

The Church of Scotland
Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended

31st December 2023

Congregation No: 040263

Charity No: SC 034662

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church

Charity Registration Number: SC034662

Congregation Reference No: 040263

Contact Address: C/o Myreside
Hartwoodmyres
Selkirk
TD7 5HA

Trustees

Mrs Nora Hunter
Mrs A Blundell
Mrs A Blackadder
Mr C Carroll
Mr G Jack

Mrs J Telfer
Mrs S White
Mrs L Wilson
Mrs Elizabeth Davidson
Mr Andy Wright

Principal Office-bearers

Interim Moderator: Rev George Shand (retired 30/04/23)
Mr Robert Turnbull (appointed 03/05/23)

Session Clerk: Mrs N Hunter

Church Treasurer: Mrs J Guthrie

Independent Examiner

Mrs Vivien Hogg BA CA, Hogg & Thorburn, Moat House 14 Gala Park, Galashiels. TD1 1EX

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
3 Channel Street
Galashiels
TD1 1BE

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The congregation is operating under a Unitary Constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

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.

Organisational Structure

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish is linked with Selkirk and Ashkirk. The Parishes work closely together and have several joint services per year, alternating between Selkirk and Ettrick & Yarrow. As linked charges permission has recently been granted by Lothian and Borders Presbytery to appoint a new full time minister, and preparation work has taken place in the final months of 2023 with a view to advertising before Easter 2024.

The Ettrick and Yarrow Kirk Session is chaired by the Interim Moderator; it normally meets six times in the year and is responsible for all matters within the church. The Rev George Shand was appointed as Interim Moderator in August 2022 and retired on 30th April 2023. Mr Robert Turnbull was appointed as Interim Moderator from 3rd May 2023. The locum minister for Ettrick & Yarrow, Selkirk and Ashkirk linked churches (the Rev Scott Guy) was appointed on 6/3/22.

Kirk Session meetings have been conducted mostly on Zoom since March 2020. A smaller Group consisting of the Session Clerks (of Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk and Ashkirk), one Elder, and the Ministers/Interim Moderator meets occasionally to organise tasks delegated by the Kirk Sessions.

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 God'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.

Ettrick and Yarrow has created and sustains a Christian worshipping community enabling members to live their lives as effective Christians. It provides continuing education in the faith to allow members to better live out their Christian faith. The church creates and sustains a caring and supportive community caring for each other and for other members of the community. The church makes its people available to the community for pastoral help, for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The church makes its buildings available for use by other community groups.

Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)

Year ended 31 December 2023

Achievements and Performance

Weekly services of worship are conducted, alternating between Kirkhope and Yarrow Churches. In summer on one Sunday per month there is also a service in Ettrick Church. Services are filmed each week and loaded up on to a You Tube channel for the benefit of those who cannot attend in person and others outside the parish who watch regularly.

Remembrance Day ceremonies and services are conducted at three war memorials in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys. Additional worship services include a Remembering Memorial service for the Bereaved and a Christmas Eve service (either Christingle or Nine Lessons and Carols) which attracts a large congregation many of whom are from the local community.

The historic Blanket Preaching is held each July on the hillside overlooking St Mary's Loch and harks back to the days of the Covenanters.

We offer refreshments either before or after services and the level of church attendance has increased as a result of the fellowship and the welcoming spaces.

A high level of pastoral care is offered to all in need in the valleys by a small group of Elders and the Pastoral Assistant (Ms H Carroll) appointed in 2021.

As part of community outreach the church's Facebook page and website are updated weekly and are regularly accessed.

The church continues its involvement with the ecumenical group CTSV (Churches Together in Selkirk and the Valleys), Christian Aid Week, the Selkirk Food Bank and Fresh Start Borders. The congregation is encouraged to take difficult-to-recycle items to Sustainable Selkirk's shop in Selkirk. An Advent Appeal, always for two different charities, is carried out each Christmas. A total of £400 was raised and donated to Opportunites Zambia and Works +. A further £116 was raised and donated to Selkirk Food Bank.

Financial Review

This year's accounts have been drawn up under the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator's (OSCR) guidelines, as instructed by the Church of Scotland. It should be noted that the congregation is not asked to approve the annual financial statements; the accounts are now required to be approved by the Trustees (The Board & Session) and are then presented to the congregation at an annual stated meeting.

The Church's main source of income comes through Gift Aided donations and the Gift Aid claimed thereon although, unfortunately, the level of these donations has continued to decline again during the year. General expenditure has fallen this year, although it is worth noting that the 2022 figure included £7,374 of Ministries and Mission costs (now Giving to Grow), which related to the 2021 year following a revised schedule of costs being issued by the Church of Scotland.

Trustees' Annual Report (cont.)

Year ended 31 December 2023

Financial Review (cont.)

However, the Church has shown a surplus of income over expenditure of £9,915 this year, compared with £1,374 in 2022. It is worth noting that this surplus is after the receipt of £12,172 (2022 - £13,430) from funds held by the General Trustees, to support the Church in meeting repair, insurance and utility costs.

At 31st December 2023 the Church held investments with a market value of £17,665 over and above the bank balances.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves to meet future expenditure at a level of approximately three to six months ordinary expenditure, which equates to between approximately £7,342 and £14,684. At the year end the Church held unrestricted funds of £13,999 which is considered to be reasonable.

