

Forth St Paul's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

Congregation No: 130713

Charity No: SC003080



Trustees Annual Report Year ended 31st December 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:

Forth St Pauls Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Charity Registration Number: Congregation Reference No: SC003080 130713

Contact Address:

257 Climpy Road, Forth, Lanark, ML11 8EW

Trustees (Kirk Session)

Principal Office-bearers

Minister:

Interim Moderator: Assistant Minister: Session Clerk: Church Treasurers:

Independent Examiner

The Mechanics Workshop ML11 9DB **Bankers**

Royal Bank of Scotland, 88 High Street

Lanark ML117ET

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

Forth St Paul's Parish Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form) from March 2010.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

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

Organisational Structure

The Kirk Session is moderated by the Minister/Interim Moderator and meets regularly throughout the year either in person or online if required. There are committees for the areas of Resources, Worship and Fellowship, Community and World Issues and Pastoral Care and certain responsibilities are delegated to them. Each committee is convened by a member of the Kirk Session with the membership being made up of elders and representatives from the congregation. Each committee reports regularly to the Kirk Session, with Resources reporting at every meeting.

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. The parish of Forth St Paul's covers the communities of Forth, Wilsontown, Haywood, Braehead, Climpy, Auchengray, Tarbrax and some farming communities on its borders.

Achievements and Performance

Kirk Session's Report

We must give thanks to God for continuing to bless our Church throughout 2024. continued to support our congregation, by leading worship and some pastoral support. Currently we have on average 55-60 weekly worshippers attending church and an average of 32 joining online or accessing a recorded version of services via our YouTube channel. We are blessed to have over 100 children under 17 years of age involved with our church family which is wonderful and makes us very hopeful and positive for a strong faithful future ahead.

We continued with services throughout the year celebrating some special services for Mother's Day, Easter, Christian Aid, D-day Anniversary Service, JIGSAW Appreciation service, Harvest service (with food donations given to our local food bank - Clydesdale Food Bank), in November we marked Remembrance Sunday, celebrated Communion throughout the year, held a thanksgiving service for the switching on of our Christmas Lights linked in to our Santa's Grotto event which was a great community event. December brought Advent, and as well as our Advent Services we held our Reflection





Service, Gift Service, JIGSAW Nativity, and Watchnight service. We have a very talented team who regularly step up and assist when called upon. Thanks to the efforts of Lynne McFarland our Newsletter continued to be a huge hit with the congregation and visitors to our café and the wider community, it has acted as a way of getting the message out about what is going on in church particularly to those not online. In November we said goodbye to who accepted a call to Prestongrange Church in Prestonpans, may God bless his new ministry.

The Mission Planning Process continues to be difficult and has caused much uncertainty within churches which has not been helpful however, we have remained in contact locally with our proposed cluster churches of Carstairs and Carnwath.

Looking forward into 2025 and beyond, we recognise that we do not know what lies ahead, there still remains great uncertainty about the

future therefore we must focus more on prayer and reflection, as we try to learn the lessons God is teaching us, and find new ways of being church working more closely aligned with our cluster group.

Worship

The church family of Forth St Paul's is varied, with people of all ages and experience involved. Sunday worship is held at 11:00am with a faithful five regularly attending our Sunday school known as J.I.G.S.A.W. Attendances at services remain fairly healthy with an average of 55-60 regularly attending weekly in person, as well as an average of 32 watching the service via our livestream or recorded service which we find very encouraging. Sadly, we have lost 10 members throughout the year. We also celebrated the baptism of 1 adult and welcomed 5 new members into our church family which is a blessing.



Worship is varied with a mixture of traditional and contemporary styles, thereby meeting the needs of differing generations and personalities. Holy Communion is generally celebrated four times per year. We have been developing our Worship Team to help lead worship, this has been evolving well and we will continue to build on this in 2025, as 2 members have completed 'Worship Training' with a further 2 volunteers completing refresher training, and we are continually supported throughout the year by

Kirk Session Committees (made up of elders and members)

Pastoral Care

The pastoral team make home visits to church members in the parish who are housebound, living in residential care, or who are now unable to come to church, these visits are very informal. Sunday worship is recorded/live streamed for anyone wishing either to watch at a later day/time. Recordings are available via a USB stick and our YouTube channel. Listening to the children's address, sermon, prayers and singing helps members retain a more personal connection with our church family, this is an important link in keeping a personal contact with our church family. Several members of the group assist with flower deliveries after services each week.

