

SC001009

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches

Accounts for the year to 30th September 2023

Charity Number SC001009

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches (Gordon Chapel, Fochabers)
Year end 30.09.23

Principal Address

40 Castle Street Fochabers
IV32 7DW

Charity Trustees

Rev Canon Michael Last		Priest in Charge
Daphne Stevens	GC	
Dolly Grant	GC	vestry member until 26/1/2023 then Alt Lay Rep until 26/1/2023
Amy Souter	GC	from 26/1/2023
Janet Philpott	GC	Lay Rep
Joan Marsden	GC	Alt Lay Rep until 26/1/2023 then vestry member
Sarah Johnson	GC	
Miranda Montgomery	CCH	
Richard Brown	C C H	
Jennifer Bresser-Stuart	CCH	Lay Rep
Catherine Ellwood	HTK	
Richard Weston	HTK	
Megan Cambridge	HTK	
Amanda Miller	HTK	Lay Rep
Geoff Macangus-Gerrard	HTK	Alt Lay Rep
Karen Davids	SMA	
Keith Davids	SMA	
Alasdair Locke	SMD	
Jean Macdonald	SMD	Lay Rep from 26/1/2023

**Other Officials
(Not Vestry Members)**

Louise Monaghan	Treasurer
Gillian Hood	Secretary
Rev'd Peter Shaw	Clergy with Warrant

Independent Examiner

Mr S MacBeath
13 Broomhill Court Keith
AB55 5EL

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
High Street
Elgin

GC	<i>Gordon Chapel</i>
CCH	<i>Christ Church Huntly</i>
HTK	<i>Holy Trinity Keith</i>
SMA	<i>St Marnan's Aberchirder</i>
SMD	<i>St Michael's Dufftown</i>

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches

Annual Report of the Congregation Trustees

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Structure and governance

In terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, the Trustees report to the congregation as follows:

- It is a member of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness of the Scottish Episcopal Church and is in full communion with the Anglican Church
- The superior authority is the Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness.
- All of its affairs are governed by the members of the congregations, with named persons having particular duties and responsibilities.

Appointment of Trustees from the congregation

Members of the congregation are elected or appointed by the Annual General Meeting established by constitution and under Canon Law of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

There is no formal induction programme, but ongoing guidance is given to ensure trustee members are familiar with the Church's values, aims and responsibilities as the designated trustees of the charity.

Administrative structure

It is the duty of the trustees to manage the temporal affairs of the congregation with responsibility to keep the fabric and property of the church and other buildings in good working order and to look after the finances of the church.

Statement of risk

The trustees keep under review the major risks to which the church is exposed and has established procedures to mitigate any risks identified.

Charitable objectives, activities and achievements

The principal activities of this church include public worship in sacrament and prayer, Christian education, charitable work and fundraising for local, national and international needs, social meetings, predominately of the youth, the elderly and many groups of all ages.

Volunteers

The trustees are grateful for the time freely given by volunteers, without whom many of the activities would be unable to operate.

Achievements and performance

2023 has been a year of consolidation and planning.

All the churches are open on a regular basis for worship. During the summer season from Easter, Gordon Chapel has been open daily for private prayer and for visitors. In congregational terms there are still some folks who have not returned to regular worship following the pandemic, but there is a core faithful group in each of the churches. We have also seen some members move away for several reasons, due to work commitments, being nearer to family or to care homes in other areas. There have also been some new faces in several churches. It has been encouraging to see the numbers at St Marnan's Aberchirder being higher than they were before the pandemic.

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches

During the year the common cup at Holy Communion was reintroduced, with the Vestry ensuring that for those not yet comfortable with this arrangement, an alternative via small cups is available.

Online services of Evening Prayer via Zoom have been taking place on Sundays and Wednesdays and these are now a regular and important part of the worship pattern. Pew Sheets along with a weekly reflection continue to be produced and distributed either electronically or by printed delivery. Zoom is also still being used for study groups and vestry meetings.

Ecumenical relations have continued to develop during the year with regular meetings of clergy in most areas of the grouping, and ecumenical services for Holy Week, Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service in Dufftown.

Articles / broadcasts with both the Huntly Express and Keith Community Radio continue.

In terms of working in the wider community and society, we continue to support Midweek Mix in Dufftown and have been able to obtain a grant to support the work of the Aberchirder Playgroup from the provincial SEC, helping them to remain an important part of the community in that location.

