

Stated Annual Meeting for Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church held in the Palmerston Place building on Sunday 15th June 2025 following morning worship.

The meeting was convened by the Rev. Sam Torrens, Interim Moderator, and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of the 2024 SAM

The minutes, as previously circulated, were approved and seconded by Peter McNee and Sandy Gemmill (SG).

Annual Accounts

The annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 were presented by SG.

SG started by thanking Suzanne Graham & Susan Kay for their input and their work for payments.

The congregation were asked to note the values presented, including the net deficit of £72,736. During 2024 there were two main capital projects, restoring the Myreside Road Manse and refurbishing the organ in Palmerston Place.

SG gave an overview of the accounts, explaining each of the categories and the reason for the change in value since the previous year end. Salary costs are up and fabric costs rose to £173,695 due to the work on the Myreside Road Manse.

SG encouraged the congregation to review the values of their standing orders in order to meet the increasing costs of the church.

SG gave a view of the budget for 2025 which results in a deficit of £99,929 and how there are reserves at the General Funds which will last until mid-2028. The deficit and projected figures are a clear matter for concern. The opening of Saltyard one more day a week will hopefully help address the deficit, but is unlikely to be able to make up the whole shortfall.

SG stressed the need to look at finances with a view to addressing by the end of 2027.

Questions and Answers

Netia Haynes – asked about the sale of Diadem, when it would take place and would this address the shortfall?

SG – the sale is not yet complete, but when it is the money will return to the General Trustees and there will be money available to GaPP if there is capital project.

Further conversation took place covering the consequences of capital expenditure on the manse, including any impact on giving to grow and whether all liabilities had been

accounted for, or if, there were some still be to be taken into account. SG explained the majority had been dealt with but there will still some significant spends such as fixing boilers.

Gill McLean asked the question around how do we take forward the lessons learned from the overspends and who is accountable for the budgets and spending? What oversight is in place to ensure budgets are adhered to? How do necessities get prioritised over desirables?

SG explained the Kirk Session are ultimately responsible for budgets and spending.

George Kay stated that the budgets have to be brought in line and the overspend addressed and deficit cleared and asked how this would be happening.

Carol Hajducka gave an overview of some of the items which the money had been spent on the Myreside Road manse.

Ian Graham made the comment around the implications of the union of churches in terms of additional costs of staff salaries, increase in National Insurance contributions, water rates and whether 121 George Street had fully understood the implications of the unions on congregations.

Màiri Graham pointed out that the deficit and date of 2028 had been known for some time about the limitation of the funds available to the church.

Sam Torrens asked for the congregation to formally accept/receive the accounts, which they did.

Sam Torrens closed the meeting in prayer and with the saying of the Grace.