Worship and Fellowship Report

Our Forth St Paul's YouTube channel is proving a success with an average of 32 watching online however, we still offer the option of receiving a recording of our weekly services to those who prefer this method. Our church Rainforest Café is proving popular attracting new faces not just from Forth but from further afield and as all other local churches have now closed, we also welcome locals from other churches attending our café and/or some of our social events which is also encouraging, we want our church to be a place welcoming to everyone.

Throughout the year our Worship Team have assisted with regular worship with 4 volunteers who have now completed worship training/refresher training which has been helpful as accepted a calling to Prestongrange Church in Prestonpans in November. Our Prayer Box is available for anyone in need of prayer and we are working to develop a Prayer WhatsApp group to share requests with the prayer team. We are also supported by members who deliver the bible reading and Prayer for Others each week.

Community and World Issues Committee

Community Events

On 13th February we held the Pancake Night in the Large Hall. There was a great turnout of folk to this event with lots of fun had by all. We held 2 church shops again throughout the year, thanks to the efforts of and her team of helpers, working hard to raise funds to support our church.

Tea and a Tale with Braw Clan: This group entertained monthly over a six month period, averaging 30 attendances each session,

telling stories or reading poems in

'auld scots' while folk enjoyed a cuppa and a scone and commenting "Excellent, powerfully read! All of the audience completely held and quite - spellbound in the story. Braw Clan have made an excellent contribution to the life of the village!" During October we had a display of Autumnal crafts in the Small Hall. As winter approached November saw our Christmas Lights Service and the Santa's Grotto community event raised funds for the Parish Co-Ordinator's Fund.



World Issues

During Christian Aid Week, in May, we had various successful

fundraising events- we walked 70K in May, had lunch at the Rainforest Café, had a cake sale and our usual envelope appeal. In October we participated in the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal- over 75 shoeboxes were sent to this appeal. In October we donated to the Clydesdale Foodbank as part of our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and in December we once again supported the Salvation Army with Christmas Gifts for children.



Resources Committee and Building Development Group

They have responsibility for property and finance, they manage hall lets for both the church and the community, oversee the employees, keep the building wind and water tight as well as planning required works. They also have the Manse to care for as it is a major asset for the church as well as a family home for the minister. We have been fortunate to get volunteer support from the local community to carry out a few DIY jobs around our buildings which has proved helpful.

J.I.G.S.A.W. (Sunday School)

This year we have regularly had 5 children coming to JIGSAW and joining the congregation for worship during the all age talk part of service. Although few in number, the 5 children are wonderfully enthusiastic, joyful and friendly. They gladly join in with all the activities the leaders provide. They have studied and enjoyed activities about the parables Jesus told, Jesus' 12 disciples, Creation, Noah's Ark and miracles Jesus performed.

The children played an important part in some of our services. On Mother's Day the children told the story of the lost sheep and played their musical instruments. They made a plant pot for their mums and a card for everyone in congregation. The children entered the church on Palm Sunday waving palm branches and told the Easter story with happy and sad faces. They then had a joyful time with an Easter egg hunt and rolling hard boiled Easter eggs. Father's Day was on Appreciation Day, so children talked about their fathers and then used different coloured candles to tell about the prayer Jesus taught us for his father. At the harvest service, the children did a puppet show about the selfish giant and also used the puppets as part of the nativity play.



The children and leaders would like to thank the congregation for always supporting them and joining in by singing and dancing in aisles and being wonderful nativity animals.

JIGSAW continues to be an active time with, arts and crafts, games and stories. JIGSAW continues to meet on Sundays in the small hall from 10:50 - 12.00 for children age 3 to secondary school age.

Mainly Music



Mainly music started in 2018 and is still going strong with 5 of the original volunteers. This term we started back with 12 families and a few children went on to nursery. We now have 6 new families 1 of them is a gran returning with her new grandson and next term we will have 3 more grans returning.

We had a visit from 2 ladies from Dalkeith Edinburgh one of them brought their wee boy as they are starting Mainly Music in the area they both enjoyed our session and were

glad for the information we gave them. The feedback is great, everyone loves coming to Mainly Music one thing the adults commented on was that we are not charging enough at the moment it is £2.00 per family which covers snack and toy replacement therefore after Easter we are planning to raise the cost to £3.00.

