

**The Church of Scotland**

**Tyne Valley Parish Church**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Congregation No: 030248**

**Charity No: SC 006926**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

### **Year ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Tyne Valley Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Reference and Administrative Information**

Charity Name: Tyne Valley Parish Church  
Charity Registration Number: SC 006926  
Congregation Reference No: 030248  
Contact Address: 19 Roman Court  
Pathhead  
Midlothian  
EH37 5AH

### **Trustees**

#### **Kirk Session**

|                  |                    |                  |                  |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Carrie Bennett   | Belinda Cresswell  | Catherine Leitch | Jim Orr          |
| Aileen Blackwood | Christine Crompton | Romay Loudon     | Dorothy Reilly   |
| Brian Christie   | Elsbeth Fleming    | Iain Luke        | David Richardson |
| Ray Christie     | Jenny Grahame      | Billy McCormack  | Carol Robertson  |
| Fiona Corsar     | June Johnston      | Fiona Meikle     | Louise Spencer   |
| Geordie Corsar   | David Lacey        | Janie Nugent     | Jane Waite       |

#### **Congregational Board**

|                   |                  |             |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Allister Crompton | Tommy Matthewson | Jon Torrens |
| Harriet Dalrymple | Emma Softly      |             |

#### **(excluding Kirk Session members)**

#### **Finance Committee**

|                   |                |                |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Richard Callander | Brian Christie | Dorothy Reilly |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

#### **Principal Office-bearers**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Minister:           | Rev Dale K London |
| Session Clerk       | Fiona Corsar      |
| Clerk to the Board: | Jenny Grahame     |
| Church Treasurer:   | H Dorothy Reilly  |

#### **Independent Examiner**

Anthony Miller  
29a Westburn Drive  
Aberdeen  
AB25 3BY

#### **Bankers**

Royal Bank of Scotland,  
63 High Street  
Dalkeith  
EH22 1JA

# Trustees' Annual Report

## Year ended 31 December 2023

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution.

#### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Members of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board 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 Congregational Board is appointed from within the congregation and members of the congregation are invited to nominate individuals who are believed to have the skills and commitment to contribute to the management affairs of the Church, to become members of the Board. Board Members are then appointed at the Stated Annual Meeting and serve for a period of three years after which they must seek re-election at the next Stated Annual Meeting.

#### Organisational Structure

The Congregational Board is chaired by the minister or agreed alternate and meets six/eight times in a year. Certain responsibilities are delegated to the Finance Committee and the Property Committee as appropriate. The Kirk Session, which meets six/eight times a year is responsible for spiritual affairs within the church.

#### 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 ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

The Activity Report is included in Appendix 2.

#### Financial Review

The principal source of income remains giving by members. Regular offerings increased by 1.8% over 2022. The bulk of contributions is received via standing order payments. Ordinary expenditure was 0.3% higher than in 2022.

#### Reserves Policy

The General Fund balance of £39,175 represents just over 6 months' ordinary expenditure. The Church holds additional funds for special purposes, as identified in Note 9.

#### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The members of the Kirk Session / Congregational Board 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 / Congregational Board 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 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.

Fiona Corsar  
Session Clerk



Date 3/3/2024  
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## Tyne Valley Parish Church

### Receipts and Payments Accounts Year ended 31 December 2023

|   | Note | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|---|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>   |      |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>                        |      |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Voluntary income  | 1    | 68,322                             | 0                                | 0                               | 68,322             | 69,868             |
| Activities for generating funds                                       | 2    | 450                                | 1,082                            | 0                               | 1,532              | 1,463              |
| Investment income   | 3    | 3,098                              | 5,537                            | 0                               | 8,635              | 4,000              |
| Incoming resources from charitable                                    | 4    | 1,277                              | 2,155                            | 0                               | 3,432              | 4,223              |
| Other incoming resources  | 5    | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>   |      | <u>73,147</u>                      | <u>8,774</u>                     | <u>0</u>                        | <u>81,921</u>      | <u>79,554</u>      |
| <b>Payments</b>   |      |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Costs of generating funds   | 6    | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
| Charitable activities   |      | 72,295                             | 21,664                           | 0                               | 93,959             | 96,518             |
| Governance costs  |      | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Total Payments</b>   |      | <u>72,295</u>                      | <u>21,664</u>                    | <u>0</u>                        | <u>93,959</u>      | <u>96,518</u>      |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers</b> |      | 852                                | -12,890                          | 0                               | -12,038            | -16,964            |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>  |      | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year after transfers</b>  |      | <u>852</u>                         | <u>-12,890</u>                   | <u>0</u>                        | <u>-12,038</u>     | <u>-16,964</u>     |

