Other	470	1,099
	3,802	3,857

12. Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals for expenditure	4,656	3,130
	-	-
	4,656	3,130

The contingent liability in the 2022 accounts has been removed due to the completion of the sale of the glebe during 2023.

At year end the charity is still awaiting the details of the financial settlement of the loans and interest charges but have been assured by the General Trustees that the amount received has more than covered the charges.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

**Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)
Year ended 31 December 2023**

**Notes forming part of the financial Statements
for the year ending 31st December 2023**

13. Analysis of Net Assets Among Funds	General		Designated		Restricted		Endowment		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	160,000	160,000	-	-	-	-	160,000	160,000
Investments	-	-	119,236	114,682	220,106	198,981	370,790	355,090	710,132	668,753
Net Current Assets	3,825	3,976	49,886	39,610	68,114	73,236	10,662	10,278	132,487	127,100
Net Assets at 31 Dec. 2021	3,825	3,976	329,122	314,292	288,220	272,217	381,452	365,368	1,002,619	955,853

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.

**Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd)
Year ended 31 December 2023**

**Notes forming part of the financial Statements
for the year ending 31st December 2023**

15. Movement in Funds

<u>15. Endowment Funds</u>	At 1 st January 2023 £	Income 2023 £	Expenditure 2023 £	Transfer 2023 £	At 31 st December 2023 £	At 1 st January 2022 £	Income 2022 £	Expenditure 2022 £	Transfer 2022 £	At 31 st December 2022 £
Scroggie Cruickshank Legacy	9,901	319	-	(319)	9,901	9,901	249	-	(249)	9,901
Barbara Thomson Legacy	11,396	366	-	(366)	11,396	11,396	292	-	(292)	11,396
Invested Funds	145	154	(187)	33	145	145	140	(171)	31	145
Invested Funds	19,595	452	-	(452)	19,595	19,595	319	-	(319)	19,595
Tocher Bequest	9,938	383	-	-	10,321	9,746	192	-	-	9,938
Sylvester Thomson Church Purposes - Capital	109,521	-	-	-	109,521	109,521	-	-	-	109,521
Sylvester Thomson Benevolent Purposes - Capital	219,053	-	-	-	219,053	219,053	-	-	-	219,053
	<u>379,549</u>	<u>1,674</u>	<u>(187)</u>	<u>(1,104)</u>	<u>379,932</u>	<u>379,357</u>	<u>1,192</u>	<u>(171)</u>	<u>(829)</u>	<u>379,549</u>
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) of Value of Assets	(13,932)	15,701	-	-	1,769	47,218	(61,150)	-	-	(13,932)
Realized Loss on Disposal of Asset	(249)	-	-	-	(249)	(249)	-	-	-	(249)
	<u>365,368</u>	<u>17,375</u>	<u>(187)</u>	<u>(1,104)</u>	<u>381,452</u>	<u>426,326</u>	<u>(59,958)</u>	<u>(171)</u>	<u>(829)</u>	<u>365,368</u>

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Notes forming part of the financial Statements
for the year ending 31st December 2023

15. Movement in Funds Cont'd

	At 1 st January 2023		Income 2023		Expenditure 2023		Transfer 2023		At 31 st December 2023		At 1 st January 2022		Income 2022		Expenditure 2022		Transfer 2022		At 31 st December 2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sylvester Thomson Income Fund – Deserving Causes	182,781	19,295	(12,152)	-	189,924	180,231	13,950	-	182,781	-	-	-	-	(11,400)	-	-	-	-	182,781	-
New Church Development Loan Fund	5,070	-	-	-	5,070	5,070	-	-	5,070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,070	-
Organ Fund	51,536	1,485	(80)	-	52,941	50,554	982	-	51,536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,536	-
Guild	36,887	1,723	(4,988)	-	33,622	39,838	1,484	-	36,887	-	-	-	-	(4,435)	-	-	-	-	36,887	-
Traidcraft	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Club	447	-	-	90	537	368	-	-	447	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	-	447	-
	276,721	22,503	(17,220)	90	282,094	276,061	16,416	90	276,721	(15,835)	79	276,721	(4,082)	(31,939)	-	-	-	-	(4,082)	-
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) of Value of Assets	(4,082)	10,630	-	-	6,548	27,857	(31,939)	-	(4,082)	-	-	(422)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(422)	-
Realized Gain/Loss of Value of Assets	(422)	-	-	-	(422)	-	(422)	-	(422)	-	-	(422)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(422)	-
	272,217	33,133	(17,220)	90	288,220	303,918	(15,945)	90	272,217	(15,835)	79	272,217	(4,504)	(32,361)	-	-	-	-	(4,504)	-