The children love to help get the toys out and tidy them away. Mainly Music has brought a few children out of their shell and now interact with the leaders and others, and it is a clear form of worship linking our church with families who wouldn't normally come along to church.

The Guild

Our Guild is still going strong and in 2024 is well attended by our 27 members. We don't have a committee as such, but share duties equally since we all pay membership fees and all have an equal say, and all work together to keep things running smoothly. For those not so fit their contribution is to come along to the meetings and we know if they keep coming they enjoy it, so we must be doing something right. We require

a treasurer however; to keep our finances right, our accounts are audited with the church accountant. Our meetings though more casual still begin with a hymn, prayer and reading usually linking to the season or current interest. In March we hosted the World Day of Prayer service which we share with Carnwath, Carstairs and Cairngryffe guilds and which was well attended. Again we had successful Easter and Christmas Fayres raising funds for our church, these are very busy days well attended and supported by our local community. These events are only possible with the help we receive from JIGSAW leaders and members of the congregation. Our syllabus was again arranged with suggestions from members ensuring a variety of meetings ending in December with our lively and enjoyable 'Fish and Chip Night'.



Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter Group (KNACC)

The KNACC currently has 8 members (men and women) but is open to anyone to pop in, with all decisions being made jointly, working as a team and although they do not have a bank account, the church supports them as needed. They meet from 10-12 noon on Mondays. Transport to the club is an issue currently but we may seek funding to cover a taxi to and from the club to allow some of our less mobile members to return.

Parish Coordinator Report

January started with and I attending worship training over several months, concluding with the preparation and recording of a full service. We had our pancake night again in February and I went to Forth Primary to make pancakes with all the classes. The children learn how to measure the ingredients and mix them up while the teacher cooks them, and they all enjoy eating them. Harrison from Carstairs church was organising a holiday club for a few days which he asked me to help with I did the presentation of the Easter Code and a few songs with actions with the children and it was very enjoyable meeting new people and children from Carstairs as this is one of the churches we will be joining with in the new plan. We shared a few Easter services together with Carnwath and Carstairs and organised a Lenten Lunch where Eckhardt gave a talk before we had lunch. We organised a film day on holy week with a light lunch too which everyone seemed to enjoy. The adult Easter Code was well attended by folk from other churches too. I have attended various meetings with the cluster group for our church joining with Carstairs and Carnwath. Safeguarding meetings and also meetings with Street Level in Carluke (which is a group for children and teenagers).



Forth Primary School and Nursery visited our church for the Easter Code experience, where all the children come to learn the Easter story in a fun and interactive way. We have lots of volunteers prepare pancakes for their snack time and we have some music and dance to finish. The primary 7 class came to visit and experience the Youth Rainforest Cafe which is for teenagers on Fridays. They got to sample the food and enjoy the games which we have for them as they were all eligible to attend once they went on to high school. At Harvest time every class made a piece of artwork which we displayed in the small hall, the classes all came to visit and I did a presentation on the cinema screen of the story of Joseph where they got a chance to wear the 'technicoloured dreamcoat'. The community all got involved

in making pieces of art too which were all on display. We had some fabulous creations well done to everyone who got involved. At Christmas the school were back for the Christmas presentation where they all had hot chocolate as a treat. I am so grateful to opportunity to work with her school and teachers.

We also had Braw Clan (a Scottish theatre group) they visited monthly (September-February); it was very well attended all getting tea, coffee, fresh scones and a good chat too.

We organised training on Food Hygiene level 2 where 10 teenagers and 10 adults all passed, this not only ensures all volunteers working in our café and with our groups who may be handling food in any way, all have the appropriate training, but our teenagers have a qualification and experience which can be included on their CVs for future employment.

The Christmas season was upon us again and this takes a lot of organising and preparation, designing Christmas cards to be delivered to Forth and surrounding areas, having a message with scripture and prayer as well as details of what is going on in our church over the season hopefully reaching people who don't know about us yet. The Santa's Grotto and Christmas Lights Switch on is always a great family day for all to enjoy. We now have a few of the teenagers from the Youth Rainforest Cafe helping out serving tea

20 20 4

and coffee's, painting glitter tattoos for the children, and making coffee from our barista machine. The Christmas glow was very well attended attracting folk from Lanark, Carstairs and Carnwath churches too.

and I organised the Watchnight Service unfortunately through illness Krystal who usually sings for us couldn't make it.

