

**Church of Scotland  
Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church**

**Minutes of the Annual Stated Meeting  
Held in Meldrum Parish Church on Sunday 6 April 2025**

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- 1 The meeting was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Alisa McDonald.**
- 2 Minutes of previous Annual Stated Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2024, previously posted on the Church website, and distributed to all in attendance.
- 3 The Moderator asked there were any questions** – no questions raised. The Moderator then asked for the minutes to be approved - they were approved by and seconded by Brian Reid & Graham Smith.
- 4 Presentation of Annual Accounts:**

Copies of the accounts were made available to all in attendance. Treasurer Willie Paterson could not attend the meeting for family reasons; Deputy Treasurer W Dalzell presented his prepared report.

*“Unfortunately, I am unable to be present this morning, and the report is presented on my behalf by our Session Clerk. Any errors in the presentation or the accounts are however mine and it may be that questions on the accounts will have to be answered by e-mail, but I am happy to do this as Billy may not have the information to hand to satisfactorily answer any queries you may have.*

*The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Meldrum and Bourtie for the year ending 31st December 2024.*

*You should all have copies of the report available to view and I shall try to guide you through this without reading from it verbatim.*

*The achievements and performance section on pages 2-3 are self-explanatory.*

*Turning to the financial review on page 4, it can be seen that there has been a slight increase in offerings and donations. Overall income is up from £110,423 in 2023 to £120,744 in 2024 but expenditure also rose from £94,541 to £119,376. The difference between income and expenditure for all funds is narrowing year on year and unfortunately, we are far from being financially sustainable if this trend continues.*

*Investment policy and performance figures can be found on page 5*

*Our investments continued to produce much needed income and a slightly increased capital value. The interest rate on the monies held in the deposit fund has fallen back slightly since 2023 but is still attractive at an average of 4.76%*

*Risk management and Reserves policy can be found on Page 6*

*The biggest change to our risks has been the successful completion of the sale of the glebe which removed any contingent liabilities which could have accrued had the sale not completed.*

*The amount after repayment of all loans and liabilities came to £658,742 which was invested in the Stipend Fund in March 24 and June 2024.*

*Monies from Glebe sales are automatically designated as being to support Stipend and we will start to see benefit from this in 2025 as the income from this investment is credited against the sums we have to pay in Giving to Grow contributions./*

*/pay in Giving to Grow contributions.*

*Our accounts have been independently examined by our accountants and also attested by presbytery. Subsequent to these examinations they have been submitted to OSCR. Page 10 shows our Statement of Financial Activities for 2024 alongside the previous year's figures for comparison. These are divided between Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds and the details of the various funds and their purposes can be found at Note 15 on pages 22 & 23.*

*Page 11 shows the balance sheet which has improved in 2024.*

*Page 14 shows details of the income and page 15 shows details of the expenditure.*

*Pages 19 – 21 show details of the movements in each of the funds held. This includes income, expenditure and transfer details.*

*The overall financial situations are that while the balance sheet has grown, the difference between income and expenditure has narrowed and this trend is of concern as it is this which gives a truer indication of the financial health of the charity. The balance sheet growth is due almost entirely to the investment performance which can go up or down and we can only try and maximise income and minimise expenditure to make things more sustainable.*

*That concludes my remarks but before inviting questions on the report and accounts, I would like to place on record my thanks for the support of the Kirk Session, the Session Clerk and to Mrs Elaine Buck for her assistance as donations recording, and gift aid claims compilation. Without her work my job would be infinitely more difficult. Thank you all."*

*End of report.*

## **5 Questions for the Treasurer:**

The Moderator asked the congregation if they had any questions.

- Charlie – query on deficit between Income and Expenditure:- as reported although we experienced a slight increase this year in donations & offerings our costs are rising as fast and the gap is narrowing cause sustainability concerns.
- Graham – asked why only using half of the Glebe proceeds:- to help support income.
- Andrew - if we knew what our next contribution for Giving To Grow will be:- this will reduce as noted in the report but still waiting for notification for future payments.
- Mary – asked for clarification on what investments will be used for any new build/renovation future project:- it would be our aim to leave a substantial part of our investments intact to help support income
- Elaine – asked if the advertising income covered the cost of the Connect Magazine:- Not quite, income falls below with the balance being paid via our funds.

The Moderator thanked Willie in his absence and offered a prayer for Willie, Mary and family.

## **6 Moderator's Comments:**

4.5 years in role; outreach activities such as work with the Youth Club, Music Group, Tunes & Tea, and Katie's support were reviewed. Thanks were given to church volunteers, pulpit swap participants, Connect team for their magazine efforts, and Kirk Session for their support.

During this time, inclusivity and engagement within the church community have grown. The Youth Club has welcomed some new young people. Events like Tunes & Tea have been welcomed by many and Katie's guidance has been invaluable. The Connect team's magazine work has improved communication.

The ongoing support of the Kirk Session and all volunteers is greatly appreciated./

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**7 Session Clerk's Comments:**

Alisa has prioritised inclusion within our Parish, resulting in greater engagement among young families—a positive change after many years. We sincerely thank her for this progress.

She has challenged us through music choices and weekly messages, encouraging thoughtful reflection on the Bible's teachings.

Balancing parish ministry and family life is a significant challenge for Alisa and others in similar roles.

The Kirk Session is committed to supporting Alisa's work at Meldrum & Bourtie, and we ask for your continued support.

Alisa, your contributions, including those unseen, are deeply valued by myself and the congregation. Thank you.

The business being concluded the meeting closed with all present saying the Grace.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Session Clerk

Rev Alisa McDonald

William Dalzell