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Notes forming part of the financial Statements
for the year ending 31st December 2023

15. Movement in Funds Cont'd

15. <u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	At 1 st	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st	At 1 st	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st
	January 2023	2023	2023	2023	December 2023	January 2022	2022	2022	2022	December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	3,749	66,069	(69,651)	2,014	2,181	2,192	58,864	(72,057)	14,750	3,749
Opening Debtors	3,357	445	-	-	3,802	2,815	542	-	-	3,357
Opening Creditors	(3,130)	972	-	-	(2,158)	(1,137)	(1,993)	-	-	(3,130)
Total General Fund	3,976	67,486	(69,651)	2,014	3,825	3,870	57,413	(72,057)	14,750	3,976
Fabric Fund	2,190	1,694	(6,208)	5,000	2,676	703	519	(8,032)	9,000	2,190
Opening Debtors (Fabric Fund)	(1,000)	(500)	-	-	(1,500)	-	500	(1,500)	-	(1,000)
Total Fabric Fund	1,190	1,194	(6,208)	5,000	1,176	703	1,019	(9,532)	9,000	1,190
Reserve Fund	37,873	1,408	-	(1,000)	38,281	52,592	281	-	(15,000)	37,873
Miss F. Forbes Legacy	61,230	3,054	(800)	(5,000)	58,484	60,860	2,370	-	(2,000)	61,230
New Church Development Fund	(1,287)	5,556	(475)	112	3,906	(1,651)	3,107	(2,780)	37	(1,287)
Sylvester Thomson Income Fund – Church Purposes	54,788	7,436	-	-	62,224	55,514	6,147	(873)	(6,000)	54,788
Evelyn Webster Fund	5000	112	-	(112)	5,000	-	5,037	-	(37)	5,000
Total Designated Funds	158,794	18,760	(7,483)	(1,000)	169,071	168,018	17,961	(13,185)	(14,000)	158,794
Gain / (Loss) in Value of Assets	(4,502)	4,553	-	-	51	15,419	(19,921)	-	-	(4,502)
Buildings	154,292	23,313	(7,483)	(1,000)	169,122	183,437	(1,960)	(13,185)	(14,000)	154,292
160,000	-	-	-	-	160,000	160,000	-	-	-	160,000
Total Unrestricted Funds	318,268	90,799	(77,134)	1,014	332,947	347,307	55,453	(85,242)	750	318,268
Total Endowment Funds from p 19	365,368	17,375	(187)	(1,104)	381,452	426,326	(59,958)	(171)	(829)	365,368
Total Restricted Funds from p 20	272,217	33,133	(17,220)	90	288,220	303,918	(15,945)	(15,835)	79	272,217
Total All Funds	955,853	141,307	(94,541)	-	1,002,619	1,077,551	(20,450)	(101,248)	-	955,853

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Year ended 31 December 2023

Notes forming part of the financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

15. Purposes of Endowment Funds

Scroggie Cruickshank Legacies -	Income from this fund is used for church purposes.
Barbara Thomson Legacy -	Income from this fund is used for church purposes. An option may be exercised in the future for the use of the capital for a specific project.
Invested Funds -	Income from this fund is used for church purposes, young peoples' ministry, ministry expenses and benevolent purposes.
Tocher Bequest -	Income from this fund is used for benevolent purposes.
Sylvester Thomson Legacy Church Purposes – Capital Account	Currently the capital is invested, and the income held available for general church purposes. An option may be exercised in the future for the use of the capital for a specific project.
Sylvester Thomson Legacy Deserving causes – Capital Account	Currently the capital is invested, and the income held available for any deserving local causes as determined by the Kirk Session. An option may be exercised in the future for the use of the capital for a specific project.