**Statement of Balances**

**At 31 December 2023**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bank and deposit balance at 1 January 2023</b>   | 42,957                             | 108,684                          | 15,893                          | 167,534            | 184,498            |
| <b>Movement in year:</b>                            |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year       | 852                                | -12,890                          | 0                               | -12,038            | -16,964            |
| <b>Bank and deposit balance at 31 December 2023</b> | 43,809                             | 95,794                           | 15,893                          | 155,496            | 167,534            |
| <br><b><u>Investments at market value</u></b>       |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| <b>(cost £106,044)</b>                              | 39,527                             | 126,733                          | 24,725                          | 190,985            | 176,898            |
| <br><b><u>Assets</u></b>                            |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Gift aid claims                                     | 2,658                              | 0                                | 0                               | 2,658              | 2,576              |
| <br><b><u>Liabilities</u></b>                       |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Life & Work subscriptions in advance                | 126                                | 0                                | 0                               | 126                | 126                |

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Congregational Board on  
For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| <p><i>Fiona Curran</i></p>      | Session Clerk |
| <p><i>H. Donalhy Reilly</i></p> | Treasurer     |
| <p><i>3/3/2024</i></p>          | Date          |

**Notes forming part of the financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1 Voluntary income</b>                              |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Offerings  | 47,998                             | 0                                | 0                               | 47,998             | 45,375             |
| Donations to Outreach activities                       | 457                                | 0                                | 0                               | 457                | 578                |
| Tax recovered on Gift Aid                              | 10,787                             | 0                                | 0                               | 10,787             | 11,735             |
| Drawn from CofS Consolidated Fabric                    | 7,784                              | 0                                | 0                               | 7,784              | 11,626             |
| Church of Scotland grant                               | 210                                | 0                                | 0                               | 210                | 0                  |
| Endowment income                                       | 1,086                              | 0                                | 0                               | 1,086              | 554                |
|  | <u>68,322</u>                      | <u>0</u>                         | <u>0</u>                        | <u>68,322</u>      | <u>69,868</u>      |
| <b>2 Activities for Generating Funds</b>               |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Grapevine adverts                                      | 450                                | 0                                | 0                               | 450                | 810                |
| Community cafe income                                  | 0                                  | 1,082                            | 0                               | 1,082              | 653                |
|  | <u>450</u>                         | <u>1,082</u>                     | <u>0</u>                        | <u>1,532</u>       | <u>1,463</u>       |
| <b>3 Investment income</b>                             |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Deposit interest                                       | 1,566                              | 3,545                            | 0                               | 5,111              | 845                |
| Dividends received                                     | 1,446                              | 1,976                            | 0                               | 3,422              | 3,137              |
| Bank interest  | 86                                 | 16                               | 0                               | 102                | 18                 |
|  | <u>3,098</u>                       | <u>5,537</u>                     | <u>0</u>                        | <u>8,635</u>       | <u>4,000</u>       |
| <b>4 Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b> |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Weddings & funerals                                    | 400                                | 0                                | 0                               | 400                | 1,000              |
| Donations to Ukraine Appeal                            | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 1,342              |
| Other  | 877                                | 2,155                            | 0                               | 3,032              | 1,881              |
|  | <u>1,277</u>                       | <u>2,155</u>                     | <u>0</u>                        | <u>3,432</u>       | <u>4,223</u>       |
| <b>5 Other incoming resources</b>                      |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
|  | <u>0</u>                           | <u>0</u>                         | <u>0</u>                        | <u>0</u>           | <u>0</u>           |
|  | <u>0</u>                           | <u>0</u>                         | <u>0</u>                        | <u>0</u>           | <u>0</u>           |
| <b>Total of 1 - 5</b>                                  | <u>73,147</u>                      | <u>8,774</u>                     | <u>0</u>                        | <u>81,921</u>      | <u>79,554</u>      |

