

Straid Congregational Church



Financial Report 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

MINISTER	Mr. A Patterson	
SERVICES	Sunday morning	11.30am
	Sunday evening	6.30pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS	Sunday morning	10.15am
STRAID CHRISTIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP	2 nd Monday each month	
MUMS & TOTS	Each Tuesday	10.30am
PRAYER MEETINGS (Including Missionary Prayer times)	Wednesday and Thursday	8.00pm and 10.00am
PATHFINDER GROUPS	Friday evening	7.00pm
STRAID YOUTH	Friday evening	8.15pm
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	1 ST and 3 rd Sunday each month	8.00pm

DEACONS

Mr Thomas Strange

Mr Brian McFall

Mr Chris Carson

Mr John Strange

Mr Ralph Gilmour

Mr John Haaijer

Mr Richard Gilmour

Mr Michael Ewart

Interim Secretary: Mr John Haaijer

Treasurer: Mr Thomas Strange

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Mrs Margaret Bailie

Mr Brian Morton

Mrs Betty Ogilby

Mr Bill Bailie

Mr. Jason Chartres

AUDITOR

Mr Desmond Dunn & Mr Tim Girvan (Book Keeper)

CARETAKERS

Mr & Mrs R Gilmour

Straid Congregational Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2024 £	2023 £
Income		
Offerings (note 1)	108,851	102,192
Gift Aid	25,214	23,966
Rental Income	15,098	12,388
Gifts	3,680	9,140
Other	135	2,229
	<u>152,977</u>	<u>149,915</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries and expenses (note 2)	45,043	14,933
Pulpit supply	2,435	9,085
Missionary Support (note 3)	25,511	48,524
Rates & Water	3,076	2,811
Insurance	5,114	4,596
Electricity & Fuel	10,604	9,908
Security	209	475
Books, Publications & Stationery	2,337	2,515
AV ministry	1,530	1,803
Catering	2,569	4,856
Repairs and Renewals	15,719	11,226
Telephone & Broadband	843	588
Transport	460	3,920
Other (including prof. fees)	4,171	13,751
	<u>119,622</u>	<u>128,991</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>33,355</u>	<u>20,924</u>

Bank Accounts

Current Account	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 January	29,659	108,735
Surplus for the year	33,355	20,924
Transfer – Ulster Bank Investment a/c	<u>-50,000</u>	<u>-100,000</u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>13,014</u>	<u>29,659</u>

Investment Account (Bank of Ireland)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	154,390	154,390
Interest	1,393	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>155,783</u>	<u>154,390</u>

Initial investment matured in March 2024 and rolled over to mature in March 2026.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	100,000	100,000
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in June 2025.

Investment Account (Danske Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance (opened June 2015)	50,000	-
Interest	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>

This is a fixed deposit account due to mature in August 2025.

Investment Account (AIB)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	151,553	151,251
Interest	7,872	302
Closing balance 31 December	<u>159,425</u>	<u>151,553</u>

Initial investment matured in Aug 2024 and rolled over to mature in Aug 2025.

Investment Account (Ulster Bank)	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening balance	156,522	151,083
Interest	7,455	5,439
Closing balance 31 December	<u>163,977</u>	<u>156,522</u>

Initial investment matured in September 2024 and rolled over to mature in September 2025.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
1	Offerings		
	Freewill loose offering	54,179	49,714
	Standing Orders	54,672	52,478
	Other income	-	-
		108,851	102,192
2	Salaries		
	Minister	36,396	8,199
	Minister's wife	2,000	1,000
	Caretaker	6,647	5,734
		45,043	14,933
3	Missionary Support		
	Support of Church Missionaries	18,606	30,885
	Other missionary gifts	6,905	17,639
		25,511	48,524

Sunday School 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	38.71		
From Church Account	1,000.00	Sunday School Materials	461.00
		Straid Sunday School Outing & Food	108.00
		Carnfunnock	36.75
		Bouncy Castle	80.00
		Christmas Selection Boxes	63.00
		Bank Fees	36.60
		Balance Carried Forward	253.36
	<u><u>1038.71</u></u>		<u><u>1038.71</u></u>

Pathfinders 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	153.75		
Money for Christmas Gifts	100.00	Movie Night Snacks	21.00
		Senior Group Christmas Gifts	78.36
		Junior Group Christmas Gifts	94.00
		Balance Carried Forward	60.39
	<u><u>253.75</u></u>		<u><u>253.75</u></u>

Mums & Tots 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	985.76		
Weekly Income	639.02	Weekly Supplies	358.16
Bank Interest	24.20	Outreach/Gifts	410.94
		Balance Carried Forward	879.88
	<u><u>1648.98</u></u>		<u><u>1648.98</u></u>

Straid Youth 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	103.28		
Tuck Shop	82.55		
		Balance Carried Forward	185.83
	<u>185.83</u>		<u>185.83</u>

