

**The Church of Scotland**

**Perth Riverside Church of Scotland**

**Congregation No. 281702**

**Charity No. SC 011113**

**Annual Report & Accounts for 2024**

## **Reference and Administrative Information**

Charity Name: Perth Riverside Church of Scotland

Charity Registration Number: SC 011113

### **Trustees**

**For the whole of 2024 to the date of signing**



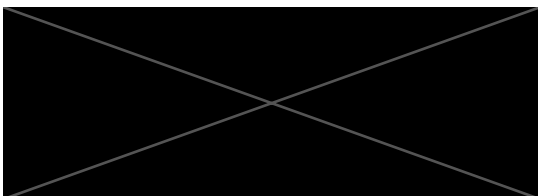
**For 2024 up to 28/11/2024**



**From 27/03/2025 to the date of signing**



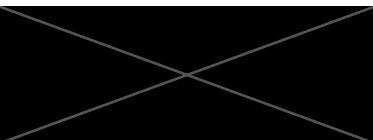
### **Principal Office Bearers**



### **Independent Examiner**



### **Bankers**



## **Trustees' Annual Report - year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form), Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees.

Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees. The Kirk Session members are 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.

### **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.

Perth Riverside Church of Scotland is a Christian community based in north Perth.

As a church we seek to fulfil our mission, aims and values through regular Christians worship, community activities and service to our parish.

## ***Our Mission Statement***

Our Mission Statement; pray, serve, grow.

Our Aims are;

- Grow as a community of Jesus' disciples.
- Serve each other, our neighbours, our parish, our city and beyond using our abilities and our building.
- Pray as a way of life.

## ***Our Values***

Faith, nurture and generosity.

## ***Achievements and Performance***

### ***Attendance***

Our congregation has continued to see consistent, if small, growth. Over this year growth has come from both our parish and beyond.

## ***Overview of 2024 at Riverside***

### ***Services & Small Groups***

We have continued to welcome new individuals and families to our congregation. The house groups also continue to meet as does our Sunday evening Bible Study.

### ***Community Work***

Martha's Kitchen and Bertha Park remained our main community projects up to the end of 2024. Martha's connects with other community projects such as our baby and toddler group and our gardening group. We continue to employ cafe managers who job share a 20hr post.

During 2024, after a review, we decided to take our community engagement in a new direction leading to a new Children and Families worker role. Consequently, this will mean ending our Community Worker role at the start of 2025.

Towards the end of the year we also decided that we should stop overseeing the work at Bertha Park. It had become clear that the requirements of the Bertha Park project and its ministry culture could no longer be supported by Riverside. The transition of responsibility for Bertha Park will take place in 2025. At the start of December we began supporting an after school club in collaboration with the local YMCA, Your North Muirton, and Riverside Primary School. This included proving funding from a restricted fund which was previously set up for working with the YMCA in North Muirton.

### ***Church Life***

Our congregation meets weekly for worship on both Sunday morning and evening. Throughout the week we continue to meet in small groups in homes and in the church building. Our gardening and 'Knit and Natter' groups meet regularly. In collaboration with the cafe team we have held several community outreach activities and our annual community event 'The Nativity Experience' was again a great success. We welcome that there is increasing fluidity between those who attend church and those who use the café and facilities during the week.

## ***Financial Review***

Riverside recorded a surplus of £3,494 in 2024 following 2023's surplus of £36,328. However, the headline figures are misleading.

Firstly, Riverside has provided supervisory, administrative, accounting and banking support to the Bertha Park project. The Bertha Park restricted funds form part of our accounts, but Riverside Church cannot touch this money. In 2023 the Bertha Park funds showed a surplus of £7,164 and in 2024 a deficit of £9,866. Excluding the Bertha Park money from our accounts we would have recorded a 2024 surplus of £13,359 compared with a 2023 surplus of £29,164.

Secondly, both Riverside and Bertha Park have received generous grant income over the last few years. This always provides income up front which must be spent in restricted ways, usually over the following few years. This pattern leads to surpluses followed by deficits, but it does not indicate any deterioration in financial performance. Grant income fell from £42,677 in 2023 to £11,822 in 2024. Excluding Bertha Park, Riverside received £5,822 grant income in 2024 compared with £31,051 in 2023. That grant income was largely to pay the salaries of the Martha's Kitchen managers. This factor explains the large, but natural and predicted, deficits in the restricted funds during 2024.