## Notes forming part of the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>6 Analysis of Resources Expended</b> |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>        |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Offering Envelopes                      | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
|   | <u>0</u>                           | <u>0</u>                         | <u>0</u>                        | <u>0</u>           | <u>0</u>           |
| <b>Charitable Activities</b>            |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Giving for Growth allocation            | 36,900                             | 0                                | 0                               | 36,900             | 43,071             |
| Presbytery Dues                         | 852                                | 0                                | 0                               | 852                | 652                |
| Pulpit Supply                           | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
| Ministers' Travel                       | 960                                | 0                                | 0                               | 960                | 960                |
| Minister's telephone                    | 720                                | 0                                | 0                               | 720                | 720                |
| Youth work costs                        | 0                                  | 17,239                           | 0                               | 17,239             | 17,146             |
| Fabric Repairs & Maintenance            | 12,707                             | 0                                | 0                               | 12,707             | 11,406             |
| Manse Council Tax                       | 3,786                              | 0                                | 0                               | 3,786              | 3,613              |
| Heat and Light                          | 3,504                              | 0                                | 0                               | 3,504              | 3,729              |
| Insurance                               | 4,317                              | 0                                | 0                               | 4,317              | 3,814              |
| Services and Outreach                   | 3,535                              | 0                                | 0                               | 3,535              | 2,017              |
| Printing, stationery and postage        | 920                                | 0                                | 0                               | 920                | 783                |
| Music and licensing costs               | 1,177                              | 0                                | 0                               | 1,177              | 1,009              |
| Equipment costs                         | 1,791                              | 1,469                            | 0                               | 3,260              | 0                  |
| Community Development expenditure       | 0                                  | 1,350                            | 0                               | 1,350              | 1,266              |
| Payments made to charities              | 285                                | 1,606                            | 0                               | 1,891              | 3,963              |
| Payments from Bequests Fund             | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 1,346              |
| Other costs                             | 841                                | 0                                | 0                               | 841                | 1,023              |
|   | <u>72,295</u>                      | <u>21,664</u>                    | <u>0</u>                        | <u>93,959</u>      | <u>96,518</u>      |
| <b>Governance Costs</b>                 |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Independent Examiner's Fee              | 0                                  | 0                                | 0                               | 0                  | 0                  |
|   | <u>0</u>                           | <u>0</u>                         | <u>0</u>                        | <u>0</u>           | <u>0</u>           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <u>72,295</u>                      | <u>21,664</u>                    | <u>0</u>                        | <u>93,959</u>      | <u>96,518</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.

## **Notes forming part of the financial statements**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

- 7 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 fifth and subsequent years of service) £37,032.

#### **8 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions**

Rev Dale K London received a contribution of £720 towards telephone expenses. £960 was paid towards his travel costs, via the Church of Scotland. Manse council tax of £3,786 was paid to Midlothian Council.