Straid Congregational Women 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward	177.91		
Collections	217.40	Speakers	80.00
Feb Meeting Acre	77.56	Stationary/Biscuits etc.	93.60
March – Hope for Youth	131.00	Acre Gospel Mission	77.56
Glenarm Castle	560.00	Hope for Youth Ministry	131.00
Coffee Morning	174.20	Glenarm Castle	632.50
Chittys in Spain (Nov)	120.00	Glenarm Castle Ticket Refund	20.00
		Coffee Morning	174.20
		Chittys	120.00
		The Carrie Restaurant balance	35.00
		Balance Carried Forward	94.21
	<u>1458.07</u>		<u>1458.07</u>

Freewill Offerings 2024

No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
2	£1,200	30	£3,180	65	£2,340
3	£2,250	31	£235	66	£5,400
4	£1,020	33	£1,040	68	£10,400
5	£1,120	34	£1,540	71	£675
6	£800	39	£12,200	72	£850
7	£360	40	£1,280	73	£3,540
8	£35	42	£40	77	£1,870
9	£4,080	44	£1,440	79	£3,230
10	£309	46	£1,600	80	£2,080
11	£3,650	48	£160	82	£240
12	£2,400	50	£1,500	86	£1,040
14	£1,530	52	£365	87	£1,450
15	£1,200	53	£370	88	£1,650
20	£1,035	56	£1,590	91	£870
21	£200	60	£960	92	£540
24	£1,295	64	£2,000	95	£170
				96	£2,400

Minister's Report 2024

I've recently been reading through Psalm 118, and in beginning to write this short Minister's Report, I thought I would start and finish as Psalm 118 does; 'O give thanks to the Lord for He is good'.

Sharon and I can truly say that throughout this year, in ministering here in Straid Congregational Church, the Lord has been good to us personally, and to us all as a Fellowship.

We give thanks to the Lord for His help in the preaching of His Word as we have studied the life of Joseph, the Book of Haggai, the Ten Commandments and most recently, 1 Peter.

We give thanks for those who have trusted the Lord as Saviour this year through the witness of the Church, and for the opportunities we each have had to share the Gospel in this Community.

We give thanks for answered prayer and grace given, as we, together, have prayed for individuals and families going through bereavement, sickness and very real difficulties.

Also, we give thanks for answered prayer regarding the granting of Planning permission for the renovation of the church building, and for those in our Fellowship with expertise and experience to help lead us through this Project.

To finish, I want to highlight two things:

First, a word of caution...

It can so easily happen that we have a new church building, but have a Church Fellowship divided with broken relationships, people hurt, the church's testimony damaged, and most of all, the Holy Spirit grieved. Please take this seriously, and think carefully about our words and attitudes 'endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Eph 4:3) Let's take to heart the teaching of 1 Peter 5 regarding the right personal response to 'Authority', 'Humility' and 'Anxiety'. Let us also be aware of the enemy, Satan's existence, and his subtle attacks and inroads; we need to 'be vigilant' and 'resist him steadfast in the faith'.

Secondly, a word of appeal to Members and Adherents ...

Please consider planning to, or rearranging priorities or life schedule, so you can commit to attending the prayer times in the church. A lot of things in life will come and go, but our own spiritual life and walk, the salvation of our family members and our communities, are of eternal consequence. Prayer times are not always easy; this is a spiritual battle, but of real lasting value.

Thank you so much for your prayers, fellowship, support and encouragement to Sharon and myself; we are very grateful!

Together, let us

'Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.

Rev Alistair Patterson

Missionary Report 2024

As we look back into 2024 and have gone into 2025 we praise God for his hand upon our missionary work within the church and for those who answered the call to go to various places to spread the good news of the gospel. At our monthly missionary meeting we always have different speakers who keep us up to date in what is happening in the country they are working in. In January 2024 we had FAITH MISSION, February ASIA LINK, March SGA and also IBI same month. April VISPA, May EMF, June SASRA. Our annual Missionary Weekend began with ASIA LINK on Wed. 28/8/24, SHINING LIGHTS on Friday 30/8/24 and on the Sunday 1/9/24 we had CEF at our am service and GMSA at our pm service, this is always a great weekend. On the Friday evening we always have a 7pm start and we have a special time for the children and we say a big thank you to those who volunteer to help with this. The Sunday morning speaker always takes the Sunday School, which we all love and appreciate so much. In October we had OMS, November REVIVAL MOVEMENT and in December WORLD GOSPEL MISSION. All of the Missionary Society's receive the complete collection plus £200 from the church. Our total missionary giving for 2024 was £9737.63 which included £400.00 .in pennies for Odessa Orphanage which has been collected and counted by Margaret and Hugh Caldwell for many years. A big thank you to them both.

As a fellowship we continue to support our own missionaries:

John and Irene Barfoot Immanuel Studios

Stephen and Joan Singleton IBI Dublin

Nigel and Ruth Wilson and Family Faith Mission

Michael and Julie Chitty and Family Spain

Johnny and Kathryn Gault and Family Frontiers in Mozambique

We continue to pray that the Lord will bless their ministry wherever they are and that they will see much fruit for their labours.