15 Purposes of Restricted Funds

Sylvester Thomson Legacy Deserving Causes – Income Fund	This fund is the income from the capital fund of the same name and is used for local deserving causes as determined by the Kirk Session.
New Church Development Loan Fund	This fund was established in 2016 to track the costs relating to professional fees. It was initially funded by a loan from the General Trustees which restricted the use to which the loan could be applied. Once the quantum of the various loan repayments is known then this fund will be closed and any balance will be transferred to the New Church Development fund.
Guild	This fund is used for Guild purposes and is controlled by the Guild.
Sunday Club	This fund is used to fund the children and young persons' ministry work and is funded by money set aside by the trustees and a share of the income from the invested funds.
Organ Fund	This fund was established during 2018 following receipt of a generous legacy from the estate of late Hilda Webster for the purpose of maintaining and possible future replacement of the church organ(s).

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Year ended 31 December 2023

Notes forming part of the financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

15. Purposes of Designated Funds

Designated funds are determined by the Kirk Session at their discretion as they may see fit from time to time and are not unrestricted by legal definition. The designated status can be changed at the discretion of the Kirk Session.

Fabric Fund	The trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of church properties. It is also funded by fundraising events.
General Reserve Fund	This is a general fund held in reserve to supplement any other congregational funds as required.
Miss F. Forbes Legacy	The income from the invested capital in this fund is accumulated in the fund and the capital and revenue may be used at the discretion of the trustees.
New Church Development Fund	This fund was established during 2016 and is used to track other revenue and costs for the project which are not restricted by the Loan Fund
Sylvester Thomson Legacy Church Purposes – Income fund	This fund is the income from the capital account of the same name and is used for general church purposes.
Evelyn Webster Fund	This fund was established during 2022 from a bequest of £5,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Evelyn Webster. The money has been invested in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust, Growth Fund and the income earned from this investment is currently applied to the Church Development Fund.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report (Cont'd) Year ended 31 December 2023

Notes forming part of the financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

16. Charitable Donations

The following charitable donations were made from the various funds and are shown in these accounts.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Meldrum Amenities Action Group	100	100
Food for Christian Aid Concert	148	-
Local Benevolent Donations via Minister	-	2,852
Donation to Inverurie Food Bank	2,400	2,400
Scottish Bible Society	-	200
Meldrum Connect Printing (Kirk News Distribution)	4,259	3,128
Easter & Christmas Gifts to Care Homes & Housebound	266	346
Donation to Scottish Churches Trust	50	50
Cleaning Headstones	800	-
Warm Hub Costs, Electricity, Wi-Fi & Expenses	615	1,833
Food Vouchers & Picnic to Go	216	219
Flowers for bereaved	153	272
Community Connect Grants	3,145	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,152	11,400
From Organisations		
Guild	568	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,720	11,400

17. Collections for Third Parties

The following are in addition to the above but are not shown in the accounts as they were raised for specific purposes and not for the charity.

Collections for Christian Aid during Christian Aid week resulted in £964.47 being raised and sent to Christian Aid via the Garioch Area grouping.

A retiring offering at the Harvest Thanksgiving services raised £229.83 for Scripture Union's Altnacreich Appeal

The Women's World Day of Prayer raised at total of £112

The retiring Offerings over Christmas raised a total of £375 which was divided equally between the Disasters Emergency Committee and local charity Kayleigh's Wee Stars, each receiving £187.50

APPENDIX

FUNDS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION BY THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL TRUSTEES

	2023 £	2022 £
<u>CFE CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	<u>640</u>	<u>622</u>
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	<u>896</u>	<u>957</u>
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	<u>194</u>	<u>159</u>
<u>TEMPORARY ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	<u>(1,918)</u>	<u>(1,058)</u>