The Church also held £51,857 of restricted funds which have been provided for the purposes specified in Note 2.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Kirk Session are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended, and the Regulations Anent Congregational Finance approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2007. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,

Ms Nora Hunter
Session Clerk

Date: 27th March 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Etrick & Yarrow Parish Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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

An examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs Vivien Hogg BA CA
Hogg & Thorburn
Moat House
14 Gala Park
Galashiels
TD1 1EX

Date:

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
<u>Receipts</u>	Note	£	£	£	£
Donations	3	16,372	6,500	22,872	23,940
Legacies		-	-	-	-
Activities for Generating Funds		-	475	475	390
Bank & Deposit interest		513	-	513	354
Investment income		-	-	-	-
		16,885	6,975	23,860	24,684
Rental of premises (Glebe rent)		1,908	-	1,908	1,908
Sale of investments		-	-	-	-
Grants		-	-	-	-
Receipts from General Trustees		12,172	-	12,172	13,430
Allocation from Presbytery		-	-	-	-
Other Receipts					
- Endowment income		5,061	-	5,061	5,061
- Sundry income		9	-	9	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>		36,035	6,975	43,010	45,083
<u>Payments</u>	4				
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		29,367	3,728	33,095	43,709
Governance costs		-	-	-	-
<u>Total Payments</u>		29,367	3,728	33,095	43,709
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		6,668	3,247	9,915	1,374
Transfers		(253)	253	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		6,415	3,500	9,915	1,374

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church
Statement of Balances
At 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
Note	£	£	£	£
<u>Bank & Deposit Balances</u>				
Bank & deposit balances brought forward	7,584	48,357	55,941	54,567
Movement in year:				
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	6,415	3,500	9,915	1,374
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	<u>13,999</u>	<u>51,857</u>	<u>65,856</u>	<u>55,941</u>
<u>Investments at market value</u> (cost £ 1,515)	<u>17,665</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,665</u>	<u>16,362</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Gift Aid Receivable	1,973	-	1,973	1,992
Giving to Grow Contribution overpaid	850	-	850	-
	<u>2,823</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,823</u>	<u>1,992</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Roof repairs	-	-	-	1,548
Share of Linkage expenses	-	-	-	384
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,932</u>

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board on 27th March 2024.

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Financial Board

_____ **Session Clerk**

_____ **Treasurer**

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church
Year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year 2 trustees received reimbursement of expenses incurred totalling £634 (2022 - 2 trustees received £612). 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, other than Rev. Scott Guy who received expenses of £324 (2022 - £188), in his position as locum minister.

2. Movements in Funds

	At 1 Jan 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	7,584	36,035	(29,367)	(253)	13,999
	<u>7,584</u>	<u>36,035</u>	<u>(29,367)</u>	<u>(253)</u>	<u>13,999</u>
Restricted funds					
Fabric Fund	47,544	6,975	(3,728)	253	51,044
Tumutumu Fund	813	-	-	-	813
	<u>48,357</u>	<u>6,975</u>	<u>(3,728)</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>51,857</u>
Total funds	<u><u>55,941</u></u>	<u><u>43,010</u></u>	<u><u>(33,095)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>65,856</u></u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Fabric Fund: - This fund is to support the ongoing maintenance of the church properties.

Tumutumu Fund: - This fund is to cover incidental expenses in connection with Tumutumu affairs, and fund jotters and pencils for their schoolchildren.

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£

3. Analysis of Donations

WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	1,700	-	1,700	2,081
Gift Aid Donations	5,810	-	5,810	7,220
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	2,770	-	2,770	2,611
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	4,752	-	4,752	3,568
Other Offerings, Donations etc	1,340	6,500	7,840	8,460
	<u>16,372</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>22,872</u>	<u>23,940</u>

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church
Year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4. Analysis of Payments				
Costs of generating funds				
Investment Managers' fees	-	-	-	-
Offering envelopes	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Charitable activities				
Ministries & Mission allocation	14,412	-	14,412	30,489
Presbytery dues	336	-	336	324
Pastoral Assistant	-	-	-	1,380
Minister's expenses	551	-	551	320
Locum Fees	5,556	-	5,556	-
Pulpit supply	627	-	627	410
Other staffing costs	-	-	-	-
Fabric repairs & maintenance	-	3,728	3,728	3,461
Council Tax	72	-	72	-
Heat and light	861	-	861	1,345
Insurance	3,819	-	3,819	3,447
Other building costs	-	-	-	-
Church office expenses	-	-	-	-
Organ & music	-	-	-	-
Printing, stationery and postage	166	-	166	133
Other expenses	2,967	-	2,967	2,400
	<u>29,367</u>	<u>3,728</u>	<u>33,095</u>	<u>43,709</u>
Governance costs				
Independent examiner's fees	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other payments				
Purchase of assets	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5. Minister's Stipend

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 £30,135 and the maximum stipend (in the 5th and subsequent years of service) £37,032.

Ettrick and Yarrow Parish Church
Year ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

6. Collections for Third Parties

There were no collections for third parties during the year to 31st December 2022. Collections for third parties during the year to 31st December 2023 are noted below.

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Opportunities Zambia	200	
Works +	200	
Selkirk Food Bank	116	
	<u>516</u>	<u>-</u>

APPENDIX

FUNDS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION

BY THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL TRUSTEES

	2023 £	2022 £
<u>CONSOLIDATED FABRIC (CAPITAL) ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	-	84,474
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	-	125,972
<u>CONSOLIDATED FABRIC (CAPITAL) ACCOUNT (II)</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	390,572	328,134
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	461,610	344,063
<u>CONSOLIDATED FABRIC (INCOME) ACCOUNT (II)</u>		
Credit Balances held at 31 December at cost	24,422	-
Market Value of Balances at 31 December	30,984	-
	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>		
Credit Balance at 31 December	27,201	27,378