## Notes forming part of the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

### 9 Movements in funds

|                            | At 1 January<br>2023<br>£ | Receipts<br>£ | Payments<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | At 31 Dec<br>2023<br>£ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Endowment funds</b>     |                           |               |               |                |                        |
| Special Fund               | 15,893                    | 0             | 0             | 0              | 15,893                 |
|                            | <u>15,893</u>             | <u>0</u>      | <u>0</u>      | <u>0</u>       | <u>15,893</u>          |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>    |                           |               |               |                |                        |
| Ferrier Bequest Fund       | 2,715                     | 99            | 0             | 0              | 2,814                  |
| Pendreich Fund             | 695                       | 0             | 0             | 0              | 695                    |
| Bequests Fund - capital    | 92                        | 0             | 0             | 0              | 92                     |
| Bequests Fund - revenue    | 36,933                    | 3,312         | 0             | 0              | 40,245                 |
| Community Development Fund | 1,746                     | 1,098         | 1,350         | 0              | 1,494                  |
| TVPC Contingencies Fund    | 24,480                    | 891           | 1,469         | 0              | 23,902                 |
| Fala Earmarked Fund        | 4,737                     | 173           | 0             | 0              | 4,910                  |
| Outreach Fund              | 35,095                    | 1,025         | 17,239        | 0              | 18,881                 |
| Organist Fund              | 585                       | 21            | 0             | 0              | 606                    |
| Temporary Charity Fund     | 1,606                     | 2,155         | 1,606         | 0              | 2,155                  |
|                            | <u>108,684</u>            | <u>8,774</u>  | <u>21,664</u> | <u>0</u>       | <u>95,794</u>          |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>  |                           |               |               |                |                        |
| General Fund               | 38,560                    | 60,203        | 59,588        | 0              | 39,175                 |
| Designated Fabric Fund     | 4,397                     | 12,944        | 12,707        | 0              | 4,634                  |
|                            | <u>42,957</u>             | <u>73,147</u> | <u>72,295</u> | <u>0</u>       | <u>43,809</u>          |
| <b>Total funds</b>         | <u>167,534</u>            | <u>81,921</u> | <u>93,959</u> | <u>0</u>       | <u>155,496</u>         |

#### Purposes of Endowment Funds

Income from the Special Fund is applied to the General Fund for general purposes.

#### Purposes of Restricted Funds

Ferrier Bequest Fund: This is a fund to meet personal needs in the community.

Pendreich Fund: This fund was transferred from Borthwick. It was set up during WW1 for patriotic reasons.

Bequests Fund: This fund was transferred from Borthwick for use in time of need.

Community Development Fund: This fund is to support work in the community in Pathhead and neighbouring villages.

TVPC Contingencies Fund (formerly Borthwick Earmarked Fund): This fund was for non-routine fabric expenditure at Borthwick Church but is now available to further TVPC's work generally.

Fala Earmarked Fund: This fund is for non-routine fabric expenditure at Fala Church.

Outreach Fund: This is a fund earmarked for outreach work within the Community and further afield.

Organist Fund: This is a new fund set up to provide for payments to an organist at occasional Sunday services.

Temporary Charity Fund: This fund holds money collected for charity, pending its disbursement.

#### Purposes of Designated Funds

Fabric Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for the maintenance of the church property.

## Notes forming part of the financial statements

### for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 10 Fund holdings at 31 December 2023

|                            | Bank<br>accounts<br>£ | Church of<br>Scotland<br>Deposit<br>Units<br>£ | Church of<br>Scotland<br>Growth<br>Units<br>Units held |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| General Fund               | 300                   | 38,875   | 6,780  |
| Fabric Fund                | 35                    | 4,599  | 0  |
| Ferrier Bequest Fund       | 0                     | 2,814  | 0  |
| Pendreich Fund             | 695                   | 0  | 750  |
| Bequests Fund - capital    | 92                    | 0  | 16,468   |
| Bequests Fund - revenue    | 0                     | 40,245   | 0  |
| Community Development Fund | 1,494                 | 0  | 0  |
| TVPC Contingencies Fund    | 0                     | 23,902   | 4,520  |
| Fala Earmarked Fund        | 0                     | 4,910  | 0  |
| Outreach Fund              | 0                     | 18,881   | 0  |
| Temporary Charity Fund     | 0                     | 2,155  | 0  |
| Organist Fund              | 0                     | 606  | 0  |
| Special Fund               | 0                     | 15,893   | 4,241  |
| <b>Total holdings</b>      | <b>2,616</b>          | <b>152,880</b>                                 | <b>32,759</b>  |