Since the combining of the grouping in December 2020 the vestry has been working on looking at things not only from an individual church perspective but also a group perspective. One of the main challenges is how best to use the group's buildings and ensure the group's long term financial viability. To this end plans have been approved to bring the flat at Gordon Chapel up to standard, including formally splitting it from the Parish Room, enabling the flat to be let again with a higher return. Plans have also been approved to develop St Michael's Dufftown and the vestry will need to decide in the coming months whether to take this forward.

The Priest in Charge has also been involved with Diocesan activities in his roles as Synod Clerk and Convenor of the Diocesan Administration Board

Financial review

There continues to be an underlying deficit on the unrestricted funds although it is less than the previous year at -£21039. This continues to be an area of concern for the vestry, looking into the future.

The value of the investment has risen during the last year from £25.11 per unit to £26.47. The full effect of this can be seen on the Statement of Balances.

Reserves

The reserves position continues to be monitored on a regular basis.

Plans for the future

The Vestry is looking at plans to develop further both a growing worship community and one that is sustainable financially into the future.

The following are currently either about to begin or are in the planning stage.

- Upgrade the flat and meeting room at Gordon Chapel
- Consider possible development at St Michael's Dufftown
- Look to sell the Rectory at Keith and purchase a new Rectory that better fits the needs of clergy in the current grouping and is also better from a Net Zero perspective.

The vestry will also need to consider the SEC policy on Net Zero and how that relates to the

grouping.

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches

Statement of responsibilities of trustees

The trustees must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the church during the financial year. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the current 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

On behalf of the trustees

Rev'd Canon Michael L. E. Last

Date 24/1/2024

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches
I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

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 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 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 connection with 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 Regulations, and

– to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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

Date:

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches
Receipts Payments Account for the year ended 30.09.23

	Note	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Donations	1	29,190	85	29,275	32,644
Grants	2	486	-	486	177
Receipts from fundraising activities	3	1,018	-	1,018	1,115
Investment Income	4	6,875	2,640	9,515	7,928
Income relating to other charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Rent from land and buildings	5	5,283	-	5,283	6,127
		<u>42,851</u>	<u>2,725</u>	<u>45,576</u>	<u>47,991</u>
Payments					
Expenses for fundraising activities		150	-	150	271
Payments relating to charitable activities	6	70,240	5,898	76,139	71,701
Governance costs		-	-	-	1,750
		<u>70,390</u>	<u>5,898</u>	<u>76,289</u>	<u>73,722</u>
Purchase of Investments		-	-	-	49,887
Disposal of Investments		6,500	5,000	11,500	-
Surplus/deficit for the year	-	<u>21,039</u>	<u>1,826</u>	<u>19,213</u>	<u>75,618</u>

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches
Statement of Balances as at 30.09.23

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash Funds				
Cash and bank at start of period	26,097	11,809	37,906	113,524
Transferred from other charities	-	-	-	-
Surplus/deficit for the year	- 21,039	1,826	- 19,213	- 75,618
Cash and bank at end of period	5,057	13,635	18,693	37,906
General bank accounts	5,057	13,635	18,693	113,524

Note 7

Investments

		Units	Opening balance	Disposals	Additions	MVA	Closing balance
Dufftown building fund	Designated	3,487	106,973	6,500	-	6,157	106,630
General funds		3,494	87,717	-	-	4,777	92,494
Percy Nugent fund	Restricted	3,279	82,320	5,000	-	4,744	82,064
Rev Strachan Fund	Restricted	540	13,557	-	-	738	14,295
		10,800	290,565	11,500	-	16,416	295,483

Opening unit price £25.11

Closing unit price £26.47

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches
Notes to the Accounts year end 30.09.23