The performance of the unrestricted funds has improved dramatically. Hall rental income to the general fund (i.e. setting Bertha Park aside) increased by 20%. Café income increased by 22%. Most pleasingly, however, donations (including tax reclaimed) to the unrestricted funds increased by 46%. This is the money that we depend upon to pay routine bills and to keep going. There was one large gift of £12,500 (including tax reclaimed) intended for the Fabric Fund, which is unlikely to be a regular feature, but even if that is excluded the increase was still a very healthy 22%.

## ***Reserves Policy***

The reserves figure is a notional item that does not appear in the accounts. It reflects the amount of money we believe we should hold in the bank as a precaution. Our policy has been to hold reserves of £25,000.

At the end of 2023 our fund balances were £52,592 (setting aside Bertha Park money), of which £42,556 was in restricted funds and £10,036 in unrestricted funds.

The position for the fund balances at the end of 2024 was £65,951 in total (setting aside Bertha Park funds), of which £31,040 was in restricted funds and £34,911 in unrestricted funds.

## ***Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities***

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

- ◇ Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◇ Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- ◇ State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◇ Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## ***Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf***



Session Clerk

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

# Perth Riverside Church of Scotland

SC 011113

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Perth Riverside Church of Scotland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 6-11.

### 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 2006 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
  - ◇ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts be reached.

Auditor's signature: 

Name: 

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Address: 

## Perth Riverside Church Receipts & Payments Account, year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

		←=====Unrestricted	←=====Restricted	Endowment		
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
Receipts	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	3	£76,825.82	£2,393.98	£0.00	£79,219.79	£60,369
Activities for Generating Funds						
Rental of premises		£20,501.00	£3,115.00			
Other activities for gen funds		£34.50	£0.00			
Café		£13,870.55	£0.00			
		£34,406.05	£3,115.00		£37,521.05	£28,923
Legacies		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0
Bank & Deposit interest		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0
		£111,231.87	£5,508.98	£0.00	£116,740.84	£89,292
Sale of assets		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0
Sale of investments		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0
Grants		£0.00	£11,822.00		£11,822.00	£42,677
Receipts from General Trustees		£0.00			£0.00	£5,520
Other Receipts		£0.00			£0.00	£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£111,231.87</b>	<b>£17,330.98</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£128,562.84</b>	<b>£137,489</b>
<b>Payments</b>	4					
Costs of generating funds		£12,441.50	£0.00		£12,441.50	£9,162
Charitable activities		£73,915.93	£38,711.73		£112,627.66	£91,998
Governance costs		£0.00			£0.00	£0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£86,357.43</b>	<b>£38,711.73</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£125,069.16</b>	<b>£101,161</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers</b>		<b>£24,874.43</b>	<b>-£21,380.76</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3,493.68</b>	<b>£36,328</b>
Transfers		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year</b>		<b>£24,874.43</b>	<b>-£21,380.76</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3,493.68</b>	<b>£36,328</b>

## Perth Riverside Church Statement of Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	Bank Balances 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Endowment Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Bank &amp; Deposit Balances</b>						
Bank & deposit balances b/f	£74,216.96	£10,036.46	£67,322.85	£0.00	£77,359.31	£41,031
+/- net expenses/income not cleared b/f	£3,142.35					
<b>Movement in year:</b>						
Excess of receipts over payments for 2024	£3,493.68	£24,874.43	-£21,380.76	£0.00	£3,493.68	£36,328
+/- net expenses/income not cleared c/f	-£6,087.10					
Bank & deposit balances c/f	£74,765.89	£34,910.89	£45,942.10	£0.00	£80,852.98	£77,359
2 alternative bank recs. Both must be zero (except for trivial rounding errors)	£0.004				£0.006	-£0
<b>Investments at market value</b>						
(cost £ xxxxx)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0
<b>Assets</b>						
Gift Aid Receivable		£366.02	£42.21	£0.00	£408.23	£489
Income invoiced but not received/cleared		£6,724.88	£0.00	£0.00	£6,724.88	£3,330
		£7,090.90	£42.21	£0.00	£7,133.11	£3,819
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Expenses incurred but not paid/cleared		-£984.69	-£61.32	£0.00	-£1,046.01	-£676
Cost of repair not yet billed		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0
		£6,106.21	-£19.11	£0.00	£6,087.10	£3,142

NB: in the above statement the "Bank Balances" figures are taken from bank statements. The funds figures and the total for the year are the balances in our accounts. The two sets of figures are reconciled by the net expenses/income that was not cleared at the start and end of the year. If the reconciliations match then the discrepancy figure is zero.

In preparing these financial statements:

- the Trustees are of the opinion that the charity is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- the Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records and prepares financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

For and on behalf of the Kirk Session.