#### 11 Collections for Third Parties

|   | 2023  | 2022<br>£ |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Midlothian Foodbank                       | 1,177 | 774       |
| Pathways to Success                       | 1,048 | 535       |
| Embrace the Middle East                   | 1,227 | 535       |
| DEC Ukraine Appeal (TVPC)                 | 100   | 1,193     |
| DEC Ukraine Appeal (Pathhead Post Office) | 49    | 360       |
| DEC Syria Appeal                          | 40    | 0         |
| CLIC Sargent                              | 127   | 0         |
| TearFund                                  | 59    | 23        |
| UNICEF                                    | 80    | 0         |
| Chris's House                             | 85    | 0         |
| Mary's Meals                              | 0     | 239       |
|   | 3,992 | 3,659     |

## APPENDIX 1

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

|  | 2023    |   | 2022    |
|--|---------|---|---------|
|  | £       |   | £       |
| <b><u>CAPITAL</u></b>                      |         |   |         |
| Credit Balance held at 31 December at cost | 236,587 | * | 119,858 |
| Market Value of Balances at 31 December    | 296,534 | * | 185,872 |
| <b><u>REVENUE</u></b>                      |         |   |         |
| Credit Balance at 31 December              | 58,588  |   | 57,178  |

**Note:** Income to the Revenue Account totalled £9,352 in 2023. The sum of £7,784 was drawn down to offset fabric expenditure and expenses totalling £158 were deducted.

#### **TEMPORARY FUND\***

Following the sale of Borthwick Church in 2021 and the stables at Borthwick in 2015, there was a Temporary Fund equal to £123,914 at 31 December 2022. After deduction of a levy of £11,237 charged on property sales, the balance was transferred to the Capital Fund during 2023, leaving £nil in the Temporary Fund at 31 December 2023.

**TYNE VALLEY PARISH CHURCH  
ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2023**

**Executive Summary –**

The sense of purpose and drive that was felt in 2022 carried over into 2023. New initiatives were planned – some of which did well, some others not so much. Opportunities for greater engagement in our communities arose and we took them.

Attendance continued to improve over the year as the effects of lockdown waned, and though the roll has shrunk further, the congregation is more involved than it has been for several years, bringing a sense of hope and anticipation.

Following on from the results of the "Future Vision" conferences last year, several new activities have sprung up, not the least of which was TVP's enrolment into the "Growing Young" programme, and the unanimous decision by Kirk Session that TVP should begin active mission work in Pathhead and Cousland.

TVP saw two significant changes in the operations of the church. The first came in January when the Royal Bank of Scotland closed its safe-deposit services in Dalkeith. This necessitated a fevered scramble to find a new safe, secure, and not too inconvenient home for TVP's communionware. This was thankfully found with Will Callander at Prestonhall, who volunteered to keep it in his safe without charge. TVP will continue to look for a more permanent solution, but we are meantime grateful to Mr Callander for his hospitality and service to the church.

The second came in February when the General Trustees and the Church of Scotland Law Department asked Kirk Session to consider the issue of the back letter to the sale of Crichton Church to the Crichton Collegiate Church Trust. The back letter imposed several restrictions on the Trust with regard to the use of Crichton Church and the Trust felt that, as over 20 years had passed since the sale, the letter had become more of a hindrance to Christian witness than a help. After prayer, consideration, and discussion, the Kirk Session unanimously agreed that the back letter no longer served a valid purpose, and it was in the best interests of the parish and the trust that it be rescinded. The Moderator passed this decision on to the Trustees of Crichton Collegiate Church Trust, who expressed their thanks and satisfaction at Session's decision. The Session Clerk also forwarded an extract of the minute of this decision to the office of the General Trustees and Law Department.

All in all, 2023 has been a very good year for Tyne Valley Parish and God deserves all the glory, honour and praise.

**Kirk Session** – Kirk Session held 7 meetings through the year, including the annual joint meeting with the Congregational Board, and one member, Iain Luke, resigned from Session on his moving his lines to Haddington. Also, the Health and Safety Advisor to the Session and Board, Audrey Grahame resigned her position, she and her husband Richard having also moved to Haddington. Rev. London and the Session wish to thank both Iain and Audrey for their many years of valuable service and wish them well in their new homes.