Planet Earth Club is going well gaining a few more recruits. We always have

a prayer time to start then their snack time then games and challenges. Janet and Celia are regular volunteers making

the children's snacks every week. Unfortunately, due to some issues with our volunteers, the club hasn't met as often as we would have liked, we are hopeful that this will be resolved in the new term. The Rainforest Youth Café are still coming along, they mostly like to sit and chat or play pool or air hockey. They love chips and cheese or toasties. We sometimes watch a movie on the big screen which is fabulous. They are working towards hosting their own 'Afternoon Tea' for invited guests in the new year.

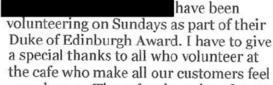




Rainforest Café The Rainforest Cafe which is open Sundays and Wednesdays is going great attracting people from the surrounding areas as well as the folk from Forth, this has also encouraged them to

attend other church events that we have. We have many dedicated volunteers and also a few new folks joining our team. Many of the teenagers who have attended Planet Earth Club over the years are helping at the cafe on Sundays too.





so welcome. The cafe takes a lot of organising, shopping, cleaning, training, cooking and learning new skills and recipes. We also open for special events throughout the year the Gentle Giant Music Festival being one occasion.



Through our partnership working with the Co-Operative we secured a small

grant for our Youth Rainforest Café and the Planet Earth Clubs, as well as taking delivery of this lovely summer seat decorated by the children of Forth Primary School.



Financial Review

The majority of our financial support comes through offerings, either by open plate or freewill envelope offerings. In 2024, through the freewill offerings, we raised £29,414, in addition, £7,733 was recovered on Gift Aid in the year, Bequests/Donations raised £8,586 and £3,838 came in the open plate at Sunday worship.

The Guild with the help of church volunteers held their renowned Easter and Christmas Fayres, donating generously to church funds. Other regular fundraising events help to sustain the ongoing operation of our church these include our church shops, Pancake night, and finally our Christmas Lights and Santa's Grotto event. It has to be said that these have always been community events, which are very well attended and although help raise vital income to keep things operating, they serve as a very social event for people to catch up, which goes a long way to supporting the community and reducing social isolation.

Grant funding was received from Tormywheel for the work of the Parish Coordinator, and a small grant was secured from Levenseat Trust towards our Santa's Grotto event.

Total unrestricted payments of £57,052 were spent on running the church and maintenance of property, meaning payments exceeded unrestricted receipts of £55,875 resulting in a deficit for the year of £1,177. Total restricted receipts of £33,274 exceeded payments of £30,714 showing a restricted surplus of £2,560, giving an overall total surplus for the year of £1,383.

This means that we have £58,805 available for unrestricted use by the congregation of Forth St Paul's Parish Church at the end of 2024, plus £37,940 restricted to the funding of parish coordinator activities/operating costs including salaries.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to hold reserves of approximately three months normal expenditure. At the year end the Church held unrestricted cash funds of £58,805. The balance on the General Fund not designated for other purposes represents about two month's expenditure. The Trustees will consider how this can be improved in the coming year.

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 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,

	Session Clerk
Date: 12 March 2025	

Forth St Paul's Parish Church

SC 003080

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Forth St Paul's Parish Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. My 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

Name

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

Independent Examiner

Address:

I A Stewart & Co

The Mechanics Workshop

New Lanark ML11 9DB

Date

12 March 2-25

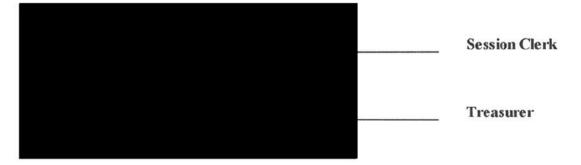
Forth St Paul's Parish Church Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31 December 2024