		Unrestricted Funds			Restricted	Total
		General	Designated	Total	Total	Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
1. Donations						
Congregational giving	1a	23,835	-	23,835	-	27,033
Donations	1b	4,976	250	5,226	-	5,549
Legacy		-	129	129	-	-
Special collections		-	-	-	85	61
		<u>28,810</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>29,190</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>32,644</u>
1a Congregational giving						
Open plate		1,981	-	1,981	-	2,036
Regular giving		21,854	-	21,854	-	23,001
Gift aid tax refund		-	-	-	-	1,995
		<u>23,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,033</u>
1b. Donations						
General		4,526	-	4,526	-	4,129
Wedding & funerals		450	-	450	-	1,320
Christ Church restoration fund		-	-	-	-	100
		<u>4,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,549</u>
2. Grants		<u>486</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>486</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>177</u>
3. Receipts from fundraising activities						
General fundraising		1,018	-	1,018	-	1,115
		<u>1,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,115</u>
4. Investment Income						
Dufftown building repair fund		-	3,740	3,740	-	3,183
Percy Nugent fund		-	-	-	2,640	2,246
Reverend Strachan fund		435	-	435	-	162
General		2,700	-	2,700	-	2,338
		<u>3,135</u>	<u>3,740</u>	<u>6,875</u>	<u>2,640</u>	<u>7,928</u>
5 Rent from land & buildings						
St Marnan's Church hall		-	2,533	2,533	-	2,827
Gordon Chapel flat		2,750	-	2,750	-	3,300
		<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,533</u>	<u>5,283</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,127</u>

Isla Spey Deveron Group of Churches
Notes to the Accounts year end 30.09.23

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted	Total
	General 2023 £	Designated 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
6. Payments relating to charitable activities					
Stipend & pension	18,884	-	18,884	-	13,730
Travel expenses	3,128	-	3,128	-	3,003
Charitable giving	615	-	615	85	600
Diocesan quota	15,468	-	15,468	-	13,891
Insurance 6a	7,272	628	7,899	1,489	8,940
Heat & Light 6b	4,983	772	5,755	585	7,198
Repairs & maintenance 6c	1,538	5,848	7,386	3,739	12,979
Council tax	2,434	-	2,434	-	2,459
Lift project costs	-	3,523	3,523	-	4,530
Cleaning	584	-	584	-	703
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	400
Stationery & publications	551	-	551	-	611
Equipment purchased	1,081	-	1,081	-	255
Hospitality	-	-	-	-	70
Organist Fee	-	-	-	-	70
Communication	1,240	-	1,240	-	1,065
Investment charges	-	-	-	-	113
Church sundries	205	-	205	-	153
Worship resources	188	-	188	-	732
Sale of rectory costs	1,300	-	1,300	-	-
Special collections disbursed	-	-	-	-	-
	59,470	10,771	70,240	5,898	71,501
6a Insurance					
St Marnan's Church hall	-	628	628	-	710
General	5,956	-	5,956	1,489	6,970
Rectory	1,315	-	1,315	-	1,260
	7,272	628	7,899	1,489	8,940
6b Heat & light					
St Marnan's Church hall	-	772	772	-	1,125
St Marnan's Church	-	-	-	585	840
HTK Rectory	176	-	176	-	-
General	4,807	-	4,807	-	5,233
	4,983	772	5,755	585	7,198
6c Repairs & maintenance					
General upkeep	1,301	-	1,301	-	7,453
Dufftown building repair fund	-	5,536	5,536	-	2,742
St Marnan's Church hall	-	312	312	-	570
St Marnan's Church	-	-	-	3,604	980
Christ Church restoration fund	-	-	-	135	1,083

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Notes to the Accounts year end 30.09.23

Rectory	236	-	236	-	150
	1,538	5,848	7,386	3,739	12,979

7 **Restricted funds**

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Cash balance
Memorial fund	4,048	-	-	4,048
Percy Nugent fund	2,422	7,640	5,679	4,383
Christ Church restoration fund	5,339	-	135	5,204
Held at the bank	11,809	7,640	5,813	13,635

	Cash	Investments	Total
Memorial fund	4,048	-	4,048
Percy Nugent fund	4,383	82,064	86,447
Christ Church restoration fund	5,204	-	5,204
Rev Strachan Fund	-	14,295	14,295
	13,635	96,359	109,994

8. **Designated funds**

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Cash balance
Dufftown building repair fund	45,465	10,240	5,536	50,169
Gordon Chapel special funds	17,870	250	3,523	14,597
St Marnan's Church hall	2,950	2,533	1,712	3,771
	66,285	13,023	10,771	68,537

	Cash	Investments	Total
Dufftown building repair fund	50,169	106,630	156,799
Gordon Chapel special funds	14,597	-	14,597
St Marnan's Church hall	3,771	-	3,771
	68,537	106,630	175,167