**Congregational Board** – The board held 7 meetings this year including the annual joint meeting with the Kirk Session and welcomed two new members: Emma Softly and Harriet Dalrymple onto the board as full voting members.

**Congregational Roll** – As of December 31st, 2023, TVP had 255 members and adherents. We lost three members through death, two by certificate, performed one adult and three infant baptisms, three weddings and four funerals. The combined average weekly attendance in church is around 80. Approximately 40 children are involved in the life of the church and we see a regular attendance of about 15 children under 16, 10 of whom receive communion.

### **Work of the Church in 2023**

**Growing Young** – Tyne Valley Parish joined the new cohort of churches participating in Presbytery's Growing Young programme. It aims to help reimagine a truly intergenerational church. Joining the programme required the minister and a small group of 3-4 others to commit to participation in the programme, which would involve attending at least 18 events over 24 months, including webinars, day conferences and coaching sessions. The team has worked very hard to ensure that most, if not all the activities undertaken by TVP this year furthered the goal of TVP becoming a more intergenerational church. While its work has not been especially visible, it has been invaluable in supporting and building on the work over virtually every other part of the church.

One particular endeavour of the Growing Young Team was "Ready-Steady-Cook," a group that met for 6 weeks in the runup to Christmas and brought loads of young people and parents together. This group received funding from both the Moorfoot Community Council and the Seeds for Growth fund, resulting in a huge win for TVP. At the end of the sessions, the attendees asked that it be continued into the new year.

Growing Young will continue throughout 2024 and the minister, Kirk Session and Congregational Board wish to congratulate the team, Fiona Corsar, Lisa Hobson, Carrie Bennett, and Janie Nugent on a job well done in their first year. We encourage them to continue their efforts into 2024. Thank you all and may God bless your work!

**Worship** - TVP solidified its pattern of worship over the year and Kirk Session introduced "Fifth Sunday" celebrations starting in January. These services were handed over to Impact and the TVP Music Group as a rolling project for the members of the youth group. One important element of these services was the provision of breakfast within the context of the service. Our young people, with the guidance and support of the minister, youth worker, and the music group, took on responsibility for all but the call to worship, the catering, and closing benediction of the worship service. These celebrations have been a rousing success, bringing in people who otherwise do not worship, and fostering the formation of many new relationships.

Apart from our moderator, Rev. Dale London, we were blessed to have the benefit of Rev. Robert Simpson, Rev. John Hunter, Rev. Malcolm Ramsay, Rev. Norman Smith, Pastor Allister Crompton, and a well-qualified and experienced worship team of eight elders and our youth worker. Many others in our congregation also participated in worship with readings and prayers.

During 2023, TVP conducted 109 services of worship. These were: 54 Sunday morning worship services (including 4 baptisms), 9 Messy Church sessions, 21 Fala Midweek Services, 9 communion services, and 16 special services (of which 5 were held at Crichton Collegiate Church). The number of people attending worship ranged from 5 (for small, informal services) up to nearly 80.

Home Groups – Our four Home Groups continued to meet on a regular basis. We study, learn, share and build close relationships that provide a safe and confidential space for support and where our members display real, deep love in joyful and difficult times alike.

We believe that significant spiritual growth occurs when Christians share with and support each other. Home groups are therefore a very important aspect of our church family life. The Minister and Worship Team remain firm in their aspiration to eventually have all or nearly all of the congregation involved in a home study group.

Perhaps even more important to our spiritual health, we believe prayer is a cornerstone in our relationship with God. Thus, in concert with our home groups, our Prayer Circle meets regularly, and our cherished Prayer Diary continues to be published on a monthly basis. This prayer diary travels as far as Australia and Estonia!

Youth Group – The TVP Youth Group saw a resurgent year as we witnessed God's grace working through the church. Throughout 2023 attendance at Impact continued to increase and partnership opportunities arose with the Youth Ministry team in Gorebridge. Members from both the Pathhead and North Middleton Impact groups were invited to take part in the summer program called 'Stage and Slam' held by Gorebridge church. While the Pathhead group did not participate, several children from North Middleton did join in and enjoyed the experience. We hope to repeat our involvement with "Stage and Slam" in 2024 as well.