Ralph Gilmore

Secretary Report 2024

When I think of 2024 what comes to mind is the Lord's prayer and in particular the phrase, "Your kingdom come, your will be done". This is our prayer as a church and we have seen very evidently in 2024 the Lord doing His will.

There is a lot that we can be thankful for as we look back over 2024. It has been great to have Alistair with us for his first full year and we have already greatly benefitted from his preaching, visiting and other work. We can also be very thankful for how God has worked in all the different church groups that have had meetings and outings over the last year. God has provided safety, guidance and has worked in hearts through these groups that cater for the oldest right through to the youngest. We would like to say a big thank-you to all those that lead and help in these groups as well as those that serve the Lord in other practical ways in the church. It is very much appreciated.

With so many groups in the church it is hard to mention all that went on over the last year and I'm sure each group have a few highlights that they can think of. In June the Friendship club had their special event called "A Journey Back in Time to Straid" and it was great to have people in from the village that don't attend the church here. In August we had our first Holiday Bible Club since COVID in the church buildings and this went very well with a good number of children in each evening. This year things ran a bit differently with our first Sunday morning Holiday Bible club service at the end of the week. It was great to see the church well filled with parents, again, some of whom had never been in the church before. In December we had the Christmas Tree Light's event and it was again great to see the church hall filled with so many from the village. May we continue to pray for all those in the village who don't know the Lord that the Lord would work in hearts and use us as a witness to this community. May the Lord's kingdom come to this community.

Another thing we can praise God for is getting planning permission for the new sanctuary. We had been praying about this for a long time and it was starting to seem that the process was never going to end with more and more delays. I have to say that given the HED had rejected the plans I didn't have a lot of hope that the permission would be granted. But then finally in October we were officially granted planning permission. We may have felt that the planning office was in control of this but ultimately the Lord's will was done.

2024 also had it's challenges and times of sadness. In August Sam McCrory went home to be with the Lord. Sam finished the race well and he will be sorely missed. There were also those in our fellowship who suffered with poor health and other issues. It's in these times of sadness and difficulty we again pray, "Your kingdom come" as we think of a day when there will be no more pain or sadness. May we continue to remember in prayer those in our fellowship that are continuing to suffer in these days.

As we look ahead to 2025 I'm sure it will bring it's joys and it's challenges also. But may our hearts desire and prayer be that "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

John Haaijer

Group Leadership/responsibility for 2024

Sunday School

Patricia McLean	Alison Forsythe	Pat Gilmour
David Weir	Alison Johnston	

Pathfinders

Junior

Lisa Darrah	Jennifer Robinson	Brittany Strange	Grace Herron
Olivia Jenkins	Asha Hilditch	Claire Brown	

Seniors

Chris Carson	Aimee Jenkins	Michael Ewart	John Strange
Cherith Gilmore	Hannah Cahoon	Julie Williams	

Straid Congregational Women

Hannah Cahoon	Asha Hilditch	Barbara Cathcart	Pauline Weatherup
Jill Brown	Amanda McFall	Ruth Cathcart	

Catering Committee

Joan Hutchinson	Cherith Gilmore	Hazel Forsythe	Amanda McFall
Julie Williams	Jill Brown		

Straid Youth Leaders

Claire Brown	Matt Hilditch	Janice Drummond	Aimee Jenkins
Alex Mairs	Aimee Haaijer	Brian McFall	John Haaijer
Andrew Vance	Richard Gilmour		

Missionary Committee

Ralph Gilmour	Roy Greer	Hugh Caldwell	Jennifer Evans
Pat Gilmour	Rosemary Weir	Judy Sempey	

Mums & Tots

Joan Hutchinson	Barbara Cathcart	Jennifer Evans	Grace Herron
Sharon Patterson	Rosemary McAnally	Joanne Vance	Betty Ogilby

Musical Team

Brenda Strange	Andrew Vance	Betty Greer	John Haaijer
Hannah Cahoon	Janine Close	Brittany Strange	Joel Patterson
Sharon Patterson			

Audio Visual Team

Martin Brown	Claire Brown	Richard Gilmour	Peter Lawson
John Haaijer	Wesley Johnston	Alex Mairs	Rachel Lawson
Matt Johnston	Robin Cahoon	Ben Robinson	

Junior Church

Brittany Strange	Chris Carson	Carla Carson	David Cathcart
Joanne Vance	Chloe Robinson	Brian McFall	Ben Vance
Aimee Haaijer	Hannah McAllister	Janice Drummond	Joy Ewart

Church Attendance

Wesley Johnston Colin Forsythe

Flowers

Pat Gilmour Marleen Strange Hannah Cahoon Matt Hilditch
Jennifer Haaijer

Youth Fellowship

Chris Carson Tim Girvan David Cathcart Rachel Lawson
Aimee Haaijer

CHOIR

Brenda Strange	Margaret Caldwell	Chris Haaijer
Jason Chartres	Alison Forsythe	Jennifer Robinson
Hannah Cahoon	Julie Williams	Tim Girvan
Joel Patterson	Andrew Vance	Hugh Caldwell
Brittany Strange	John Strange	

Child Protection Co-ordinator

Robin Cahoon