Minister

Session Clerk

# Perth Riverside Church

## Notes to the Accounts

### 1 Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

██████████ (Session member) was the only trustee or person related to a trustee to receive any remuneration in the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. ██████████ worked as a part-time manager of the Martha's Kitchen community café. He was paid £7,878.

██████████ our minister and therefore a trustee, was reimbursed for £84 in miscellaneous expenses. ██████████ also received £309 to reimburse her for meals provided to young people. The church paid £960 to the Church of Scotland to cover expenses incurred by ██████████. Further, the church paid Council Tax of £3,652 for the manse.

£85 was reimbursed to Session member ██████████

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.

### 2 Movement in Funds

	Fund balances b/f	Income	Expenses	Transfers for period	Fund balances c/f	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	-£3,015.89	£81,756.43	-£71,770.84	£800.27	£7,769.97	
Fabric Fund	£3,352.11	£12,500.00	-£1,088.54	£0.00	£14,763.57	
Boiler Fund	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	
Youth Work Fund (unrestricted)	£2,253.59	£1,925.00	-£335.34	£0.00	£3,843.25	
Mission Fund	£0.00	£0.00	-£302.00	£302.00	£0.00	
Children's Outing	£216.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£216.00	
Designated Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Community Work (Helen's bequest)	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	
Gardening Group	£218.15	£404.89	-£67.43	£0.00	£555.60	
Let's Not Waste It	£1,012.50	£750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,762.50	
Martha's Kitchen Revenue Fund	£0.00	£13,895.55	-£12,793.28	-£1,102.27	£0.00	
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>£10,036.46</b>	<b>£111,231.87</b>	<b>-£86,357.43</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£34,910.89</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Res. Fund #1 Youth	£11,706.35	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,706.35	
Res. Fund #2 Mission (MMA reduction)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	
Res. Fund #3a Bertha Park General	£4,887.29	£11,442.23	-£5,365.89	-£2,325.67	£8,637.96	}
Res. Fund #3b Bertha Park Shop	£13,514.58	£0.00	-£7,330.71	£0.00	£6,183.87	}
Res. Fund #3c BP Funeral Donations	£80.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80.00	}
Res. Fund #3d BP Youth Work	£6,285.51	£66.75	-£12,878.93	£6,526.67	£0.00	} £14,901.83 <b>BP total: untouchable.</b>
Res. Fund #4 Martha's Kitchen	£29,849.12	£5,822.00	-£13,136.20	-£4,201.00	£18,333.92	<b>The bank balances must</b>
Res. Fund #5 Audio Visual (deleted for 2025)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>always exceed this figure.</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£67,322.85</b>	<b>£17,330.98</b>	<b>-£38,711.73</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£45,942.10</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,359.31</b>	<b>£128,562.84</b>	<b>-£125,069.16</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£80,852.98</b>	
			<b>Change in balances of all funds=&gt;</b>		<b>£3,493.676</b>	
			<b>Reconciliation with R&amp;P figure=&gt;</b>		<b>£3,493.676</b>	

NB: there are no endowment funds.

### Purposes of Designated Funds

The Fabric Fund was established for the maintenance of the church building. It was set up in 2011. Expenditure categorised as "repairs and other Fabric Fund expenditure", or as "manse fabric" comes out of this fund.

The Boiler Fund was set up in 2020 for the replacement and ongoing repair of the central heating boiler.

The Youth Work Fund was established to provide support for Riverside's mission work with local youth.

The Community Work fund was set up in 2018 with a legacy and is intended for community work.

The Mission Fund exists to ensure that we have money set aside for our core purpose of sharing the good news of God's love. It was set up in 2011. Expenditure categorised as "Mission" or "Outreach" comes out of this fund.

The Gardening Group fund was set up at the request of members of the congregation to hold money from plants that they sold and which would be used for expenditure on the garden.



Let's Not Waste It was set up in 2022 to hold grant money for a community project that does not qualify as a restricted fund.

The children's outings fund was set up in 2015 following a gift from the family of [REDACTED], a member who died in 2010. [REDACTED] family wanted the money to be used for some form of children's outing. The trustees have full discretion over how this money will be used.

The Designated Donations fund was created to hold money that has been raised with the express intention of donating it to a particular external charity. The exact destination is at the discretion of the Kirk Session, so it cannot be a Restricted Fund.