In Pathhead, Impact saw a steady increase in numbers, though they dipped again at the close of the year. The total number of young people encountered by Pathhead Impact was 15 and the average attendance was 5. Most were from P7 but several in high school also attended. The goal of Impact was to encourage young people to get to know others of their own age and feel it was a place where they could enjoy time with friends. Activity focused on sharing the gospel, along with teamwork exercises, games, and activities.

In North Middleton, Impact has grown its activity and involvement in different areas throughout the year. The total number of young people encountered by North Middleton Impact was 9 with the average attendance being 5. This group focused on sharing the gospel and exploring discipleship. Most of the young people who attend, have a background in the church and are now looking to discover more about Christianity. This group has been involved with running church services and partaking in the music group throughout the year. Their involvement, especially with the "Fifth Sunday" celebrations has been received well by the church and the young people involved. It also had 'family events' which encouraged the parents to come along and spend some time together. We had a games night and a BBQ. We also had a visit from a representative of the rocket company, Skyrora. Mr Derek Harris gave a presentation explaining who they are and what they do. Showing the young people pictures of the testing facility near North Middleton, as well as the rockets they are building and using for space satellites.

TVP continued to support the Pathhead Youth Project (PYP) by having the youth worker help run the club. Reece leads the Thursday night gathering, alongside another young worker. PYP has been a great opportunity to meet more of the young people in the area. Many of the young people attending PYP also come along to Impact. The connection between the two youth groups (Impact and PYP) is in a very positive place, with both groups fully supportive of one another.

Impact also ran a Youth Alpha course this year, working with the people of St Mary's Catholic Church, who hosted the event in Pathhead. The course ran just before the summer holidays with 7 people, a mixture of young people and adults from both churches participating.

Another new venture, the Kids Fun Singing Group was started by Catherine Shimwell and Colin Robertson, with the aim for the group to take part in the Easter service. Their plan was perhaps more successful than they had envisioned because that group met regularly throughout the rest of the year and contributed greatly to the "Fifth Sunday" celebrations as well. All of TVP thanks Catherine and Colin for their hard work and enterprising vision. Well done!

In the coming year we aim to expand on the work we have done in North Middleton and Pathhead, and to grow the programme with active participation with Tynewater Primary School, and expansion into Cousland and Fala.

The minister, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board wish to thank Reece Allan and his crew of dedicated volunteers for their commitment to our young people and their steadfastness in sharing the love of Christ.

*Children and Families: Messy Church* – We saw steady participation and satisfied engagement in our young families coming to our Sunday afternoon Messy Church services held in the year. The Messy Church group celebrated its 10th anniversary with a birthday party which was very well attended. The families who come to Messy Church are considered part of our active congregation, with some becoming more active in the life and governance of the wider congregation. It is such a great blessing to see this area of our church life flourishing in both commitment and faith resulting in child baptisms and much greater involvement in the life of our church here at Tyne Valley. The minister, Kirk Session and Congregational Board are deeply grateful for the work of David Richardson and his entire team for their steadfast adherence to the principle of loving and serving the parish in this wonderful way. Thank you all.

*Children and Families: Holiday Club* – It was originally planned to host the Holiday Club in Vogrie Park in August, but the weather was not kind and we needed to shift to North Middleton Village Hall. The theme was "Restoration Station!" and was a great success with 32 children attending and a good turnout at the Family Celebration on the Sunday after the Club week. This outreach into our community continues to be a great blessing. The minister, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board wish to extend our deep gratitude to Louise Spenser and her entire team of tireless volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and considerable resourcefulness. Well done!