Receipts Donations Activities for generating funds Bank and deposit interest	3	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £ 43,399 10,015 380	Restricted Funds 2024 £ 6,172 20,316 492	Total 2024 £ 49,571 30,331 872	Total 2023 £ 48,882 26,160 647
Rental of premises - hall lets		240	-	240	496
Other receipts		1,841	-	1,841	2,087
Parish Community Coordinator grants		-	6,294	6,294	5,595
Buildings & Development fund		*	-	-	31,482
Total Receipts		55,875	33,274	89,149	115,349
<u>Payments</u>	4		0.010	0.404	7.0/1
Costs of generating funds		178	8,313	8,491	7,061
Charitable activities		56,874	22,401	79,275	106,134
Governance costs		(**	-	:-	- 0
Other payments		:=:	-	3 4	-
Total Payments		57,052	30,714	87,766	113,195
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year (before transfers)					
		(1,177)	2,560	1,383	2,154
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(1,177)	2,560	1,383	2,154

Forth St Paul's Parish Church Statement of Balances At 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank & Deposit Balances				
Bank & deposit balances brought forward	59,982	35,380	95,362	93,208
Movement in year: Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	(1,177)	2,560	1,383	2,154
Bank & deposit balances carried forward	58,805	37,940	96,745	95,362
Assats				
Assets Gift aid receivable	5,000	_	5,000	1,300
GIT ald receivable	2,000			
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Utility and other amounts payable	1,105	-	1,105	1,005

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session and Financial Board on 12/03/2025. For and on behalf of the Kirk Session and Financial Board



Forth St Paul's Parish Church Notes to the Accounts

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

who is a member of the Kirk Session, received £1,804 for providing her services as organist (2023: £1,804).

, who is a member of the Kirk Session, received £13,217 for her services as coordinator. (2023: £13,064)

The minister received reimbursement of expenses of £996 (2023: £1,133).

Other than the above, 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. Movements in Funds

	At 1 Jan				At 31 Dec
	2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
Designated Fabric Fund	51,521	5,048	*	(10,000)	46,569
Designated IT Fund	1,108	-	-	-	1,108
Designated Guild Fund	3,078	4,640	856	(4,000)	2,862
General Fund	4,275	46,187	56,196	14,000	8,266
	59,982	55,875	57,052		58,805
Restricted Funds					
Parish Community Co-ordinator Fund	32,659	33,274	28,003	-	37,930
Buildings & Development Fund	2,721	-	2,711		10_
	35,380	33,274	30,714		37,940
	95,362	89,149	87,766		96,745

Purposes of Designated Funds

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

Guild Fund: The Trustees have set aside funds for running the Guild. Surplus funds were transferred to the Church

IT Fund: This Fund is for the provision of IT resources to the minister.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Parish Community Co-ordinator Fund: Continuing grant aid from Tormywheel Wind Farm, total £4,944 this year, has been obtained to fund the employment and associated costs of a co-ordinator.

Donations totalling £6,172 and £12,003 from fundraising activities helped to cover the cost.

Buildings & Development Fund: Grants received to upgrade facilities have now been spent.

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3. A	nalysis of Donations				
	WFO Scheme & Gift Aid	29,414	2	29,414	30,596
	Bequests & Donations	2,414	6,172	8,586	6,409
	Tax Recovered on Gift Aid Donations	7,733	H	7,733	7,830
	Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	3,838	-	3,838	4,047
		43,399	6,172	49,571	48,882

Forth St Paul's Parish Church Notes to the Accounts(continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. Analysis of Payments				
Costs of generating funds				
Offering envelopes	178	2	178	190
Café costs	-	8,313	8,313	6,871
	178	8,313	8,491	7,061
Charitable activities				
Giving to grow	31,834	-	31,834	29,925
Presbytery dues	1,037	a a	1,037	920
Minister's expenses	996	2	996	1,133
Pulpit supply	700	2	700	893
Other salary costs	5,213	16,651	21,864	22,304
Fabric repairs and maintenance	1,678	2,711	4,389	37,729
Other buildings sosts	12,027	¥	12,027	9,530
Church office expenses	2,071	-	2,071	2,239
Other expenses	1,318	3,039	4,357	1,461
	56,874	22,401	79,275	106,134
Governance costs				
Independent examiner's fees	-	(*)	-	-
	-			

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 £31,642 and the maximum stipend (in the tenth and subsequent years) £38,884.

	2024	2023
6. Collections for third parties	£	£
Love Trust	150	-
Royal British Legion		171
	150	171