### Purposes of Restricted Funds

Restricted Fund #1 (youth work) holds the remainder of the money that was raised between 2004 and 2006 to pay the salary of a youth worker. She resigned before the end of her contract and a replacement was not appointed. The youth worker post was managed by Perth Riverside Church and Perth YMCA as a joint project, committed to Christian youth work in Riverside's parish. This money is assigned to a restricted fund because it can be spent only on projects that are approved by both Riverside and Perth YMCA. That is why it is held in a separate fund from the general Youth Work Fund, which can be spent at the discretion of the trustees. This fund has been dormant for several years but money will be spent in 2025 (see 'Community Work' on page 3).

Restricted fund #2 Mission (MMA reduction) was set up to allow us to account to the Church of Scotland for spending money that they provided by reducing our MMA payment, subject to certain conditions.

The Martha's Kitchen and Audio Visual funds were set up to allow us to account to grant providers. We must be able to show that we have spent the grants appropriately. The Audio Visual fund will be deleted in 2025.

The Bertha Park funds are held in our bank accounts, but they are not Riverside's money.

### 3 Analysis of Donations & Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	2023
Gift Aid donations	£50,084	£1,300	£51,384	£35,186
Tax recovered on Gift Aid donations	£12,521	£325	£12,846	£8,796
Tax recovered through GASDS	£2,221	£75	£2,296	£1,518
Ordinary offerings (open plate)	£4,805	£0	£4,805	£4,218
Other offerings, donations, etc.	£7,196	£694	£7,889	£10,651
Legacies (general fund)	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<u>£76,826</u>	<u>£2,394</u>	<u>£79,220</u>	<u>£60,369</u>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Grants	£0	£11,822	£11,822	£42,677
Café income (gross)	£13,871	£0	£13,871	£11,413
Hall rental	£20,501	£3,115	£23,616	£17,230
Other activities for generating funds	£35	£0	£35	£280
	<u>£34,406</u>	<u>£14,937</u>	<u>£49,343</u>	<u>£71,600</u>
Total income in this analysis			£128,562.84	£131,969
Total income in income sheet			£128,562.84	£137,489
Discrepancy			£0.00	£5,520
* £1,429.75 & £4,090.00 for fabric from General Trustees			£0.00	£5,520
Discrepancy adjusted for items excluded from income analysis=>			£0.00	£0

£28,373 of donations came from trustees (i.e. members of the Session) and people to whom they are connected (i.e. their immediate family). This figure includes Gift Aid. The 2023 figure was £16,469.

#### 4 Analysis of Payments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	2023
event catering & expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0
MK running costs	£12,442	£0	£12,442	£9,162
misc costs of generating funds	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>	<b>£12,442</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£12,442</b>	<b>£9,162</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
assets & equipment	£818	£6,529	£7,347	£5,996
building expenses	£8,597	£2,151	£10,748	£10,213
church building maintenance	£1,184	£0	£1,184	£2,506
donations & gifts	£780	£0	£780	£820
electric	£5,213	£572	£5,785	£7,720
employer's NI	£22	£0	£22	£4
gardening	£2,562	£0	£2,562	£2,029
gas	£6,469	£232	£6,701	£10,158
insurance	£2,548	£0	£2,548	£2,464
manse council tax (P&KC)	£3,652	£0	£3,652	£3,572
manse expenses (ex CT/ins)	£145	£0	£145	£552
manse fabric	£175	£0	£175	£695
mission & outreach	£1,244	£15,056	£16,300	£8,409
MMA	£24,463	£0	£24,463	£21,809
office expenses	£2,291	£846	£3,136	£1,854
payroll expenses	£118	£189	£306	£150
Presbytery Assessment	£636	£0	£636	£653
pulpit duties	£0	£0	£0	£0
social	£0	£0	£0	£0
staff expenses	£1,333	£135	£1,468	£1,247
staff wages	£11,535	£13,004	£24,538	£10,050
training	£130	£0	£130	£1,098
	<b>£86,357</b>	<b>£38,712</b>	<b>£125,069</b>	<b>£101,161</b>
<b>governance</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>other payments</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Funds statement figures</b>	<b>-£86,357</b>	<b>-£38,712</b>	<b>-£125,069</b>	
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	

## **5 Minister's Stipend**

All Church of Scotland congregations contribute towards the National Stipend Fund, which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for National Insurance, pensions and the Housing and Loan Fund. Ministers' stipends are paid in accordance with the National Stipend Scale, which is related to the years of service. For 2024 the minimum stipend was £31,642 and the maximum stipend (in the 5<sup>th</sup> and subsequent years) £38,884.

## **6 Collections for Third Parties**

The church did not make any collections for third parties.