*Christian Education* – Having established in previous years our commitment to continuing the spiritual growth of our members and parishioners through regular, structured Christian education, TVP continued the march in 2023 with a Lenten Bible study in the form of the Christianity Explored course. It was well attended, starting

with 12 and with 10 finishing – mostly elders and home-group members, all of whom expressed their satisfaction with the teaching and a growth in their spiritual knowledge. It was planned for an additional course, Alpha, to be run in the autumn but as the start date approached, those who had expressed an interest found there was too much happening in September and October already so, with the minister laid up following surgery, the course fizzled on the pad. This was later revived by David Richardson, who plans to run the course in the new year, as the minister and Allister Crompton bring a new course: Discipleship Explored, into the parish. We pray for God's blessings on these new endeavours.

Community Involvement – A number of our congregation are actively involved in our communities from being members of the Community Council, running an afternoon club for elderly people, starting the Crafternoon club and getting it well established, helping at local Primary Schools, organising a weekly drop in 'Tea N' Chat' group for people who are lonely and isolated, leading a local Walking Group, involvement with the 'Fala, Soutra & District History and Heritage' Society, taking part in the production of plays by the Pathhead Players, and the Friends of Crichton Garden Party. We were also invited to participate in the Pathhead Christmas Lights event, and in the Pathhead Coronation Fun Day, which led to Louise Spenser being invited to participate in the "Love Pathhead" group and the Pathhead Focus Group. Not forgetting the Combination pilgrimage walk/Messy Church/Crichton Harvest Festival, and the Tear Fund Big Quiz Night. We also were blessed by the music group opening its doors to all for open-call meetups for anyone who wanted to join in, and for an Advent Bible Study led by Malcolm and Cati Ramsay.

The minister, Kirk Session and Congregational Board cannot begin to express our gratitude both to the congregation, and more specifically to Our Lord, for the blessings showered upon us by God through our members. Thank you for making TVP what we are: a committed, faithful, and vibrant church in the midst of great and exciting change. May God bless us all.

Elder Area Teams - Through a number of different events, each of our four Elder Area Teams were very active and effective in bringing Christ to the communities of TVP and their work was highlighted by the success of each event. These included A Burns Lunch at Fala Village Hall, a Ceilidh in North Middleton Village Hall, a World Day of Prayer event in Fala Session House, lunches, afternoon teas, birthday cards, flowers and Christmas cards with invitations to our services. This positive contact is greatly appreciated, and we see this as an expression of 'Church' with the Gospel proclaimed, teaching, prayer and real fellowship. Interest in our church activities grows as a result and our Elders feel welcomed, involved and see this approach as being a great improvement on the old style of infrequent and unannounced Elders' Visits. Well done to all our elders. Our hearty thanks go out to you.

Additional Duty Offices – As mentioned earlier in this report, our Health and Safety Administrator, Audrey Grahame stepped back from her role in June, following her move to a church in Haddington. Her departure has left a significant hole in our team, and she is greatly missed. Our Data Protection Officer, Pastor Allister Crompton and our Safeguarding Officer, Fiona Corsar provided advice and action as required in both these areas and ensured confidentiality was maintained. We thank you both for the stellar work.



Note of Thanks

The Moderator, Kirk Session and Congregational Board wish to thank the members of Tyne Valley Parish and the various communities within the bounds for their continued support and participation in the life of our church.

Rev. London would also like to thank the Elders and Members of the church, and those office bearers and volunteers who make the running of a successful church possible.

God grant much fruit and blessing to this church in the coming year. Amen.

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Reverend Dale Kay London

Minister

Tyne Valley Parish, Lothian and Borders Presbytery

The Church of Scotland

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Date

# APPENDIX 3



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

**Report to the trustees/members of** Charity name  
TYNE VALLEY PARISH CHURCH

**Registered charity number** SC 006926

**On the accounts of the charity for the period**

| Period start date |         |      | to | Period end date |          |      |
|-------------------|---------|------|----|-----------------|----------|------|
| Day               | Month   | Year |    | Day             | Month    | Year |
| 1                 | January | 2023 |    | 31              | December | 2023 |

**Set out on pages** 4 to 11

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**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) 2005 Act 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**

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 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.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

4 MARCH 2024

**Name:** ANTHONY JOHN MILLER

**Relevant professional qualification(s) (if any):**

**Address:** 29A WESTBURN DRIVE  
ABERDEEN  
AB25 3BY

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.