

Trustees report 2025

The beginning of 2025 with the outlook of losing our minister the Reverend Ruairidh Macrae to be the minister of Market Harborough Congregational Church in February was to prove particularly challenging as well as incredibly sad. The pastoral relationship between our minister and the congregation has been a deep one and both sides have been extremely sad to part ways.

Despite the exceedingly difficult circumstances with no minister and reduced attendance at church services and challenging finances, the Deacons and elders have risen to the challenge of keeping the church in Eyemouth continuing to serve God and the community. We are grateful to God for his care, provision, and love that we have experienced as a congregation and the wider community. With the commitment and hard work of the Deacons and Elders we have continued to manage to find cover every week of the year to meet for worship as the main expression of our service to God and our community. We have held Fellowship groups, Craft groups, supper evenings, Guild meetings, and a Knit and Natter group. We also have a community coffee morning every Tuesday. We value links with other community organisations, and we continue to work closely with other Christian churches, nationally through our membership of the Congregational Federation and Congregational Federation in Scotland and locally with the East Berwickshire Churches Together. We continued to hold the annual Service of the Sea which closes the Eyemouth Herring Queen Festival and continues to keep the town's proud traditions.

The ECHO Community Choir has continued to meet each week and is a great community venture enriching the lives of a growing group of singers. The Theatre Group also meet in our church hall for their regular meetings.

Our ongoing issue with Scottish Power and its detrimental impact on our finances and the subsequent debt meant that we reluctantly decided it was necessary to sell our Manse. This was almost in completion by the end of the year and has enabled us to pay off our debt to Scottish Power. We give thanks to the Deacon who worked endlessly throughout the year to achieve this.

Overall, the income increased by around £1,500 during 2025. However, expenditure was almost £10,000 higher than the previous financial year, due to the payments to Scottish Power.

Without a minister we have been unable to conduct weddings and funerals. We have sought to offer comfort, support, and show God's love in pastoral and practical ways. We give thanks for the life of Johnston Purvis who passed away this year, a much loved and faithful member and Deacon.

All Deacons and Elders had their Disclosures updated throughout the year.

We thank the members, adherents, and friends of Eyemouth United Congregational Church for their dedication and support. We exist to glorify God in our worship and in serving our community. Despite concerns and difficulties, we hope to continue through 2026 and pray God will meet our needs as we seek to worship him and serve our community.